

BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

THE POSTAGE STAMPS

and

POSTAL STATIONERY

of the

COLONY AND PROTECTORATE

of

LAGOS

1874 - 1906

March 1979.

J.F. INCE

THE POSTAGE STAMPS

and

POSTAL STATIONERY

of

LAGOS

I N D E X

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HISTORY

In 1851 the British Navy bombarded Lagos, formerly Eko 'as the owners called it', into submission. Ten years later in 1861 Lagos became a British Colony, the first part of what is now Nigeria to become part of the British Empire.

Lagos was a particularly important centre to control because whoever controlled Lagos could hope to control most of the trade of the Yoruba country which forms the hinterland of Lagos quite apart from the fact that Lagos was the only reasonable port in many hundreds of miles of W. Africa coastline. The usage of Lagos and Badagry as ports to embark slaves had developed and expanded rapidly, following the closure of most other ports to the north by the British West Coast Preventive Squadron on the formal abolition of slavery by Britain, and Lagos as a slaving port continued until the 1860's.

British missionaries had landed at Badagry in 1842 and moved on to Abeokuta in 1846. In 1849 John Beecroft was appointed British Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra and was requested to visit and report on Badagry, Abeokuta and Lagos, and especially the disorganized situation in the hinterland arising from attacks from Dahomey; the break-up of the Oyo empire, and pressure from the Fulani in the north.

He negotiated treaties to abolish slavery with the Egba and sought a similar one for Lagos, supported by four British warships. This was abortive in spite of bombardment, and Beecroft withdrew to be followed by a larger force at Christmas 1851 which was successful, an anti-slavery treaty being signed early in 1852.

As a result European traders began to arrive in Lagos and in the hinterland to be followed by missionaries, freed slaves from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Brazil, Cuba and elsewhere. In 1853 a separate British Consulate was established in the town. By 1860 the British were de facto rulers and in 1861 power was formally handed over as a result of a treaty of cession. This decision by the British was desirable in view of the increasing British activity on the Niger from about 1854. It was hoped to establish an overland route from Lagos to the Niger through Yoruba country, and the town would then become the centre for the export of goods. In addition, both missionary and business pressure had been behind the final decision of the British Government. Thus commenced the period which was eventually to see Lagos called 'The Liverpool of West Africa.'

It was largely due to the presence of these emancipated slaves, whose return had been actively encouraged, which led to the rapid development of Lagos as a commercial centre. Whether they were repatriates from Brazil and the Americas, immigrants from Sierra Leone or Liberia, or just mission educated migrants from

Egbaland, these men were a force in setting Lagos apart as the youngest and fastest growing community on the West Coast. Government was to show its recognition of their importance by setting apart for them a district on the island, and many of the streets of Lagos, viz. Pedro Street, Martin Street, Banghose Street, etc. have been named after them. The following published figures gives an indication of their numbers:

| | |
|------------|------|
| 1871 | 1237 |
| 1881 | 2732 |
| 1888 | 3221 |

In a census of 1888 there were still only 150 Europeans, half being British. Most of the repatriates were proficient in a trade; a good number had acquired an appreciably high standard of education and of cultural sophistication; almost all were Christian. They thus constituted a unique community in a local population which in 1866 totalled some 25,000 and which by 1881 had risen to some 38,000 (excluding those areas now regarded as suburbs such as Ebute Metta.) A thriving local press grew up alongside business which was matched on the social side by an upper class which took pride in its foreign names and its foreign habits of dress and conduct.

The British administration however, did not match up to the growth of Lagos which flourished in spite of the parsimony and distance of the Colonial Office. This was not aided by the rapid turnover of personnel in the Administration. In the period 1870 - 1882 there were 18 changes in the person of the Administrator, an average of 8 months only before going on leave or sick or dying, with disastrous effects on continuity. '... the same planlessness plagued other aspects of Government business in Lagos, the mail service, for example. One Lagosian writing to the newspaper 'Eagle' on 30th June 1883 "that after incessantly hunting the post offices for letters week after week at the sound of every signal and without any success, I at last received on 4th June 1883 a letter at the Post Office which was dated Brass 29th Dec. 1882".'

According to another letter published in the Record of May 1898' .. the unique manner in which our mails are dealt with is, I am sure, without parallel.' The mail boat 'Calenda' was due to arrive at Lagos on 30th May 1898 but the latest time set for receiving mail for this ship was advertized as 5 p.m. Thurs. March 26th, some two months in advance. The staffing of the Post Office was partly responsible for this inefficient system. In a letter of 30th June 1883 to the Eagle, a correspondent had noted that '... the number of staff (postmaster, clerk and messenger) which, almost simultaneously with the cession of Lagos, was considered sufficient to discharge the duties appertaining to that office is the same today (when) commercial men are to be counted by the hundreds, the settlement having arrived at that degree that it has been proverbially denominated the 'Liverpool of West Africa'.

By 1898, the structure of posts within the Post Office Dept. was as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Postmaster | | Salary not given. |
| Chief Clerk | | Maximum £150 p.a. |
| Fourth Class Clerk | " | £ 56 p.a. |
| Fifth | " " | £ 48 p.a. |

'It will thus be seen', as the Record argued in May 1898, 'that in Lagos no provision is made for posts which carry large money responsibilities, while the clerk who has the greatest burden of such responsibility does not receive a salary equivalent to the pay attaching to a sorter in Sierra Leone'

However by Sept. 1898 the Record could report that the construction of Carter Bridge between Lagos and Iddo Island was making rapid progress, and in fact was completed in Oct. 1899 while the Lagos - Ibadan railway, after considerable opposition from Egbaland, was opened in March 1904. On the seafront work was begun in earnest to survey the Lagos Bar which prevented ships above nine feet draught entering the lagoon.

Reference is made to P.O. Beale's study of the Post Office archives and the early Postal History of W. Africa dated Nov. 1972 and published by the Circle. This work shows that the British Post Office in three places in W. Africa employed paid Agents to handle mail, viz. Sierra Leone, Fernando Po and Lagos. Until Oct. 1858 the Falmouth Postmaster made up the W. African mails, after that date the Packets made for Liverpool. Up to this time generally all letters outward were prepaid, those inwards were unpaid. The appointment of Agents and Postmasters enabled senders to W. Africa to pay for some of their mail. This became possible in Lagos when the Consul B. Campbell was appointed Agent by letter dated 22 Feb. 1859, and was empowered to collect postage on letters not passing through the United Kingdom. He was instructed not to collect postage on mail direct to U.K. A circular letter sent, inter alia, to Lagos on 21.10.62 states that prepayment of mail is optional and it would thus appear that the rules were being relaxed. Instructions were sent in May 1859 and again in Aug. 1862 covering every aspect of the handling of mail, marks to be applied to envelopes and the principal rates of charges on mail. (See 'Postal History of Lagos' Sacher 1978).

A postal service had in fact been established in 1851 by the British Postmaster General and mail carrying contracts were awarded in 1852. However it was only following the appointment of an Agent - B. Campbell - in 1859 that the first handstruck stamps were introduced, while the first adhesives were not placed on sale until 1874. It is indeed strange that adhesives were not apparently proposed for use during the brief period 1862 - 1866 and then were introduced in 1874, colonial independence not being granted until 1886. In fact the first steps had been taken in 1868 to prepare adhesives but this was abortive, the reasons not being known.

Although Lagos was not physically occupied until 1861 (see above) it had been placed under the administration of the Gold Coast from 1853. Colonial status was granted to the island in 1862, continuing until 1866 when it was placed under the control of Sierra Leone until 1873. It then reverted to the control of the Gold Coast until Colonial independence came in 1886. The territory was extended by successive treaties until finally the colony and protectorate was assimilated into Southern Nigeria, on 16th Feb. 1906.

ADHESIVE STAMPS

The First Enquiry

The first enquiry for Lagos postage stamps was received by Thomas de la Rue & Son from the Crown Agents on 2nd June 1868 and an estimate was submitted on 4th June, as follows:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------|---|-------|-----|---|
| 6 | Postage stamp dies - duties 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/- | @ £50 | - | £300. | 0. | 0 |
| 6 | " " plates " " | @ £85 | - | £510. | 0. | 0 |
| each plate containing 240 multiples | | | | | | |
| <u>or</u> Dies for the above and plates of 120 multiples | | | | | | |
| <u>or</u> Die and Plate without duty - the value to be inserted | | | | | | |
| | by an overprint (240 multiples) | | | £185. | 0. | 0 |
| <u>or</u> | " " " (120 multiples) | | | £142. | 10. | 0 |
| | Each overprint forme | | | 20. | 0. | 0 |

At this time the inland postal rates of the Colony were:-

| | |
|---|----|
| Letters up to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz in weight | 1d |
| Every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz | 1d |
| Every newspaper | 1d |
| Parcels not exceeding 8 oz | 3d |
| " exceeding 8 oz up to 16 oz. | 6d |
| Letters to other W. African ports per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. | 4d |
| Letters to the United Kingdom per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. | 6d |

A letter from the Colonial Office addressed to the Lagos Council at this time informed the Council members that this request had been refused, and no order was accordingly placed.

It was not until 6th January 1874 that an order was placed by the Crown Agents for a die and keyplate of 60 multiples with four overprint formes (duties 1d, 2d, 4d and 6d) it being stated that the stamps should be of similar design to those supplied to Sierra Leone in 1871, while the cost was not to exceed the sum of £119 for the whole (excluding the actual cost of printing).

In acknowledging the order from the Crown Agents, de la Rue (who were to print all the issues made during the life of the Colony) stated, under date 16th January 1874 "we presume however that while adhering to the general arrangements of the Sierra Leone stamp, you would wish it to be dis-similar in the ornamental details." A design was submitted with this letter (which appears to bear no resemblance to that of Sierra Leone) and it was approved the same day! The

total cost, when invoiced on 12th May was £120.8.10 for an initial supply of 2000 stamps of each value. This compares very favourably with the quotation given in reply to the initial enquiry in 1868.

On 15th October 1874 the Crown Agents ordered two additional duties, viz. 3d and 1/- to complete the issue which cost a further £24.

It is of interest to record that, following de la Rue's request, the Crown Agents gave permission (by letter dated 18th January 1875) for de la Rue to print and hold stocks of stamps for the various colonies against demand, but, if any changes were required, the cost of any consequent unwanted stocks must be for the account of the printers. However no advantage seems to have been taken by de la Rue as regards Lagos issues until 1882.

The Design

Concerning the adopted design, Mr. J. Easton, himself a printer, wrote in his book "The British Postage Stamp Design":-

"The stamp designed for the first issue of this colony is a cross between
"the South Australia Penny of 1876 and of the first St. Christopher issue
"of 1870 and is father of the India nine pies of 1882. The weakness comes
"in on the St. Christopher side of the family and is even accentuated, for
"the lettering in the Lagos design has become confined to two very narrow
"curved panels and is completely swamped by the additional ornamentation.
"The colours of its many values and varieties are always of the pastel
"sort so that it lacks definition, and, by the time it has developed the dull
"mauve with coloured lettering habits of the issues of the late eighties, it
"is bleak indeed."

The St. Christopher issue did initiate the idea for a general keyplate issue for the colonies. It showed an economical design for a uniform series which could be followed, for only a slight adjustment, thus enabling the same plates to be used for another colony. However the opportunity was lost when the Lagos plates were made in 1874, the circle enclosing the head being broken and divided into two panels. In the absence of references to any other design, the assumption must be that the request for a design similar to that of Sierra Leone was tacitly dropped. It is of interest to speculate whether or not the design which may have been prepared following the 1868 request was, in fact, the forerunner, not only of the St. Christopher issue, but the actual adopted design of 1874 thus saving further expense. There would appear to be no record of any designs being submitted so this must remain a matter for conjecture.

Dominica followed the St. Christopher pattern and then came Tobago but, as far as keyplate issues were concerned, it was the Gold Coast design of 1875 which really opened the way for the keyplate issues.

The adopted design for the 1874 Lagos issue with separate duty plates continued in use for all five of the Queen Victoria issues, until replaced by those of King Edward VII. Easton is no more complimentary about these stamps than their predecessors, recording that the later design represented "the worst of all attempts to solve the problem of the Crown, for, in attempting to give it its full due, the name of the colony would appear to have been inserted as an afterthought, in small, insignificant, block letters in a tiny white panel." In fact, the letters of value are some four times the area of 'Lagos'.

Design The chief feature comprises a diademed profile portrait of Queen Victoria, displayed on a closely shaded background, and contained in a double lined circle surmounted by a small arched tablet of solid colour which carries the word 'Lagos' in small uncoloured Roman capitals. Below the circular frame there is an arched tablet enclosing the word 'Postage' in the same type. Ornate foliate designs fill the spandrels which in places encroach upon the narrow band of colour encircling the frame containing the portrait. Across the foot of the stamp is a tablet containing the value in words in 'sans serif' type printed from a separate duty plate at a second impression (one result of this being that the colour of words of value frequently differs from that of the body of the stamp). The whole design is enclosed in a single line of colour.

The engraver is thought to have been M. Jean Ferdinand Joubert, chief engraver to de la Rue at the time.

Plates. Two plates were used for the printing, the key or head plate for the design and a separate duty plate for the value. Key plate No. 1 was used for all values, the stamp being printed in sheets of 60, in ten horizontal rows of six. The margin was without any border line but Key plate No. 1 was printed in white on a ball of colour in the margin above stamp No. 2 and under stamp No. 59. In addition the "current" number (an oblong with voided corners - see illustration) was printed above stamp No. 5 and under stamp No. 56.

This 'current number' was introduced by de la Rue in 1861 to indicate the order of laying down of plates by the printers and was thereafter consecutive regardless of the client country. This practice would appear to have continued until 1874 when colonial issues were each allocated their own sequence of numbers, starting from number one in each case e.g. Lagos 1874 Dominica 1874 Gold Coast 1875 British Guiana 1876 and Jamaica (1875) 2/- No. 2 and 5/- No. 3. The system was later abandoned but appears to have continued until mid-1890. This 'current number' (or plate registration) was added to the completed plate prior to the first impression in the Record or Day Books of the controlling authority. This first impression often (at least with U.K. issues) considerably pre-dated the first use of the plate for a major press run.



Paper and Watermark The paper used was a medium wove for all values, water-marked with a crown over CC, the watermark being so arranged that each stamp

contained a complete design in its centre. In the sheet margins the words 'CROWN COLONIES' were also watermarked in large capitals.

Perforation Perforation was by means of a single line gauge $12\frac{1}{2}$ effected by the Inland Revenue at Somerset House (see also later narrative)

Printings The first despatches of 132 sheets were invoiced by the printers on 12th May 1874 comprising (stamps):

1980 x 1d; 1980 x 2d; 1920 x 4d; 2040 x 6d

An official notice from 'The Secretary's Office, Lagos' dated 10th June 1874 states that "the supply of stamps for postage rates of sixpence, fourpence, twopence and one penny having been received for use of this Settlement, Notice is hereby given that no letters will be received for transmission at the Post Office unless duly stamped."

This date has been accepted as the date of issue, the earliest cancellations seen in the Circle being 18th June 1874.

Early in 1875 the 3d and 1/- values were added to the issue, the duty plates of 60 multiples for these values having been invoiced by de la Rue on 18th November 1874. The earliest recorded dates of use are 17th February 1875 for 3d value, and 3rd March for the 1/- value ($15\frac{1}{2}$ mm)

Sheet printings for the whole issue were:

| <u>Date despatched</u> | <u>1d</u> | <u>2d</u> | <u>3d</u> | <u>4d</u> | <u>6d</u> | <u>1/-</u> |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 12 May 1874 | 33 | 33 | - | 32 | 34 | - |
| 13 Aug " | - | - | - | 36 | 36 | - |
| 14 Sept " | 40 | 42 | - | 42 | 42 | - |
| 18 Nov " | 51 | - | 50 | 53 | 54 | 52 |
| 14 Dec " | 53 | - | 55 | 51 | 54 | 52 |
| 3 Feb. 1875 | 50 | 52 | 50 | 53 | 51 | 50 |
| 13 May " | 103 | 109 | 108 | 105 | 106 | 106 |
| Total in sheets of 60 | 330 | 236 | 263 | 372 | 377 | 260 |
| Total stamps | 19,800 | 14,160 | 15,780 | 22,320 | 22,620 | 15,600 |

Shades As the value was printed at a separate operation there is sometimes a marked difference between the colour of the stamp and that of the value tablet. It has, at times, been suggested that the marked variation which may occur was due to stocks of stamps being maintained by the printers on which the values were later printed and this theory has, in part, been supported by the fact that supplies (excluding the initial delivery of 3d and 1/- values) were sent regularly to the colony every three months. This theory is nullified however by the fact

that de la Rue did not print and hold stamps for Lagos against demand (see earlier). It seems more likely that the variations are due to the usual problem of keeping colours true, as this can be affected in short runs by the colour which was on the rollers prior to the previous wash-up. Eastons 'De la Rue History' refers more than once to the impossibility of maintaining the exact shade through a printing. For catalogue purposes it is desirable to note distinctions where reasonably clear, but in many cases this must be a matter of convenience - not necessarily representing separate printings.

Porter does list the following shade differences in the stamp itself which are not listed by Gibbons:

| | | |
|--------|-----|--|
| No. 2a | 2d | deep blue |
| " 6a | 6d | deep blue green (contrasting with pale blue green) |
| " 8a | 1/- | orange yellow (value $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm) |
| " 9a | 1/- | yellow orange (" $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm) |

From experience, even after allowing for fading due to climatic conditions, these additional listings seem to be justified, while it would appear that, from examples seen cancelled in March 1975, the 6d value with yellow green duty plate may well come from the first printing.

Variety The original duty plate of the 1/- value measured $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm but for some reason this was later replaced by a new duty plate measuring $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm (the measurement being taken from the lettering, not the frame). In addition the final letter on the new duty plate carried a serif capping its upward stroke, the original having no serif viz:

early plate -  : later plate 

M/S Notation A curious manuscript mark in ink has been noted on some earlier printings of the 1d and 6d values, appearing to be an inked letter 'J' without any cross stroke. The examples seen have been cancelled between October and December 1874.

It has been suggested that, as happened in the Falkland Islands, there was a system whereby a person or firm at a distance from the Post Office, sent in letters which were then stamped from a stock already purchased and held for him, the stamps having been marked for identification. This practice would be more credible if stamps had been seen carrying other letters. It may also have been a local type of 'perfin' for security within a local firm, or an official agency. All examples show the letter 'J' in a vertical position immediately in front of the Queen's face and small enough to be unobtrusive. It would perhaps be helpful if an example can be found on cover.

Cancelled/Specimen Copies overprinted 'Cancelled' Type D.7 exist for all values, the 1/- value being the 15½ mm variety. The 1/- value 16½ mm variety carries Type D.4. The 'de la Rue' Records carried an example of each value "Cancelled" for 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d by Type D.7 (14 x 2½ mm) and 3d and 1/- by Type D.4 (15 x 1½ mm).

Copies overprinted "Specimen" in block letters exist for all values (1/- 15½ mm) Type D.11 and also for all values (1/- 16½ mm) Type D.8.

None of these cancelled or specimen examples were sent to the Universal Postal Union.

Samuel also reports the occurrence of 'Specimen' Type D.9 on a cut-down proof from the Key die in lilac (close to the value of the issued one penny value) on glazed card (see below).

Proofs The following are known to exist, some currently being held in the Circle. They include those listed in the Robson Lowe Enc. and have been described in detail in sale catalogues since 1945, especially Porter, Feb. 1956; Hinde Jan. 1959; Danson 1971, and particularly in the Robson Lowe sale catalogue of 21st Dec. 1978:-

1. Essay of one penny with printed head in mauve and hand painted frame, also in mauve, with value in red on glazed card (93 x 61 mm) dated "16 Jan 74" and marked "Approved M. S."
2. Die Proofs (a) On white glazed card and printed in black, a proof from the master die, marked "BEFORE HARDENING" and dated "MAR 25 1874." Value blank.
 - (b) On white glazed card and printed in black. Value blank.
 - (c) On white glazed card and printed in lilac. Value blank. (Porter states this is overprinted 'Specimen' - see Samuel above).
 - (d) On white glazed card, a proof from the master die, marked "BEFORE HARDENING" endorsed in pencil 'penny halfpenny' dated 25 Mar 1874
 - (e) On white glazed card and printed in black, marked "AFTER HARDENING", with value 'penny halfpenny' added (for postal stationery use). Undated. (See also under "Postal Stationery" later herein)
 - (f) On glazed card in black without value expressed, marked "BEFORE HARDENING" and with 'Threepence' in S.E. corner in water colour. Annotated in pencil "This is too small, Mr. W.W.D. says larger" (Mr. William Warren de la Rue was a grandson of the founder, and a partner of the firm at this time).

- (g) On irregular piece, maximum 110 x 42 mm and bearing cut down die proofs of the design without value; 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d value tablets (three cut down to $12\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ mm); piece marked "April 2nd 60 leads each"
- (h) On irregular piece 42 x 46 mm with similar die proofs for 3d and 1/- values each with M/S "Lagos" above, and the piece marked "Oct. 31st 60 leads each plate" and endorsed with red ink (which crosses the 1/-) and dated "Nov. 1874"

3. Plate Proofs (a) 1d as issued but imperforate (R.L. Enc)
(b) 6d as issued but imperforate (green) (held in circle)

NOTE: The Porter Sale catalogue describes 3b as "blue green on Crown C.C. paper", while the Danson sale refers to "C.C. 6d green, an ungummed imprimatur". It has been assumed that both these descriptions refer to the item 3b.

- (c) see page 43

Lagos

1874 (10 June) to 1875 (March) Watermark Crown CC Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$

Typographed by de la Rue & Co.

| <u>R.L.</u> | <u>S.G.</u> | <u>Value</u> | <u>Colour</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 1d | Lilac-mauve |
| 2 | 2 | 2d | blue |
| 3 | 3 | 3d | red-brown |
| - | 4 | 3d | red-brown and chestnut |
| 4 | 5 | 4d | carmine (R.L. rose-carmine) |
| 5 | 6 | 6d | blue-green |
| 6 | 8 | 1/- | orange (value $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm - no serif to G) |
| 7 | 9 | 1/- | orange (" $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm - serif to G) |

LAGOS - ISSUE of 1876

The second issue of the Colony's stamps is believed to have taken place in the latter half of 1876 although the 1/- value was not despatched from London until 26th November 1879 (see 'Printings')

The design and colours are identical to the first issue, the only difference being that the stamps were perforated by a comb machine gauging 14 instead of $12\frac{1}{2}$, although single line (guillotine) perforated examples are reported to exist amongst the first despatches (see 'Perforation').

Copies of this issue bearing a date stamp cancellation are virtually non-existent, compared with the first issue, due to the disappearance at this time of the circular date stamp and its replacement by obliterator type cancellations.

Paper and Watermark. As for 1874/75 issue

Perforation While the gauge recorded in the S.G. Catalogue for this issue is 14, compared with $12\frac{1}{2}$ for the first issue, both line and comb examples are to be found, as happened also at this period from the same printers with the Gold Coast issue.

Easton deals at some length with the question of perforating machines both in his 'De la Rue History' and also in his 'Postage Stamps in the Making'. From the latter it is clear that de la Rue did purchase line perforators as early as 1862, primarily for use on sheets printed from the Perkins Bacon plates. He makes the following relevant points:-

- (a) From 1863 de la Rue used a line $12\frac{1}{2}$ machine for this purpose and it was occasionally used for stamps printed by the letterpress process, either for small orders, or, more probably, during a busy period. Compared with the Indian and Ceylon contracts, the West Africans would have ranked as small.
- (b) A line 14 machine was installed in 1875 and a number of issues printed by letterpress were perforated on it simultaneously with those perforated on the Somerset House comb machines of the same gauge.

(Unfortunately there seems to be no way of proving which sendings were line and which were comb perforated, but there does seem to be some justification for stating that the comb machine was not brought into use by de la Rue until 1880 and that therefore only the 1880 sending was comb perforated. This sending did not include any 1/- values and it would appear that no 1/- comb perforations have as yet been seen.)

- (c) In 1878 de la Rue installed new Comb 14 machines which differed from the Somerset House machines in that the latter produced 'wing margin' copies - as seen especially in Sierra Leone issues. They perforated four panes of 60 stamps but there was only one vertical line of perforations through the centre of the margin dividing the panes, whereas the de la Rue machine had two vertical lines.
- (d) de la Rue took over some of the Somerset House machines in 1876 and the balance in 1880.

(It would seem that the majority of stamps of this issue are line perforated and any reports of the existence of a 1/- comb perforation will be welcomed.)

Printings. The number of sheets invoiced from the printers was:-

| <u>Date despatched</u> | <u>1d</u> | <u>2d</u> | <u>3d</u> | <u>4d</u> | <u>6d</u> | <u>1/-</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 9 May 1876 | 400 | 106 | 105 | 104 | 106 | - |
| 12 Jun 1877 | 206 | 105 | 106 | 203 | 212 | - |
| 28 Aug 1878 | - | 200 | 191 | 250 | 250 | - |
| 23 Jul 1879 | 305 | 105 | - | 102 | - | - |
| 26 Nov 1879 | - | 100 | - | 100 | - | 96 |
| 18 Nov 1880 | 200 | 203 | 100 | 200 | - | - |
| <u>Total of Sheets</u> (60 x 10) | <u>1,111</u> | <u>819</u> | <u>502</u> | <u>959</u> | <u>568</u> | <u>96</u> |
| Totalling - stamps | 66,600 | 49,140 | 30,120 | 57,540 | 34,080 | 5,760 |

In view of the small number printed, mint copies of the 1/- value are difficult to obtain. A surprising feature, in contrast, is the difficulty in obtaining mint copies of the 4d value, which is reflected in the high catalogue value.

Shades The 1d value, printed in lilac-mauve, is also found in a deeper tone of the same shade. This also happens with the 2d blue value.

The 6d value, printed in pale green, occurs also in blue-green.

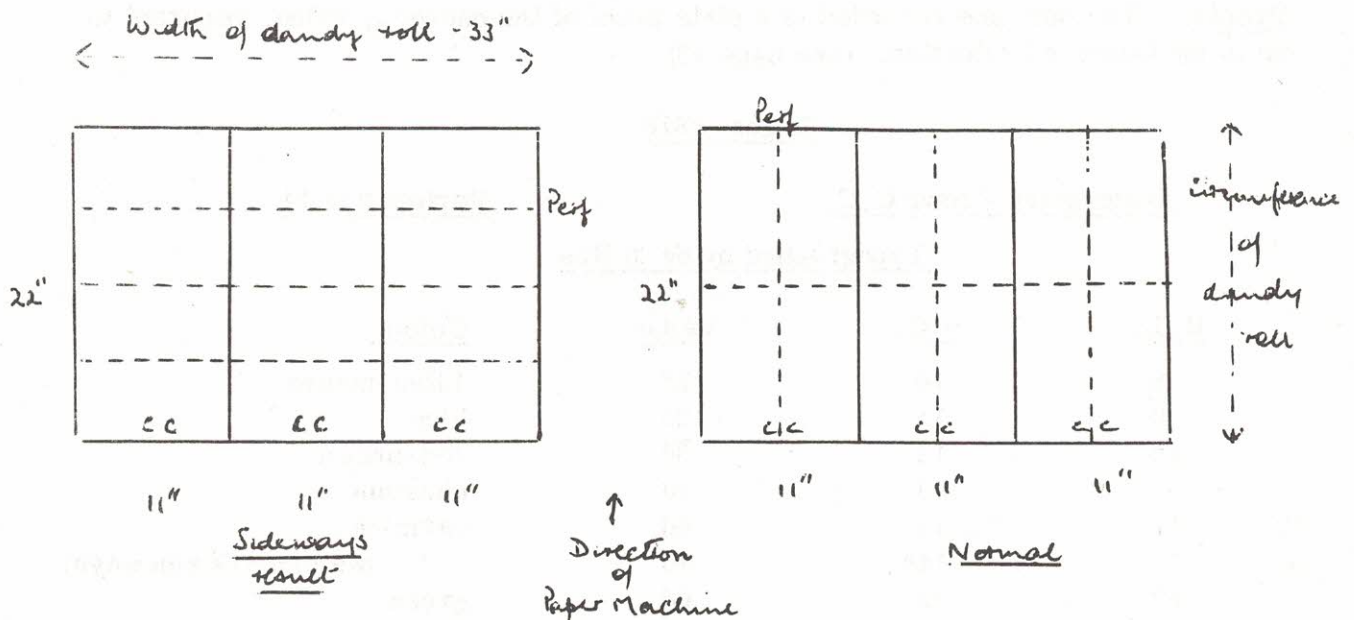
Porter lists these shades but they do not occur in the S.G. Catalogue. Gibbons however separates the 3d value into red-brown and chestnut (differently from the 1874/75 colourings) while the R. L. Enc. lists the 3d value as having 'shades' and describes the 6d value as 'blue-green' compared with Gibbons 'green'. Gibbons description of the 4d value as carmine (as in 1874/75 issue) seems more practical than R. L.'s description in both issues as 'rose-carmine'.

Armstrong records the 1/- value with deep orange as well as orange. As elsewhere, climatic conditions may well have given rise to some apparent shade variations quite apart from inking variations which occurred during any printing run (as pointed out by Easton in his 'De la Rue History etc' - see earlier).

Variety. The feature of this issue is the occurrence of the 4d value where the watermark can be found sideways instead of upright. The sheets of Crown C.C. paper contained 240 watermarks grouped in four panes of sixty, each containing ten horizontal rows of six watermarks, the four panes being divided by plain vertical and horizontal margins, bearing the watermarked inscription "Crown Colonies". In printing the Lagos stamps the sheets of watermarked paper were cut up into panes each designed to take sixty impressions in ten rows of six. I am indebted to Mr. H. Macmillan of the Circle for the following theory as to how this sideways watermark can have occurred.

The dandy roll for the new Crown C.C. paper was 22 inches in circumference and wide enough for three sheets of paper which contained 720 Crowns C.C. with a sheet size of 22 x 11 inches. This sheet size can be cut in two differing ways to produce the smaller sheet of 11 x 5½ inches which was required for the sixty stamps per pane.

This can be illustrated as follows:



Each division of the original sheet, when cut, gives a smaller sheet of 11 x 5½ inches. When the sub-divided sheets of example A are printed they would have to be turned through 90 degrees before being fed into the printing machine; thus the watermark is then 90 degrees out of true i.e. sideways.

The crucial point is the cutting of the watermarked paper into sizes of 11 x 5½ inches. Since the smaller sheets are the same size whichever way the paper is cut, the guillotine operator may not have considered it mattered which way the original sheet was fed into the guillotine. It may have been actual error but since at this period (1872 - 1880) similar examples of stamps with a sideways watermark were occurring from the same printers, it seems more likely that the answer lies in the guillotine operator. Examples are:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sierra Leone | 1872 - 73 | St. Christopher | 1870 - 76 & 1879 |
| Gambia | 1880 | Virgin Islands | 1879 |

Specimens. No examples have been recorded by Samuel, or elsewhere. This is understandable since, except for perforation, this issue is identical to the previous issue.

Imperforates. No examples have been recorded.

Forgeries. All values of this issue were forged by Panelli by line engraving. They are poor forgeries. Generally, the watermark has been impressed and the letters of 'LAGOS' are malformed (especially 'G' and 'S').

Proofs. The only one recorded is a plate proof of the onepenny value, reported to be in the Queen's Collection. (see page 43)

Lagos 1876

Watermark Crown C.C.

Perforation 14

Typographed by de la Rue

| <u>R.L.</u> | <u>S.G.</u> | <u>Value</u> | <u>Colour</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 8 | 10 | 1d | Lilac-mauve |
| 9 | 11 | 2d | blue |
| 10 | 12 | 3d | red-brown |
| - | 13 | 3d | chestnut |
| 11 | 14 | 4d | carmine |
| - | 14a | 4d | " (watermark sideways) |
| 12 | 15 | 6d | green |
| 13 | 16 | 1/- | orange (16½ mm) |

LAGOS - ISSUE OF 1882 - 85

On 1st January 1879, Lagos, in conjunction with other British West African territories, became a member of the Universal Postal Union and in consequence the overseas postal tariff was revised:-

a. To U.K. and other countries in U.P.U.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Letters | 4d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. |
| Newspapers | 1d per 4 oz. |
| Other printed papers | 1/- per lb. |
| or | 3d per 4 oz. |

b. The local postal rate was raised from 1d to 2d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

These new rates were locally notified on 22nd March 1879.

Any colour changes desirable as a result of becoming a member of the U.P.U. were ignored in a new series of stamps issued in 1882 which were now printed on paper watermarked Crown over C.A. (representing Crown Agents for the Colonies), this being considered more appropriate than the former Crown Colony watermark which had frequently been used in printing stamps of British possessions not administered under the Crown Colony system.

In all other respects the 1882 issue was identical with its predecessor and continued to be printed from the original plates of the 1874/75 issue, but the values issued were limited to 1d, 2d, 3d and 4d only. It is noted that the C.A. dandy roller was invoiced on 29th June 1881 and the C.C. bits were then destroyed.

A curious feature of this issue was that, although the first printing was invoiced on 14th February 1882, the stamps were not apparently placed on sale until June although in the meantime a second printing had been invoiced on 5th April. Owing to extensive use of obliterator cancellations at this period, it will only be from evidence from covers that will perhaps clarify the date of issue.

Earlier authorities have included in this issue the 1/- value showing the first despatch on 8th July 1884. This practice was followed in the R.L. Encyclopaedia in the 1949 issue. However Gibbons has, for some years now, included this value as part of the 1884-86 issue which seems more logical and has been followed herein. No 6d value of the earlier issues was printed in the (blue) green colour with a C.A. watermark.

Paper As for previous issues.

Watermark Crown over CA.

Perforation Comb perforation 14.

Printings. Despatches, in total number of stamps, were:-

| <u>Value</u> | <u>First Despatch</u> | <u>Final Despatch</u> | <u>Total Printed</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1d | 14.2.82 | 21.12.85 | 31,980 |
| 2d | " | " | 32,640 |
| 3d | " | 30.6.86 | 24,540 |
| 4d | " | 28.4.84 | 36,240 |

The following points are of interest:-

- (a) 17,820 of the 3d value were not despatched until the period 8.7.1884 to 30.6.1886, when the 1884-86 issue was already current, but that issue carried no 3d value.
- (b) The 2d and 4d values, in mint condition, are comparatively scarce as evidenced by their catalogue values, and yet apparently a greater number of these values was printed than the 1d or 3d values which are relatively common in mint condition.

Shades Porter records deeper shades for both 1d and 2d values, while, as previously, the 4d value is described as carmine by Gibbons and as rose-carmine by the R.L. Enc. the latter probably being based on Porter's notes.

Specimen. The only example reported (by Porter) to exist is for the 3d value, with 'Specimen' written in black diagonally across the stamp. It is not recorded by Samuel as it is not a de la Rue file copy.

Forgeries Forgeries are said to exist for all four values, on forged C A paper. None have been seen by the author.

Plate Proof. The 1d value in colour as issued, perf. 14, but without value is believed to be held in the Queen's Collection. (see page 43 - also 1/- value)

Lagos 1882 (June) - 1885 (March)

Watermark Crown C A

Perforation 14

Typographed by de la Rue & Co.

| <u>R.L.</u> | <u>S.G.</u> | <u>Value</u> | <u>Colour</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 14 | 17 | 1d | lilac-mauve |
| 15 | 18 | 2d | blue |
| 16 | 19 | 3d | chestnut |
| 17 | 20 | 4d | carmine |

Consequent upon the agreements reached within the Universal Postal Union, as from 1st January 1879 member countries gradually brought their issued stamps into conformity with the colour values agreed. Early in June 1883, negotiations began between de la Rue and the Crown Agents for the establishment of a generally accepted scale or scheme for the colours of the colonial postage stamps, bearing in mind that the colours for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d values had been agreed at the Convention viz. green, carmine and bright blue respectively. The new colour scheme was submitted on 28th August (see below) and, belatedly on 7th April 1884 was approved, colours to be changed as fresh supplies ordered. At this stage, the new scheme of colours for colonial stamps only affected the 1d, 2d, 4d and 6d values and as by now Lagos had adopted the quarterly supply system, the first consignment was invoiced on 8th July 1884 comprising 55 sheets x 1d, 58 sheets x 2d, 58 x 4d, 58 x 6d, all in multiples of 60 as hitherto.

(Some confusion has arisen in recent years as Easton allocated the final consignment of the 1882-85 comprising 1d, 2d and 4d values only, to the 1884-86 issue. This seems illogical not only for the few values involved, compared with the values in the despatch of 8th July 1884 (see below), but also because the first stamps of the 1884-86 issue were not placed on sale until December, a date more in keeping with a July despatch. Easton's allocation has therefore not been adopted.)

The 1884-86 issue marked the advent of the halfpenny value but this did not take place immediately. On 13th October 1885 an urgent order for this value was placed with de la Rue & Co. who, two days later, submitted a design in green with delivery promised in three weeks. The overprint "forme" of 60 multiples and 3600 stamps were invoiced on 24th November. There is no reference to any 'Specimens' in the de la Rue records. (see 'Specimens' - below)

In addition, this issue was marked by the first requirement for the higher values of 2/6, 5/- and 10/-. These values were not, in the first instance, ordered for postal purposes but for use by the Registrar in Court in payment of fees, and this was made clear at the time by the Acting Colonial Secretary of Lagos when sending the requisition to the Crown Agents. In fact, apart from the 2/6 value, postally used copies of the 5/- value, and certainly of the 10/- value are virtually non-existent. Stamps seen advertised for sale as "used" are probably only "fiscally used".

This issue is of more than usual interest due to four main features:

- (a) The introduction of a $\frac{1}{2}$ d value.
- (b) The $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values were the first stamps of the Colony to conform to the Universal Postal Union requirements.

- (c) Printings of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values continued to be made until 1901 when, due to wear, a new plate (No. 2) had to be made (see below).
- (d) The three new high values constitute the rarities of the Colony's stamp issues, due to there having been only one small printing and that in a life of only six months they were used primarily for fiscal rather than postal purposes.

Paper and Watermark. As for the 1882-85 issue, with Crown over CA.

Perforation. Comb gauge 14.

Printings. Sheets invoiced were as under.

| Date Despatched | $\frac{1}{2}$ d. | 1d. | 2d. | 3d. | 4d. | 6d. | 1/- | 2/6 | 5/- | 10/- |
|----------------------|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|-----|------|
| 8. 7.84 | | 55 | 58 | 56 | 58 | 58 | 60 | - | - | - |
| 24. 9.84 | | 60 | 60 | - | 60 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16.12.84 | | 57 | 56 | 60 | 60 | 62 | 60 | - | - | - |
| 21. 4.85 | | 58 | 61 | - | 60 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13. 7.85 | | 60 | 61 | 63 | 60 | 60 | 62 | - | - | - |
| 29. 9.85 | | 60 | 63 | - | 60 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 24.11.85 | 60 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 29.12.85 | 62 | 62 | 61 | 60 | 62 | 61 | 60 | - | - | - |
| 29. 3.86 | 61 | 61 | 60 | - | 60 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 30. 6.86 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 58 | 60 | 58 | 60 | - | - | - |
| 12.10.86 | 80 | 75 | 76 | | 76 | 76 | 68 | 15 | 10 | 7 |
| 13.12.86 | 82 | 82 | 80 | | 80 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Sheets | 405 | 690 | 696 | 297 | 696 | 375 | 370 | 15 | 10 | 7 |
| Total stamps printed | 24,300 | 41,400 | 41,760 | 17,820 | 41,760 | 22,500 | 22,200 | 900 | 600 | 420 |

The following additional despatches were made from printings off Plate I of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values between 31st March 1887 to 25th October 1900:

$\frac{1}{2}$ d value - 34 despatches totalling 805980 stamps.

1d value - 36 " " 687,660 stamps.

By the end of 1900, the original plate (which had been made for the first issue in 1874) was showing signs of wear, stamps printed from it being blurred and indistinct. The plate was therefore discarded and a new one brought into use.

The only difference between the two plates was that the second plate had the numeral "2" printed in white in a ball of colour in all four corners of the sheet margin and, in addition, the margin had a continuous 'Jubilee' line of colour enclosing the pane printed in the same colour as the stamp itself. By this time the practice of printing a 'current' number had been discontinued.

The only values printed from Plate 2 were the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d (1884-86) and the 6d and 1/- (1887-1903, see later).

There were only two printings of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values from this new plate and these were despatched as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| First printing - 19 Aug. 1901 | 1641 x $\frac{1}{2}$ d, | 2225 x 1d (sheets) |
| Second " - 29 Aug. 1902 | 2022 x $\frac{1}{2}$ d, | 4040 x 1d (") |
| Total stamps | 219,780 ($\frac{1}{2}$ d) | 375,900 (1d) |

In the event, 105,900 of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d value are reported to have been returned later to the Crown Agents in London where they were destroyed.

Printings from Plate 2 are characterised by thicker letters in the duty plate.

Shades Porter lists the following, with the S.G. colour description shown in brackets:-

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ d (dull green) | - dull yellow green |
| | - dull blue green |
| | - dull pale green |
| 1d (rose-carmine) | - rose |
| | - rose-carmine |
| | - deep carmine (almost aniline) |
| 2d (grey) | - grey |
| | - slate grey |
| 4d (pale violet) | - pale violet |
| | - violet |

The later printings of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d can be readily identified by the deeper and darker shades, as indicated, and of course are much more common than the earlier ones.

Varieties The 1d value is known

- (a) With watermark inverted
- (b) With value omitted

The 2d value has been reported with value omitted.

In addition malformation of letters in the duty plate occur on $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d values.

Specimens Samuel notes that while values $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 4d and 6d were overprinted Type D.12, these were not however in the de la Rue reference book and are probably unique. However, in the Robson Lowe sale of 21st December 1978 (which included items from the de la Rue records) Lot 1245 comprised a page, apparently from the records, which included values of the 1884-86 issue, overprinted specimen, viz. $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 6d, 2/6, 5/-, 10/- all Type D.12.

In addition copies overprinted Type D.12 of the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values are held in the Circle.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values exist with "Specimen" appearing in manuscript and examples are held in the Circle. Samuel notes that examples thereof did not appear in the de la Rue collection and that their authenticity is doubtful.

Porter refers to 400 copies of the 1d value from the despatch of 31st March 1887 being overprinted 'Specimen'. However there is no record of this in the de la Rue invoices of that period and Samuel makes no reference thereto. Further, no examples have appeared in sale catalogues in recent years and Porter's statement therefore awaits confirmation.

Forgeries. The higher values 2/6, 5/- and 10/- were forged by Sperati, on genuine watermarked paper, both mint and used copies exist. They are of high quality and these values should only be acquired on an expert certificate (See the standard reference book "The work of Jean de Sperati" B.P.A. 1954). Strangely, identification can often be made by the fact that the reverse of the stamp usually carried (in light rubber stamp impression) the words "Sperati reproduction" accompanied by a manuscript number (enclosed by the words) either '12' or '59'.

"The Works of Jean de Sperati", published by The British Philatelic Association in 1953, gives tests which can be applied. Generally under an ultra violet lamp the 2/6 Sperati is brown (the genuine is black); the Sperati 5/- is prussian blue (the genuine is blue); the Sperati 10/- is pale purple (the genuine is deep purple).

The Sperati print under 10 power magnification shows roughness in the line work while the genuine has sharp well defined lines. Also, the Sperati show less white space between the line work than does the genuine while the fine shading is frequently not continuous on the Sperati.

Sperati's products are frequently signed by him and also, under an ultra violet light, they show up a greyish tinge due to his bleaching of the paper.

In addition Panelli issued forgeries of values 6d to 10/-. These are lithographed (instead of being engraved like the Sperati issues) on paper perf. 14 with forged impressed watermark Crown CA. These forgeries are comparatively easy to identify. The colouring, especially on the higher values is too light; the watermark, being impressed, is often indistinct, while the lettering of 'LAGOS' shows malformation, especially the 'G' and 'S'.

Proofs. The following are known:

$\frac{1}{2}$ d - essay, an imperforate proof in green without value on unwatermarked paper, affixed to piece, with hand painted "Halfpenny" value tablet below, initialled and dated "15 Oct 85"

$\frac{1}{2}$ d - die proof of the value tablet, m/s "Lagos" above, affixed to piece marked "Oct 29 60 leads" and with red ink (Nov) "24 89" date

1d - no examples recorded

2d, 4d, 6d - on watermarked paper, imperf. plate proofs in issued colours.

6d - perf. 14, olive, with value omitted (Danson sale)

1/- - an imperforate copy of the 1/- value, as issued (Porter)

2/6, 5/-) One set is reported to be in the Queen's collection *

& 10/-) Also, die proofs of the value tablets, each with m/s "Lagos" above, affixed to piece and marked "Sept 22 60 leads off each" and with red ink date "Oct 11 86"

* Correction: see page 43

Colour Trials

- (a) On unwatermarked paper perf 14, first in green with value in mauve brown, and blue; second, in lilac with value in black, mauve, purple, green and blue (R.L. Enc Vol. 2 as amended)

NOTE: A $\frac{1}{2}$ d 'proof' perf 14 on unwatermarked paper, green, with value in black was so described in a Harmer sale catalogue 28.11.1961. It has been assumed that this is included in the colour trials detailed in the R.L. Enc. Vol. 2 as amended.

- (b) A sheet (205 x 335mm) dated "Aug. 28/83" and marked "Existing proposed Schemes of Colours" was offered for sale on 21.12.78 comprising the following:-

"1874-75 1d to 1/-, the six values bracketed as "existing colours"; the 3d and 1/- marked "This colour cannot be improved upon" with overlap bearing designs (without value, perf. 14, on CA paper) for the 1d in red marked "Proposed colour being that established by the International Postal Convention for this duty"; 2d in grey, 4d on pale violet and 6d in olive green, these last three marked "Proposed colour".

- (c) Piece (167 x 243mm) dated "Feb. 14'87" was also in the sale of 21.12.78, and entitled and bearing (perforated) "Specimen of $\frac{1}{2}$ d Postage stamp printed and overprinted in singly fugitive green and overprinted in singly fugitive black", the first on CA paper, the last on apparently unwatermarked paper.
- (d) $\frac{1}{2}$ d as issued but on unwatermarked paper.

LAGOS 1884 - 1886

Watermark Crown CA

Perforation 14

Typographed by de la Rue & Co.

| <u>RL</u> | <u>SG</u> | <u>Value</u> | <u>Colour</u> |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| 19 | 21 | $\frac{1}{2}$ d | dull green |
| 20 | 22 | 1d. | rose carmine |
| 21 | 23 | 2d | grey |
| 22 | 24 | 4d | pale violet |
| 23 | 25 | 6d | olive green |
| - | 26 | 1/- | orange |
| 24 | 27 | 2/6 | olive black |
| 25 | 28 | 5/- | blue |
| 26 | 29 | 10/- | purple brown |

LAGOS - ISSUE OF 1887 - 1902

This issue ushered in the real key plate series, the plates which had already served since the first issue in 1874 continuing to be used but now the duty plate was printed in a different colour (except for the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value). Apart from the duty plate which was printed in a single fugitive colour, stamps were now printed in the new doubly fugitive ink which was limited at this time to green and purple - with the sole exception of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value in blue which was introduced to meet the new (Postal Union) rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d per half ounce for letters to other countries within the Union. Further new values of 5d, $7\frac{1}{2}$ d and 10d were introduced, being first despatched on 30th Dec. 1893, to facilitate pre-payment of registration fees on parcels etc. - 5d up to £12 in value, $7\frac{1}{2}$ d up to £24 and 10d up to £36. (The charge by the printers for these three new overprint formes was £36). The $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values of the 1884-86 issue continued to be printed.

It is difficult to understand why the three high values of the 1884-86 issue were now reprinted in the new ink when only single fugitive ink was being used for the value tablets, with all the attendant risk of cleaning and forgery.

It had been towards the end of 1886, when the new series was being ordered, that consideration had been given to the use of the new doubly fugitive inks by the Crown Agents and the printers. However on 13th October the Colony had queried whether the use of the purple and green inks "will not conflict with the arrangements made as to colours with International Postal Union." De la Rue replied on 19th Nov. that Great Britain herself in the 'Jubilee' issue had already ignored the new international colours; while in any case both the Crown Agents and the Inland Revenue had become wedded to the fact that this was the only possible type of ink for use on revenue stamps. As a result, except on the existing $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values of the 1884-86 issue, and the new blue $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value, the new issue was printed solely in the two colours of the doubly fugitive inks.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value of this issue is remarkable for the fact that there are two distinct types of duty value and both seem to have been used in the various printings which were made during the period of the issue; and this peculiarity continued into the King Edward issues. The first type comprises small type while the fraction bar to " $\frac{1}{2}$ " has a straight top; in the other, the letters are slightly larger and bolder, and the fraction bar is slightly curved on the top, almost resembling a serif. According to the S.G. catalogue valuation, the type with the larger lettering is more uncommon and commands a much higher valuation - which is in direct contrast to the apparent occurrence of the two types in the 1904 and 1904/5 values of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

There appears to be no record of two duty plates being used either on the Q.V. or the K.E. issues and therefore conceivably two types were mixed on the same plate. Although no official advices exist, it has been estimated that approx. 25% of the Q.V. 2½d stamps were printed with the large type value (which would represent about 107,100 stamps), the balance (321,030 stamps) being the small type. This results in the former being three times as scarce as the latter which conforms with the S.G. valuation.

As already noted, due to wear Plate 1 had to be replaced by late 1901 and a new Plate 2 was brought into use, primarily for printing further supplies of ½d and 1d values, but it was also used for one printing each of the 6d and 1/- values of the 1887-1902 issue. Printings from this Plate 2 of the ½d and 1d values are characterised by thicker lettering of the duty plate while, on the 6d value, the colour used for the value tablet was changed from mauve to aniline carmine. In addition to these distinctions, on Plate 2 the plate numbers appear in white upon a solid circle of colour in all four corners of the sheet, and each sheet is circled by a continuous marginal line in the colour of the body of the stamp. This line, known as the 'Jubilee' line, was produced by a metal band, level with the face of the plate, placed around it by the printers to ensure even wear. Also, as by this date the Board of Inland Revenue had abandoned the current number method of plate registration, no current number in oblong box with voided corners was printed in the margin as with the issues printed with Plate 1.

Printings The following table summarises total printings.

| Value | First Despatch date | Final Despatch date | Total Sent | Remainders Destroyed |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 2d | 31. 3. 87 | 19. 8. 1901 | 448,800 | 244,260 |
| 2½d | 15. 4. 91 | " | 428,040 | - |
| 3d | 19.12.90 | " | 143,820 | 85,800 |
| 4d | 31. 3. 87 | " | 258,540 | 107,880 |
| 5d | 30.12.93 | " | 92,160 | 57,540 |
| 6d | 31. 3. 87 | 4. 8. 1900 | 86,340 | 23,400 |
| 7½d | 30.12.93 | 19. 8. 1901 | 55,620 | 32,760 |
| 10d | 30.12.93 | " | 43,380 | 23,100 |
| 1/- | 31. 3. 87 | 4. 8. 1900 | 86,460 | 26,220 |
| 2/6 | " | 19. 8. 1901 | 28,260 | 18,060 |
| 5/- | " | " | 28,320 | 18,900 |
| 10/- | " | " | 24,720 | 13,620 |

In addition to the above remainders, at the same time (1905) 105,900 of the ½d value (1884-86) were also sent to London for destruction.

- Shades The colourings vary throughout the different printings
- Green. The first printings were in a dull shade of yellow green and the stamps show brownish gum while later printings varied from a dull blue-green to a grey-green with white gum.
 - Mauves. These are particularly dull and are found in very pale shades and also deeper tones. The gum also varies from brown to white.
 - Blue. The 2½d shades of blue vary considerably from bright ultramarine to pale and there is a scarce printing in blue which is catalogued separately.

As already stated the only printing of the 6d value from Plate 2, the value tablet is in aniline carmine compared with the original mauve.

Varieties Examples are known to occur with malformed or broken letters in the duty plates of the 2d, 2½d and 4d values while, possibly due to overinking, the 2½d ultramarine is known with a thicker outer frame line. The value tablet in many examples is not centred.

An example exists (currently in the Circle) of the 10d value with an olive colour duty plate instead of yellow.

Porter records a 1/- blue-green without watermark.

As already recorded, the letters and figures of the duty plate of the 2½d value occur in larger form viz. SG 31a.

Imperforate No examples have been recorded.

Forgeries Surprisingly, none have been recorded.

Specimen a) All values (as shown in the printing table) were overprinted by de la Rue with Specimen type D.12 (sets are held in the Circle) 400 of each value were supplied to the U.P.U. between 1887 and 1893.
b) Values 2d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- occur with 'Specimen' in manuscript (one such set is held in the Circle). These did not come from the de la Rue files and are thus not recorded by Samuel.

Essay The following entry appeared in the Robson Lowe Sale Catalogue of 21.12.78, lot 1262:-

"Appendix sheet (190 x 282mm) dated Oct. 6 1893 with three imperforate proofs without value in dull mauve with "Five Pence" in green, "7½ penny" in red, penny crossed out and "Pence" written alongside, and "Tenpence" in yellow, each value hand-painted and each initialled in red.

Proofs a) ½d in mauve and brown, perforated.
b) Die proof of the value tablet m/s "Lagos" above for 2½d duty, fixed to piece (53 x 28mm) marked "March 13 60 leads" and with old ink "(Apr) 15. 91"

- c) Imperforate plate proofs of the 5d, 7½d, 10d as issued, approved 17 Oct. 1893. (see page 43)

Colour Trials

a) The Robson Lowe Sale Catalogue, lot 1263, reads as follows:-
"Appendix sheet (185 x 335mm) dated "Aug. 28 86" and entitled "Scheme showing how the Lagos Postage Stamps could be printed in 'Doubly Fugitive' inks, and overprinted in different coloured 'singly fugitive' inks to distinguish duties" and comprising the bi-coloured ½d perforated colour trials on unwatermarked paper with suggested ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values written alongside; all colours were accepted but for the ½d in mauve and green, 1d in mauve and red and 1/- green and blue-green."

b) The Danson Sale Catalogue of 10.3.71 lot 1536 reads:-
"1887-93, a set of ½d colour trials on unwatermarked paper in the colours of the 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 2/6, 5/- and 10/-, the stamps have been severed with scissors so a few have some perfs clipped and the 6d has a fault."

NOTE: The lot described in (a) was a trial carried out to distinguish between the ½d and 1/- values.

The final colours were approved on 14 Feb. 1887.

c) The Danson Sale also included an "1887 1/- colour trial as issued but on unwatermarked paper". This presumably is the item referred to by Porter as a variety "... a mint specimen of the 1/- value without watermark."

Lagos

1887 (Mar) - 1902

WMK Crown CA

Perf 14.

Typographed by de la Rue & Co.

| <u>RL</u> | <u>S.G.</u> | <u>Value</u> | <u>Colour</u> |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 27 | 30 | 2d | dull mauve and blue |
| 28 | 31 | 2½d | ultramarine |
| - | 31a | 2½d | " (larger value & letters) |
| 29 | 31b | 2½d | blue |
| 30 | 32 | 3d | dull mauve and chestnut |
| 31 | 33 | 4d | dull mauve and black |
| 32 | 34 | 5d | dull mauve and green |
| 33 | 35 | 6d | dull mauve and mauve |
| 34* | 35a | 6d | dull mauve and carmine |
| 35 | 36 | 7½d | dull mauve and carmine |
| 36 | 37 | 10d | dull mauve and yellow |
| 37 | 38 | 1/- | yellow green and black |
| - | 38a | 1/- | blue green and black |
| 38 | 39 | 2/6 | green and carmine |
| 39 | 40 | 5/- | green and blue |
| 40 | 41 | 10/- | green and brown |

*R.L. describes colour as dull mauve and carmine (aniline)

GUMMING DIFFICULTIES

Printers - Thomas de la Rue & Co.

Issues 1882, 1884-86 and 1887-1902

During the period 1884-1891 a series of complaints was received by de la Rue from the Crown Agents to the effect that certain colonies were experiencing difficulties concerning the gumming of stamps sent to them.

Initially complaints were received of sheets adhering together. Inter-leaving and packing and storage in airtight cases (to offset the effects of humidity) was proposed and adopted. Later the complaints indicated an insufficiency of gum. Lagos was one of these complainants.

Gumming by machine instead of by hand had been introduced in the de la Rue works in 1880.

Although de la Rue & Co. strongly resisted the suggestion that there was any fault in the gum (and in this they were ultimately vindicated) it was agreed that a slightly thicker layer of gum would be applied in future supplies (including those to Lagos); that sheets be interleaved and consignments despatched in sealed tin box in future.

Climatic conditions probably resulted in some discoloration of the gum - over the years - browning varying according to whether the printing was earlier than the double gumming or later. On the direction of the Crown Agents, double gumming was effected on all Lagos despatches after April 1886.

In fact, the machine gumming included a filtering process which tended to make the finished article clearer and more transparent.

Arising from these gumming difficulties, a local board reported on 6th April 1894 that the following stamps had been found to be so gummed together as to be useless for sale:-

| | 17 sheets and 10 stamps 1d value | (2050 stamps) |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 155 | " " 30 " 2d " | (18600 ") |
| 13 | " " 1 " 2½ " | (1561 ") |
| 42 | " " 2 " 4d " | (5042 ") |
| 60 | " " Nil " 1/- " | (7200 ") |

How many of these stamps related to the 1884-86 (at least the 1d value) and to the 1887-1902 issues was not stated.

Additionally of interest, the same board sought permission to destroy 992 x 1½d reply post cards "no longer used" - presumably consequent upon the change in rate to one penny.

OVERPRINT PROPOSAL

In June 1892, a proposal was made from the Colony for the printers to overprint certain stocks of six existing duties with values 1d, 2d and 2½d. In view of the cost of preparing "three temporary overprint plates" for these values, and the fact that "two different kinds of stamp would bear the same overprint leading to possible confusion", the proposal was dropped. It was recommended that the better course would be for the Colony to destroy stocks rather than overprint, but it seems no further action was taken.

LAGOS - PROVISIONAL ISSUE AUGUST 1893

The only occasion when resort had to be made locally to overcome a temporary shortage of any stamp in current issue occurred in 1893 with the local overprinting of the 1887-1902 4d value in order to create an immediate supply of halfpenny values. It is pertinent to note that at about this time similar shortages occurred with other colonies for which the Crown Agents acted. Was this a conscious attempt to run down stocks in anticipation (mistakenly) of the early introduction of the Imperial Penny Post, agitation for which was then prevalent?

Between the date of the first despatch of the halfpenny stamps (1884-86 issue) in 1885 and 1890 over 320 sheets were invoiced by the printers in each year. However, in 1891 only 70 sheets were sent; 70 again in 1892 and 107 between January and September 1893, until, suddenly, to meet the not unsurprising shortage 216 sheets were despatched on 30th December and nearly 800 sheets in 1894 as a result of telephone and cabled requests. Thereafter annual sendings rose to over 1600 sheets in each of 1895 and 1896 and to 1600 sheets per calendar quarter subsequently. The rising demand for this value is thus clear and may have been increased with the earlier introduction of the 2½d overseas rate. Certainly the cutback in requisitions in the crucial years 1891, 1892 and 1893 was either ill-judged locally or ill-judged by superior authority in the U.K.

The total number of 4d stamps of the 1887-1902 issue so overprinted is not known but of the 258,540 despatched to Lagos 107,880 are known to have been remaindered and sent to London for destruction, leaving only 150,660 for use at the 4d rate and for overprinting. However, sendings to September 5th 1893 had totalled only 1815 sheets (108,900 stamps) and the bulk would have already been used for postal and revenue requirements. Bearing in mind the need to leave some in stock, it seems reasonable to hazard a total overprinting of probably not more than 20,000 stamps; although the gap of five to six months which elapsed until fresh supplies of halfpenny stamps arrived may well have required further overprintings and which possibly explains why there were several different printings of the surcharge.

Design. The surcharge, in black ink, comprised the words "Halfpenny" in one line of small Roman capitals and, below, two horizontal bars cancelling the original "fourpence". In fact, the supply of ink was such in most examples that for a long time the consequent merging of the two bars was thought to comprise one bar only. In lightly printed copies the two bars are distinct.

Date of Use. The earliest recorded date of use so far is 2nd August 1893.

Overprinting. The overprinting was carried out in Lagos by printers who were clearly inexperienced in this kind of work for the results carry numerous examples of partly double surcharges, double surcharges, badly printed letters, missing serifs, raised and dropped letters, altered bar positions etc. Many of the alleged double and even treble surcharges are, in reality, "Kiss" prints and not true doubling and trebling, due to rocking of the type (see later).

However enough of the errors and faults are sufficiently constant to enable an attempt to be made at identifying the separate printings but this is rendered more difficult by apparent movement of type during printing.

Pemberton (Philatelic Journal of Great Britain Vol. 45 No. 537) came to the conclusion that there were six separate printings. Porter subsequently reduced this to four but his classifications clearly do not cover adequately the examples which have been available for study to the writer and to another member of the Circle, Mr. R.B. Sanderson, both having independently each made a study of their own (approx) one hundred specimens. In addition, a whole sheet has been made available for examination. It has been considered, as a result, that Pemberton's classification covers the possibilities more satisfactorily than Porter's (as listed in "Stamp Collecting" 1936, issues of 16th May, 20th and 27th June and 15th August). Pemberton's classification is summarised herewith, but clearly this subject requires further detailed study if firm conclusions are to be reached.

Classifications

Pemberton concluded that there were two main varieties with five separate printings of Variety 1 and only one of Variety 2.

Variety 1: The words 'Half Penny' measure 16mm in length; the space between them is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm, measuring from the central tongue of F to the horizontal stroke of P. The bars obliterating the original value are $16\frac{3}{4}$ to 17mm long and those in each pair are either equal in length or within a fraction of being so; they are placed one above the other so that neither juts out appreciably beyond the other at either end.

Variety 2: The words measure $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm (from upper serif on F to stem of P) and the space between them is 2mm. The bars vary in length from $16\frac{1}{2}$ to 17mm and are not centred exactly over one another, though in one of the types both are $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm long and the upper is only very slightly more to the right than the other.

NOTE: The two varieties never occur on the same sheet.

Types of Variety 1.

There are four types of Variety 1 of which one is recognisable only because it exhibits none of the characteristics of any of the others and is, in effect, normal.

The following are the peculiarities by which the types may be recognised but identification can be complicated (or even mistaken) due to over inking or blurred impressions.

Type 1. There is no serif at the top left hand side of 'E', while the 'P' is set slightly lower than the 'E'.

Type 1a. As above but with a smudged dot in centre of loop of 'P'.

Type 2. The cross bar at the top of 'L' slopes down at left. There is virtually no serif to the right of the foot of right hand vertical stroke of 'H'.

Type 2a. As above but the two letters 'N' are spaced further apart.

Type 3. The 'H' is set slightly lower than 'A'.

Type 3a. As above, but showing small irregular shaped blot of ink between tongue of 'E' and top of that letter. In later printings the tongue often fails completely but the blot always remains.

Type 4. No abnormalities.

The obliterating bars were re-set for each printing and so vary in position in relation to the words with each setting.

Printings of Variety 1.

Pemberton was satisfied from his detailed studies that in all the printings, the bars were set up and printed with the words of the surcharge (and not in a separate operation) due to the fact that, within all settings, the words and bars in any given type are always in exactly the same relative position and also by the fact that in all types and settings the words and bars are exactly 7mm apart.

He also concluded that the sheets were surcharged from a small setting of two in one printing (probably the first) and from a setting of three in subsequent printings.

Printing A. This is made up of Types 1 and 2 in horizontal pairs and in that order. That each pair was printed separately seems proved by the spacing and by the slanting position of some pairs of the surcharges when compared with adjoining pairs. This printing would appear to be scarce.

Printing B. This is probably the first of the triplet settings. Pemberton reports seeing a block of eight stamps from this printing cancelled on 33.10.93, made up of Type 3, 1 and 2 (in that order) which would have been repeated regularly twenty times on a sheet of sixty.

Printing C. This triplet setting is made up of Types 3a, 1 and 2 repeated regularly twenty times on the sheet of sixty stamps. In this printing the words of the surcharge are more misplaced in relation to the bars than in any other. Pemberton believed this to be the most common of the printings and had seen used examples dated between 24.8.93 to 19.11.94.

Printing D. This was probably the last triplet setting to contain the main types 1, 2 and 3 which had become worn and battered. The actual types used and identified by Pemberton were Types 1a, 2a and 3a but his examples were in single stamps so he could not conclude their order. This printing was notable in having the words of the surcharge perfectly centred over the bars.

Printing E. This triplet setting comprised solely Type 4, and the relative positions of the words and bars are fairly even throughout, though not so exact as in Printing D. Pemberton had not seen any used example of this printing.

Double or Treble Prints

As already stated these are quite common but these are mostly 'Kiss' prints where the type has slipped. Examples where the double surcharge is clear and distinct are rare. There are cases where the words only and not the bars are double and an even more satisfactory variety exists where the bars only are double. This was done intentionally where the surcharge was printed either too high or too low so that the 'Fourpence' had been left exposed. In such cases the printer stamped a second surcharge of the bars only.

Printing of Variety 2

This was made with a set of three types surcharging a pane of 60 stamps at twenty operations. The types show no peculiarities in the lettering of the words of the surcharge but can be recognised by the bars.

Type 5 Upper bar measures $16\frac{1}{2}$ and the lower 17mm, the latter projecting slightly at each end.

Type 6. Both bars measure $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm, the upper projecting very slightly at right.

Type 7. Upper bar measures 17 and the lower $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm, the lower lapping fractionally at left and quite definitely the upper overlapping at right.

Twopence Overprint

Two examples exist of the 1887-1902 TWOPENCE value carrying the halfpenny surcharge. An unused copy is in the R.P.S. Reference Collection and a used copy (with barred oval cancellation) carrying an R.P.S. Certificate realised £1050 in the March 1971 Danson Sale. It is believed to be this second copy which Pemberton examined and he concluded that the surcharge was Variety 2 Type 7. (see page 43)

Generally

It would seem that Porter and Pemberton agree roughly on printings A and B, Porter's "D" is approximately covered by Pemberton's Variety 2. Thereafter it is difficult to compare. Clearly neither Pemberton nor Porter had the complete answer and this could in due course be the subject of a supplement to this bulletin.

Lagos

| <u>1893 (Aug.)</u> | | <u>Provisional Issue</u> | <u>Local Surcharge</u> |
|--------------------|------------|---|------------------------|
| <u>R L</u> | <u>S G</u> | <u>Value</u> | |
| 41 | 42 | $\frac{1}{2}$ d on 4d (R.L. 31, S G 33) | |
| - | 42a | Surcharge double | |
| - | 42b | " treble | |
| - | 42c | Error - $\frac{1}{2}$ d on 2d (R L 27 S G 30) | |

LAGOS - ISSUE OF 1904

Although the Colony achieved the distinction of being the last of the British overseas possessions to change to the King Edward design, at least the issue date, 22nd January, commemorated the anniversary of the King's accession. The first despatches of the new stamps had been made on 12th March 1903 of all values and were only followed by consignments of the 2½d value. The short life of the issue was due primarily to the adoption by the Crown Agents early in 1904 of a new paper with a multiple form of watermark (see 1904/5 issue). Because of this short life and the consequent low numbers printed, the higher values of 2/6, 5/- and 10/- have appreciated in value. Notably, the 4d, 5d, 7½d and 10d values were omitted.

Design. After a design almost unchanged for 30 years, the first change was now made, but there was little variation in general appearance. The uncrowned head of King Edward, taken from a portrait by Emil Fuch, replaced the Queen's head in the centre of a double ringed circle which was shaded, as previously, by fine horizontal lines. Breaking the circle at the top was a royal crown and at the base appeared a small oblong tablet containing the name 'Lagos'. Curved scrolls conforming to the radius of the circle were arranged at each side of this tablet and contained the words 'Postage' on the left and 'Revenue' on the right thus defining the dual application which was now general with stamps issued through the Crown Agents. At the foot of the stamp was placed the value tablet, as previously, the whole design being surrounded by a single lined frame (see also comments by Easton in the introduction to this bulletin).

Plates. As with the Q. V. issues, the keyplate principle continued to be used, the key or head plate for the design and a separate duty plate for the value. The stamps were again printed in sheets of 120 stamps comprising two panes of 60 stamps each, side by side, each containing ten horizontal rows of six stamps with a continuous, coloured, Jubilee marginal line around each pane, and the plate number "1" in all four corners of the sheet. The key plate and overprint plates were destroyed in September 1906.

Paper and Watermark. Medium wove paper was employed, red in colour for the 1d, blue for 2½d and white for all other values.

The watermark was a simple crown over 'C.A.'

Perforation. Comb perforation 14 for all values.

Imperforate. See 'Specimens' and 'Proofs'.

Printings. Only one printing of each value was made, except for 2½d and this printing was despatched on 12th March 1903. Surprisingly it was ten months before these stamps were placed on sale (22nd Jan. 1904) and even then the 10/- value was held over until November.

Quantities printed were:-

| Value | ½d | 1d | 2d | 2½d | 3d | 6d | 1/- | 2/6 | 5/- | 10/- |
|-------|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|
|-------|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|

Total Stamps:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| 12.3.1903 | 60,000 | 210,960 | 17,760 | 24,720 | 23,760 | 12,000 | 9,360 | 1,440 | 1,680 | 720 |
| 30.7.1904 | - | - | - | 60,720 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Specimens. All values were overprinted "Specimen" in black for Postal Union purposes, a total of 727 of each value being so overprinted - Samuel Type D12. The D.L.R. records contained one of each value, each attached to small piece, and overprinted "Specimen" Type 12, the ½d being dated "Mar. 03" and the 1d marked "1d ovpt 120 set": also the penny value, in all the issued colours, imperforate and overprinted Type D.12.

Variety. a) The 2½d value occurs with SMALLER letters and figures of value (see 1887-1902 variety). These occur in the first printing and are the more rare compared with the larger, 24,720 stamps of the first printing comparing with 60,720 in the second. The R.L. Enc. stated that the variety was the larger but this was subsequently amended to conform with the S.G. Catalogue. *As stated in the similar variety of the 2½d of the 1887-1902 issue, a duty plate of another Colony may have been used*
b) The 2½d occurs with an inverted watermark in the smaller variety.

Essay. a) ½d composite essay of the issued design with perforations, and top part of frame hand drawn, overlay at foot (to cover original 'Lagos Postage' legend) with issued 'Postage - Lagos - Revenue' hand drawn on tracing paper, value blank; inset into thick board (66 x 83mm) dated "May 13 1902" and marked "Approved W.H.M."

b) A similar photographic essay affixed to card (90 x 110mm) dated "May 13 1902" (This is sometimes referred to as a 'proof'.)

Proofs. a) A perforated proof in grey with value tablet void marked "Lagos Postage 13.5.02" (D.L.R. was requested on 24th June to change wording to "Postage and Revenue") approved 24th June.

b) Proofs of the master die exist in black on glazed card without value, including:-

- (i) "Before Hardening" 31st Dec. 1902
- (ii) A similar die proof cut down to 51 x 37 mm initialled and dated Dec. 31 1902.

(iii) "After Hardening" 1st Jan 1903 endorsed G.C.G.

(iv) "After Striking" 3rd Jan. 1903 endorsed G.C.G.

Imprimatur (i) 1d dull purple & black on red caused into off centre watermark
(ii) 1d " purple & blue on blue (colours of issued 2½d)

Colour Trials. a) D.L.R. 1903 Appendix Sheet (205 x 332mm) dated "16 Jan'y 1903" and bearing five 1d colour trials on C A paper, three marked ½d, 1d and 2½d alongside, and each marked 'Appd W H M 20 : 1' and with two alternatives in black and blue on red and in black and blue on blue.

b) On watermarked and gummed paper but imperforate as follows:
(i) ½d - in colour as issued.
(ii) 1d - in colours as issued.
- in issued colours of 2½d
(iii) 2½d - in colours as issued
- in issued colours of 1d.

LAGOS
Lagos

1904 (Jan - Nov)

Wmk
WMK

Crown C A

Perf. 14

Typographed by de la Rue & Co.

| <u>R L</u> | <u>S G</u> | <u>Value</u> | <u>Colour</u> |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 42 | 44 | ½d | dull green and green |
| 43 | 45 | 1d | purple and black on red |
| - | - | " | pale purple and black on red |
| 44 | 46 | 2d | purple and deep blue |
| 45 | 47 | 2½d | purple and blue on blue |
| - | 47a | 2½d | " " " " " |
| | | | (smaller letters and figures) |
| 46 | 48 | 3d | purple and chestnut |
| 47 | 49 | 6d | purple and mauve |
| 48 | 50 | 1/- | dull green and black |
| 49 | 51 | 2/6 | dull green and carmine |
| 50 | 52 | 5/- | dull green and ultramarine |
| 51 | 53 | 10/- | dull green and brown. |

LAGOS - ISSUES OF 1904-05

Early in 1904 a new paper, with a form of multiple instead of single watermark, was adopted by the Crown Agents. The design and values of the stamps in issue remained identical.

Paper and Watermark. The new watermark comprised the usual crown and C A in block capitals but these were now smaller and more closely spaced so as to permit the paper to be used for any size of stamp, and also to obviate the necessity for accurate spacing which was required for the single watermark. The first supplies were printed on the ordinary unsurfaced medium wove paper in colours identical to the preceding issue except that the 2½d value was not printed on this paper.

In 1905, the Crown Agents adopted a special paper having a coating of chalk upon which the design was printed. This was a further precaution then being taken to prevent cleaning of a used stamp.

Printing. As previously this was in sheets of 120 divided into two panes of 60 stamps each.

A. Printing on unsurfaced paper (one printing only)

| <u>Date of Despatch</u> | <u>Values & Quantity</u> | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 30. 7.1904 | ½d - 120,360 | 1/- - 24,000 |
| | 1d - 485,880 | 2/6 - 6,240 |
| | 2d - 36,360 | 5/- - 6,240 |
| | 3d - 36,600 | 10/- - 6,240 |
| | 6d - 24,480 | |

B. Printing on chalk-surfaced paper

| <u>Date of Despatch</u> | <u>Values & Quantity</u> | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 6. 7.1905 | 1d - 240,000 | |
| 12. 7.1905 | ½d - 121,400 | 6d - 24,600 |
| | 1d - 249,000 | 1/- - 24,600 |
| | 2d - 36,960 | 2/6 - 6,240 |
| | 2½d - 60,000 | 5/- - 6,240 |
| | 3d - 36,000 | 10/- - 6,240 |
| 6.12.1905 | ½d - 121,800 | 6d - 60,960 |

Perforation. Comb perforation 14 for all values.

Dates of Issue. A. Unsurfaced Paper (in chronological order)

1/- on 15.10.94; 1d on 22.10.94; $\frac{1}{2}$ d on 30.10.94; 6d on 31.10.94;
2/6 and 10/- on 3.12.1904; 5/- in Jan. 1905; 2d in February and 3d on
27.4.1905.

B. Chalk-surfaced Paper.

1d on 21.9.1905; $2\frac{1}{2}$ d on 13.10.1905; 6d on 1.3.1906; $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 10/- on
12.3.1906; 1/- in April 1906; 3d on 2.8.1906; 2d on 25.9.1906;
2/6 and 5/- on 21.10.1906.

It will be noted that most of the chalk-surfaced stamps were
in fact not issued until Lagos had ceased to be a separate colony having been
absorbed into Southern Nigeria on 16th February 1906. *Some stocks still held were
later specially re-issued to meet a temporary shortage of S. Nigerian issues*

Varieties. a) Examples have been recorded of inverted watermarks on the
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d and 1/- values. The 1d and 2d values ^{are} not recorded in the
R.L. Enc. ~~are currently held in the Circle~~, and would appear to be from
the chalk surfaced printings. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1/- examples have not been seen
by Circle members nor have any other references thereto been seen except
in the R.L. Enc, at 2N for $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 3N for 1/-.

b) The $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value occurs with smaller letters of value (see
comments 1904 and 1887-1902 issues). R.L. Enc. does not mention this
variety and it is indeed surprising that any variety exists as there was only
one printing. However it is believed that approx. 20% i.e. 12,000 of the
printing were of the smaller variety leaving 80% i.e. 48,000 of the larger
variety.

c) The final "E" of PENCE in both papers shows malformation
in the lower arm.

Specimen. All values exist overprinted "Specimen", Samuel Type D 9.

Proofs. None have been recorded *but see 1904 'Proofs'*

Lagos
Lagos
Wmk

1904 (Oct) - 1906 (Dec)

Wmk Mult. Crown C A

Perf 14

Typographed by de la Rue & Co.

| <u>R L</u> | <u>S G</u> | <u>Value</u> | <u>Colour</u> |
|------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 52 | 54 | $\frac{1}{2}$ d | green |
| 53 | 55 | 1d | purple and black on red |
| 54 | 56 | 2d | purple and blue |
| 55 | 57 | $2\frac{1}{2}$ d | purple and blue on blue |
| - | 57a | $2\frac{1}{2}$ d | " " " " " |
| - | | | (smaller letters of value) |
| 56 | 58 | 3d | purple and chestnut |
| 57 | 59 | 6d | purple and mauve |
| 58 | 60 | 1/- | green and black |
| 59 | 61 | 2/6 | green and carmine |
| 60 | 62 | 5/- | green and ultramarine |
| 61 | 63 | 10/- | green and brown |

NOTES: 1) The dates of despatch given in the S.G. catalogue seem to be confused between the unsurfaced and coated papers

2) $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value was printed on chalk surfaced paper only

3) While Lagos stamps generally continued to be used by the Colony and Protectorate of S. Nigeria until exhausted, $\frac{1}{2}$ d values were withdrawn in 1908 as the words HALFPENNY were being chemically removed and a higher denomination was being inserted for fraudulent purposes.

4) The stamps of Lagos bearing a S. Nigerian cancellation form a special study in themselves.

5) The 1949 edition of the R.L. Enc. Vol. 2 erroneously described the 2/6 value as green and black. This was subsequently amended to green and carmine.

LAGOS

Items currently held in the Queen's Collection

I am indebted to Mr. J.B. Marriott, Keeper of the Queen's Collection, for the following advices of items held in the collection ~~at this time in 1979~~

- 1874 - 75 - 4d value, overprinted 'cancelled'.
- 1876 - plate proof of the 1d value as issued, imperforate
- 1882 - 85 - (i) plate proof of the 1d value as issued but without value, perf 14
- (ii) plate proof of the 1/- value as issued, imperforate
- 1884 - 86 - plate proof of the 2d value, perf 12, without value
- 1887 - 1902 - plate proofs of 5d, 7½d, and 10d values as issued but imperforate
- 1893 - ½d overprint on 2d. An unused marginal single (SG 420). This item has been added to the collection since the publication of Sir John Wilson's book on the collection and would appear a third ²⁵ copy of this rarity only two having been previously reported. ~~See page 36 herein.~~

LAGOS - POSTAL STATIONERY

At the agreement signed in Paris on 1st June 1878 between the member countries of the Universal Postal Union (referred by de la Rue in their records to the International Postal Convention), it was 'inter alia' agreed:

- a) Rates of postage between member countries reduced from 6d to 4d per half ounce. Unpaid mail double rate.
- b) Issue of printed prepaid post card be no longer optional, the postage thereon to be 1½d instead of 3d as hitherto, cards not to exceed 14 centimetres (5½ inches) in length and 9 centimetres (3½ inches) in width. Card must bear superscription "Union Postale Universelle" followed by name of country, to be repeated in French language.
- c) Fee for registered mail not to exceed 50 centimes in countries outside Europe. Sender of a registered article may obtain an acknowledgement of its delivery by paying a fixed fee of 2½d in addition to the ordinary registration fee and postage.

POSTCARDS

Consequent upon this agreement, the Crown Agents issued a circular dated 25th Jan. 1879 to the colonies concerning the use of postcards. In due course the Lagos Administration under date 29th March 1879 forwarded a request for an estimate for 4000 cards. This was passed by the Crown Agents to de la Rue on 14th May who, two days later submitted their estimate (on similar lines to those submitted for other colonies) of £3 for 'Preliminary Expenses' and 16/6 per 1000 for the cards. The Crown Agents accepted this on 17th May and despatch was effected on 23rd July 1879.

These cards, measuring only $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches (122x87mm) appear to have been produced in fashion with the smaller cards in the U.K. which were then typically being used for notices and advertisements.

A total of 4,100 cards was invoiced, presumably including 100 for U.P.U. purposes. No charge was invoiced for overprinting 'Specimen' or other for U.P.U. requirements and it would be of interest to know if any were so overprinted before despatch to U.P.U. While no definite date of issue has been noted, the usually accepted date of 'Sept 1879' conforms with the date of despatch.

It will have been noted that under "Proofs" for the 1874 issue, the printers had prepared a proof in 1874 for the 1½d value and that an example still exists on glazed card dated "25 MAR 1874". This dating is not understood. Another proof

of this value is known, undated. The first was endorsed "Before Hardening", the second "After Hardening".

Another curious feature of the first use of the international prepaid printed card by Lagos was the further requisition made from Lagos under date 5th Sept. 1879 (which probably endorses the issue date). Attached to the requisition and specifically forwarded by the covering letter was a letter dated 2nd Sept. from W.E. Cole, Postmaster, Lagos and addressed to the Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary which read as follows:

"I beg respectfully to state for the information of H.E. the Acting Administrator that as the three halfpenny Post Cards received from England are only adaptable for correspondence between this Colony and the U.K. and other Foreign Kingdoms and other Foreign Countries of the Postal Union and not for the British Colonies and other places on the West Coast of Africa that the kind prescribed by the G.P.O. London for correspondence to the above-mentioned places, viz. one bearing the impressed stamp of three farthings be ordered. With His Excellency's approval I shall make out a Requisition for a supply as well as for another supply of postage stamps viz. those the supply of which are running out."

The approval of C.A. Moloney, Acting Administrator was endorsed in the margin.

Presumably coastal rates being half overseas rate was the thought behind the requisition.

Surprisingly the requisition, with explanatory letter from the Lagos Postmaster, for a supply of 4000 cards bearing $\frac{3}{4}$ d printed stamp, was forwarded to de la Rue by the Crown Agents with a request for early attention.

In the Danson Sale (March 1971) there was offered "an 1879 die proof in black of the unissued three farthings, endorsed "thick electro from key."

Clearly therefore the printers commenced work on this strange requisition, until someone in the Crown Agents woke up!

Only 4000 (or 4100) of this first card appear to have been printed and invoiced and, while unused examples occur at auction from time to time, used examples are scarce. It would seem that usage of this type of communication was slow to be adopted by those of the small community who might have need to write overseas mail, possibly preferring the letter method which could carry a much longer message. However usage for brief commercial advices did in due course grow.

On 28 Dec. 1882, the Crown Agents wrote to de la Rue enclosing an enquiry from Lagos of 13th Nov. with a view to establishing "a system of post cards with paid reply" - circular from Secretary of State of 27th July 1882 refers. An experimental supply of 500 was requested. The printers replied on 30th Dec. quoting £3 per 1000, size to be larger than original to conform with the U.K. reply card, and submitted an essay (see below). On 3rd Jan. 1883 the Crown Agents accepted the design and quotation and on 6th March the de la Rue invoice reads "Preparing Printer's Plate for Lagos 1½d International Reply Post Card - £3." 1050 were invoiced at that date at 48/-. The next supply was only for 250 invoiced on 31st Dec. 1886, (three and a half years later) while a further 1240 were despatched on 31st March 1887, and thereafter 528 quarterly Cards overprinted "Specimen" were also supplied on this invoice.

The first printing of the 1883 reply card was on brown stock and pin perforated gauge 6 while subsequent printings were on white ribbed stock pin perf. 7.

The date of issue ~~or first usage of this card has been~~ ^{is} uncertain. ^{but the earliest use} No examples have been seen carrying a cancellation date prior to 1887 while the R.L. Enc. dates the issue as 1887. Further information is sought.
~~appears on a card cancelled in Lagos on 10 July 1883~~

In 1892, ^{with the reduction in postage on cards to one penny} consequent upon the introduction of the Imperial Penny Post an essay was prepared, the colour of the stamp (and the printing) being changed from brown to carmine. The charge for this new plate was £3 and an initial supply of 886 cards (apparently singles) was invoiced on 5th Oct. 1892 together with 750 cards which were overprinted (diagonally) "Specimen" and supplied to the U.P.U. Very surprisingly a further supply of 1000 single cards at the previous 1½d rate were despatched nearly five months later on 21st March 1893 together with 1000 with reply card attached. (Presumably these formed part of those cards overprinted in Lagos) ~~or was it a clerical error at the printers?~~

In the meantime as an emergency measure, the Lagos Administration had caused an unspecified number of both the single and reply cards held in stock to have the 'half' of half penny deleted manually by a red ink bar while making the necessary arrangements to overprint the balance, surcharging the penny halfpenny with a "1d" in black. This was effected at more than one printing as two types appear to have been used while the spacing between "1" and "d" varies. Owing to over-inking and type moving a number of blemishes are apparent.

On 11th July 1893 de la Rue charged £3 for making the "1d Reply Post Card Plate" and invoiced 2000 plus 750 for U.P.U. Supplies of both cards were then sent quarterly at approx. 1000 of each per quarter until in August 1897, a pattern of a yearly despatch of 2000 of each was adopted.

~~lead~~

Following the accession of King Edward VII a ~~die~~ was made for general use by 35 colonies the cost of £810 being divided, Lagos paying £41.16.2. A working die therefrom for use on post cards cost £8.16.6.

On 10th Dec. 1902, the printers charge for making and printing plates for the 1d Single card and 1d Reply card was again held at £3 each and a first supply of 1044 singles and 444 reply cards (with 722 of each for U.P.U.) was despatched on that date.

Printings. (R.L. Enc. VI & I references)

Type C.P.1. - 1879

on white glazed card

- Queen Victoria 1½d printed brown
- date of issue - Sept. 1879.
- size - 4¾ x 3½ inches (122 x 87mm)
- Numbers printed - 4100 - single card only.
- Specimens to U.P.U. - see introductory note.
- Proof: (see ~~also~~ paragraph on adhesives 1874/85)
- a) On white glazed card, a proof from the master die, marked "BEFORE HARDENING" endorsed in pencil 'penny halfpenny' dated '25 MAR 1874'
- b) On white glazed card and printed in black, marked "AFTER HARDENING" with value 'penny halfpenny' added (for postal stationery use - undated).

Type C.P.2, C.P.3. - 1883

- Queen Victoria 1½d printed brown (same die as 1879 but larger card) - C.P.2 single C.P.3 with reply card attached.
- Date of issue - 1883 (but date of first invoice 6th March 1883 — see narrative).
- size - 5½ x 3½ inches (140 x 87mm)
- Numbers printed - 21,000 (est) in total both types, less those surcharged locally at 1d rate
- Perforation - (Pin) C.P.3 - 1st Printing Gauge 6, thereafter Gauge 7.
- Board - 1st Printing brown stock
Later " white ribbed stock
- Specimen - 400 Type C.P.3 invoiced 1891.
- Essay:-

(Sale Catalogue 21.12.78) "1½d + 1½d brown reply-card, both halves with pencil essay of the stamp, the outward half dated '30 Dec 82' the reply half made up at foot to its correct size."

- Type C.P.4, C.P. 5 - 1892 - Queen Victoria Types C.P.2 and C.P. 3 with 'HALF' of 'PENNY HALFPENNY' deleted locally by red ink (manuscript) bar.
- Date of issue - presumably Oct. 1892 ~~to conform to introduction of Imperial Penny Post.~~
 - Dates of usage Oct. 1892 to April 1893.
 - Number surcharged - unknown (200?)
 - Perforation and Board - presumably as for later printings of C.P.2, ~~C.P.3.~~
 - Specimens - unlikely to exist.

- Type C.P.6 - 1892 - Queen Victoria Types C.P.2 ~~and C.P.3~~ surcharged by local printing with "1d" in black - at least two separate printings exist (see notes)
- Date of issue. Not known but earliest usage seen cancelled on 1st Nov. 1892.
 - Number surcharged - not recorded but see 'notes' below (1000 estimated)
 - Reply cards - Apparently only singles were surcharged, no examples being seen of separated cards ~~(R.L. Enc. also makes no reference to existence of reply cards).~~ *see Notes on following page*

- Type C.P. 7, C.P.8. - 1893 - Queen Victoria 1d printed carmine (C.P.7 single, C.P.8 with reply card attached)
- Date of issue. Invoiced 5th Oct. 1892. Earliest recorded date of usage 18th Jan. 1893
 - Size. $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches (140 x 87mm)
 - Numbers printed (est.) C.P.7 29000 C.P.8 9200.
 - Perforation. Pin perf. 7 (C.P.8)
 - Board - white ribbed stock.
 - Specimen 750 of each.
 - Essay:-
(Sale Catalogue 21.12.78) "1d carmine postcard with stamp completely hand painted and initialled in red, and 1d + 1d reply postcard, both marked "Approved" or "Appd", "E.E.B." and dated "22 July 1892" and "29.5.93" respectively.

- Type C.P.9 C.P.10 - 1902 - King Edward VII 1d printed carmine (C.P.9 single, C.P.10 with reply card attached)
- Date of issue - Invoice date 10th Dec. 1902
 - Size - $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches (140 x 87mm)
 - Numbers Printed (est) C.P.9 5000
C.P.10 2500
 - Perforation Pin perf. 7 (C.P.10)
 - Board - White ribbed stock
 - Specimen - 727 of each
 - Essay:-
(Sale Catalogue 21.12.78) "K.E. 1d red postcard with hand painted country and value tablets affixed to Appendix Sheet dated "May 26th 1902"

REGISTERED ENVELOPES

The first enquiry and requisition for registered envelopes was made from Lagos on 11th July 1894, covering 300 envelopes $6 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches and 200 $11\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ inches. The latter size was amended to 10×7 inches at the printers suggestion and the design for the embossed 2d die (at a cost of £38) was approved on 28th August.

PRINTINGS - (R.L. Enc. Vol. II 1949 references)

- Type R.P.1. - 1895 - Queen Victoria - 2d blue, unpressed oval
- Date of issue 7th January 1895 (invoiced 26th Nov 1894)
 - Size a) $6 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches (152 x 95mm) 'G'
b) 10×7 inches (254 x 178 mm) 'I'
 - Numbers printed 'G' 5000; 'I' 1700.
 - Specimens - 750
 - Essay (Sale 21.12.78):-
"1894 2d in blue, green, yellow and white painted essay with 'Lagos Registration (two pence legend and painted on tracing paper (74 x 88mm) dated 'AUG 15 94'."
 - Proof (Sale 21.12.78):-
"1895 2d proof in vermilion on vertical laid paper."

- Type R.P.2. - 1902 - King Edward VII - 2d blue, impressed oval
- Date of Issue ? (invoiced 10 Dec. 1902)
 - Size (as for R.P.1)
 - Numbers printed 'G' 6075; 'I' 600
 - Specimens - 727

- Essay (Sale 21.12.78):-

"1902 Photographic essay for K.E. 2d mounted on card (90 x 110 mm) dated 'MAY 26 1902'"

Die Proof (Danson Sale 10.3.71): embossed proofs and
~~1902~~ "1904 Registration 2d, unfinished and
one finished die proofs in vermilion. on wazel paper
(34 x 41 mm & 57 x 57 mm)

REVENUE STAMPS

RL
The Sale Catalogue of 21 Dec 1978 describes the two following lots:

Essay: Pen and Ink drawings of the "Stamp Duties" 1d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £5, £10 and £20 in various shield designs and "COMMISSIONERS OF STAMP DUTIES" roughly circular in design each drawn on tracing paper dated "Nov. 19th 88" affixed to sheet 232 x 370 mm.

Proof: 6d die proof in vermilion on laid paper (41 x 59 mm) and labelled "A".

POSTAL ORDERS

These were first printed in 1898 being invoiced on 25th Feb. 1898 and were supplied in the following denominations:-

1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 2/6d, 3/-, 3/6d, 4/-, 4/6d, 5/-, 7/6d, 10/-.

The die and plate for the King Edward postal orders were invoiced at £9.18.7 on 18th July 1902.

NOTES ON POSTAL STATIONERY SECTION

1. References to 'Types' are those used in the R. L. Encyclopaedia. *Vol II 1949*
2. Overprinting for U.P.U. requirements was effected by printing "Specimen" diagonally across face from bottom left to top right.
3. Where postcards were 'doubles' i.e. reply section attached to outward card, the latter can subsequently be identified by the additional words printed on face, in English and French "The annexed card is intended for the answer." Single cards of course show no sign of perforation while the reply section of 'doubles' clearly show this if separated.
4. As regards the "1d" black overprint of postcard Type C.P.6, the two differing printings can be identified as follows:
 - Printing A - The serif at the top of the upright stroke of 'd' is clearly identifiable.
 - Printing B - The upright stroke of 'd' increases in width from base until it is the full width of the serif at top which doesn't therefore show.

There are other variations which have been noted, apart from blemishes:

- 1) A full stop occurs at left hand foot of '1' of penny
- 2) Figure '1' (one) of penny is of equal width from top to base (one millimetre) while other examples show a tapering towards the top.
- 3) Spacing between base of '1' and 'd' varies.

It is also notable that a single card Type C.P.6 to Milwaukie, Wisconsin, U.S.A. dated 29th May 1893 quotes, 'inter alia' .. "None of the double has been issued..." This would tend to confirm that none of the Reply (or double) cards were surcharged. (see also page 31)

5. Numbers of the different types of stationery actually despatched can in some cases only be estimated as invoices are not always clear, especially in differentiating between single and reply cards.

The numbers surcharged locally comprising C.P.4, C.P.5 and C.P.6 can only be guessed on a basis of estimated stocks of C.P.2 ~~and C.P.3~~ on hand in Sept/Oct 1892 (No records have been seen of any stocks returned to U.K. for destruction). Local requirements of C.P.2 (according to invoices) were: 1888-2064; 1889-2064; 1890-2048; 1891-2604 (ignoring despatches of reply cards C.P.3). Thereafter 1008 were invoiced 10.12.91, and 1008 on 2.6.92. On 5.10.92 the new penny cards ^{type CP7} were invoiced but only 886, no more being despatched until 1020 in Sept, 1032 in Oct 1893 followed ¹⁸⁹³ by 3084 in 1894 ~~(the Sept despatch has been assumed to be this new C.P.7).~~

While the m/s "red ink" bar on C.P.4 and C.P.5 must have been a very temporary measure (pending local printing arrangements) possibly just a month's normal consumption (since C.P.6 was in use by 1st Nov) may be allocated i.e. about 200 for C.P.4, ~~while clearly the balance of stocks were used up of C.P.3 to print C.P.5, which must be very small.~~

As regards C.P.6, these continued in use until July 1893 and the conclusion must be that at least 1000 C.P.2 were ~~surcharged and possibly more.~~

overprinted

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* Abbreviations used in text:-

R.L. Enc.

R.L. Sale (which included items from the D.L.R. Reference Collection)

D.L.R. (de la Rue & Co)

+ Published by B.W.A.S.C.

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J.F. INCE