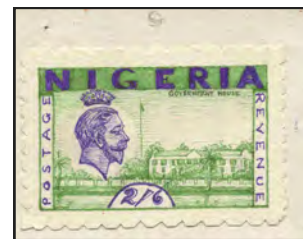
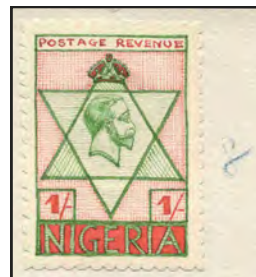


CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



VOLUME 17 NUMBER 3
WHOLE NUMBER 99

OCTOBER 2016

Please mention Cameo when responding to Advertisements



Cavendish House
153-157 London Road
Derby DE1 2SY



The Cavendish Gallery
7 Princeton Court, Putney
London SW15 1AZ

Over 60 years' Service to Philately

December 2016 Auction

Featuring the Eli Leibowitz FRPSL Collection of Gambia including proofs, rare multiples, Specimen overprints, errors, varieties and postal history.



Consignments welcome for our 2017 sales. Please contact prior to sending, James Grimwood-Taylor, Bob Unwin, Greg Spring, Andy Donaldson, Scott Treacey or Ben Palmer.

www.cavendish-auctions.com
stamps@cavendish-auctions.com

Derby - Phone +44 (0)1332 250970

Fax. +44 (0)1332 294440

London - Phone +44 (0)20 8785 7750



West Africa Study Circle**President: Keith Hanman****Joint CAMEO Editors**

Barry Burns
20 Tanton Rd., Stokesley
MIDDLESBROUGH TS9 5HP, UK
☎ 01642 710636
barry.burns1@hotmail.co.uk

Robert May
Longdown Farm Cottage, Cadsden
PRINCES RISBOROUGH
HP27 0NB, UK
☎ 01844 344336
robert.may@cantab.net

Hon. Secretary

Philip Quirk
157 Balden Rd., Harborne
BIRMINGHAM B32 2EL, UK
☎ 0121 428 4656
philip.quirk@bopenworld.com

Hon. Treasurer

Ray Harris
20 Hazel End
SWANLEY
Kent BR8 8NU, UK
☎ 01322 660367
treasurer@wasc.org.uk
harris6@which.net
PayPal: treasurer@wasc.org.uk

Hon. Membership Secretary

John Hossack
28 Saxon's Close
LEIGHTON BUZZARD LU7 3LT, UK
☎ 01525 384417
hoss-28@virginmedia.com

Hon. Auctioneer

John Smith
52 Eastway
GREASBY, Wirral CH49 2NT, UK
☎ 01516 786201
stamps.johnsmith@btinternet.com

Hon. Librarian & Bookseller

Ian Anderson
57 Manse Rd.
EDINBURGH EH12 7SR, UK
☎ 0131 334 7866
As librarian please use:
ghanastampman@aol.com
As bookseller please use:
wascbookseller@aol.com

North American Representative

Dr. Martin Bratzel
1233 Virginia Ave
WINDSOR, Ontario, N8S 2Z1
CANADA
marty_bratzel@yahoo.ca
☎ (0015) 199 481968

Webmaster

Ray Harris
Address above

Web Site: <http://www.wasc.org.uk>**Contents**

Editorial		118
Letters to the Editor:		119
Akan, Peters, Walton, Mark, Parren		
Censor Marks of the Gold Coast Regiment - a Response	Philip Levine	122
Gold Coast OO/336 Censor Tape	John Mayne	123
Three Sierra Leone Instructional Markings, One Cover	Philip Quirk	124
SALPOST Postmark of King Tom	Peter Rolfe	125
How Many POs were there in Nigeria?	Paul Redhead	126
Gold Coast: the Post-war <i>Halton</i> Service to the UK	Jeremy Martin	130
A POW Mailing from Duala, Cameroon in WWI	Bob Maddocks	131
Nigeria: Accounting for Def. Ovpts. for Cameroons	Bob Maddocks	132
From Hero to Villain in Sierra Leone	John Hossack	134
Lagos: New Discovery: SG 19w	Simon Heap	137
Young Missionary Workers Band	Frank Walton	138
T.A. Wall, his Sacking & Re-instatement, Niger Coast	Mike Riggs	139
St Helena: Boer Censor 'CDNS' Unmasked	Wilf Vevers	142
WWII Internment Camp at Batschenga, Cameroun	Bob Maddocks	144
Batschenga Internee Camp, Cameroun in WWII	Jeremy Martin	145
1895 Freetown Postmark with Clock Time	Philip Quirk	146
"WAWA" Endures!	Bob Maddocks	148
Nigeria: Damaged by Fire	Jeremy Martin	149
Disparate Frankings on Paquebot Mail - SS <i>Albertville</i>	Bob Maddocks	150
London to Senegal via Bathurst 1942? An Update	John Wilson	152
Gold Coast WWI Censorship using Green Crayon	Jeremy Martin	152
Gambia: the WWII <i>PUK</i> Cachet	Jeremy Martin	154
St Helena & SG Centenaries Souvenir	Barry Burns	155
Designs for the 1936 George V Pictorial Issue	Tony Simmonds	156
St Helena: New Censor Number	Jeremy Martin	158
Sierra Leone 1896 De La Rue & Co Ltd ½d value	Jeremy Martin	159
Sierra Leone Baggage Label	Jeremy Martin	159
Mueba - Another Postal Agency (Cameroons, Br. Adm.)	Marty Bratzel	160
Cameroun - the Sterling Issue of 1961: Numbers Printed	Marty Bratzel	162
Insured Parcel from St Helena cost £16.07	Barry Burns	165
St Helena Bill of Exchange 1934	Jeremy Martin	166
Sir Hudson's Headache - Supplies for St Helena 1817	Trevor Hearl	167
Cameroons - A New Victoria Postmark	Marty Bratzel	177
Articles of Interest Published in Other Journals		178

Front Cover

Possible designs for the 1936 George V pictorial issue

See Tony Simmonds' article starting page 156

Editorial

We were saddened with the news that John Sacher died on 30 August. He was very prominent in West African philately over many years, resulting in him writing *The Postal Services of the Gold Coast to 1901* and *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region Prior to 1914* - the latter in collaboration with Jack Ince. He joins a number of other senior WASC members that have passed away in the last few years, and we are all the poorer for this. A full obituary will appear in the January *Cameo*.

A reminder that the next issue will be our 100th, and Rob is seeking a selection of longer articles from our various territories to ensure it will be a truly special edition. The final copy needs to be with Rob before 31 December, but it will be ideal if you can inform him of your entries as soon as possible please.

This October issue will be somewhat late in reaching you, for which I must apologise. My new laptop was pre-installed with Windows 10 and expected to perform faultlessly - unfortunately there have been teething issues which were further compounded by the large update installed a fortnight ago. This meant the software for my elderly scanner and printer was removed not only from my machine but also from the Epson website. The moral must be that 'new' is not always better - but as philatelists we knew that already!

The next issue (Number 100) will be edited by Rob, datelined January 2017, and the copy deadline is 31 December. This will be a special enlarged issue to mark our Centenary edition so please get busy and flood Rob's in desk.



Barry Burns

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying and recording, without the written permission of the copyright holder, application for which should be addressed to the Editor. Such written permission must be obtained before any part of this publication is stored in a retrieval system of any nature.

Editorial Policy

The editors have the final say over content in *Cameo* in the interests of balance and relevance to the readership. Space in each *Cameo* may be limited as compared with the volume of material submitted by all the authors. The editors retain discretion over punctuation, spelling, grammar, use of colour for illustrations and whether to reduce the size of illustrations to fit the space available, but should not change wording, delete text or delete illustrations without full knowledge and permission of the author. If the editors consider amendment or deletion of text or removal of illustrations to be necessary they will discuss it with contributors. If contributors are then unhappy with proposed changes they can withdraw their items.

Rob May / Barry Burns

Scope

The West Africa Study Circle studies the postage stamps and postal history of The Gambia, Gold Coast/Ghana, the Nigerias, Sierra Leone, Camerouns & Togo together with the islands of St. Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha & Gough and the British Postal Agencies in Madeira, Tenerife, St. Vincent and Fernando Po.

Annual Subscription

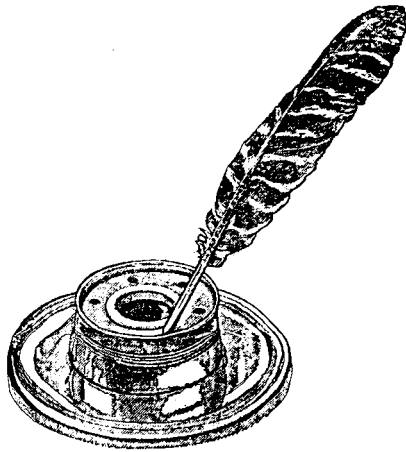
A subscription of £20 per annum provides UK members with a printed copy of *Cameo* three times a year, but this assumes electronic distribution to all overseas members, either as a website download or on CD-R. Those overseas members who prefer to receive *Cameo* in print format may do so at an additional charge of £7.50 to Europe or £12.50 to the rest of the world. There is no entry fee. The subscription term is for calendar years.

Advertising Rates

Black & White	Full page	£45	Half page	£27.50
Colour	Full page	£90	Half page	£50

All advertisers in *Cameo* are also featured in links from our website for the period of their paid advert. For auctioneers we are also ready to put on the home page of our site both a note and a link for any auction which includes a substantial number of lots of West Africa material.

Printed on archival quality paper to ISO 9706 by Quoin Publishing, 17 North Street, Middlesbrough TS2 1JP
www.quinpublishing.co.uk



Letters to the Editor

Should anyone wish to reply to any of these letters, please do so through the Cameo editor in the first instance to enable a consolidated follow-up to be published in conjunction with the study editors as appropriate.

Correspondence on any subject is always most appreciated. Any form of contact is welcome, whether by letter, telephone or email.

The joint editors' addresses are listed on the front page of all Cameo issues.

Rob May & Barry Burns

Nigerian philatelists in government

Dear Rob,

I should like to correct your editorial in *Cameo* 98 where you said General Gowon is a stamp collector. The real collector is Senator Ahmadu Ali. General Gowon was invited to be part of the Senator's 80th birthday and stamp exhibition but the real collector is the Senator. Thanks.

Eddy Akpan
Calabar, Nigeria

Sierra Leone KGVI definitives; marginal markings

Dear Frank,

Having read your article in *Cameo* 98, June 2016, pages 74–78 I have looked in my collection and have found the following which may be useful to add to your research:

- * A block of six halfpenny stamps from the bottom two rows with plate number 2 (in green R 12/4) and number 2 (in black R 12/5) the printers' imprint is R 12/3.
- * On page 75 you mention the printers' imprint being 36mm in length and not being able to confirm this on the 1d, 3d or 10/- values. I can confirm a strip of the bottom two rows SG 189 1d with plate number 2 (in lake R 12/4) and number 2 (in black R 12/5). The printers' imprint is R 12/3 and its length is 36mm.
- * I can also confirm an example on a strip of the bottom two rows of SG 192 3d with plate number 2 (in black R 12/5) and a block of 4 SG 192 3d R 11/3, 11/4 and R 12/3 (with the imprint) and 12/4 with the plate number 2 (in ultramarine R 12/4). In both cases the printers' imprint is 36mm in length.

Hopefully this may be of use to you.

Robin Peters
Kings Lynn

Frank Walton has responded:

Many thanks for sharing your information. Unfortunately the caption for the images on p75 was missed out (*my mistake, sorry - Rob*) but what it is showing is the three border plates for the 1/2 value. These were numbered in the margin below stamp 12/4 as <blank>, 2 and 3 on the plates and normally known as (1), 2 and 3 by philatelists. My comments at the top of page 75 about the imprints being missing relate to "the **first** 1d or 3d plates", i.e. the ones from plate (1). Blocks would, I assume show no plate number below stamp 12/4 but would have the imprint below 12/3. If you have any blocks that show these combinations I would be really interested to hear from you.

The start of the Great War in Togo

Dear Rob,

With reference to John Mayne's letter in *Cameo* 98, June 2016, p61 I can confirm some of John's points about F.C. Bryant and expand on others.

Firstly, I can refer to *History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the Forgotten Fronts and Home Bases 1914-1918* by Farndale, Gen. Sir Martin, pub 1988 by Royal Artillery Association, ISBN 1870115051. This confirms that Capt. Bryant RA was given the rank of Lt. Colonel on 13 August 1914 and that the guns under his command fired the first Allied artillery shells of the First War on 22 August. I have found no further reference to F.C. Bryant in this volume, nor others, of the regiment's history during WWI.

From the Quarterly Army List July 1918 I have extracted the following data:

Frederick Carkeet Bryant, born 10 Dec. 1879, commissioned 2Lt Royal Artillery 23 Dec 1898, Lt 10 Feb 1901, Capt. 24 May 1907, May 30 Oct 1914, acting Lt Col 30 May 1916 – 20 Oct 1917, Brevet Lt Col 1 Jan 1918, Lt Col Reserve of Officers 20 Apr 1918, Lt Col retired 28 Sep 1920.

CMG 1915, CBE 1919, DSO 1917 (his DSO was a “good and faithful service” award, i.e. one of a long list gazetted on that day, not for an act of bravery).

Mentioned in dispatches : London Gazette 18 May 1917 and 14 Dec 1917.

Employed with WAFF 14 Sep 1910 to 10 Mar 1915; later service on the Western front (probably commanding an artillery battery, but I have no details).

This data tells me that the rank of Lt Col, given him in August 1914, was a local and temporary rank which probably meant he was not paid at Lt Col rates. Very likely, as John thought, it was to make him more senior than the senior French officer. His promotion to Major in October 1914 was very likely prompted by his success in Togo and the CMG was also his reward for that brief campaign.

Graham Mark
Wiveliscombe, Somerset

Meter Stamp Impressions

Dear Barry and Rob,

I saw Jeremy Martin’s contribution on the so-called proof meter stamp impressions of Gold Coast and Sierra Leone (*Cameo* 98 pp80-81). For many years I have been in contact with Rick Stambaugh who is the editor of the International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog which is available online:

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog

and provides the standard work on meter stamps worldwide. Jeremy showed us the Sierra Leone 1954 meter stamp on card of the Pitney Bowes ‘Simplex’ type with meter number S3 and ‘POST PAID’ in arc above value figure. Christopher Gärtner described them being PROOF METER MARK impressions. I purchased some time ago a Sierra Leone 1954 meter franking on card of the Pitney Bowes ‘Simplex’ type with meter number S2. Almost the same type as Jeremy’s but with small crown beneath country name at top and dash in panel at bottom centre.

Rick Stambaugh thinks that this meter stamp may be an essay. He also notes that no examples have been seen used on actual mail. So are these meter stamp impressions on cards to be considered essays or proofs?

Kindest regards
Marc Parren
Heerlen
Netherlands



**WASC Study Editors are also available
for queries and to help edit articles**

- Airmails – Barbara Priddy
- Ascension – Bernard Hughes
- Biafra – Tony Plumbe
- Cameroons – Marty Bratzel
- Gambia – Oliver Andrew
- Ghana – Ian Anderson
- Gold Coast – Peter Duggan
- Maritime – John Hossack
- Nigerias to 1914 – Simon Heap
- Nigeria post 1914 – Tony Plumbe
- St. Helena – Bernard Mabbett
- Sierra Leone to 1961 – Frank Walton
- Sierra Leone post 1961 – Peter Rolfe
- Togo – Jeremy Martin
- Tristan da Cunha - Richard Moss

**The Publications Committee Chairman
is Rob May**

Chris Rainey Online

- British Commonwealth
- Postal History
- Thematic Postal History

Visit my online shop
www.chrisrainey.com



Access to the internet?

Then please try visiting the West Africa Study Circle Web Site at:

<http://www.wasc.org.uk>

Webmaster is Ray Harris - contact: harris6@which.net

There are now direct links to our advertisers and other websites.
Other recent additions include documents by WASC members including
much information on WWII Air Mails.

Michael Dobbs of the Forces Postal History Society has written a monograph
entitled *British Intervention in War-torn Sierra Leone 1997-2015*.

Take a look!

Censor Marks of the Gold Coast Regiment - a Response

Philip Levine FRPSL

This is in reply to Ian Anderson's letter (Ref. 1) in the June *Cameo*.

I have a prepaid British Registered Envelope sent from Field Post Office No. 174 in 1946 Middle East, probably Tel el Kebir, after the end of the Second World War (Fig. 1). It was sent by a member of the Gold Coast Regiment to his family in the Bolgatanga district of the Northern Territories. The late Michael Ensor wrote about similar mail in 1996 (Ref. 2).

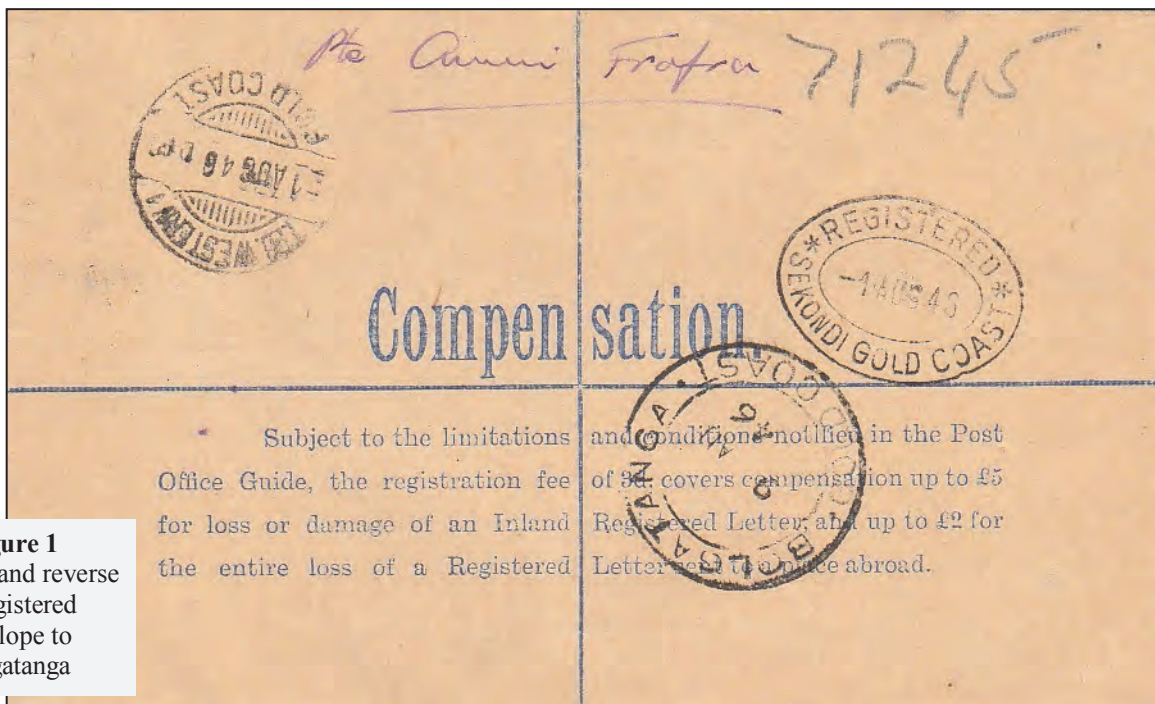
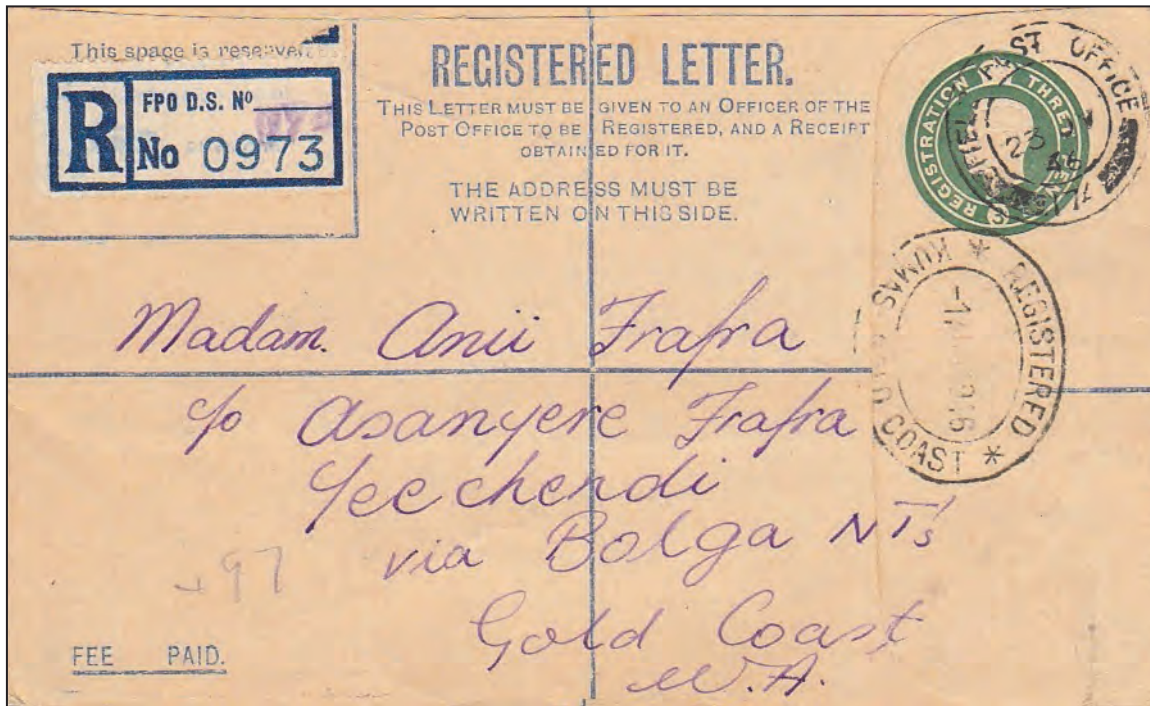


Figure 1
Obverse and reverse
of registered
envelope to
Bolgatanga

‘Frafra’ is a (colonialist) term for a subset of the Gur people of the northern Gold Coast, whose commercial centre is Bolgatanga. The Talensi people are neighbours. ‘Frafra’ would have been a tribal greeting as opposed to a European surname.

The envelope was sent Post-Free on Active Service and took 17 days to reach Bolgatanga; via Sekondi, then TPO Western Line to Kumasi.

References

- 1 Anderson Ian, “Censor Marks of the Gold Coast Regiment”, *Cameo*, Volume 17 p60, WASC June 2016
- 2 Ensor Michael, “Mail from Gold Coast Troops Abroad”, *Cameo*, Volume 5 pp150-151, WASC July 1996

Gold Coast OO/336 Censor Tape

John Mayne



Figure 1 Cover from Cotonou, Dahomey to Gold Coast

Michael Ensor (Ref. 1) listed censor tape L4AB used one day only, on 25 November 1944. The third edition of *West African Censorship* lists OO/336 as type L4ABa with one date; 19 October 1944. The cover illustrated as Figure 1 shows its use on inbound mail from Cotonou, Dahomey, on 13 December 1944. The cover was routed via Togo, as evidenced by a back-stamp of Lome on 1 December 1944.

References

- 1 Ensor M. (Ed), *The Postal Services of the Gold Coast 1901-1957*, WASC, Dronfield 1998
- 2 Martin J.J., Walton F.L & Harris R., *West African Censorship*, p63, WASC, Princes Risborough 3rd Edition 2015

Three Sierra Leone Instructional Markings

- One Cover!

Philip Quirk



Figure 1
Front and back
(latter reduced in size)
of 1955 Freetown
to Paris cover

When fellow WASC member Tony Pellet showed me this cover (Fig. 1), combining a total of five different instructional handstamps from Sierra Leone and France, I immediately thought that it deserved a wider audience.

Sent on 2 December 1955 to Monsieur & Madame Delmas at 3 Rue Claude Matrat, Paris, the cover caused problems when it arrived in Paris as the address was not known. It received manuscript 'inconnu' and the boxed marking 'RETOUR / A L'ENVOYEUR'. However, a perceptive postal worker must have then remembered that there was a Rue Claude Matrat in Issy les Moulineaux, a south-western suburb of Paris, crossed out 'Paris' from the address and added 'Issy les Mx' in red biro. The two earlier markings were scribbled over in blue, and the cover duly arrived at Issy on 24 December.

Unfortunately, it appears that M. & Mme. Delmas were not at the corrected address, and the cover acquired two further manuscript markings. I was unable to decipher the one at lower left, but Tony suggests that it reads 'P. S. LA Co' (Parti Sans Laisser d'Adresse Connue) / 'au 3 Cl Matrat / Issy les M. / Fr'. The other reads simply 'Rebut'. Issy returned the cover to Paris on 26 December and a Paris / Gare Montparnasse datestamp marked its arrival on the 27th. At one or other office, a second boxed marking was added: 'PARTI SANS / LAISSER D'ADRESSE', and the cover was returned to Sierra Leone.

Although there is no arrival datestamp, it is likely that the cover would have arrived at Freetown some time in January 1956. The staff at Freetown applied no fewer than three instructional marks: Walton 709.01, 713.02 and 726.03 (Ref. 1). The ‘*Parti. / Gone away.*’ mark has previously been recorded only between 1892 and 1897, the straight-line ‘INCONNU (NO^T. KNOWN)’ is noted only from a single 1957 cover, and the boxed ‘RETURN TO SENDER.’ only on one date in 1959 (Ref. 2, p139). Note the clear full stop after SENDER, which is not present in the illustrations in Refs.1 and 2. This cover confirms the attribution of the latter two markings to Sierra Leone.

References

- 1 Walton F., Quirk P., Hamilton M. & Horry D., *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*, 2nd ed., WASC, 2015
- 2 Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Sierra Leone*, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1994



SALPOST Postmark of King Tom

Peter Rolfe

King Tom is a suburb to the West of Freetown and has had no reported active postal agency for some time. It was first opened in July 1904 as King Tom Bridge and then closed in August 1916 (Ref. 1). It was then the site of a railway bridge and is now the site of a power station. The cancellation shown at Figure 1 has a date inserted in manuscript 4-11-96. The same handstamp is repeated less clearly on the front of the cover, without an inserted date. This is unlike anything else I have seen used in Sierra Leone and I would very much like to hear of anything similar found by other members.



Figure 1 KINGTOM marking dated 4 November 1996

Reference

- 1 Walton F.L.; Quirk P.; Hamilton M. and Horry D., *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*, p54, 2nd edition, WASC Princes Risborough 2015

How Many Post Offices were there in Nigeria?

Paul Redhead

Nigeria is a big country, with over 180 million inhabitants in an area roughly 4 times that of the UK. Its postal history goes back over 200 years, and has been thoroughly researched and described by, amongst others, Ince and Sacher (Ref. 1), Jones (Ref. 2) and Proud (Ref. 3). This article explores the changing number of post offices from pre-1900 to the most recent information available from NIPOST, the Nigerian Postal Service. As we shall see, there remain a substantial number of offices for which no cancel has yet been reported.

In this account I've not distinguished between the various services and administrative details which distinguish post offices from branch offices, sub offices and postal agencies (see http://www.nipost.gov.ng/Postoffice_Structure.aspx) or attempted to describe the actual cancellers used, their use dates etc. - the latest information I have on those is given on <http://www.nigerian-post-offices.org.uk/lists.html>. I have also put online at:

http://www.nigerian-post-offices.org.uk/documents/July_16_offices_lists/Nigeria%20Post%20Offices%20List%20July%202016.doc

a full list of the information about actual post offices, which is the basis of the overview in the paragraphs below.

By 1 January 1914, when the various constituent parts of Nigeria became one nation, 137 offices are recorded (see Ince and Sacher and the online list at:

http://www.nigerian-post-offices.org.uk/documents/Oct_15_lists/Vol%2010%20Pre%201914%20Oct15.doc

Even by this early stage in Nigerian postal history, spelling variants (for example Saki / Shaki) and name change (for example Sombreiro River to Degema, Qua Iboe River to Eket) make for complications in deciding how many different offices were open before the unification into one Nigeria. As Ince and Sacher comment (p334) '...conflicting published information and omissions make a definitive list of offices problematical.' In addition, early records do not always make it clear whether a particular place functioned as a post office (e.g. selling stamps and cancelling mail) or was merely a staging post on a postal route (see discussion in Ince and Sacher p270).

The period from unification to independence (1 January 1914 to 1 October 1960) has been documented by Proud and also by Jones, whose information extends another 20 years, to 1980. These two major works take different approaches; as Jones comments '(Proud's work) could be regarded more in the nature of an encyclopaedia on the subject while my book is nearer to a catalogue.' The first edition of Jones pre-dates Proud, and it is clear that Proud drew on Jones for some information about usage dates of specific cancellers. In turn Jones incorporated information from Proud into the second edition of his book. My online lists (<http://www.nigerian-post-offices.org.uk/lists.html>) attempt to cross reference the different descriptive approaches to cancellers taken in these essential reference works.

Proud contains much information about the opening dates, location and supervision of individual offices, the result of considerable research in the *Nigerian Gazette* reports. In the great majority of cases he also gives details of cancels and use dates. However, there are a number of offices described as 'NS' for which no cancel has been seen, though in several such cases an undated Post Office Impression Book image is shown, which suggests but does not prove that the canceller was issued and used.

Since Proud was published, cancels from several of the NS offices have turned up (e.g. Ado Odo Lagos), but no example has yet been reported for 32 of Proud's not-seen offices. Although the reporting of an office does not guarantee that it actually opened for business and used its own canceller, the majority of these NS offices probably did open and examples have simply not come to light.

The information in Proud also confirms that the pre-1914 office name complications continued; alternative spellings (e.g. Usoro, Uzoro refer to the same place, and post-1960 became Ozoro); major changes of name

(e.g. Odo Oke Igbira became Aiyedun Ekiti); typos (e.g. Zana for Zaria), as well as variants caused by damage to skeleton cancellers. All these add to the interest of collecting Nigerian postmarks, and to the difficulty of counting actual offices. However the most significant complication arose in the late 1950s when it became common for cancellers used at smaller offices to include the name of the office followed by the name of the main office responsible for its oversight. Thus Okemessi, which was supervised from Ilesha, cancelled stamps with 'Okemessi Ilesha' from 1960 on. For some offices, the overseeing office changed several times and new cancellers were issued to reflect this (e.g. Uneah used Uneah Ubiaja then Uneah Uromi as the controlling office changed. All three names apply to the same post office). Of course many 'double barrelled' names had different origins and often reflected the name of the ethnic sub-group to which that community belongs (for example the many place names ending in Ekiti).

The final factors to consider in coming up with a figure for the number of offices in existence up to 1 October 1960 are whether to include travelling and mobile post offices, and what to do about offices in the part of the Cameroon Republic which were at one time under Nigerian/British control. Since this article focuses on physical office locations, I have not included the relatively small number of mobile and travelling post offices but the Cameroons offices pose a more awkward question. Post 1916 the German 'Kamerun' was partitioned between the British in the west and the French further east. The nature of the British administration and its basis in law changed several times thereafter until eventually in 1961, a plebiscite resulted in southern areas becoming part of the Cameroon Republic and northern ones joining Nigeria. I've taken the approach adopted by Jones, of including in the lists offices which became part of Nigeria in 1961 and excluding those which didn't.

For collectors of postmarks this may cause some confusion since quite a few offices now in Cameroon Republic used cancellers pre-1961 which include the word 'Nigeria'. The offices concerned are: Victoria, Bafut, Bakebe, Bali, Bamenda, Buea, Kumba, Ossidinge / Mamfe, Manyemen, Mbengwi, Mbonge, Muyuka, Ndian, Ndop, Ndu, Nkambe, Nsaw, Nyasoso, Santa, Tiko, Tinto, Tombel, and Wum.

Bearing all this in mind, my best estimate for the number of different offices up to independence is 1,463, of which 32 haven't yet been seen via cancels.

The WASC library contains a list of offices open in 1946, containing 488 names, so growth in postal services was pretty rapid between the end of the second world war and independence. Two further documents from the WASC library list offices in 1963 and 1973, when the total number reported was respectively 1,507 and 1,677, a considerable slowing down of the development of the post office network. However, these figures conceal a significant number of closures of pre-independence offices, so the actual number of new offices opening was greater than the difference suggests.

Looking through the 1963 and 1973 lists shows 272 post-independence offices not mentioned in Jones. Adding in the 32 from Proud, and one mentioned to me by Simon Heap, makes 305 unseen offices up to the date of the 1973 list. Of these 45 have been reported since and are included in my online lists, but that leaves 260 yet to be found. The names of these are given in the table at the end of this article.

The last detailed listing of offices, apart from the NIPOST data mentioned later, is in 1980, the end point of Jones' book. Going through it and working out how many separate offices are included in Jones gives a total of 1,950 offices. That figure excludes alternative spellings and cases where the office name has had the controlling office added to it.

To these must be added the 260 unseen-to-1973 offices, and an unknown number which opened between 1973 and 1980 but which have not been seen. I have examples of cancels from 58 offices not mentioned in Jones, and 13 of these are not mentioned in the 1973 list either. By extrapolation that suggests that there are an additional 88 offices open but not seen between 1973 and 1980, making a grand total of 348. **Thus a final estimate for the number of offices open up to 1980 is 2,298.**

What about the 36 years to the present day? No-one has attempted to extend Jones' catalogue (and collectors of 1970s cancels will understand that this would be a major task: records are poor, stamp surfaces don't take canceller ink well, cancellers are often badly worn etc.).

However NIPOST have published an online database of post offices which gives a sighting shot, albeit at an unstated point in time. I have extracted an alphabetical list of offices (the NIPOST one is published state by state), which I have put online at:

http://www.nigerian-post-offices.org.uk/documents/July_16_offices_lists/NIPOST%20Offices%20list%20alphabetical%20with%20states.docx. (no space between final % and 20 - Ed.)

It shows a total of 3,257 offices, which include 1,300 of the names in Jones and of course a great many new ones.

How many of these are still open for business must be uncertain; Nigerians have taken enthusiastically to cheaper and faster electronic communications, and private companies have made major inroads into NIPOST's parcel service, not least because items are less likely to get 'lost in the post'. This will have affected large and small offices alike (see for example <http://allafrica.com/stories/201508200943.html> and <http://www.nairaland.com/2001103/pathetic-state-post-office-lagos>) and the number will certainly have fallen rather than continued to increase. **According to the UPU (<http://www.upu.int/en.html>) the number of post offices in Nigeria in 2010 was 2,605; in 2013 was 3,259; and in 2014 was 2,695.** That's quite a fluctuation!

A couple of cautions apply to the 'unseen offices' list below; almost certainly some of the entries are alternative or misspelt names of other offices for which cancels are known; and the appearance of a name on an official list does not guarantee that it actually cancelled stamps.

Nigerian post offices believed to have existed but for which no cancels are reported			
Names in <i>bold italic</i> are pre-independence (1 October 1960), with post-independence offices in normal text			
Abiodun Wright Avenue	Abule Oja	Abutete	Adegoke St Surulere
Adejukolo	Adoru	Afo	Afor
<i>Agba</i>	Agbado Ekiti	Agbamu	Agbelekale Street Oshodi
<i>Agege Motor Road Mushin</i>	Agudama Epetiama	Aguleri Otu	Agulu Azigbo
Ajaokuta	<i>Aje Street Yaba</i>	Ajebandele	Ajose Street Mende
Akpet 1	Akunnu	Alan Ejor	Alatishe St Abeokuta
Alhaji Otta	Alu	Amaeke Ibeku	Amandugba
Amiara	Aminyinta	Amuye Ijesha	Anchau
Apataganga	Apa Village	Aponmu	Arandun
Ariara	Arimogija	Asa	Atte
Awa	Awai	Awo Ekiti	Ayakoromo
Ayeye	Babanloma	Bacita	Bajulaiye Road, Bashua
Bakori	Bama Road Maiduguri	Bambam	Banjiram
Beli	Bello St Mushin	Big Warri	<i>Birnin Kudu</i>
Bode Market	<i>Borrong</i>	Buni Railway	Calcutta Crescent
Cemetery Street Ebute Metta	<i>Dawakin Kudu</i>	<i>Dawakin Tofa</i>	Dopemu
Ebba Station	Egbeda	Egbeda Ikwerre	Ekan Meje
Ekenwan	Eko Ende	Ekpedo	Ekusa
Elekuro	Elere	Emuju	<i>Emuolu Emii</i> / Umuolu Emii

Ewulu	Eziowelle	Fabur	Garingabbas
Gaya	Gerkawa	Girei	Gulak
Herbert Macaulay	Ibagwa	Idegun Anwain	Idera
Idogun	Ife Ijumu	Ife Odan	Ifira
Igangan	Iganna	Igbo Elerin	Igbojaiye
Igbore	Igieduma	Igogo	Igosun
Ihie Umuduru	Ihima / Oridu Ihima	Ijemo Abeokuta	Ijere Village
Ijesha Ishu	Ijesha Road Surulere	Iju Railway Station	Ikeji Ile
Ikoga Zebbe	Ikoneto Town	Ikoro Ekiti	Ikot Udo Abia
Ikpidiama	Ilare Ijesha	Ilasha Ekiti	Ilashe
Ile Igbo Station	Ilie	Iloffo Odoowa	Ilogbo Ale
Ilogbo Otta	Iluomoba Ekiti	Ilushi	Imala Market
Imesi Lasigidi	Ipapo	Ipara	Ipole Iloro
Iponda	Ira	Iro Town	Isale Ora
Ishokun Street Ilesha	Isigwu Omana	Isobendeghe	Isselegu
Itaganmodi	Ita Oshin	Itu Mbon Uso	Iwere Ile
Iwo Eto Imam	Iwukem	Iyeku	Iyessi Town
Iyora	Jama'are	Jeba	Jimeta
Kachia Camp	Kagara Town	Kajola	Kankon
Kari	Katsina Ala	Ke	Keba Stores Mokola
Khontan	Kolo	Komu	Korokorosei
Kucheri	Kudeti	Kuru Railway Station	Kweme
Kwueme	Kzekwe	Labinjo Lane Lagos	Lafia Lamurde
Leventis Stores Ibadan	Leventis Stores Port Harcourt	Madagali	Madangho
Mahintedo	Maigana	Makoko	Maroko Village
Mefoworade	Miango	Minya	Mkpor
Nasarawa Eggon	Nasarawa Gwom	Nathan Street	Ndieche
Ndiokpalaeze	Ndonwong Odot	New Benin	Nze
Oba Abeokuta	Obada Market	Obadiah Village Apapa	Oba Akure
Oba Omege	Odeda Town	Odeyinka	Odo Ape
Oodoro	Ogheye	Ogriagbene	Ogudu
Ogunmakin Market	Ogwu Oba	Oju Woye	Oke Ako
Okuta	Olaniyi Street	Olla Igbomina	Olodo
Ologbonowon	Olorunda Otta	Omi Adio	Omifunfun
Onadeko Street Surulere	Oni	Onigbongbo	Onyedoga
Opoma	Orotedo Street	Ososa	Otan Ile
Oturu	Ovwian	Owode Market	Oyere Aborisade
Popo Aguda Lagos	Randle Avenue	Riga Chikun	Rijau
Sabo Lafenwa	Sabongari Gusau	Sabongari Nguru	Serti
Shabomi	Shasha Olumogo	Shinkafe	Simpson Street Ebute Metta
Song	St Finbarrs College Road	Tabang	Tambawal
Tanimo	Taura Station	Technical College Ibadan	Tede
Tudun Nupawa	Tudunwada Kaduna	Uburu Town	Ugomoson
Uguo	Ukwunzu	Umuori Uratta	Unguwar Shanu
Usen	Utesse	Utugwang	Uzea
Wannune Mbahor	Wudil	Yaka	Yelwa Ishar

Gold Coast: the Post-war *Halton* Service to the UK

Jeremy Martin FRPSL



Figure 1 Cover from Accra postmarked 19 August 1947

At the Salisbury WASC meeting in June 2016 I showed this cover (Figure 1) to Barbara Priddy who was able to help with the red manuscript *HALTON SERVICE* endorsement.

Barbara advised that after the war BOAC continued to fly the coastal service Lagos - UK with DC3 Dakotas. These were withdrawn at the end of July 1947 and replaced with HP90 Haltons; a civilianised version of the Halifax bomber, which carried five crew and ten passengers, as well as mail and freight.

The first Halton flight to the UK took place on 4 July 1947 and this cover was probably carried on flight 28W29, flown by G-AHDM, which left Lagos on 19 August and Accra on 20 August 1947 (the Accra date-stamp on this cover is 19 August).

It then called at Bathurst and Casablanca the same day, reaching London on 21 August. (Source - British Airways BOAC movements charts).

My thanks to Barabara who kindly provided all the information.



A Prisoner of War Mailing from Duala, Cameroon in WWI

Bob Maddocks

Shown hereunder (Fig. 1) is a rare cover mailed from a prisoner of war camp in Duala at the onset of the Cameroons Campaign in WWI. It was set up by the invading Anglo-French Expeditionary Force for the internment of captured Germans and other enemy aliens following the seizure of that town on 27 September 1914.

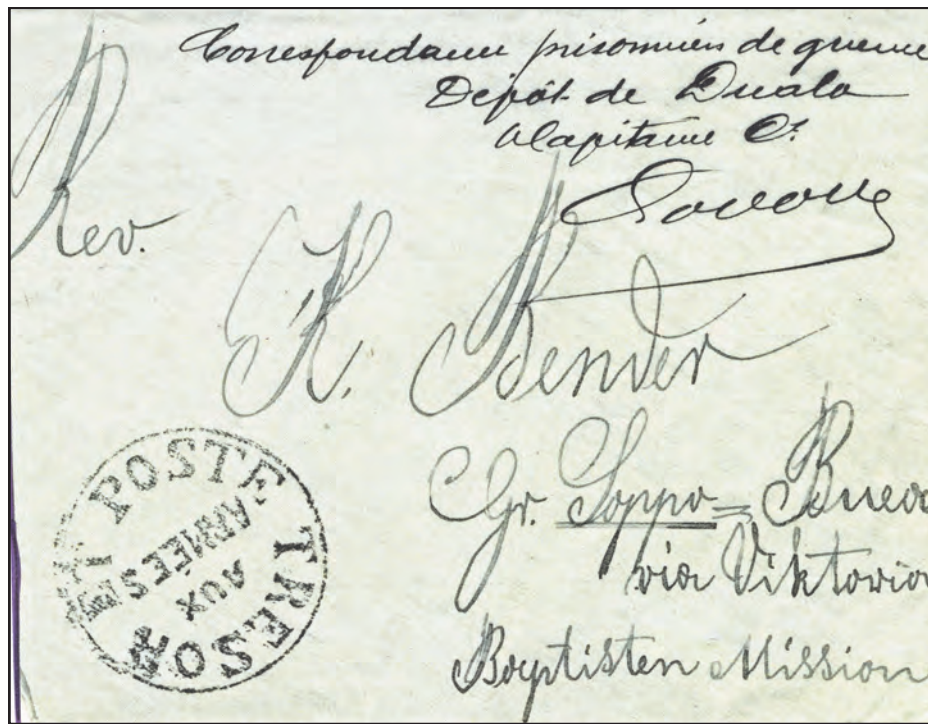


Figure 1

Front of 1914 stampless cover from POW Camp, Duala to Buea (no backstamps)

On 26 November 1914 some 11 days after the capture of Buea, the former German capital, over 170 Germans taken prisoner there were also interned at Duala. These included 68 women and children of both the military and the missions.

Among the prisoners taken by the British was Karl Bender, the addressee of this cover, and his wife; both were in the service of the Baptist Mission at Soppo near to Buea. As however, they were American citizens they were, after about two weeks, permitted to return to their Mission station and to resume work there.

This mailing to Bender was after his release and was likely from a former fellow internee towards the end of 1914. It has, however, no date or backstamp or sender's name on the envelope. At the top on the address side it has been inscribed *Correspondance Prisonier de Guerre/Depot de Duala* over the signature of a French Captain, the likely Camp Commandant. In the bottom left hand corner there is a strike in black of the large circular French cachet TRESOR ET POSTE/AUX ARMEES as used by the French vague-mestre in Duala. POW mail was exempt from franking. The mailing would most probably thereafter have passed along the British military lines for delivery via Victoria to Buea, which was occupied by British troops.

According to General Routine Order No. 33 of 18 October 1914 by the Allied Commander of the CEF, prisoners of war were only allowed to post letters with the permission of General Headquarters in special circumstances - here unknown, of course, but obviously within the remit of the French captain whose authorising signature is on the front of the envelope.

The Benders eventually left for the USA in 1919; in 1921 he had published in Germany his account (Note 1) of his experiences with the Baptist Mission during WWI in Cameroon. It is not known whether there was an English translation in the USA.

The POW camp itself was of short duration. Some 1200 Germans including women and children had been captured and the CEF did not have the necessary numbers of troops to provide adequate security. Moreover there were problems in feeding them because of shortage in local food supplies. The prisoners were thus quickly deported to other British and French West African colonies, and also to England.

Note

1 K. Bender, *Der Weltkrieg und der Christlichen Missionen in Kamerun*, Kassel-Oncken 1921

Nigeria QEII: Accounting for Definitive Postage Stamps Overprinted for Use in the Trust Territory of Cameroons

Bob Maddocks

When Nigeria gained its independence on 1 October 1960 it did not take with it the United Kingdom Trust Territory of the Cameroons which had been administered by the British as part of its colony, the Nigerian Federation. Instead, the Trust Territory on that date became the direct political responsibility of Britain, pending the outcome of United Nations' plebiscites to be held as to whether to unite with Nigeria or the Cameroun Republic.

Postal services, however, for the following year continued to be provided by the Nigerian Posts and Telegraphs Department from Lagos under an Agency Arrangement signed between self-governing Southern Cameroons and the independent Nigeria. In Northern Cameroons, which had not been self-governing, Nigeria also continued to provide postal services but without the same formality because of local involved politics, which saw little use of overprinted stamps there. (Fig. 1)

As an interim measure the postage stamps provided for use in the Trust Territory - primarily in Southern Cameroons - were those of the last colonial definitives of Nigeria as withdrawn in 1960 (SG 69-80). These were overprinted "CAMEROONS/U.K.T.T." in red (SG T1-T12). This, of course, necessitated a fresh serial numbering by the printers of the unused original sheets of stamps now being overprinted for Cameroons stock control purposes. The new numbers can be seen in the top of the sheet margins with the original sheet number being crossed through. Sheets of the short lived "U.K.T.T." overprints obviously bear much lower stock numbers than those of the unoverprinted originals, relative to the quantities involved.



Figure 1
Cover from Mubi
25 January 1961;
a seldom seen usage of
U.K.T.T. overprints in
Northern Cameroons
(shown at 70%)



Figure 2

Four of the CAMEROONS U.K.T.T. overprinted values: ½d (SG T1), 1d (SG T2), 2d (SG T4) and 4d (SG T7)

Selvages show original sheet numbers of withdrawn 1953-1960 QEII definitives with alongside the new control numbers of those unused sheets overprinted in 1960- for specific use in both Southern and Northern Cameroons when those territories temporarily came under the direct Governance of the UK on 1 October 1960 following Nigerian Independence

Illustrated here are four low values of the overprinted stamps (½d, 1d, 2d and 6d) (Fig. 2) showing in their top margins the first and secondary sheet numberings.

A third set of serial stock numbers is also to be noted, this time handwritten in pencil on several of the stamps sheet margins. These were no doubt applied also for their local accounting purposes by one or other of the individual Cameroons postmasters ultimately responsible for selling the “U.K.T.T.” overprints at their respective counters.

From Hero to Villain in Sierra Leone

John Hossack

Robert Erskine Wade Crawford was the eldest of five sons and two daughters of Captain (later General) Robert Fitzgerald Crawford and his wife Jane, the daughter of a Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson (Ref. 1). Young Robert was born on 5 September 1852 at Elizabeth Castle in Jersey where his father had served with the Royal Regiment of Artillery since 1851 (Ref. 1). The family later moved to Edinburgh where he was brought up. They moved to Harrow in 1863, where Robert attended Harrow School from 1866 to 1871, representing them at football and cricket (Refs. 1, 2).



Figure 1

Robert Erskine Wade Copland-Crawford

Robert Crawford (Fig. 1) went on to become a successful amateur sportsman. He represented Scotland at football four times in early matches against England, albeit in games regarded as unofficial; his brother, Fitzgerald, also played in at least one of these (Ref. 1). Robert had the distinction of scoring the first goal in the first ever match, played at the Oval, between the two countries in 1870. The result was a 1 – 1 draw (Ref. 3). He played for the Wanderers club, and appeared in the FA Cup semi-final in 1872 (Ref. 4). He also played cricket for MCC several times including two first class games, and later played whilst in the Army (Ref. 5).

By this time his parents had retired to live at Sudbury Lodge near Harrow in Middlesex. Sudbury Lodge was inherited by General Crawford (Ref. 6) from Miss Anne Copland after her death in 1872 (Ref. 7). It was then that the family name was changed to Copland-Crawford (Ref. 2).

Robert Copland-Crawford joined the 2nd Middlesex Royal Rifle Regiment of Militia in 1873 as a sub-lieutenant (Ref. 8), and in 1876 was promoted to lieutenant before going to India (Ref. 1). He went to Afghanistan from 1878 to 1880 (Ref. 2), and in 1880 he was mentioned in despatches for his actions at the battle of Ahmed Khel (Refs. 1, 9). Later the same year he took part in the successful march to Kandahar under Sir Fredrick Roberts (Refs. 1, 2). Towards the end of 1880 his military service took him to South Africa (Ref. 1).

In 1882 he married Helen Stewart at Lancaster Gate (Ref. 1). It would seem the marriage was not a success and that they were separated within a few years, though she did attend his funeral in 1894 (Ref. 1). In 1883 he sailed to Alexandria and saw action in the Sudan, being awarded the Service Medal for Sudan from the Khedive of Egypt in 1884 (Ref. 1). Surprisingly, he left the Army soon after this (Ref. 1).

Robert Copland-Crawford accepted a position with the Sierra Leone Frontier Police based at Sulymah on a six months contract starting in September 1888 (Ref. 1). Sulymah was one of a number of customs ports along the coast opened in 1884 to protect revenues for the Government of Sierra Leone (Ref. 10). These customs ports were also authorised to deal with mail passing through them, using their undated oval seals as postmarks. Sulymah assumed the status of post office a few years later (Ref. 10). While in Sulymah he corresponded regularly with his parents. A cover, the eighth he sent from Sierra Leone, is shown in Figures 2 and 3.

While stationed at Sulymah Copland-Crawford travelled along the coast, at least as far as Lavanah, some twenty miles to the north, from where he sent mail home (Fig. 4). I have also seen a cover sent by him from Manoh Salijah, about ten miles south of Sulymah. Some details of Copland-Crawford's time at Sulymah are described by Brock (Ref. 1). Sulymah was bounded by Chiefdoms which were independent of the Crown, and there was an uneasy peace between the British and the local people, aggravated by the persistence of slave trading.



Figures 2 and 3

Front and back of envelope sent November 1888 by Robert Copland-Crawford to his father. The stamp was cancelled in red by the undated oval mark for Sulymah, while a c.d.s., also in red, for the same post office and arrival marks at Harrow and Sudbury have been applied to the back. It took almost four weeks to reach it's destination.

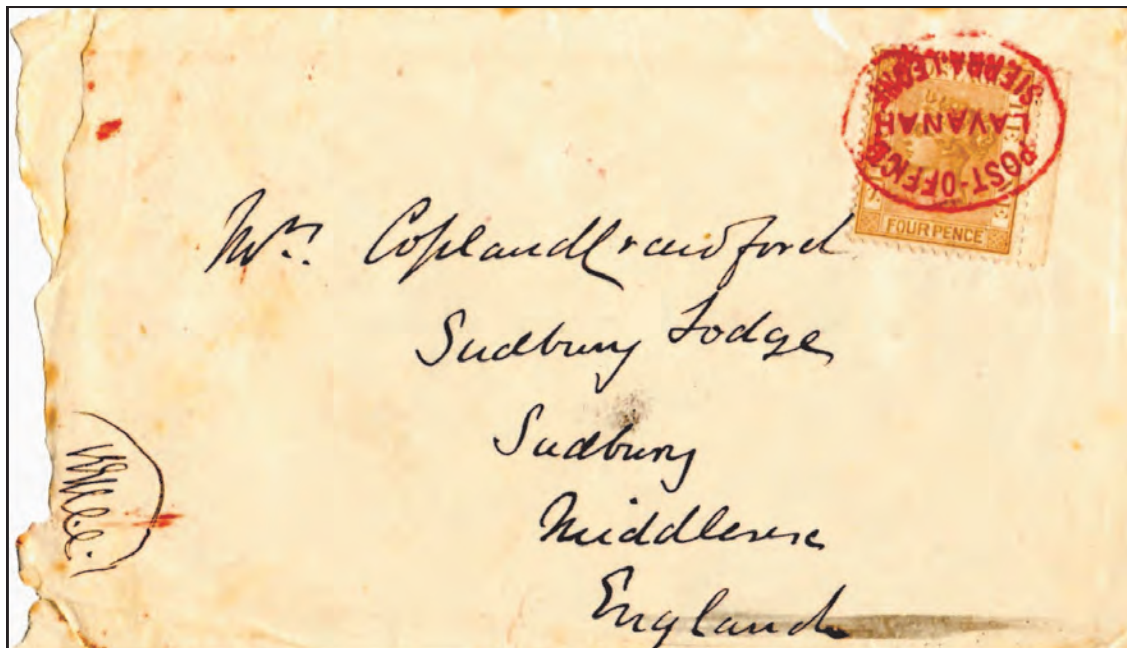


Figure 4

Cover sent by Robert Copland-Crawford to his mother in Middlesex. The 4d stamp, which paid the rate for a letter not exceeding half an ounce to the UK, was cancelled in red by the oval mark for Lavanah. His initials are on the left of the item.

Copland-Crawford's brief from the Governor of Sierra Leone, Sir James Hay, was to work towards good relationships with local people by maintaining peace and order and, not to engage in any offensive actions. However it was not long before he ordered the arrest of a chief who was threatening to attack a village. The Governor rebuked him for this, stressing that he had no authority to make arrests.

On 2 December 1888 Copland-Crawford and his force attacked a village, whose chief he had promised to support, which had been taken by a neighbouring chief who was known to be particularly aggressive. Though his force successfully reclaimed the village and coincidentally released more than 500 hostages, mainly women and children, over 100 people were killed.

Governor Hay again registered his disapproval of Copland-Crawford exceeding his instructions. In contrast the Colonial Office remarked that it was 'an excellently managed affair', though they recommended a more cautious approach in future. It seemed Copland-Crawford's methods were achieving the desired objective without the need for a costly military presence.

The next incident caused the catastrophic downfall of Robert Copland-Crawford (Ref. 1). In February 1889 a sum of £84 was stolen. The chief suspect was a servant who was arrested. Under Copland-Crawford's instructions he was severely flogged in order to extract a confession. The man was also tortured and unfortunately died. When Copland-Crawford was arrested and taken to prison in Freetown on 11 April 1889 the Colonial Secretary wanted a charge of murder to be brought against him. He was actually convicted of manslaughter on 20 July and received a twelve month prison sentence with hard labour. However, he was considered too ill to serve it and was transferred to the prison hospital before being sent back to UK. He left Freetown on 8 August aboard SS *Lagos* and arrived at Liverpool on 24 August 1889.

Events in Sulymah eventually became the subject of a long and animated debate in the House of Commons, led by James Picton, Liberal MP for Leicester. The focus was on Copland-Crawford exceeding his instructions, making unauthorised arrests, burning villages and bribing chiefs. The report is in Hansard for 2 June 1890 (Ref. 11). Again in Parliament, in reference to the manslaughter charge, James Picton asked, on 9 June 1890, about length of time Copland-Crawford had spent in prison and about any entitlement he may have to a pension (Ref. 12).

Copland-Crawford, whose health did not improve, died on 23 May 1894 and was buried at St John the Evangelist Church, Crawford Ave, Wembley (Ref. 1).

History may judge Robert Copland-Crawford harshly, probably correctly as his later actions in Sierra Leone cannot be condoned. However, it is easy with hindsight to judge events of more than 100 years ago against the culture and standards of modern times. Even in the Parliament of the day it is doubtful if the members could fully appreciate the conditions which prevailed in the remotest parts of the Colonies. Significantly, even before selection, it would seem Copland-Crawford's military experiences were considered to make him suitable for the role in Sulymah which was already regarded as a 'thankless and unprofitable task' (Ref. 1). Also, he was in poor health by 1889.

Clearly here was a gifted and committed man who represented his country with distinction at sport, and who demonstrated such bravery in the field of battle. Perhaps experience in the latter had affected him to a degree which was not well understood at the time. In addition those pioneering days in West Africa must have been very difficult, with apprehension and uncertainty on all sides. Whatever happened, the eventful and very full life of Robert Copland-Crawford, cut short at the age of 41, certainly made its mark on history.

PS. Two of his younger brothers also went to West Africa, both in the Colonial Service. Major Peter Wade Grant Copland-Crawford arrived in the Niger Coast Protectorate in 1894, only to be murdered in the city of Benin in 1897 (Ref. 13). William Copland-Crawford was in Nigeria from 1897 until he retired in 1920 (Ref. 1).

References

- 1 Brock R.E., *The Copland-Crawfords of Wembley*, 1989
- 2 Welch R.C., *Harrow School Register 1800 – 1911*, p396, Longmans, Green & Co
- 3 *The Scotsman*, March 1870
- 4 Cavallini R., *The Wanderers F.C. Five Times F.A. Cup Winners*, Dog N Duck Publications 2005
- 5 www.cricketarchive.com
- 6 Rigden P., *The Alpertonian*, History lesson – Barham and Copland Edition 21, Autumn 2005
- 7 www.londongardensonline.org.uk
- 8 *The London Gazette* No. 24019, p4291, 23 September 1873
- 9 *The London Gazette* No. 24869, pp4198 – 4200, 30 July 1880
- 10 Beale, P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone*, p9, RPSL, London 1988
- 11 *Hansard* HC Deb 2 June 1890 vol. 344, c1761 - 1837
- 12 *Hansard* HC Deb 9 June 1890 vol. 345, c330
- 13 *Illustrated London News*, 16 January 1897



Lagos: New Discovery: SG 19w

Dr Simon Heap

To add to my Lagos collection I recently acquired a scruffy example of a 3d chestnut-coloured stamp from the Watermark Crown CA set issued in June 1882, with a 'L' in a circle and 7 bar obliterator cancel, two modern hinge remnants and its left-hand corner missing (Fig. 1).



Figure 1
Front and reverse of the 1882 Lagos 3d stamp

Certificate number 223586 from the 'Royal' of 15 June 2016 confirms that it is thinned, soiled and missing a corner, but has an inverted watermark.

Hugh Jefferies of Stanley Gibbons has readily agreed to include it in future catalogues, which I take to be a SG 19w inserted into the listing. As the 1882 set has been recorded without any varieties up till now, this is particularly interesting and pleasing.

By the way, with twelve normally watermarked used stamps in my collection, I'm still looking for a normal mint example of this stamp, though a mint inverted watermark one would not come amiss!

There must up to a whole sheet out there amongst the 409 sheets printed (24,540 stamps in total, Ref. 1), so check your collections. This is what makes West African stamp collecting exciting!

Reference

- 1 Ince Jack & Sacher John, *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region Prior to 1914*, pp71-73, RPSL, London 1992, ISBN 0 900631 25 2

Young Missionary Workers' Band

Frank Walton FRPSL

A strong ex-pat American community lived and worked in Sierra Leone in the 1950s. These were primarily Christian Missionaries, but also provided medical and educational services. There was a family called Birch who provided two generations of medical doctors to the Makeni region. The small home-made packet shown below as Figure 1 was sent from Dr Marilyn P. Birch to the USA; but what did it contain?



Figure 1

31 July 1952 - First class registered airmail from Makeni to Houghton, New York, USA.

Rate 2s per half ounce, plus 3d registration fee. 15c US customs fee. The addressee was Mrs Shea of the Young Missionary Workers' Band, an organisation which produced a journal aimed at American children to provide information on distant countries.

In 2000, I had a contact with Don Carter, a collector of Sierra Leone stamps. He was born in Sierra Leone in 1929 whilst his parents were working as missionaries near Makeni; he was actually delivered by Dr Birch Snr.! Don was still in contact with other former missionaries, and both his mother and Mrs Shea were still alive aged over 100.

Dr Marilyn Birch was also still alive, and Don contacted her to ask if she had any idea what was in the small packet. She recalled instantly: she was a keen photographer but couldn't keep the chemicals necessary for developing film in the climate, so would send undeveloped films to Mrs Shea for her to use as images in the YMWB journal.



T.A. Wall, his Sacking and Re-instatement as Postmaster-General, Niger Coast Protectorate

Mike Riggs

This is a tale of hurt pride and simmering resentment in which titles play a major part. The Oil Rivers Protectorate was established in 1891 under the leadership of Sir Claude MacDonald (Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioner and Consul-General). Three years later the name was changed to Niger Coast Protectorate. In his first report on the administration of the territory in 1894 MacDonald describes how the area was divided into six river areas each under the control of a "Vice-Consul and Deputy Commissioner".

In Calabar, this official was T.A. Wall (Fig.1, Note 1), a man who had over twenty years of experience in Sierra Leone and Gold Coast before coming to the Protectorate in 1891. In addition to his Consular duties he was asked to organise the Customs Department and the newly set up postal service. In the 1894 report he signs as: T.A. Wall, Deputy Commissioner and Vice-Consul, Director-General of Customs and Postmaster-General.

Early in 1896 Wall left the Protectorate on his annual leave. At about the same time the Commissioner and Foreign Office officials started a re-organisation of the consular duties. Instead of six Vice-Consuls, there would only be three. They would be in charge of the Western, Central and Eastern divisions. Other posts, including Vice-Consul, Calabar, would disappear. T.A. Wall was told about this in a meeting at the Foreign Office on 7 August shortly before he was due to return to Calabar.

He immediately wrote asking to be considered for one of the new posts, or for a transfer, but an internal Foreign Office note of 11 August shows that the decision had already been taken and he had not been chosen. The correspondence from Wall resulted in a generous increase in his salary, based on his good record and the fact that he would never have the chance to be Acting Commissioner. His total salary package was now £900 p.a., (the Protectorate Treasurer received £700 p.a. and the botanist £200 p.a.) However he felt that he was now considered a "specialist officer" and that his status had been diminished. He returned to the Niger Coast to be in charge of Customs and the postal system but with no political duties. His rank of Vice-Consul was now purely honorary. He was a disappointed and bitter man.



Figure 1 T.A. Wall

In 1896 Sir Claude MacDonald reached the end of his term as Commissioner and was followed by two Acting Commissioners, first by Major H.L. Gallwey and then by a newcomer to the area, Mr. J.R. Phillips. Despite being clearly told what his duties were in a despatch dated 25 August Wall continued to meddle in the political side of the Protectorate. He signed a short memo to the Commissioner as T.A. Wall, Vice-Consul and was rebuked. "...it is not correct that you should write officially to me as 'Vice Consul',Your signature and style at the foot of this memo. would imply that you were the Vice Consul for this Division whereas there is no such Office".

Three days later an elephant hunter applied to bring a gun into the country. The import of arms was banned but exceptions could be made by the Commissioner. Wall again sent a memo. signing himself as "Vice-Consul and D.G. Customs". The Commissioner replied "...,This matter being one concerning the importation of firearms concerns the Customs and should have been submitted by you as D.G. In any case, I shall have always to send back to you official memos signed by you as Vice-Consul only,I thought that my conversation with you on this subject had been sufficiently clear". After this rebuke Wall requested special leave to go to London to put his grievances to the Foreign Secretary, but was refused.

While Wall's behaviour was clearly an irritant to the new Acting Commissioner, Mr. Phillips' main concern was the refusal by the Chiefs in Benin to abide by a treaty over trade. He therefore decided to mount an expedition to go to Benin and sort the matter out.

In mid-December Wall told Phillips that he was writing to the Secretary of State reiterating his grievances. Phillips replied, referring to the 25 August despatch "...I have to ask you if you are prepared to accept the position defined in that despatch.... I have to ask you this question because it would appear that you still insist upon taking part in the administrative work of the Protectorate....". Wall replied that in making representations to the Secretary of State he had answered the question.

The axe fell on 26 December. Phillips wrote "...Your reply amounts to a refusal to comply with my orders and....obliges me to form no other conclusion than that you are deliberately defying the authority of the Secretary of State by refusing.... I therefore suspend you from duty...." As Wall has been sacked he is required to pay his own passage home.

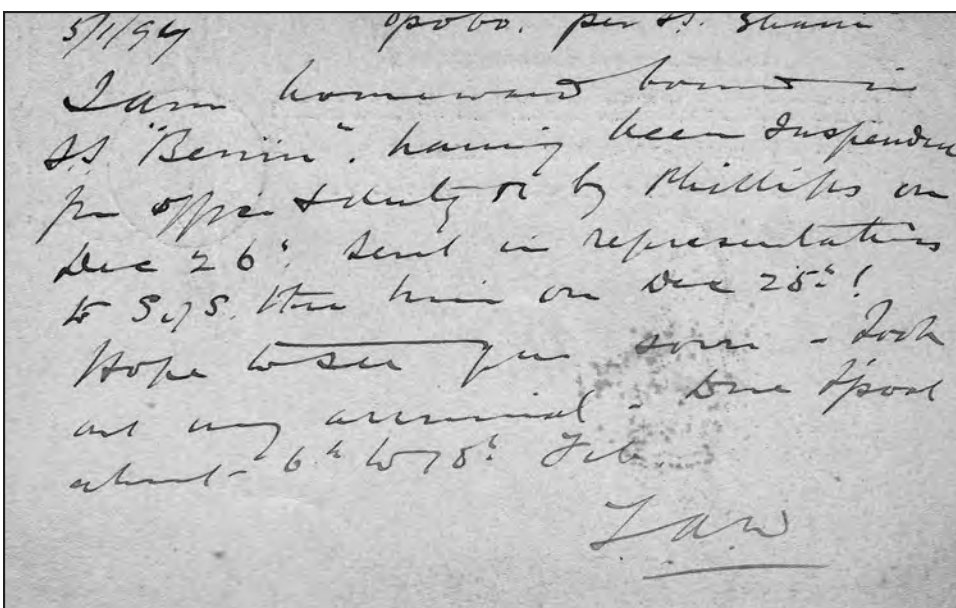


Figure 2
Postcard from T.A. Wall written aboard SS *Benin* following his dismissal

When news of the planned expedition to Benin reached London there was intense alarm and an urgent telegram was immediately sent telling Phillips to delay for at least a year. It arrived too late and on 4 January 1897 the unarmed party of about 200 was massacred. Phillips, together with six of his staff died. Only two officials and a small number of local porters survived.

News of the massacre reached London on 14 January 1897. Details of Wall's case arrived

two weeks later. Faced with the problems of re-staffing and mounting a punitive expedition to Benin in an area where Britain did not have many troops, the solution to Wall's case was simple – overrule the suspension and send him back to Calabar. His talents and experience could not now be discarded.

While all this was going on T.A. Wall, now ex-Deputy Commissioner and Vice-Consul, Director General of Customs and Postmaster General was on his way home in disgrace and at his own expense.

One might have thought that the journey would have given him time to reflect. After "a lifelong service of nearly thirty years in that pestilential climate from which so many have never returned, with advancing years and an invalid wife whose constitution has been completely wrecked by its evil effects" (Note 2) he had probably lost his job, his income and his pension rights, and he was returning to a country where he had no home (he lived at his Club). But, once in Liverpool, he discovered what had happened and wrote to the Foreign Office, reporting his arrival and signing as T.A. Wall, H.M. Deputy Commissioner and Vice-Consul for Calabar. The reply from Francis Bertie, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, gave him no title, reminded him that he had been suspended and told him the terms of his reinstatement. He was to be in charge of Customs and the Post Office, with no political duties. (The letter giving the reasons is, unfortunately, missing from the files). T.A. Wall accepted and was told to return to the Protectorate as soon as possible.

He then raised the question of his back pay and allowances and asked for his passage money to be refunded. He then claimed, in a long and rambling letter, that he had been engaged full time, “on most important public business connected with the Protectorate”. He was working with the Crown Agents, he said, in revising the Postal Guide and organising a new Money Order system. This, he claimed, should entitle him to all his allowances. He was told that all this work could have been carried out by correspondence and did not need him to be in England.

In a further letter, on 12 March, Wall covered much of the same ground but finished with this sentence. “I further submit that though it is true that I accepted His Lordship’s ruling with regard to my reinstatement, I did so purely out of consideration for the difficult and compromising situation in which His Lordship was placed by the unwarranted and improper actions of the late Mr Phillips”.

Foreign Office patience with Wall was now wearing very thin. A note was written on the back of the last letter. “Say that it has been read with surprise and decline further correspondence on the subject”. An internal memo. the same day included the following:-

“With regard to his claim.... it is obvious that if he had been sent home ‘on important public business....’ his expenses would have been paid - but this is far from the case – and I have no doubt that to a considerable extent at any rate he engaged in his ‘important public business’ with a view to using it as an argument in his favour. His remark about the despatches of 5 Feb. is quite unintelligible.... His remarks as to the reasons which led him to accept the Office decision seem to be impudent to the last degree and I only hope you give him the ‘beans’ he so thoroughly deserves. He has sailed.”

Wall’s letter was forwarded to the Foreign Secretary with a covering note:-

Lord Salisbury

I should be inclined not to answer this letter from Mr. Wall. He has left for the Niger Coast and by the time he gets there he may perhaps regret having written. If he writes again it may be necessary to give him a douche.

He came to see me a few days ago and talked very big about how if he set going his Parliamentary friends and brought to your knowledge certain circumstances, which he did not specify, in connection with Sir C. MacDonald and the Niger Coast Protectorate he really did not know what might happen, but he regarded them as state secrets.

I think that he is subject to attacks of exaltation.

Francis Bertie

So T.A. Wall returned to Calabar and continued to be in charge of Customs and the postal service, until his retirement on health grounds in 1900, in the midst of another reorganisation of the government of the area and the creation of Southern Nigeria. He enjoyed over twenty years of retirement and died in 1922 at the age of 80. One nagging question remains – what was T.A. Ward’s full name?

References

Report on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate 1891 – 1894 (HMSO) 1895
Annual Report on the Niger Coast Protectorate 1897 – 1898 (HMSO) 1899
Foreign Office files: FO 2/104 (1896) National Archives
FO 2/125 (1897) National Archives
Case of T.A. Wall; Sierra Leone report dated August 1912, CO 879/115/7 National Archives
Thanks also to Simon Heap for background information on T.A. Wall

Notes

- 1 T.A. Wall’s full name is not given in any of the Foreign Office documents - he is always “T.A.”
- 2 His “lifelong service” was not unblemished. He was dismissed by the Colonial Office in 1883 following allegations over the release of alleged slaves in 1876 and 1877 in Sierra Leone. He was reappointed in 1888, to work in the Gold Coast.

St Helena: Boer Censor 'CDNS' Unmasked

Wilf Vevers FRPSL

The Boer Prisoners.

Mr. C. E. DE BEER, who describes himself as having, in the capacity of censor, had six months experience of the Boers, sends a letter on the ultimate return to South Africa of the prisoners of war, to the *GRAHAMSTOWN PENNY MAIL*, a copy of which has been forwarded to us by Mr. J. A. White, from which we give the following extracts:—"After a banishment of one and a half years at St. Helena the condition of mind of the great majority of the Boers is one of the most uncompromising hostility to British rule, a want of appreciation for the kindness shown to him, a scornful contempt for his captors, and a sullen determination to accept no terms which will not include the restoration of the independence of the two late Republics. . . . He lives his monotonously idle life from day to day, fully convinced that by some occult undefined power, some veiled invisible force, the disintegration of the British Empire will be brought about, and he will return to an independent national existence in the plenitude of his strength. It were well for him that his illusion were instantly banished. It should not be forgotten that the Boer is an untutored individual, and his present condition of mind is traceable in a great measure to the evil influence in the camps of foreigners, especially Hollanders. . . . As the Boer is to be returned to his home at some future date, it is evident that something should be done to bring him to a proper way of thinking, and to remove the evil atmosphere in which he at present has his being."

In his publication *St Helena, The Philately of the Camps for Boer Prisoners of War April 1900 to August 1902* (Ref. 1) Bernard Mabbett records the initials of one of the censors as possibly being 'CDNS'. These initials are recorded on mail from Deadwood Camp in the period from 30 January 1901 until 16 August 1901.

A chance find of an article in an Australian newspaper in the National Library of Australia now tells us who this censor was. The article was an extract from the *Grahamstown Penny Mail* which formed part of a report in the *Clarence River Advocate* on Friday 11 April 1902, page 8, regarding the Boer Prisoners (Fig. 1).

From this it can be seen that the censor was C.E. de Beer. This is further confirmed by reference to a number of covers. The first cover (Fig. 2) was sent by C.E. de Beer himself and self censored. Dated 13 May 1901 it is addressed to the Cape Town Stock Exchange which had only opened 10 days earlier on 3 May.

Figure 1 (left)

Cutting from *Clarence River Advocate*

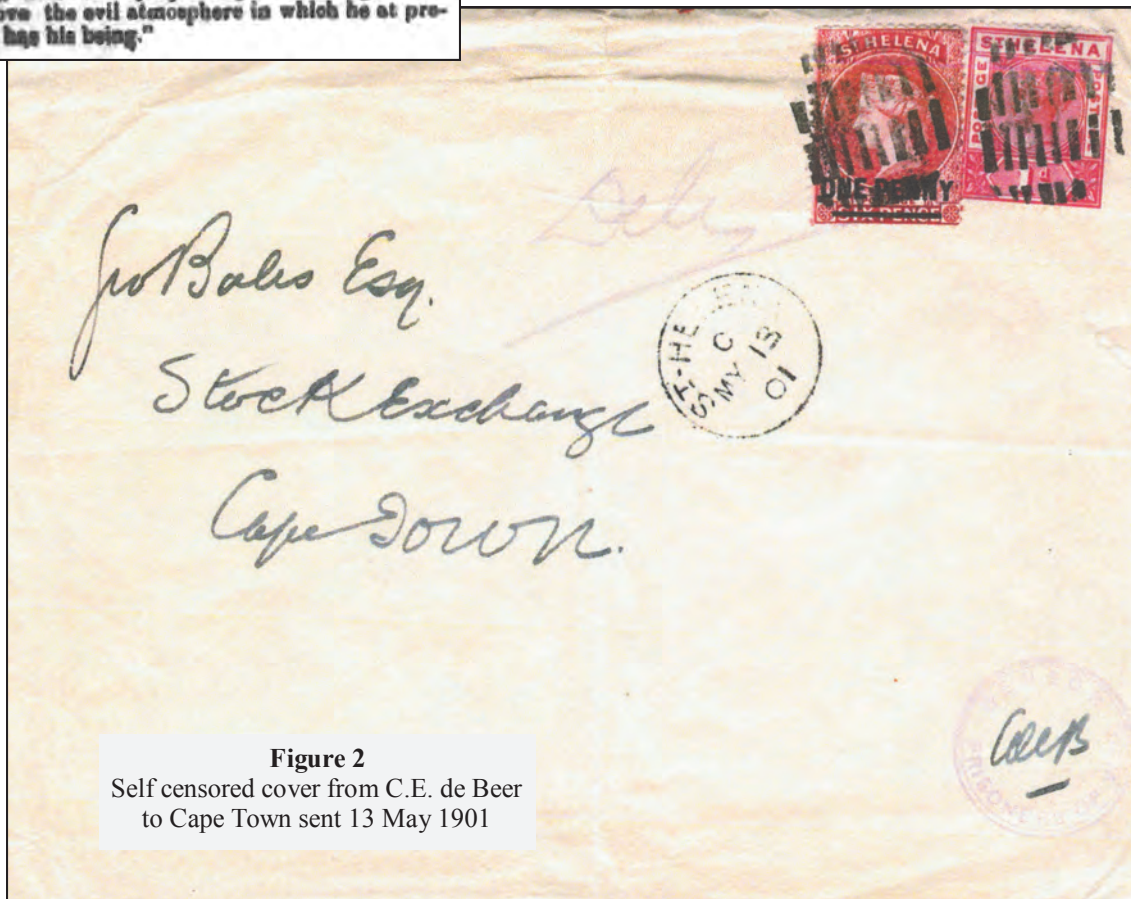


Figure 2

Self censored cover from C.E. de Beer to Cape Town sent 13 May 1901

If the censor initials on this cover are compared with those of 'CDNS' on the postcard dated 18 February 1901 (Fig. 3), their similarity is clear.

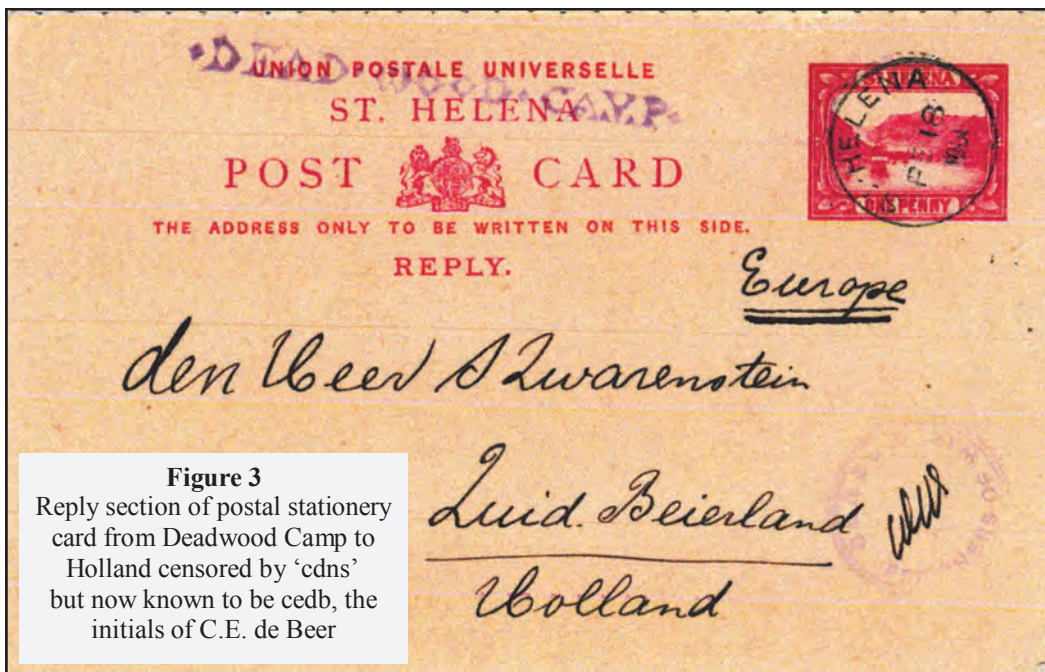


Figure 3
Reply section of postal stationery card from Deadwood Camp to Holland censored by 'cdns' but now known to be cedb, the initials of C.E. de Beer

C.E. de Beer was on St Helena at the same time as G.A. de Beer, and Figure 4 shows a cover from G.A. de Beer to Charles E. de Beer dated 25 February 1902 after C.E. de Beer had returned to the Cape. It is possible that they may have been related but I have not found any evidence to support this.



Figure 4
Cover from G.A. de Beer to Chas. E. de Beer at the Cape, redirected to Johannesburg

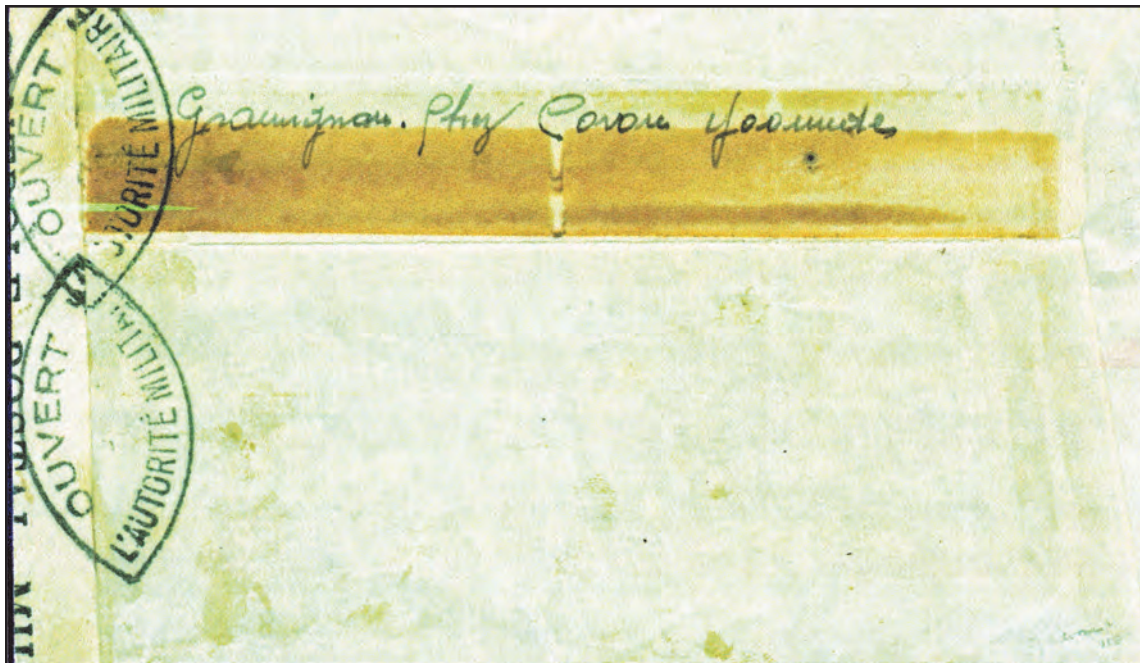
Reference

- 1 Mabbett B.J., *St Helena, The Philately of the Camps for Boer Prisoners of War April 1900 to August 1902*, p20, Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, Burnham-on-Sea 1985

WWII Internment Camp at Batschenga, Cameroun

Bob Maddocks

Here illustrated (Figs 1 & 2) is a scarce registered inter-Cameroun cover addressed to a Monsieur Kamoff at Batschenga Internment Camp which was about 40 miles north-east of Yaounde. Mailed from Yaounde in 1943? (date indistinct) it was opened for censorship there by "Controle Postal/Commission B/Territoire du Cameroun". The envelope was accordingly resealed using the Cameroun censor tape "Controle Postal Militaire" in turn tied to the cover on both sides by several strikes of the elliptical censor cachet OUVERT/L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE in black.



Figures 1 and 2

Front and reverse of registered inter-Cameroun cover from Yaounde to Batschenga Internment Camp

Not much is, apparently, known about the Camp except that it was established on a former German-owned tobacco plantation by the incoming Free French military under General Le Clerc who had in late September 1940, helped by local French patriots, successfully ousted the pro-Vichy colonial Administration. The Camp housed in two separate sections the arrested pro-Vichy political officials and the captured enemy aliens found resident in the country. The latter, according to a formal brief report by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva on its delegation's inspection visit of 15 September 1941 to the Camp, consisted of 14 Italian civilians.

According to an outward registered cover postmarked Douala 5.3.45 seen offered in an auction several years ago, the Camp was still operational at the end of WWII.

Batschenga (now Batchenga) had no postal facility until after Cameroun became independent in 1960.

Acknowledgement

My sincere thanks to Gustav A Pohlig of New York, who specialises in "prisoner of war" mails, for the photocopy of the above mentioned report by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva.

Batschenga Internee Camp, Cameroun in WWII

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

I wrote about POW camps in West Africa in *Cameo* 56 (Ref. 1) and 57 (Ref. 2) based on reports provided by the International Red Cross in Geneva. These reports made no mention of camps in Cameroun. Marty Bratzel has now sent me a copy of another Red Cross report, in French, of Batschenga internee camp plus an article by Gustav Pohlig, in German, based on this report.

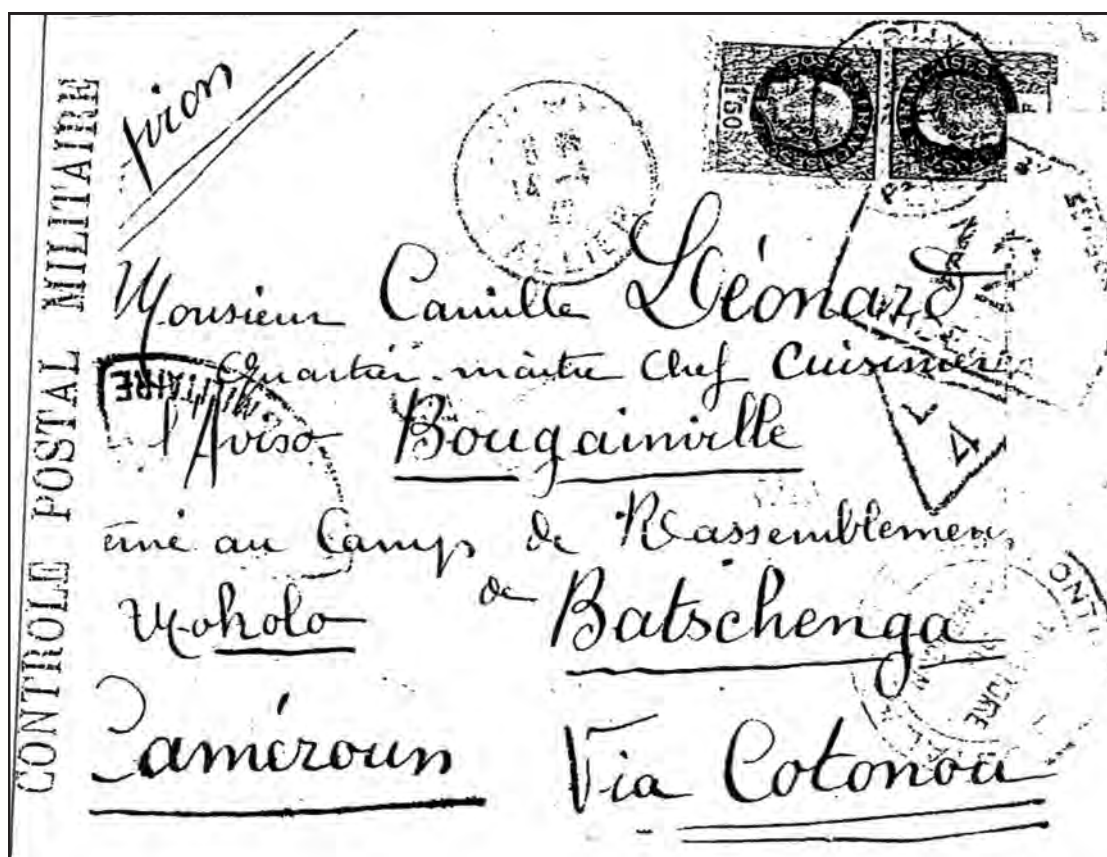


Figure 1

1942 cover France to Batschenga Camp, Cameroun

The camp was 63 km north east of Yaoundé in French Cameroun on a former German tobacco plantation. The first Red Cross visit was on 15 September 1941. The Red Cross inspector was accompanied by the commander of Yaoundé and the camp commandant. The camp held 14 Italian civilian internees.

Two sections of the camp, with mud huts, were next to one another and surrounded by barbed wire. Security was tight since two Italians managed to escape and were caught almost on the border with Spanish Guinea.

The second visit to the camp was on 19 November 1942. The camp now consisted of three sections, one for the Italian internees and two for French political prisoners. Administration no longer came under 'Vichy' and the Vichy French were now interned. The buildings were in a very poor state but repairs were forbidden. Two internees, Brondi and d'Amico, with their wives, had left the camp to find work in Brazzaville!

The final report was on a visit made on 21 April 1944. Families, with one exception, now lived in secure buildings 3 km away from the plantation.

I have given just a précis of the report. It is not known when the camp closed. I show one illustration from Gustav Pohlig's article (Fig. 1, page 145). This is addressed to Camille Leonard who was the chef on the ship Bougainville. The letter was postmarked in Vichy 14 April 1942 and censored in Nigeria and Douala.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Peter Duggan who translated the German article and my brother Roger who translated the French Red Cross report.

References

- 1 Martin Jeremy, "POW Camps in West Africa in World War 2, (Part 1)", *Cameo*, Volume 7 pp128-131, WASC January 2002
- 2 Martin Jeremy, "POW Camps in West Africa in WW 2, Part 2", *Cameo*, Volume 7 pp175-176, WASC July 2002



1895 Freetown Postmark with Clock Time

Philip Quirk

Single circle postmarks inscribed 'FREETOWN', as opposed to simply 'SIERRA LEONE', first appeared in 1887 (Ref. 1, p22). A code letter, either A, B or C, was inserted centrally above the date. By analogy with contemporary UK practice, these letters may have represented time periods (e.g. morning, afternoon, evening).

Two 23mm-diameter Freetown postmarks recorded in the Impression Book with strikes dated 31 Jan 1895 are interesting in that they are fitted with clock times above the date: 2.15 PM and 7.15 PM (Ref. 2, p7, Fig.1).

In order to accommodate these slugs, the datestamps must have had a much wider slot than their predecessors. As the two strikes are practically indistinguishable from each other, we allotted them collectively 035.26 in the second edition of Ref. 1 (p23). Proud (Ref. 3, pp123-124) lists four marks, D17-20, but gives usage dates only for D17 and D20; again there are no obvious differences between the impressions.

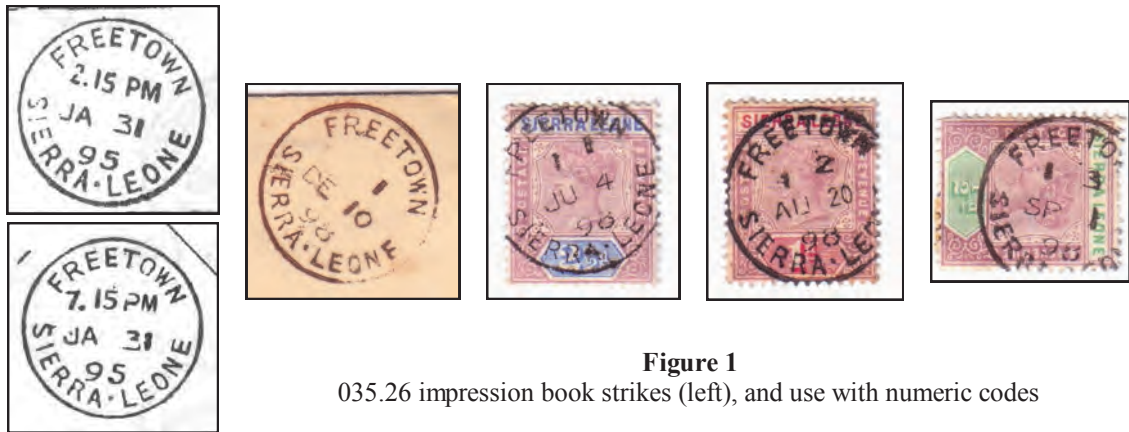


Figure 1
035.26 impression book strikes (left), and use with numeric codes

Although dispatched in February 1895 (Ref. 3), these postmarks had until now only been recorded used in 1898-99. During this period, they were not fitted with clock time but instead carried small numbers: 1, 2 or 3, placed towards the right of the slot above the date. To complicate matters, a second 1 often, but not invariably, appeared towards the left of the slot, giving the appearance of: 1 1, 1 2 and 1 3 (Fig. 1). These codes, discussed previously in *Cameo* (Refs. 4,5), might also represent times of day. Thus, when compiling Ref. 1, we commented that 035.26 had not been recorded used with clock time.



Figure 2
035.26 used with clock time

The above statement has now been superseded by the emergence of a strike of 035.26 dated 21 September 1895 and carrying a time slug for 8.30 AM (Fig. 2). The postmark was applied in red to an incoming postal stationery postcard from Old Calabar. It currently stands as the earliest recorded date for 035.26 and the only recorded use of clock time at Freetown prior to 1934, when the first double circle postmark, 035.40, entered service.

Reports of any further uses of the 035.26 postmarks prior to 1898 would be most welcome.

Acknowledgments

I am most grateful to John Hossack for drawing my attention to this item when it appeared on eBay, and to Frank Walton for reviewing the draft of this note.

References

- 1 Walton F., Quirk P., Hamilton M. & Horry D., *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*, 2nd ed., WASC 2015
- 2 Beale P., Martin J. & Walton F., *West African Post Office Impression Books*, WASC 2001
- 3 Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Sierra Leone*, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1994
- 4 Walton F., "Sierra Leone - Numeric Postmark Codes", *Cameo*, Volume 5 p4 (erroneously paginated as p300), WASC, January 1995
- 5 Warwick M.A. (1999), "Sierra Leone - Numeric Postmark Codes" (*letter*), *Cameo*, Volume 6 p111, WASC January 1999

“WAWA” Endures!

Bob Maddocks

Well over a century ago, unknown inveterate West Africa hands, mostly British traders known as Old Coasters, are attributed with coining the word “WAWA” to explain succinctly, the often inexplicable frustrations and perplexities of living and trading along the West Coast. This word is actually an acronym for “West Africa Wins Again” - a resigned attitude taken by expatriates whenever the simplest arrangements in their daily lives so often and for whatever reasons went wrong as was their wont. In effect, this philosophy embraces Murphy’s Law that if something can go wrong it will!



Figure 1

My land rover “wawaed” on a specie run in the Cameroons rainy season

Whilst “WAWA” has now all but faded from the Coast’s patois it is not entirely forgotten by the few surviving latter-day Coasters and still perplexes, perhaps, those of our Society’s younger members researching the intricacies of the labyrinthine postal history of West Africa. I was, therefore, quite surprised to see this nostalgic word pop-up, quite coincidentally for me, whilst I was on a cruise down the West Coast in late 2012. It featured in a copy of the ship’s daily newsletter in a World Press sourced item headed “Wawa road repairs progressing after washout”. Duly intrigued, I read on only to find that this had no connection with our ever fascinating West Africa scenario as first envisaged.

Instead, it concerned a town of that name in far-off Northern Ontario, Canada which then was currently newsworthy because it had been devastated by a deluge of rain leaving behind “roads perforated with holes of some 15 metres across”. Not unlike, I immediately recalled those I experienced on the Kumba-Mamfe, Cameroons road during the rainy seasons in the 1950s. (Fig 1)

So “WAWA” lives on in a different guise; in the “bricks and mortar” of a former iron-mining township, though no doubt that community is blissfully unaware of the acronym itself and the West African connection. I later found that Wawa is a North American Indian (Ojibwa) word for the wild goose - indeed, an interesting chase though not of the proverbial ilk!

By the kind courtesy of E. Andrews of Canada Post, Wawa, I am able to flesh out this fascinating diversion. The first post office was opened there in 1899 and was spelt “WA-WA”. It was closed in 1909 to be re-opened in 1933. Then in 1951 the town name was changed to Jamestown in honour of a Sir James Dunn. He died in 1956 and in 1960 the town took back its original name, Wawa.



Figure 2

Canadian stamp of 2010 featuring Wawa Goose Monument

In 2010 Canada Post issued a stamp (Fig. 2) which featured the Wawa goose, a giant steel monument which stands outside the town where annually large flocks of the Canada geese stop over when heading south for the winter. This monument features on Wawa's postal date stamp. (Fig. 3)

What a pity I could find no place called WAWA in West Africa - the nearest I know of is a Baptist Mission station in Northern Cameroons, War War, but not on the map.



Figure 3
Canada Post WAWA ON(TARIO)
cancellation date stamp



Nigeria: Damaged by Fire

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

The cover shown in Fig. 1 was sent from Aylesbury on 7 January 1943 to the *44th General Hospital, West Africa Force*. Alistair Kennedy has told me that the hospital was at Abeokuta from October 1941 until January 1945. Badly burned, it received a purple handstamp *DAMAGED BY FIRE*.

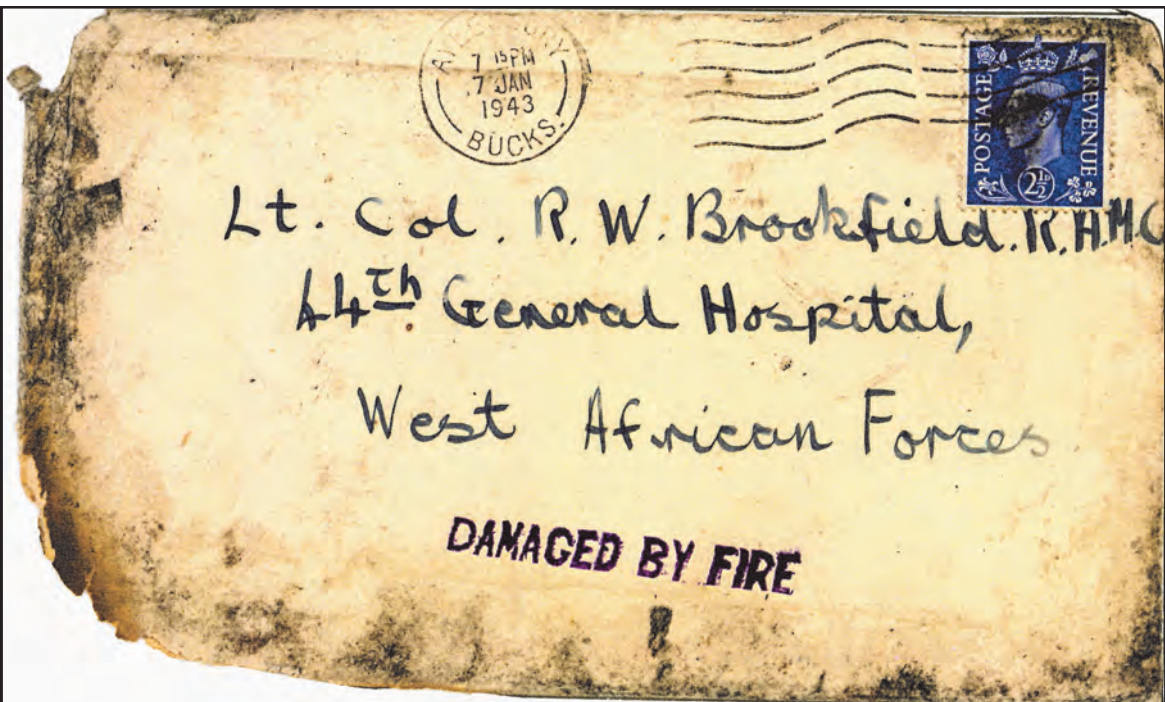


Figure 1
1945 cover from Aylesbury to Abeokuta, Nigeria

Hoggarth and Gwynn (Ref. 1) record this cachet but have no actual illustration. They suggest the cover may have been damaged in the blitz or in a fire in a postal wagon. There are no backstamps so the date of arrival is not known.

Reference

1 Hoggarth Norman and Gwynn Robin, *Maritime Disaster Mail*, p273, Stuart Rossiter Trust 2003

Disparate Frankings on Paquebot Mail SS *Albertville* 1916

Bob Maddocks

The two covers shown here (Figs 1 & 2) were mailed concurrently on board the Belgian Paquebot *Albertville* in West African waters in around early March 1916; one addressed to Paris, the other to Cherbourg, France.



Figure 1

Cover posted on board Belgian Paquebot *Albertville* addressed to Paris with pencilled inscription *Franchise Militaire* negated by 3 Belgian adhesives cancelled by ship's cachet. Backstamped DAKAR/SENEGAL/13/MARS/16 (see Fig. 3).

In both cases the sender gave his name as Paul Marrel, Adjudant, Colonial Supply Depot, Duala, Cameroun. Though there are strikes on the covers of the ship's own cachet ALBERTVILLE 3/PAQUEBOT there are no postal date stamps to indicate the date of mailing.

This can only be estimated from the backstamps on each during transit viz DAKAR/SENEGAL/13/MARS/16 (Figures 3 and 4) which indicates transshipment of mail at that point. It also would likely indicate that the letters were written on an outward voyage to Cameroun and Belgian Congo and not on a homeward bound sailing to Europe, which would not have entailed mail being transferred at Dakar.

It is to be noted that the sender had inscribed each envelope *Franchise Militaire* to signal that as an Army officer on active service in Cameroun he was entitled to free franking of mails. However, this inscription on the cover to Paris has been almost totally obliterated by three adhesive Belgian postage stamps being affixed over it to the value of 22 cents. The said ship's cachet was used to cancel those stamps.

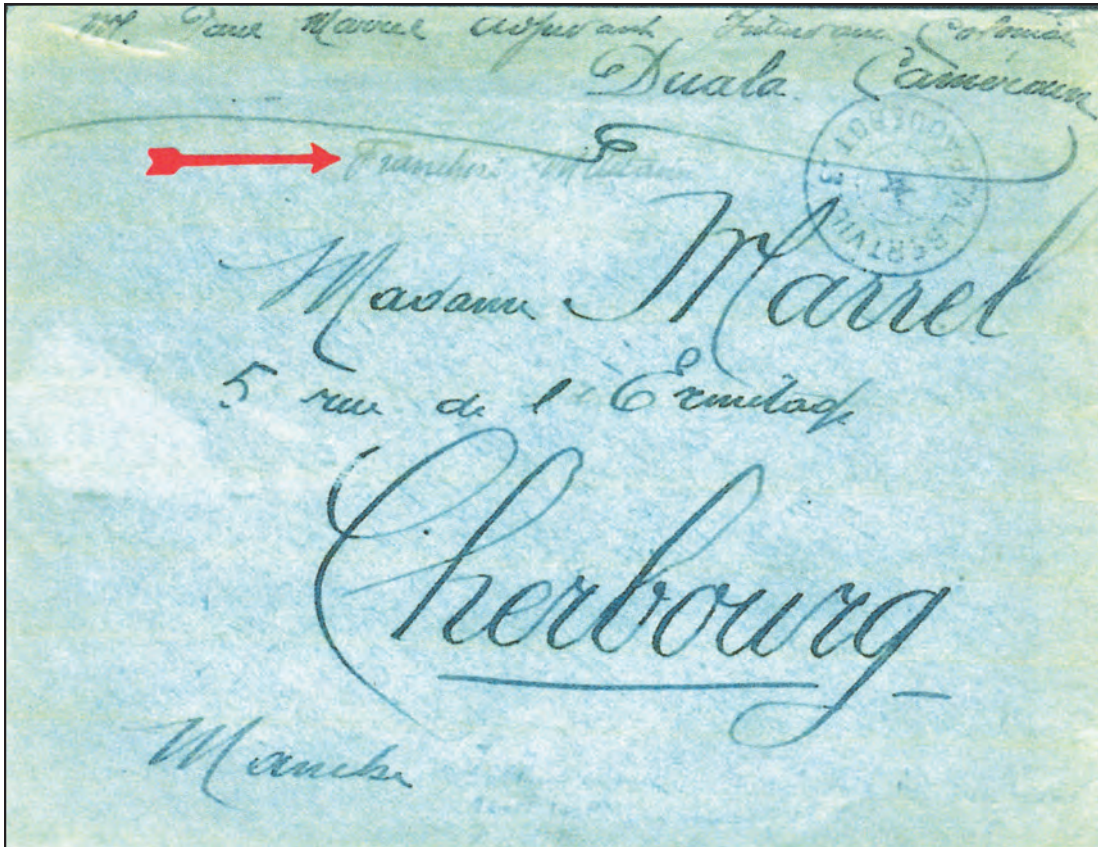


Figure 2

Stampless cover also posted on board Belgian Paquebot *Albertville* to Cherbourg with pencilled inscription *Franchise Militaire* in the clear, ship's cachet alongside. Backstamped DAKAR/SENEGAL/13/MARS/16 over stamped by Cherbourg postal date stamp (see Fig. 4)



Figures 3 (left) and 4 (right)

DAKAR/SENEGAL/13/MARS/16
backstamp on both covers;
the second also with
CHERBOURG c.d.s., date illegible



Thus the question as to why the two covers were treated differently in their franking on board. Perhaps there were doubts as to whether the free frank concessions enjoyed by the Anglo-French Forces in Cameroun extended to mail posted by them on board a Belgian vessel? Buy one, get one free being in modern parlance an unlikely compromise!

Access to the internet?

Then please try visiting the West Africa Study Circle Web Site at:
<http://www.wasc.org.uk>

Webmaster is Ray Harris - contact: harris6@which.net

There are now direct links to our advertisers and other websites.

London to Senegal via Bathurst 1942? An Update

John Wilson

At the end of my article (Ref. 1) in *Cameo* I asked if any other WASC member had seen any mail that could have been carried from Gambia to the enemy territory of Senegal in 1942. I was immediately rewarded, not by actual mail but by a welcome letter from Bob Maddocks who sent me copies of the notes he made when he served in Bathurst in 1991 (Ref. 2). In these notes is a clear explanation of the 1942 situation, and confirmation that mail addressed to Senegal was indeed passed across the border from Gambia.

A report dated 10 March 1942 from Bathurst to Lagos on postal routes advised as follows:

Mails for Dakar, principally for British subjects detained in French West Africa, are occasionally received here from the United Kingdom, when special arrangements are made for handing them over to the French Authorities at the land frontier. There is no mail service from the Gambia to other Vichy territories.

A follow up letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Officer Administering Government of the Gambia says:

Vichy Government have stated that they are prepared to grant exemption from postage fees on letters and parcels received by British merchant seamen and service personnel interned in all French territories and exemptions on those despatched or received by other British internees in Unoccupied France and North Africa provided we reciprocate. I would be grateful therefore if you would make reciprocal arrangements with regards to postal parcels and letters despatched and received by French merchant seamen and service personnel if the occasion arises.

Although these references relate to internees' mail, there can be little doubt that there was a sensible "Quid pro quo" arrangement between Gambia and Senegal on cross-border mail; a situation that was no longer needed when Senegal abandoned Vichy and declared for France Libre at the end of 1942 following the Allied invasion of North Africa in "Operation Torch".

I have to thank Bob Maddocks for his quick and helpful assistance in answering my query. This is not the first time that he has helped in these matters and I am most grateful, not only for myself but for all the members of the West Africa Study Circle. Now look out for covers showing cross-border mail in 1942!

References

- 1 Wilson J. "London to Senegal via Bathurst 1942", *Cameo*, Volume 17 No.1, pp51-52, WASC January 2016
- 2 Maddocks R.J., *Transcriptions from National Archive Banjul*, taken in person whilst on tour of duty 1991-92



Gold Coast WWI Censorship using Green Crayon

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

Graham Mark of the Civil Censorship Study Group has kindly provided a copy of the cover shown at Figure 1. His interest in the cover is the French censorship in London which used desk numbers in oval OUVERT handstamps in the range 900 - 920; in this case the desk number is 902.



Figure 1 Cover from Coomassie with censor marking in green.

The French censorship team came to London in April 1916, originally to examine transit mail from the Americas, landed at a British port and addressed to neutral Europe. In the event, the quantity of mail was not as large as expected, so transit mail from Spain and Africa to Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Switzerland was handled by the French censors based in London.

From a West African point of view, the interest of this cover is in the censorship at Coomassie, Gold Coast. This cover, sent on 5 June 1917, is marked 'Passed / GRG' in green crayon. The initials G.R.G. are those of G. Risely - Griffith who was the Acting Police Magistrate. (Ref. 1)

This is the first time I can recall green crayon being used.

Reference

- 1 Martin J.J., Walton F.L & Harris R., *West African Censorship*, p45, WASC, Princes Risborough 3rd Edition 2015

Gambia: the WWII PUK Cachet

Jeremy Martin FRPSL



Figure 1 Boxed PUK cachet on 1944 air mail letter card

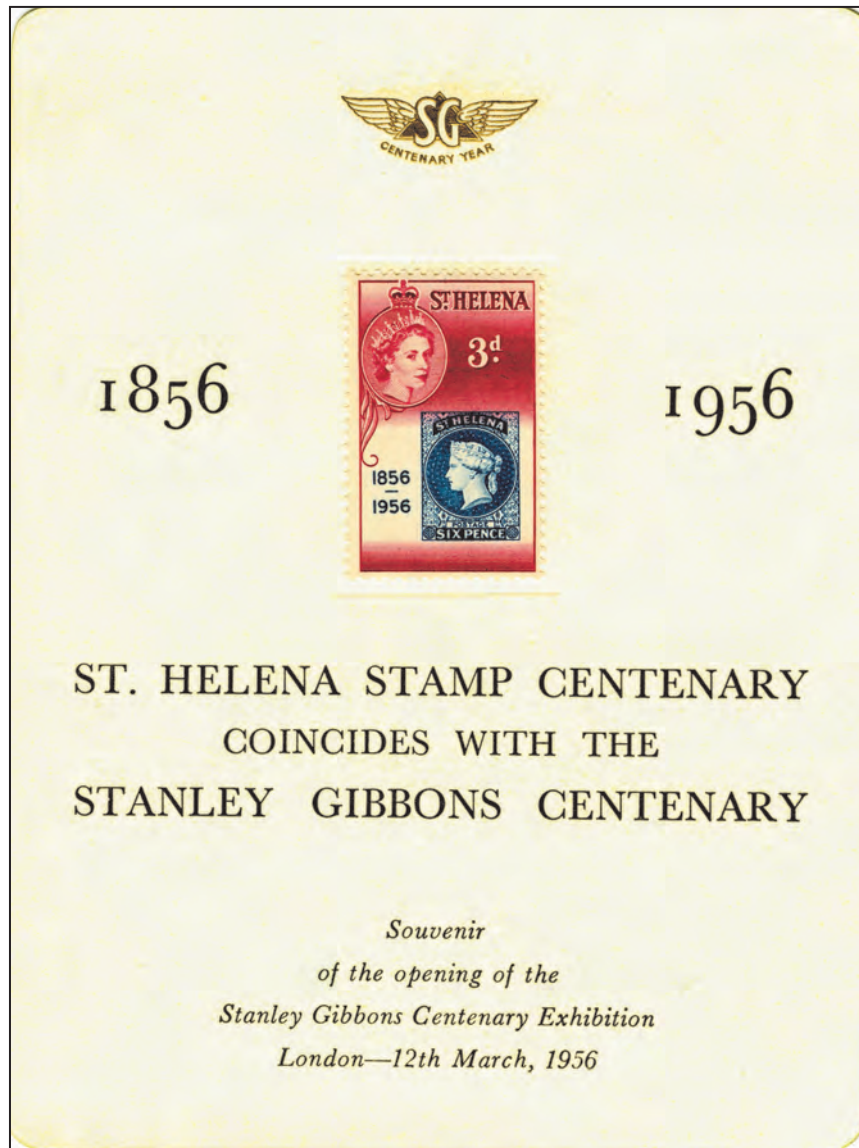
John Richards contacted me about this cover (Fig. 1), which is the front of an air mail letter card sent in 1944 from Egypt to the Gambia. The addressee had returned to the UK and a boxed cachet PUK was applied.

I explained that I have a similar cover, stampless and not dated, from another writer to the same L.A.C. Wild with the same cachet. In pencil someone had written *Coll Cranwell*, the same as on John's cover, presumably denoting Cranwell College. My belief is that PUK stands for "Posted [to the] UK".

I spoke to Alistair Kennedy of the Forces Postal History Society who advised me that he has not seen this cachet before.

St Helena & SG Centenaries Souvenir

Barry Burns FRPSL



A few years ago I purchased this card on eBay. I seem to remember seeing a similar item many years before, but have never come across anything written about them. The card has rounded corners and is gilt edged, with the gilt SG logo at the top being embossed. The 1856 3d stamp (SG 166, the lowest value of the set of 3 with similar design) is sunken and attached with a stamp hinge, and was issued 1 January 1956.

The exhibition mentioned appears to have had several different venues and dates. The card states it opened on 12 March in London (The Waldorf Hotel according to *The Daily Telegraph*), but the *Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Centenary Exhibition Programme* says it was held at the Royal Festival Hall from 17 to 20 February. This booklet also states 'it will be visiting Plymouth in April, Vienna in June and Manchester in August'.

I would be interested to hear if anybody knows if the cards were sold, given to all attendees, or only to invited or celebrity guests - I suspect the latter.



Designs for the 1936 George V Pictorial Issue

Tony Simmonds

I have recently acquired some designs, ostensibly submitted for the 1936 GV Pictorial Issue definitives, from a dealer on EBay. When I contacted him he could not remember how he came by them.

They were accompanied by a newspaper article, believed to be from *The Kenya Gazette*, which reported on a display of the Stamp Bureau at the 1969 Nairobi Show including three stamps, the 1d, 2d and 5s, that were designed by Mrs. Joan Vyvyan for a competition that was held for the design of the issue. She was, in 1969, the trade assistant of the Agricultural Society of Kenya and was also, apparently, well known as a skilled tapestry artist among other talents.



The nine designs that I have are numbered up to 12 with numbers 1, 5 and 6 missing. They all have the inscription 'Entry No 5' on the back of the art paper that they are mounted on. All are approximately 65 x 47mm overall with the three highest values being slightly larger and all have had tiny 'v' cuts made round the edges to resemble perforations. It is presumed that the missing designs are those chosen for the aforementioned stamps and were, probably, retained by De La Rue.

This actually clarifies a problem that Tony Plumbe mooted in an article about the 1936 definitives in an earlier *Cameo* (Ref. 1), where he read the middle name of the signature of Joan Cooper as, perhaps, being 'Bryan'. So I can now confirm it to be Vyvyan.

I have done some research on this lady and it seems she had a very varied and interesting life. So here is a short history that I have been able to glean from various sources on the internet.

She was born Joan Vyvyan in 1912 at Rochford in Essex. Her mothers' maiden name was Amos. She had a younger brother, Jerrold (born 1919), and sister, Judith (born 1925). I have not found a record of her marriage to Kenneth Cooper. but I can confirm that a K.C. Cooper sailed to Lagos, Nigeria regularly every two years from 1926 to 1934, then 1935, 1938 and finally 1945.

A Joan Cooper sailed for Lagos, Nigeria in 1936 and again in 1939. Joan Vyvyan Cooper sailed for Lisbon, Portugal in 1939. Horace Frederick Slade sailed for Lagos, Nigeria in 1939. The London Gazette of 22 October 1940 reported that Aircraftwoman 2nd Class Mrs. Joan Vyvyan Cooper was appointed Assistant Section Officer of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force on the 24th September, 1940.

Joan Vyvyan Cooper married Horace Frederick Slade in Westminster in 1943. They both went on different ships to Lagos in 1939 - is this where they first met? Joan Vyvyan Slade worked at Danesfield House, Medmenham interpreting aerial photographs and wore a nationality flash with 'Nigeria' on her tunic. She is shown in "Women of Intelligence: Winning the Second World War with Air Photos", by Christine Halsall, working on a photograph with other photos pinned on the wall behind her, referred to as a mosaic.

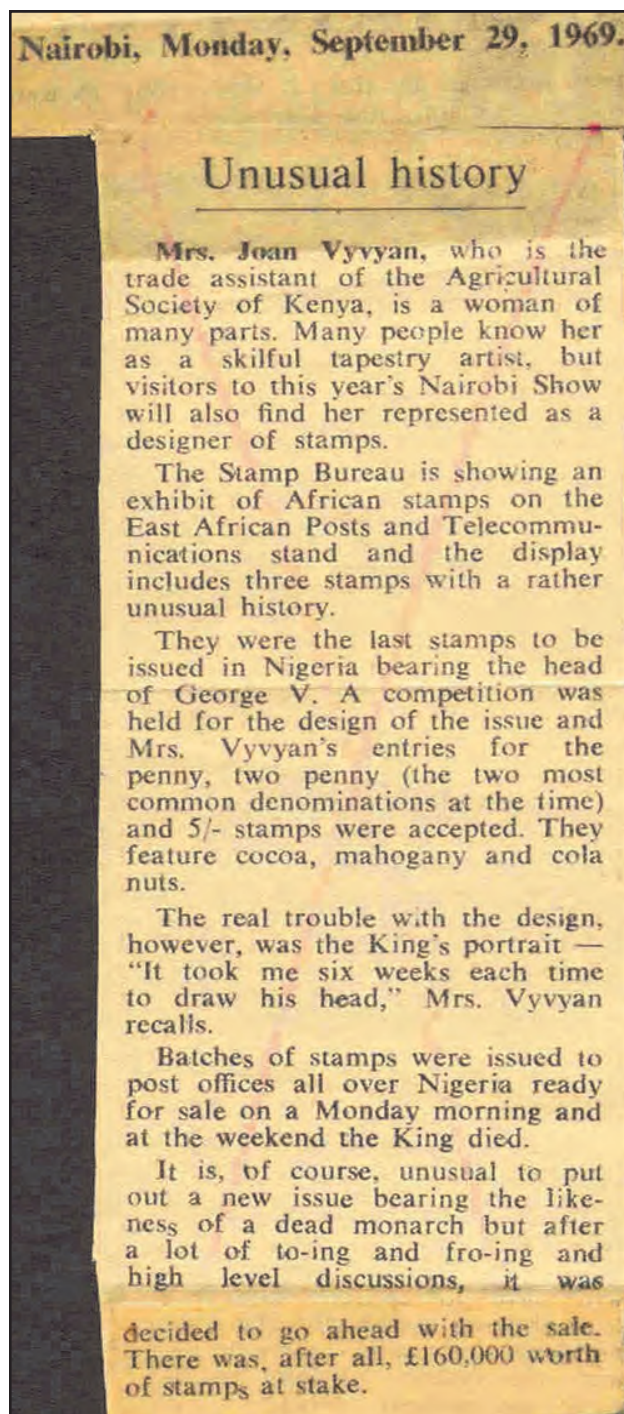
J Vyvyan-Slade, title F O WAAF, sailed for KILINDINI, Nairobi, Kenya in 1946. Joan Vyvyan was reported in The Kenya Gazette, Nairobi, 7th January, 1958, Gazette Notice No 44, as relinquishing the surname of Vyvyan Pederson - thus to be known only as Joan Vyvyan.

From the Kenya Gazette 8 September 1959 - semi-annual register of voters:-Vyvyan, Joan, Secretary, Davidson Road, Muthaiga Country Club, Box 30181, Nairobi.

In 1965 a book was published by Collins called *Rufus the Rhino* with the authors being Yuilleen Kearney and Joan Vyvyan. A Black rhino 'Rufus' was raised by Mrs. Yuilleen Kearney in Tsavo National Park, Kenya in the 1960s. This book is also described as:- *Rufus the Rhino* - Yuilleen Kearney **as told by** Joan Vyvyan. Kearney and Vyvyan tell the story of Rufus, found in Tsavo National Park, Kenya, when it was very small. It had been deserted by its mother. It stayed in the gardens of Dennis and Yuilleen Kearney's house. He was killed by lions in Tsavo N.P. when he was about ten years old.

I believe she died in 1998 as Joan Vyvyan Wiseman.

For References see following page - Ed.



References

- 1 Plumbe Tony, "Designer, Proofs and Specimens of the Nigeria 1936 Definitives", *Cameo*, Volume 9 pp46-47, WASC June 2005
The Kenya Gazette, Nairobi, 7th January 1958 and 8th September 1959, books.google.co.uk
The Rhinoceros in Captivity, L.C. Rookmaaker, books.google.co.uk
Women of Intelligence, Christine Halsall, books.google.co.uk
Rufus the Rhino, Yuilleen Kearney as told by Joan Vyvyan, www.abebooks.co.uk
www.rhinosourcecenter.com/images/Tsavo-1960_i1187290401.php
www.genesreunited.co.uk

St Helena: New Censor Number

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

Normally I would not write about a new censor number but this one completes a 'set'. Wilf Vevers has found this missing link. It is Type 2 (Ref. 1) and is censor number 3 dated 12 May 1942 (Fig. 1). We now have numbers 1 to 5.



Figure 1
1943 Cover to USA with Type 2 Censor initialled 3

The 8d rate is also correct (Ref. 2). From 24 November 1939 the foreign letter rate was 4d for the first ounce, and the registration fee 4d.

References

- 1 Martin Jeremy, Walton Frank & Harris Ray, *West African Censorship*, p104, WASC 2014
- 2 Mabbett Bernard, St Helena, *The Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815-2000*, p165, WASC 2002

Sierra Leone 1896 De La Rue & Co Ltd ½d value

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

This query was previously published in The London Philatelist Number 1436, June 2016, page 267 - Ed.



In an old Imperial album, untouched for probably 50 years, I came across the ½d stamp illustrated above. The country name and value tablet (the two elements of the duty plate) have thin black lines drawn or printed over them.

I consulted Frank Walton RDP FRPSL and Philip Beale FRPSL, both acknowledged Sierra Leone experts, who suggested this might be a sample stamp that De La Rue gave to the Crown Agents or even to the Colony. (*Editor - or to another Colony which was considering using the same Keyplate design?*)

Have any members seen a similar example from any other Colony?



Sierra Leone Baggage Label

Jeremy Martin FRPSL



Figure 1 1961 Sierra Leone baggage label

I have not previously seen the label (Fig. 1), dated 1961. It is addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London. The second line of the printed instructions *By Air / I/C Pilot* (in charge of the pilot) has been crossed out in blue pencil and *REG POST* added.

Mueba – Another Postal Agency in the Cameroons during British Administration

Marty Bratzel

The attractive cover in Figure 1 (front) and Figure 2 (back) appears to confirm that a postal agency had been opened at Mueba during the British Administration of the Cameroons. Postmarked 1 October 1960 with a skeleton canceller, the cover has two stamps from the U.K.T.T. series released on that date. There are no backstamps or other postal markings.

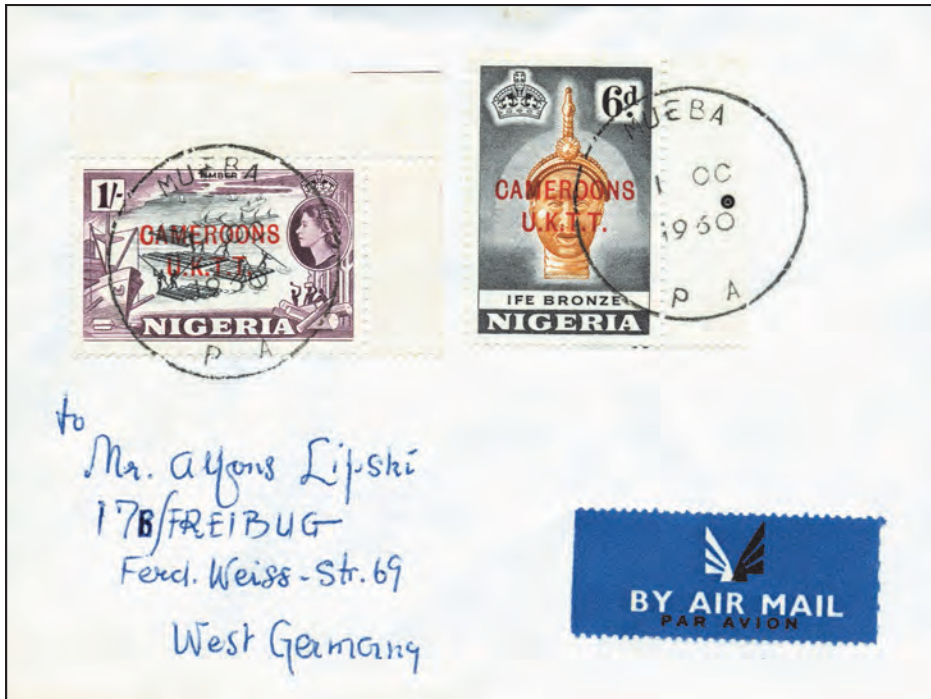
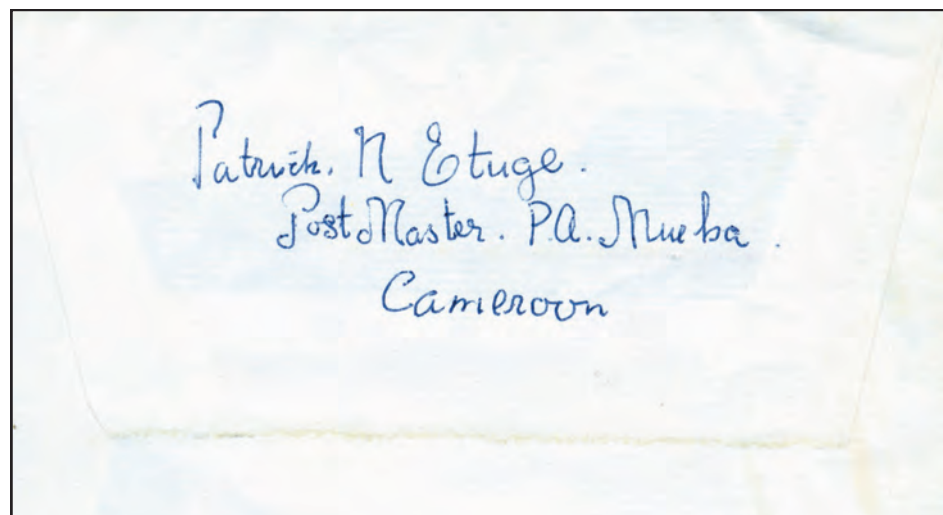


Figure 1 (above)
Front of first day cover
postmarked Mueba
1 OC 1960

Figure 2 (right)
Back of cover, with
signature and address of
the postal agent at Mueba.



The opening date for a postal agency at Mueba is not known. There is no entry in the annual tables of contents of the Nigeria *Official Gazette* (Ref. 1). It is possible that, through oversight, no official notice was published. Alternatively, an entry in the *Official Gazette* was occasionally overlooked when the annual table of contents was prepared. A few individual issues were not available for consultation.

Similarly, there is no mention in the *Southern Cameroons Gazette* (Ref. 2). However, a number of issues are missing from the holdings at the U.S. Library of Congress. Information from 1964 and 1965 confirms that Mueba was under control of the Kumba post office.

Where is Mueba? According to a map in a 1961 report to the United Nations (Ref. 3), Mueba is approximately 60 kilometres northeast of Kumba, hard by the border with the former French Cameroun. The map places Mueba at the very end of a dry-season road.

The skeleton device used to postmark this cover continued in use through at least 30 June 1966. No other Mueba postmarks have been recorded for any date, even though Mueba was still identified as a postal agency in 1985 (Ref. 4). It may well be that the facility was subsequently closed or relocated to Bangem, approximately 6-7 kilometres to the north. The earliest recorded Bangem postmark is 8 January 1986.

Returning to the cover, it is interesting that the 6d. and 1/- stamps were available on the day of issue at such a remote location. A copy of another cover to hand, also postmarked Mueba 1 October 1960, also has an overprinted 1/- stamp affixed, accompanied by two overprinted ½d. stamps. The covers are philatelic. Both were addressed and sent by Patrick N. Etuge, the postmaster at the Mueba postal agency. The recipient was Alfons Lipski of Freiburg, Germany. I have copies of aerogrammes sent by Mr. Etuge to Mr. Lipski in 1964 and 1965. The correspondence infers that Lipski and possibly his wife had lived in and/or visited the Cameroons during the early 1960s and had established friendships with a number of people.

Other philatelic covers to hand, sent from other towns in the area to Mr. Lipski between 1963 and 1965, reinforce the philatelic nature of the Mueba covers and Lipski's connection with the Cameroons. Some have only then-current Cameroun postage stamps, others have no-longer-valid Nigerian stamps overprinted Cameroons U.K.T.T. and/or sterling-revalued stamps affixed in combination with current stamps, and still other covers have only no-longer-valid stamps. Most are registered and exprès. To summarise, in addition to Mueba, I have copies of covers to Mr. Lipski from:

- Batibo
- Buea
- Lobe, sent by the postmaster, S.E.O. Panje
- Mamfe
- Mankon Bamenda
- Mbakwa Supe, sent by the postmaster, Martin N. Esa
- Mbengwi, sent by the postmaster, Peter M. Fomunyoh
- Muea, sent by the postmaster (unnamed)
- Ndian, sent by the postmaster, Anthony A. Nanyia
- Njinikom
- Santa, sent by the postmaster (unnamed)
- Tombel, sent by the postmaster (unnamed)

Still other covers, bearing no-longer-valid overprinted Nigerian stamps or sterling-revalued stamps and sent from Mbakwa Supe in 1963 and 1964 to Victoria, Ndian, and London, apparently were also created by him. Lipski must have supplied the stamps and souvenir sheets – probably already affixed to envelopes – to the postal agents / postmasters and other acquaintances for cancellation and posting.

Lastly, we have assigned the Mueba skeleton postmark No. 94A in our listing of the postmarks of the Cameroons under British administration with recorded dates of use extending from 1 October 1960 through 30 June 1966. Thank goodness for philatelists and friendships!

It is conceivable that the 1 October 1960 Mueba postmarks are backdated, created by favour. As Bob Maddocks has rightfully pointed out – WAWA – West Africa Wins Again!

For Acknowledgements and References see following page - Ed.

Acknowledgements

Kind thanks are extended to eBay vendor Harry Roosa, a.k.a. stamptrain. Mr. Roosa acquired a highly specialised Cameroun collection which includes approximately 1,000 covers, of which about 350 are directly associated with Lipski. He has already sold a number of interesting items on eBay and will continue to place material on offer over the next while.

References

- 1 Federation of Nigeria *Official Gazette*, printed and published by the Government Printer, Lagos
- 2 *Southern Cameroons Gazette*, Government Press, Buea
- 3 *Report of the United Nations Commissioner for the Supervision of the Plebiscites in the Southern and Northern Parts of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration*, Report No. T/1556, United Nations Trusteeship Council, 3 April 1961
- 4 Bratzel M.P. Jr., Wright Michael St. J., and Parren Marc. *The Postmarks and Postal History of Independent Cameroun – 1960 to Date*, MPB Canada, 2014. viii + 58 pages + DVD (pages 59-629), ISBN 978-0-9694026-8-8



Cameroun – the Sterling Issue of 1961: Numbers Printed

Marty Bratzel

Upon reunification of the Southern Cameroons with independent Cameroun on 1 October 1961, twelve then-current Cameroun postage stamps revalued in sterling currency were introduced for use in the former British administered territory, now West Cameroun, until currency conversion from sterling to CFA francs was effected. A second printing was undertaken for six of the stamps, and a further third printing of two of these. Except for the two printings for the 4d on 15 franc stamp, the second and third printings are easily distinguishable by the size of the numerals used, the relative placement of the components of the overprint, and/or the spacing of the letters comprising the words REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE. The study and characterisation of these stamps has been the subject of a series of articles, published in *Cameo* periodically since 2004. Consideration has also been given as to when the stamps were overprinted, where, and by whom; their dates of issue; and their availability at postal counters in West Cameroun and/or the philatelic bureau in Paris (Ref. 1).

The number of stamps overprinted has not been discussed. Official documentation may well exist in postal or other government archives in Yaoundé but, until that information is located, the only indications as to the numbers printed are manuscript notations on the back of proof overprint impressions. How realistic are those numbers?

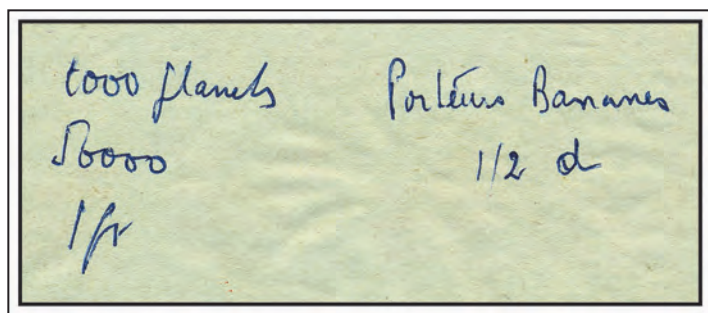


Figure 1
Notation on the back of the ½d Type 1 proof impression

½d Type 1 on 1 franc banana porters stamp – 1,000 sheets x 50 stamps per sheet = 50,000 stamps (Fig. 1).

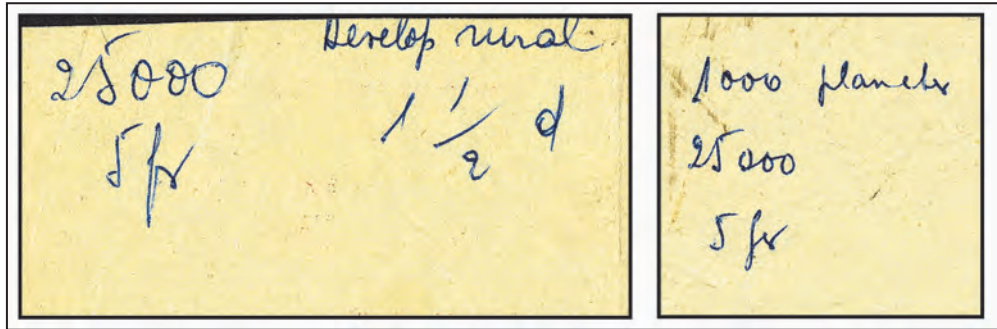


Figure 2
Notations on the back of two 1½d proof impressions

1½d on 5 franc FIDES stamp – 1,000 sheets x 25 stamps per sheet = 25,000 stamps (Figure 2).

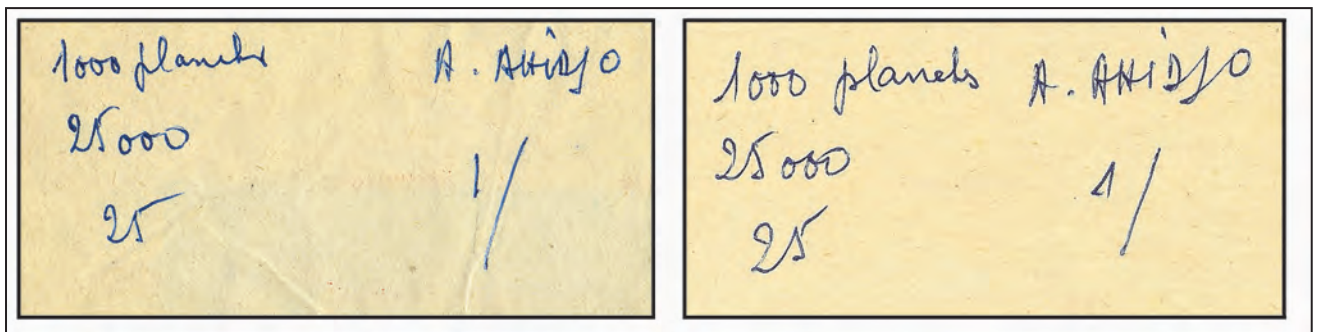


Figure 3
Notations on the back of two 1/- proof impressions

1/- on 25 franc Ahidjo stamp – 1,000 sheets x 25 stamps per sheet = 25,000 stamps (Figure 3).

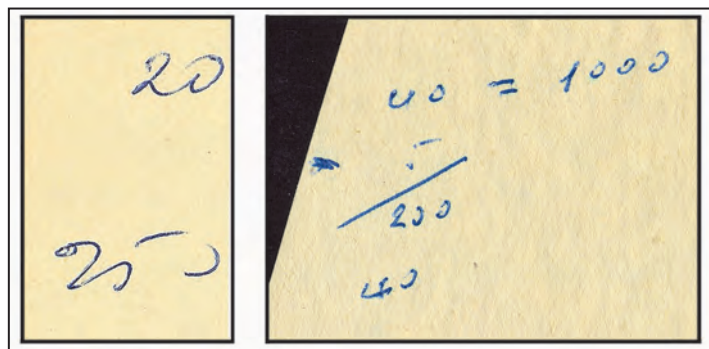


Figure 4
Notations on the back of two 2/6 Type 1 proof impressions

2/6 Type 1 on 30 franc World Refugee Year stamp – the notation on the one piece is a bit ambiguous, and the notation on the other piece, from another proof pull, is only partial (Figure 4). One could interpret the 40 = 1,000 notation to be 40 sheets x 25 stamps per sheet = 1,000 stamps, a rather low number. The 5 and 200 could suggest a five-fold increase to 5,000 stamps.

On the available proof pieces – all from the same proof imprint – for the 5/ Type 1 stamp, which cover 18 of the 25 positions in a full sheet, there are no notations on the back.

We should make the point that, once a print run was complete for a particular denomination, the overprint plate was no longer available for subsequent use. For example, for the 2/6 Type 1 overprint, it has been established that, after 30-franc stamps had been overprinted, the plate was partially disassembled and reconfigured to prepare the 6d on 20-franc overprint (Ref. 2).

The plate was again partially disassembled and portions used to prepare the 1½d on 5-franc overprint, then the 3d on 15-franc overprint and, ultimately, the 2/6 Type 2 on 30-franc overprint (Ref. 3).

Let us next consider the anticipated distribution of the stamps. At reunification, there were six post offices and 21 postal agencies in West Cameroun (Ref. 4). All would require revalued stamps. In addition, the philatelic bureau in Paris would require a supply to service the worldwide philatelic market. Further, revalued stamps would be required until the currency conversion was complete, ultimately a seven-month period (212 days) extending through 30 April 1962. CFA stamps were placed on sale, at least at Victoria, on 1 May 1962 (Ref. 5).

Assume a print run of 25,000 stamps, as indicated on the backs for two of the denominations. Dividing 25,000 stamps by 212 days gives an average of 118 stamps per day. If the stamps were distributed only to the six post offices, the result is fewer than 20 stamps per day per post office. Factor in the postal agencies and the daily average drops to about 4 stamps!

Then consider the requirements of the philatelic bureau and the demands for first day and other souvenir covers. The manuscript notations for the press runs appear to have been rather naive initial estimates of the numbers required, clearly too low, especially for workhorse denominations that would be in heavy demand! That particular denominations saw heavy use is indicated by the number of used stamps in the Carter accumulation, which represents only a small portion of the total mail dispatched (Ref. 6). And, the number of sterling-revalued stamps routinely offered on the eBay and Delcampe web sites, and by dealers at bourses argues for higher print runs.

So, how many stamps were printed for release on 1 October 1961? We will only know if and when official records are located, but probably considerably more than the 25,000 indicated for the 1½d on 5-franc and the 1/- on 25-franc proofs. Even then, some enhanced print runs were still insufficient. Second and even third printings were made for several of the stamps over the next several weeks and months, again, unknown quantities. That additional stamps were needed was established early on for the 2/6 denomination, as a partially disassembled overprint plate was still available for use to prepare the 2/6 Type 2 overprint, all of which were shipped to the philatelic bureau in Paris.

The matter rests there. As always, comments are welcome.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to Peter Hørlyck and Brian Lythgoe for providing scans of the notations on the back side of proof impressions in their collections.

References

- 1 Bratzel Marty, "Cameroun – the Sterling Issue of 1961: Printings, Dates of Issue, and Availability", *Cameo*, Volume 9, pp190-197, WASC, June 2006
- 2 Bratzel Marty; Lythgoe Brian; Carter Nick; Wright Michael; May Rob and Hørlyck Peter, "Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 2/6 on 30-Franc Type 1 and the 6d on 20-Franc Stamps", *Cameo*, Volume 11, pp113-119, WASC, June 2009
- 3 Bratzel Marty, "Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: The Printing Plate for the 1½d, 3d and 2/6 Type 2 Overprints and for the 6d and 2/6 Type 1 Overprints". *Cameo*, Volume 11, pp268-274, WASC, January 2010
- 4 Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P. Jr., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons under British Administration 1916-1961*, MPB Canada, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 1994, 136 pages, ISBN 0-9694026-1-9
- 5 Maddocks R.J., "Southern Cameroons in Postal Transition", *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, pp80-85, January 2002

- 6 The Carter accumulation is a large quantity of used Cameroun stamps that the late Nick Carter acquired 'on the streets' in Lagos in 1961-1962. Nick passed away on 11 September 2008. His stamps have been, and continue to be available for study. Additional articles based on his accumulation will be published in the philatelic literature.



Insured Parcel from St Helena cost £16.07

Barry Burns FRPSL



This parcel wrapper and receipt (Figs. 1 & 2) may explain the need for high value definitive stamps from remote islands.

During my first visit to St Helena in 1998 with Bernard Mabbett I purchased far too much; gifts, books, postcards and even table mats. I realised that the excess baggage from Cape Town to Heathrow would be expensive, and so decided to send the non-urgent items by surface parcel.

Figures 1 and 2

The parcel wrapper and post office receipt for insured parcel from St Helena to the UK both images trimmed and shown at 60%

The total cost of £16.07p was made up as follows:

Surface Parcel rate, 5 - 10 kg	£15.00
Registration	.50
Insurance 19p per £35, so £100	.57
Total	£16.07

Posted at St Helena on 25 June, the parcel was delivered to my home by our bemused postman on 10 August 1998. Not first class maybe, but an interesting item for the collection - better than an excess baggage airline receipt!

And, it helps to fill an awkward 7/8 page for a troubled editor....

295

POST OFFICE ST. HELENA

No. 595

Received from B. M. Burns

the sum of £16.07

for insuring a Sealed Package

Addressed B. M. Burns
20 Tanton Road,
Stokesley,
Middlesbrough,
TS9 5HP,
U.K.

Said to contain Personal Effects

Insurance effected for £100.00

Premium to be affixed in Stamps to Package by sender

Postmaster

Premium 19p for every £35. Limit £102

St Helena Bill of Exchange 1934

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

For the month of November 1934 the St Helena Post Office received £286 19s. 3d. for the sale of Money Orders and Postal Orders. Less a small credit, £284 15s. 9d was due to the GPO in London.

This was paid by a Bill of Exchange (Fig. 1, at 80%) dated 30 November 1934 at St Helena. An unusual item of postal ephemera.

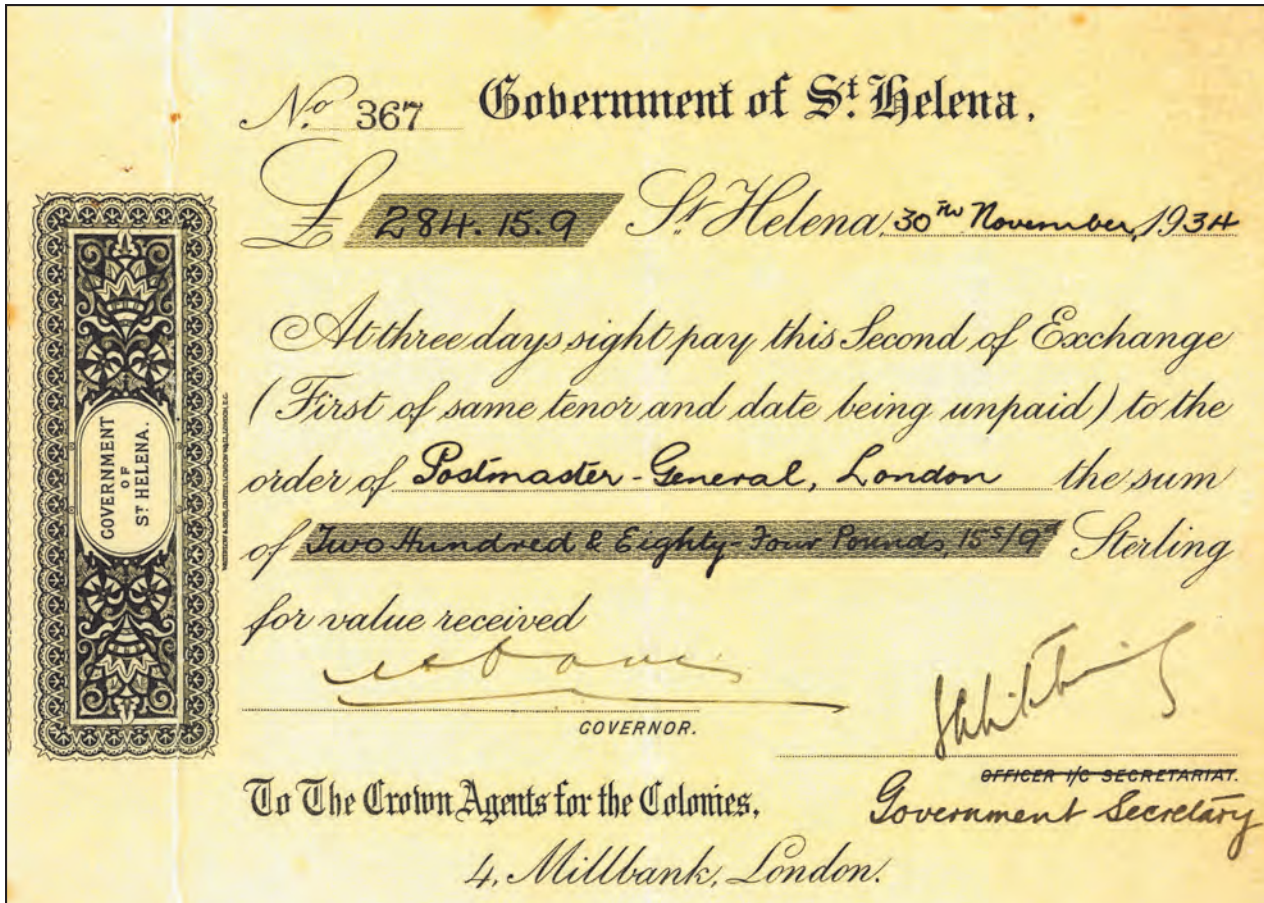


Figure 1
Bill of Exchange issued at St Helena, 30 November 1934

Editor's note: A Bill of Exchange is a three-party negotiable instrument in which the first party, the drawer, presents an order for the payment of a sum certain on a second party, the drawee, for payment to a third party, the payee, on demand or at a fixed future date:

legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/bill+of+exchange

See also Cameo, Volume 11 pp205-206, WASC October 2009



Sir Hudson's Headache

The Governor, the Admiral and Supplies for St Helena

Trevor Hearl



Figure 1

HMS Northumberland 1815
SG 772, shown at 150%

Following his defeat at Waterloo, Napoleon Bonaparte was exiled to St Helena, arriving with his entourage on HMS Northumberland (Fig. 1), which anchored in James Bay on 15 October 1815. The first few months of his captivity were spent at The Briars, home of the Balcombe family and where Napoleon struck up a friendship with the young Betsy.

He moved to the refurbished and extended farmhouse at Longwood on 10 December 1815 where he remained until his death on 5 May 1821. General Sir Hudson Lowe KCB arrived to take over as Governor of St Helena on 14 April 1816 and remained in this post until 21 July 1821.

This article was received for possible publication a few years before Trevor's untimely death in January 2007. I withheld it until sufficient non-urgent space became available, but as we approach the 10th Anniversary of his passing I am publishing it now in his memory. Trevor was a very thorough and enthusiastic researcher of all things to do with the Island - in fact he is fondly remembered as 'Mr. St Helena'. Although not philatelic, this article records aspects of life on St Helena during Napoleon's stay, and I hope most readers find it of interest - Barry.

Historians of the Napoleonic exile may be loathe to admit it, but the furrows on Sir Hudson Lowe's troubled brow were deepened probably more often by the mundane matter of logistics than by the antics of the Longwood exiles. He could turn his back on Longwood, but could never ignore the perennial shortages of food, fodder, wine and other essentials that dogged St Helena during his years as Governor of that solitary isle. A fresh insight into this problem, and how it led to a damaging rift between Lowe and Admiral Sir Pulteney Malcolm, is given in a letter sent by the Governor to his senior naval colleague in February 1817, which I recently acquired and, being unpublished, reproduce later in this article.

The root of the Island's supply problems lay in the fact that, having failed to develop an adequate farming system, it had assumed the nature of a fortress, 'The Gibraltar of the South Atlantic', depending for survival on importing virtually everything it needed.

The Islanders' nickname of 'Yamstocks', derived from the old slave diet of St Helena Yam - a Coast Yam introduced from the East Indies - did not reflect the more recent change to a 'curry - and - rice' culture, relying on East India Company stores shipped from Britain and India, while the garrison subsisted on salt-beef and hard tack, supplemented after 1795 by imports of wine and staple foods from the Cape. Local produce was mainly reserved for the wealthy passengers of East Indiamen, willing and able to pay exorbitant prices for fresh food after weeks at sea.



Figure 2

St Helena 1815, G.H. Bellasis
SG 330A, shown at 150%

It goes without saying that reliance on the arrival of storeships had inured the Islanders to periodic shortages of all but the bare essentials of life. To this tiny, isolated island (Fig 2), “which did not feed a population of hardly four thousand souls” - as Thomas Brooke, then Secretary to the Island’s Council, explained in his *History* - there came without warning in October 1815 an ex-Emperor and his entourage, with a royal naval and military force of over two thousand men, vanguard of an influx which rose to almost four thousand, “doubling the previous number”. (Chaplin gives a total of 7998 in 1820). St Helena was put under a virtual security blockade so that the Islanders soon found food and the necessaries of life scarce and dear, creating circumstances which, recalled Brooke with studied understatement, “were not for some time viewed with much satisfaction”.

Lieutenant-General Sir Hudson Lowe (Fig. 3), on being appointed Governor and custodian of Napoleon at St Helena on behalf of the Allies, made arrangements with the Admiralty, before leaving England at the end of January 1816, for supplying his mid-Atlantic outpost from the Cape. But on arrival at the Island in April he discovered this to be a more onerous and complex matter, with economic and political, as well as security, implications undreamed of in London.

The logistics of the operation were far from straightforward. The East India Company’s agent at the Cape had been warned to expect orders for “a considerable supply of fresh provisions and other articles” for St Helena but told, on security grounds, not to hire any of the usual vessels in the Cape - St Helena trade. This posed problems of which the naval and military authorities were quite unaware. Cape wine, for example, for which orders rose rapidly from under 100,000 to over 150,000 gallons a year, had to be sent in 25,000 gallon shipments every other month owing to lack of storage in Jamestown.



Figure 3
General Sir Hudson Lowe KCB
with signature



Figure 4
Map of St Helena 1817
SG 376, shown at 150%

Similarly livestock, forage and food had to be shipped a little and often adding to the cost and difficulty of purchase and freightage. Furthermore, the Company’s agent was now competing for supplies and transport against naval and military victuallers, as well as private traders. And at St Helena Sir Hudson found that the Island’s mountainous terrain (Fig. 4) created other transport problems for the government. The more he studied the matter from the St Helena point of view, the more difficult it became.

The Governor’s first setback was to discover that the Admiralty had left him only two woefully inadequate old transports for Cape supplies. Admiral Sir George Cockburn, Commander of the Naval Station, thought the Island could manage well enough, nonetheless, if all available space on naval ships was used for the purpose.

On this basis Lowe arranged for the Company’s recently promoted Cape Agent, Joseph Luson, to increase shipments of food, fodder and wine by taking every opportunity to use ships on the South Atlantic station. But Luson warned him that this would not solve the problem. The needs of army and navy commissariats, and private traders, already exceeded the available cargo space.

The Island's new packet-schooner *St Helena* (Fig. 5), which replaced the *Camperdown*, could only carry 136 tons of cargo on four or five sailings a year, and the few East Indiamen which called at the Cape rarely had spare capacity. Moreover, purchases made in haste to meet random sailings were seldom satisfactory. But the Island had to be fed; he would do his best.



Figure 5
HMS *St Helena*, 1815
SG 771, shown at 150%



Figure 6
Sir Pulteney Malcolm
National Portrait Gallery

Lowe's ad hoc arrangement with Cockburn was, however, short-lived. In June 1816 the Admiral was succeeded by Rear-Admiral Sir Pulteney Malcolm (Fig. 6) who either did not know, or did not care to know, of it. Fortunately Lowe had already launched an "experiment" to reduce dependence on the Cape by diverting the *St Helena* to buy livestock from Angola and Benguela, and in November told Malcolm that Benguela livestock would in future have preference over imports from the Cape.

Between May 1816 and August 1818 the little packet-schooner made seven stormy voyages to West Africa, usually managing to land between thirty and sixty surviving head of cattle at Jamestown on return. It also sailed to Rio de Janeiro in 1818 for re-coppering, bringing back general cargo - sugar, flour, port-wine, tobacco, furniture, wood, cloth, &c - duly apportioned among the many competitors for its precious cargo space.

A "Difference of Opinion"

It was late January 1817 before Lowe's suspicions were aroused that the Royal Navy was ignoring his orders about Cape freight. He gave the matter some consideration how best to tackle the Admiral about it, and it was 1 February before he went to see him, with the Adjutant General, Sir Thomas Reade. Malcolm later recorded in his diary merely that they had "had some difference of opinion respecting the supplies from the Cape", but that was not the last he was to hear of it. Three days later he received the letter reproduced later, confirming their "differences" and the action Lowe required him to take in consequence.

The wider significance of Lowe's letter lies in its detail, however. Readers will note its tortuous style, probably mulled over for hours during the intervening days. He could not be sure who had abused the system - perhaps "the Master of the transport" had indulged in some 'private venture' - but it was Malcolm's laxness which had caused the Governor the humiliation of being outwitted by mere tradesmen, the carpenter-cum-tavern-keeper James Lowden, and worse still, by Saul Solomon.

Even the name, Lowe declared later, implied "some predisposition to engage in illicit speculation". To add insult to injury, it was he, not Malcolm, who was getting blamed for the shortages, as the Russian Commissioner, Count Balmain, explained in a letter to his government:

The apparent reason for (their) misunderstanding is that the Admiral greatly underestimated the amount of food necessary at St Helena, that we have lacked wine, flour and fresh meat, that all the horses on this Island, except those at Longwood, are still on half-rations, and that the Governor is the one blamed.

Interestingly, Norwood Young quotes a French translation of this Russian report which, being unwilling, apparently, to admit the favoured treatment allowed Napoleon's horses, actually says "*not* excepting those at Longwood"!

Admiral Malcolm does not appear to have mended his ways, however. Indeed, on a visit to the Cape he even sanctioned a major shipment for a private trader when the Government of St Helena was "seriously in need" of the goods. And he proved a formidable competitor to Luson by authorising extravagant expenditure on livestock for the Navy, stall-fed on oilcake imported from Britain in stockyards set up at the Cape and at Jamestown.

Meat for the men was the dominant demand from the military, as well as the naval, commissariat though Malcolm's efforts were somewhat vitiated by naval negligence in the care of their stock. Once, on the storeship *Weymouth* not a single animal survived the voyage from the Cape!

But Lowe's rift with Malcolm was soon to extend beyond the issue of supplies, most notably over his friendship with Napoleon (Fig. 7), who fostered it to annoy Lowe, and they were scarcely on speaking terms by the end of the Admiral's tour in June 1817. "We cannot congratulate ourselves enough on the departure of Admiral Malcolm", exclaimed the Austrian Commissioner, Baron von Stürmer, but if he or Lowe expected supplies to improve as a result, they were to be disappointed.



Figure 7
Napoleon at St Helena, H. Delaroche
SG 280, shown at 150%

Sir Hudson, meanwhile, was busy devising another scheme, a more "systematic mode of supply", relying on the one man he could trust in the matter, Joseph Luson. In March 1817 he authorised the Agent to prioritise shipments:

It will be your first duty to consider what articles are to be embarked for the Island's general use.(Thereafter) the first wants to be considered are those for the use of General Bonaparte's Establishment; Secondly, those for my own use; Thirdly, the Foreign Commissioners and Staffs, and Regimental Messes.

If any tonnage remained, only then could it be used by individuals, "but never in such a way as to interfere with the embarkation of any Stores for the Island's general consumption". While this was logical enough in theory, as Marcus Arkin has shown in his study of the Cape - St Helena trade, setting priorities between competing interests in the close-knit Island community landed Lowe in an "unenviable dilemma".

Leaving aside the imperative of security, he had to recognise the Company's privileged status on St Helena while allowing for the sensitivities of the royal garrison; he had to protect the liberties of private traders whom he distrusted, while safe-guarding the welfare of the community; and he felt duty bound to meet the insatiable demands of the French exiles. No wonder his brow was furrowed.

Troublesome Traders

Jamestown merchants were, of course, key figures in the matter of the Cape - St Helena trade. Unfortunately they laboured under grievances. Whereas, with the coming of peace in 1815 they expected to return to normal conditions of trade, they now found themselves worse off than in wartime, having had business crippled by the ban on private shipping and the all-too-brief visits now allowed to the Company's East Indiamen. Thomas Brooke explained some of their more particular reasons for dissatisfaction:

Products had usually been bartered for grain, surplus ship stores and salt provisions, and the remains of unsold investments of the captains and officers of returning ships from India and China(which) enabled the inhabitants to obtain many of the necessaries of life at moderate prices.Previous to hostilities with the United States of America (Anglo-American War, June 1812 to December 1814), vessels from that country brought supplies of salt provisions, flour, timber, lumber, salt fish, and other articles which they could afford to dispose of at low rates, in exchange for India and China produce, andthe revival of this trafficwas a desirable object in the eyes of mercantile speculators.

The most enterprising merchants had their sights set on more fashionable and lucrative business, however. Despite the war, they had been fostering a trans-shipment trade in oriental goods, bought from Indiamen at Jamestown and sold at Cape Town, ever since Britain ruled the Cape, providing funds to buy stores cheaply at the Cape and sell dearly on the Island. These hopes had now been dashed, but there were compensations.

The royal garrison, the naval squadron and the Longwood Establishment opened up new markets on the Island resulting in price inflation and soaring profits. To take advantage of this, however, they had to get stock-in-trade from the Cape, and to this end they, and their Cape agents, saw it as fair game to beat Lowe's system, which meant encouraging ships' captains to make cargo space for their goods. And as Lowe's letter shows, ships of the naval squadron were often willing to oblige, even to the detriment of official stores. Saul Solomon's agent, Solomon Magnus - Lewis Gideon Solomon's brother-in-law - was usually a victor in this battle of wits, though Lusson once caught him trying to load goods for St Helena on a vessel bound for South America, which demonstrates the extent to which the Island had become a sellers' market.



Figure 8
Saul Solomon
1776-1852

The security implications, as much as the supply problems, of the Cape - St Helena trade, also aroused Lowe's suspicions. There were good grounds for his unease. Saul Solomon's sympathy for Napoleon was well known and his shop in Jamestown noted as a rendezvous for the Longwood exiles with his maritime customers (Fig. 8).

The friendship of the Balcombe family is even the subject of several books, but nothing is said about William Balcombe's career, smuggling East India goods to the Cape in his fast trading schooner, the *Bonetta* until it was seized by Cape customs in May 1813. Yet as Superintendent of Public Sales since 1807 and now Purveyor to the Longwood Establishment he was a pillar of the commercial community - until he slipped out with his family in March 1818, just before Lowe's suspicions were proved that he was, in Arnold Chaplin's carefully chosen words, "an intermediary in the trans-mission of clandestine correspondence to Europe, and in negotiating bills drawn by Napoleon".

Then there was "Mr. Harrington", whose meteoric rise as one of the Cape's leading businessmen - he became Russian Consul owed itself to sharp practice in the Cape - St Helena trade, further fuelling Sir Hudson's suspicions about his activities.

As Lowe cites "abuse of the indulgence granted to Mr. Harrington" in his letter to Malcolm as one of his problems, this episode in that gentleman's colourful career - he died in 1841 as Master Attendant of the port at Calcutta - requires a brief explanation. In 1812, Captain Thomas Talbot Harrington, while commander of HCS *Scaleby Castle* (1810-14) en route from Canton to London, shipped £2,500 worth of Chinese goods to St Helena as the first installment of a transshipment business in oriental goods which he planned to base at Jamestown.

On reaching London he learned that the Company had lost its monopoly of the India trade under the 1813 Charter and, fearing for St Helena's future as a Company outpost, he decided to settle at the Cape instead. Having 'interest' with the Directors - his wife was a niece of the Earl of Seaforth - he had the *Scaleby*

Castle taken up as a storeship for St Helena in 1814 with permission to take his family and transship his stock from Jamestown to Cape Town on the outward voyage to China, with orders to the Company's Cape agent, then Thomas Pringle, to afford him every facility. The mercantile community duly took note of such an irregular arrangement, and when, on his return from China, he again called at the Cape and St Helena carrying his family and more trading stock with him, they drew their own conclusions.

He was back again at the Cape in July 1816 - his brother, Henry Hawes Harington, formerly of the Bengal Civil Service, having also gone into business at the Cape - when he extended his operations to Simonstown investing "an enormous sum" in building projects, confirming his reputation as "a bold man in mercantile business". Perhaps Lowe can be forgiven for seeing Harington's shadow lurking behind some of his difficulties in 1817.

Conspicuous Customers

Longwood's influence on the Island economy posed perhaps the greatest problem for the management of St Helena's supplies, however. Ironically, Lowe himself was a major contributor to this situation. One of his first acts had been to increase Longwood's allowances from eight to twelve thousand pounds a year as a conciliatory gesture in view of the high market price of everything to 'Europeans' at St Helena, estimated at between twice and four times that in England. Yet already the exiles' lavish lifestyle, so alien to the frugality of Island living, was seen by the ill-supplied residents and garrison as a scandal.

According to Thomas Brooke, the government had good warning of future problems when, "a few days" after their arrival, there came "a demand of the maître-d'hotel ...for four bullocks, in order to make a dish of brains". As Brooke archly commented, "in a place where fresh beef was so precious as to have occasioned restrictions upon its consumption, it may well be conceived that sensations of no ordinary nature were excited".

Yet Lowe pandered to Longwood's demands as if unaware of their 'conspicuous consumption'. Even Dr. Barry O'Meara (Fig. 9), Napoleon's physician, was minded in September 1816 to alert Sir Thomas Reade to the state of affairs for the Governor's benefit:

You perhaps are not aware of the French mode of living and their cookery; they have two dinners every day - one at eleven or twelve o'clock to which joints, roast and boiled, with all their various hashes, ragouts, fricassees, etc., are served up, with wine and liqueurs, and another at 8 p.m., which only differs from the first in being supplied with more dishes. Besides these two meals, they all have - except Bonaparte himself who only eats twice a day, certainly very heartily - something like an English breakfast in bed at between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, and a luncheon with wine at four or five in the afternoon.



Figure 9
Dr. Barry O'Meara
1786-1836

O'Meara added that "their mode of cookery required a great deal of oil or butter", both scarce and expensive commodities on the Island. He also provides an interesting glimpse into how things were at the time when, in May 1817, while talking to Lowe at Plantation House, significantly "upon subjects connected with the Admiral", he mentioned that the French were paying Solomon twelve shillings a pound for macaroni, to which Lowe replied that there was plenty in the Government store, but when some was sent to Longwood a few days later it was "unfit for use from long keeping".

In his study, "*Napoleon in Exile*", Norwood Young blames both Admiral Cockburn and Hudson Lowe for failing to curb the "wanton extravagance" of Napoleon's household, consisting of between forty and fifty members. (Dr. Chaplin names 49 "residents at Longwood", plus twenty menials).

Young estimated that Lowe allowed over 3 pounds of meat per head per day, supplemented weekly by 50 pounds of ham, a roasting pig, 63 fowls and eight ducks or turkeys with other provisions “on the same extravagant scale”.

Such prodigal purchasing, orchestrated by William Balcombe as purveyor, acted like a magnet on the merchants of Jamestown and the Cape. The large, bored garrison might keep the tavern tills ringing, but Longwood became the tradesmen’s eldorado, diverting supplies from the real needs of the island. Even the military hospital suffered from “the monopoly of the Longwood contractors”, according to one surgeon.

Supplies for the exiles even had political implications for Napoleon to exploit. To dramatise to the outside world - or at least to English Whigs and French Napoleonists - that they were being starved on St Helena, he sent some silver tableware, “hammered into a shapeless mess”, to be sold in Jamestown - not, incidentally at one of the silversmiths, but through Balcombe, Cole & Co. - repeating the performance ostentatiously on three occasions in late 1816 when the town was full of visitors, receiving £1065 in cash before purchasing some “cheap earthen tableware” to heighten the effect. Lowe was genuinely alarmed at the propaganda impact this might have at home, but Earl Bathurst, Secretary of State for War and the Colonies (1812-27), was more phlegmatic, and responded by giving Napoleon permission to augment his allowance from his own private funds through bankers in London.

Muddling Through

The weak link in the chain of supply remained the Royal Navy. Malcolm’s successor, Rear-Admiral Robert Pamplin, arrived from Portsmouth via the Cape on 29 June 1817, and held the post for three years. Balmain describes him as “a good man ...who wishes to live peacefully and to mix into nothing which does not concern him”. In St Helena history he is best known for what Balmain referred to as “the great scandal of the colony. He brought a lady with him from London who, though she uses his name, is only his mistress”.

He was, perhaps advisedly, a staunch supporter of the Governor, yet he made no radical reform in the supply system. Some restrictions on commercial shipping were relaxed, allowing Luson to hire four private vessels in 1817 and, after April 1818, to use cargo space on British ships sailing to British ports willing to take freight to St Helena en route, “but for which the Island would have been in great want of every supply”. Yet for most on St Helena, shortages and the threat of shortages remained a fact of life.

By trying to make the best of a defective system, Lowe became the victim of his own policy. Those, like Balmain, who knew the Navy was at fault - “there are 3,000 men to feed and only two transports to carry rations, when there should be at least six” - still held the Governor responsible. Even when the Count was a suitor for the hand of Lowe’s attractive step-daughter, Charlotte Johnson - they were married on 26 March 1820 - he blamed the Governor for the “great want of provisions, forage and other necessities”.

The reason is that Sir Hudson is not an administrator. He digs trenches, constructs parapets, is always getting ready for battle, but fails to build a storehouse.

If only it were that simple, Lowe might have replied.

When, in May 1821, Napoleon’s death finally relieved the Governor of his thankless task, almost his last act on leaving the Island on 25 July was to write a letter of thanks to Joseph Luson at the Cape.

I cannot depart without expressing my acknowledgements for your general care and attention in regard to the Supplies you have forwarded from time to time during the period of my Government, availing yourself of every adventitious means of transport when no Government or Chartered Vessels were at hand.

Yet poor Lowe could not even express his thanks without quibbling:

Altho' upon some occasions the quality of the supplies may not have been altogether unobjectionable, I can never the less make great allowance for the difficulties which I am aware you have had to encounter, and shall not fail to express to the Hon'ble Court of Directors the sense I entertain of the great aid and assistance you have rendered.

By the time Luson received this letter he was a sick man, however and he died six months later in January 1822.



Figure 10
Plantation House 1821, J. Wathen
SG 325, shown at 150%

A Letter from Sir Hudson Lowe to Rear Admiral Sir Pulteney Malcolm to regulate the freighting of supplies to St Helena from the Cape

Transcribed below is the letter which I have already mentioned, written at Plantation House (Fig. 10) by the Governor to Pulteney Malcolm.

Plantation House
February 4th 1817

His Excellency
Rear - Admiral
Sir Pultney Malcolm KCB

Sir

As your Excellency may not perhaps have been exactly informed of the mode in which the spare Tonnage of the *Adamant* Transport was disposed of on her last arrival from the Cape, I do myself the honor to inclose to you an Extract from the Register Master's report by which it will appear that, but an inconsiderable proportion of it was taken up by the Purveyor for General Bonaparte's Establishment or by the Regimental Messes.

Mr. Carroll, Mr. McRichey, Mr. Lowden & Mr. Solomon, who are all retail merchants in this Island, appearing to have drawn the principal advantage of the arrangement that was made in giving a proportion of the Tonnage to Mr. Harrington, and I cannot exemplify the inconvenience of this in a stronger light, than by acquainting your Excellency that in consequence of Mr. Luson, the Company's Agent at the Cape, who had before this occasion met with every facility in embarking what he wanted by application to the Commissary officer on the spot, not having been able to obtain the embarkation of any part of the wine which was required of him on public account by the *Adamant*, this Government has been obliged to purchase Ten Casks imported by Mr. Solomon, and has had recourse also to Mr. Carrol for this article which these Persons have been enabled to import it free of expense in the same Vessel.

In addition to the articles mentioned in the inclosed Extract, Mr. Luson was enabled to embark for my Establishment six Sheep, informing me he could not obtain permission to embark any more.

It is full as much as I could reasonably desire, and I should not lay any stress on Mr. Luson's remark, if I did not observe Mr. Lowden, who is a Tavern Keeper, was enabled to embark wine.

Your Excellency will, I am persuaded, disapprove of this abuse of the indulgence granted to Mr. Harrington, unless it was the Master of the Transport's own act.

In order to meet what I conceive to be your Excellency's views as far as possible in informing you of the quantity of Tonnage which may be required for the importation of the articles of which we stand in need from the Cape, I have directed the Commissary in concurrence with the Store-keeper, to prepare an average calculation of the quantity of wine, Barley, &c., requisite for the consumption of one year; - it will be impossible for me I fear to exactly designate the quantities or proportions wanted by each ship, because.

I cannot know by what casual & intermediate opportunities Mr. Luson, who is directed to avail himself of all, may profit in sending us the articles we want, or how far he may be at all times ready with his supplies; - but I conceive the best plan will be to do what I have already suggested - give a general order for all the spare Tonnage being placed at his disposition, until the annual supplies shall have been completed, and that in no case when there are any orders to execute from this Government, Articles be allowed to be embarked on private account.

I shall be obliged for a communication of any fresh instructions your Excellency may give to the Commanding Officer at the Cape on the subject, in order that this Government may regulate its directions to Mr. Luson accordingly.

In reference to the mode of supply for this Island, it will not be thought perhaps irrelevant to mention that, previous to my departure from England, I was informed at the Navy Board, that the Naval Store Ships which had accompanied or followed Sir George Cockburn hither, would be our principal resource until other arrangements were made; - one of them, however, the *Weymouth* had left this (*word omitted?*) before I arrived.

The *Hyaena* (the only remaining one) has not brought us any supplies since the month of May last, now nearly nine months past - of the two transports Sir George Cockburn left here at my requisition, one has sailed without bringing us all the supplies we wanted, and we are reduced to the remaining Transport & Store Ship; - These circumstances have placed us under the necessity of directing Mr. Luson to take up freight. It becomes therefore of real importance to know in what degree we can count on the aid to be derived from the Storeship for the services of the present year, independent as far as your Excellency can prejudge, of any other casual employment to which she may be liable.

I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's
Most obedient humble Servant
H. LOWE
Lt. General

Notes

- 1 The letter, written by a secretary and signed by the Governor, "H. Lowe, Lt. General", consists of two folio sheets, watermarked "T. Edmonds 1811" with an oval crest of Britannia, folded to make eight sides of foolscap, with writing on six. The "Extract from the Register Master's records" mentioned in the text, is absent.
- 2 For dispatch the letter had been folded in four, half and half again, tied with green - not red - tape. However, it carries no address on the reverse, or sign that it had gone through the Island's Dispatch Rider Letter Service, then being maintained by about twenty troopers of the 21st Light Dragoons under Cornet J.W. Hoath.
- 3 Lowe's meticulous attention to detail did not, in this case, extend to the spelling of names, even the Admiral's ("Pultney"). Perhaps such inconsistencies were not unusual at St Helena since variations of some of those mentioned in the letter can be found in official records, e.g. Har(r)ington, Loudon (Lowden). Of the others, the accepted spellings are 'William Carrol' (who was to become the first US Commercial Agent in 1831), and Thomas McRitchie. A Surgeon William Dawson MacRitchie (also M'Ritchie), served in the St Helena Medical Service from 1821 to 1835.

Sources

- 1 Arkin, Marcus, Supplies for Napoleon's Gaolers. *Archives Year Book for South African History I*, pp179-230, Cape Town 1964. Arkin's authoritative study is the second of his trilogy on the Cape - St Helena trade 1794-1836
- 2 Balmain, Count de, see Park (10)
- 3 Brooke, T.H, *History of the Island of St Helena*, 2nd edition 1824
- 4 Chaplin, Arnold, *A St Helena Who's Who, or a Directory of the Island during the Captivity of Napoleon*, 2nd revised edition 1919
- 5 Gregory, Desmond, *Napoleon's Jailer, Lt. Gen. Sir Hudson Lowe, A Life*, 1996
- 6 Korngold, Ralph, *The Last Years of Napoleon*, 1960
- 7 Malcolm, Lady, *A Diary of St Helena, 1816, 1817*, edited by Sir Arthur Wilson, 1899. The text, written by Sir Pulteney Malcolm, was published under his wife's name. He has a statue in St Paul's Cathedral.
- 8 Montgomerie, Barbara B, *The First St Helena, The East India Company's Schooner 1814 - 1830*, Bristol 1994
- 9 O'Meara, Barry Edward, *Napoleon at St Helena*, 2 volumes, 1888 edition
- 10 Park, Julian (translated & edited), *Napoleon in Captivity, Reports and Letters of Count Balmain, Russian Commissioner at St Helena 1816-1820*, 1928
- 11 Philip, Peter, *British Residents at the Cape 1795-1819*, Cape Town 1981
- 12 Young, Norwood, *Napoleon in Exile at St Helena (1815-21)*, 2 volumes, 1915



St Helena miniature sheet issued 7 May 2008 (SG MS1053) to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Purchase of Longwood House and Napoleon's Tomb.
His remains were removed on 15 October 1840 and transferred by carriage to Jamestown, then to the French frigate *La Belle Poule*. His body arrived at Paris 15 December, and now rests in Les Invalides.

Shown actual size



Cameroons – A New Victoria Postmark

Marty Bratzel

Depicted in Figure 1 is another newly identified Cameroons postmark, a skeleton worded Victoria / Nigeria. The date is 6 November 1922. The stamp was in a small collection offered on eBay.



Figure 1
Victoria / Nigeria skeleton
postmark dated
6 NO 22



Figure 2
Victoria / Cameroons skeleton
postmark (No. 141-2)
recorded used through
28 March 1922



Figure 3
Victoria / Nigeria postmark
superimposed on the
Victoria / Cameroons
postmark

The first canceller used by the British at Victoria was a skeleton worded Victoria / Cameroons, whose letters were repositioned three times between April 1916 and 28 March 1922, the latest recorded date.

The position of the letters comprising Victoria in the recently discovered example is the same as for the last setting (No. 141-2) for the skeleton postmark with Cameroons at the bottom (Fig. 2). As well, the date lines align. The Victoria / Nigeria postmark is superimposed on the Victoria / Cameroons postmark in Figure 3. It is logical to presume that only one device was involved and that, during 1922, Nigeria was substituted for Cameroons.

The Victoria / Nigeria wording for the skeleton datestamp is the same as the wording on the permanent double-circle devices, one of which (No. 142) was available as early as 1 May 1919. A second permanent device (No. 144) is recorded used as early as 10 August 1922 but a third (No. 143) not until 1926.

Checking postmark dates in my working files, use of the permanent datestamp No. 142 was sporadic, with only two dates recorded in 1919 and two in 1921, nothing in 1920 and 1922. For No. 144, during 1922, only the 10 August date noted above is recorded. The Victoria / Cameroons skeleton, on the other hand, was routinely used throughout this time period, indicating that it was the workhorse for the Victoria post office. Why a permanent datestamp was not used is not known.

Lastly, we have assigned the Victoria / Nigeria skeleton postmark No. 141A in our listing of the postmarks of the Cameroons under British administration (Ref. 1).

Keep looking! Additional discoveries await.

Reference

- 1 Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P. Jr., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons under British Administration 1916-1961*, MPB, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 1994, 136 pages, ISBN 0-9694026-1-9



Articles of Interest Published in Other Journals

Members are invited to contact either editor by e-mail, post or telephone when they notice any article they may feel might be of interest to other members. Articles which we hope to reproduce in *Cameo* at a future date are not usually listed here.

London Philatelist, Volume 125, no. 1433, March 2016

pp100-101, *Modern Sierra Leone Forgeries* by Peter Rolfe & Robin Peters

Volume 125, no. 1435, May 2016

p166, *The Royal Philatelic Collection: British West Africa* by Michael Sefi

Supplement, *The Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature at the British Library and for the World in Digital Form* by David Beech

Air Mail News, Volume 58, no. 233, May 2016

p2, *The Quarterly Cover: Angola to the USA* by John Symons. Sent 18 July 1942, by rail and air

Journal of the France & Colonies PS, Volume 65, no. 4, December 2015

pp141-142, *An anomalous N'gila Cameroun Postmark* by Marty Bratzel

Volume 66, no. 1, March 2016

pp6-16, *Monkey Business: Benin's 'Zin Kaka' Quasi-definitives of December 2003* by Nicholas Pertwee

pp32-33, *Early Mail from French West Africa by German service* by John Mayne

p34, *Monkeys Rampant* by Michael Round

p36, *New N'Gaoundéré Cameroun Datestamp* by Marty Bratzel

Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, Volume 43, no.2, April 2016

pp63-65, *Little German Air Mail was censored at Bermuda* by Bob Wilcsek & John Wilson

The Chronicle of the US Classics Postal Issues, the Journal of the US Philatelic Classics Society, Volume 68, no. 1, February 2016

pp97-101, *British West Africa Mail Packets to 1900* book review by Richard Winter. A very comprehensive and complimentary review of this WASC publication

Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Volume 47, no. 4, September 2016

pp78-82, *British Colonial and Protectorate Stamps Part 1: St Helena* by Noel Davenhill. A well illustrated overview of the issues from 1856 to the early 1970s. However, there are a number of errors and misconceptions. For beginners only!

Access to the internet?

Then please try visiting the West Africa Study Circle Web Site at:

<http://www.wasc.org.uk>

Webmaster is Ray Harris - contact: harris6@which.net

There are now direct links to our advertisers and other websites.
Other recent additions include documents by WASC members including
much information on WWII Air Mails.

Michael Dobbs of the Forces Postal History Society has written a monograph
entitled *British Intervention in War-torn Sierra Leone 1997-2015*.

Take a look!

Please mention Cameo when responding to Advertisements

WEST AFRICA



OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE

The 1894 unissued essay design by De la Rue, a master Die Proof struck in black on full card – a rare proof – see Ince & Sacher page 191



SAINT HELENA

1922-37 15 Shillings, a superb used copy with clear 13/10/26 datestamp. BPA certificate

GERALD BODILY
P.O. BOX 475, RICHMOND, TW9 4DD

Telephone: +44 208 255 1219

Email: rbcollect@yahoo.co.uk



Murray Payne Ltd

British Commonwealth & King George VI Specialists



Please insert PDF file

FIND OVER 10,000 ITEMS AT WWW.MURRAYPAYNE.COM

SINGLES | BLOCKS | SHEETS | MULTIPLES | POSTMARKS | SPECIMENS | SETS | LITERATURE



We have a comprehensive stock of KGVI British Commonwealth and selected material from other reigns, basic to specialised. Contact us with your requirements or order online.

Murray Payne Ltd, PO Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset,
BS26 2EW, United Kingdom info@murraypayne.com
www.murraypayne.com Tel: +44 (0) 1934 732511



STANLEY GIBBONS

Part of the Stanley Gibbons Group plc

Please mention Cameo when responding to Advertisements

WEST AFRICA OFFERS FROM STOCK

ASCENSION. 1933 1d grey-black and bright blue-green. Very fine used with central ASCENSION c.d.s. SG 11d. £350	NIGER COAST. 1894 '½' on half 1d dull blue. Very fine used on piece with OCR c.d.s. Rare on this shade. SG 57. £400
GAMBIA. 1880 (CC) 1d maroon watermark sideways. Very fine unused. Extremely scarce. SG 12A. £400	NIGERIA. 1940 1d imprint block of 12 including 'A' of 'CA' missing from watermark. Unmounted mint. SG 50ab. £1250
GAMBIA. 1881 2d rose lower-left corner block of four with guide dot in margin. Very fine mint. SG 13B. £200	ST HELENA. 1927 2/6 Badge with broken mainmast. Very fine used with 'JY 26 27' c.d.s. Rare. SG 109a. £1100
GAMBIA. 1898 6d Keyplate block of four including the malformed 'S'. Very fine mint. Exceptionally fresh. SG 43a. £400	SIERRA LEONE. 1905 £1 purple/red. Very fine used with central FREETOWN c.d.s. 'OC 17 12'. Superb. SG 98. £250
GOLD COAST. 1879 2d single and bisect tied to piece by '556' cancels with CAPE COAST CASTLE c.d.s. SG 6a. £375	TOGO. 1915 5pf block of four (Setting 3 : Pos# 6-7, 11-12) Very fine mint. Rare multiple. BPA Cert. SG H30. £550
GOLD COAST. 1889 3d top marginal pair (Pos# 3-4) with smaller letters of value. Unmounted mint. SG 15a var. £65	TOGO. 1915 5/- with no hyphen after 'ANGLO' (Pos# 5). Very fine mint. Rare. SG H44c. £275
NIGER COAST. 1893 ½d on 2½d (Type 9 in violet). Very fine mint. Extremely rare. RPS Cert. SG 34. £5500	TOGO. 1915 20/- left marginal with small 'F' (Pos# 25) Unmounted mint. SG H46a. £275

The above is a selection from my extensive British Commonwealth stock. All items available on approval (subject unsold). Major credit cards accepted. Illustrated lists on request (please advise collecting interests). Wants lists invited.

MARK HARVEY

P O BOX 50
HASLEMERE
SURREY GU27 1WX
Tel: (01428) 642702 Int Tel: (+44) 1428 642702
e-mail: mark@surreystamps.com

Quality British Commonwealth POSTAL HISTORY

Catering to the discriminating collector

Specialising in pre-1953, non-FDC material
We stock all Commonwealth areas except B.N.A.

If you are not already on our Wants register, please drop us a line and let us know your requirements. We shall be pleased to send photocopies of available material.

Willard S. Allman

828, Arrow Lane, Ridgewood
NJ 07450, USA
Tel: 001-201-848-8883
Fax: 001-201-847-8481

SPINK

350TH YEAR

LONDON 1666

WEST AFRICA PRE - U. P. U. POSTAL HISTORY THE JOHN SACHER COLLECTION

13 DECEMBER 2016 | LONDON



For more information, please contact David Parsons:

Tel: +44 (0)20 7563 4072 | Email: dparsons@spink.com

SPINK LONDON | 69 Southampton Row | Bloomsbury | London | WC1B 4ET

LONDON | NEW YORK | HONG KONG | SINGAPORE | LUGANO



#SPINK_AUCTIONS WWW.SPINK.COM

Please mention Cameo when you contact our advertisers.

West Africa

in London



Interesting West Africa material features regularly in our specialised public auctions held in central London, the heart of the global stamp market.

Our high-quality auction catalogues are generously distributed with complimentary copies available on request. Each auction is available to view, with additional illustrations, on our website, www.grosvenorauctions.com

Whether you are considering the sale of the whole or part of your collection we will work with you to ensure that presentation and results meet your highest expectations. Our commission charges are competitive, fully inclusive, and negotiable for valuable consignments.

For further information please contact **Andrew Williams** or **Nick Kerridge** at the address below.

GROSVENOR

399-401 Strand 2nd & 3rd Floors London WC2R 0LT

T: 020 7379 8789 F: 020 7379 9737 E: info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk

www.grosvenorauctions.com