

NORTHERN NIGERIA: ITS POSTS AND POSTAGE STAMPS. BY HERBERT G. PORTER.

OLITICAL HISTORY.

The earlier history of the Protectorate is given in the article on the Niger Territories, wherein it is mentioned the Protectorate of Northern igeria was constituted by a division of territories formerly administered y the Royal Niger Company. The actual transfer of the Territory took lace on December 28th, 1899, and January 1st, 1900, was the commencement of the history of the new Administration.

During the first years the Government was engaged in bringing under control the powerful Emirs of the Hausa States, and the Kanuri Kingdom of Bornu. These Emirs maintained large standing armies, a large proportion of which was mounted, and periodically engaged in slave-raiding expeditions levastating vast tracts of country. Despite the treaty made with the Gultan of Sokoto by the Royal Niger Company, under which he was paid an annual subsidy, the Fulani Emirs now defied the Government.

In 1901 an expedition was undertaken to Kontagora and Nupe, as a result of which these provinces were brought under control, and later in 1901 another expedition took in Yola.

In 1902 Bauchi was added, and in the same year Colonel Morland conducted an expedition as far as Lake Chad, resulting in the large Kingdom of Bornu coming within the administration of the Protectorate.

The work of pacification was practically completed early in 1903 by the taking of Kano by Colonel Morland with a force of about eight hundred men practically without opposition, and subsequently by the occupation of the powerful kingdoms of Sokoto and Katsena by High Commissioner Sir F. J. D. Lugard, and also by the action at Birmi. Since that date the Hausa States have maintained a record of peaceful progress, with the exception of a rising in 1906 by a so-called Mahdi at Sitiru in the Sokoto province, which was, however, quickly suppressed with the loyal assistance of the Emir of Sokoto.

In 1906 the minor Emirate of Hadeija in the extreme north, which had not previously been brought under control, assumed an agressive attitude, but was quickly suppressed. It was necessary also to send minor expeditions against various unruly and truculent pagan tribes, the more important of which were the Munshis on both banks of the River Benue, the Okpotos in the Bassa province, and various hill tribes in the Bauchi and Nassarawa provinces

When the fact is considered that vast areas of this territory had never previously been explored, some of the difficulties facing the Administration can be realised. In addition to keeping under control the slave raiders, in maintaining peace between warring tribes entailing forced marches by the troops through tropical sun and African swamps, time and energy had to be found for the creating of a Civil Government with all its departments, the erection of public offices, housing of the civil and military officials, the building of roads and railways, connecting up the interior with postal and telegraphic routes, &c.

The first light railway from Barijuko on the Kaduna River to Zungerua distance of 22 miles - was built, and the seat of the Government was transferred to Zungeru in 1902 from the temporary capital at Jebba. Communications were also opened up by the navigable waterways of the rivers Niger, Benue, Kaduna, and Gongola.

In 1907 the construction of the main trunk railway from Baro to Kano, a distance of 356 miles, was commenced, this pioneer line being completed in 1912. During the period January 1st, 1900, to January 1st, 1914, when the Protectorate was amalgamated with Southern Nigeria, 700 miles of railway was laid, and 5,500 wire miles of telegraphs, whilst the Marine department world 1,000 miles of river.

SITUATION AND EXTENT.

The Protectorate was bounded on the south by Lagos and Southern Nigeria, on the west by Dahomey, on the north by the French Soudan and borders of the Sahara Desert to Lake Chad, and on the east by the German Cameroons. The total area of the Protectorate was 255,700 square miles.

ADMINISTRATION.

The administration of the Protectorate was placed under the charge of Brig.- Gen. Sir F. J. D. Lugard as High Commissioner, and the country was divided up into sixteen provinces, each under a resident officer and assistant There was a supreme court, and the Residents were entrusted with wide powers, holding provisional courts. The guiding principle of the Administration was indirect rule through the native chiefs, the powers delegated to whom varied according to their degree of enlightment.

A form of direct taxation was involved based on the elaborate system which obtained in the Haussa States prior to British occupation, but shorn of its abuses. The collection of these taxes was made through the native chiefs, a fixed proportion of the amounts being retained in the native treasuries, from which the salaries of the native officials were paid.

As showing what progress has been made throughout the Protectorate through British rule, a Durbar was held at Kano on January 1st, 1913, when practically all the chiefs in the Protectorate, from the great Mohammedan Emirs to the petty chiefs of pagan hill tribes, assembled together with such retinues as they were allowed to bring, estimated at some 20,000 horsement and 40,000 foot.

In 1900 the Political and Administrative staffs who created a complete Civil Service throughout the Protectorate numbered a total of six officers; in 1913 the total was 132 Residents and assistants.

The troops consisted of two battalions of the Northern Nigeria Regimet, West African Frontier Force, and in March 1903, consisted of 91 officers, 54 non-commissioned officers, 55 non-combatants, and 2,691 rank and file. A third battalion was then being formed.

INHABITANTS.

The Protectorate included the Fulah Empire, of which the Sultan of Sokoto was the head, with its nominal dependencies of Nupe, Ilorin, Muri, Zaria, Adamawa, and Bautshi, together with the pagan countries of Borgu to the west of the Niger, Bornu in the north-east towards Lake Chad, and the belt of pagan tribes inhabiting the country south of the Benue.

Pagan tribes also inhabited the country enclosed in the bend of the Niger River between Ilorin and Southern Nigeria, usually known as the Kabba country, and similar tribes formed a more or less continuous belt along the northern and eastern banks of the Niger.

The Haussa States of the Fulah Empire are Mohammedan, and are said to have the densest population of any country in the whole African continet, estimated roughly at about 20,000,000. The Fulahs appear to have been a pastoral race, which spread over the territory in the latter half of the eighteenth century, and conquered the Habe dynasty about 1820. The conquered race, however, maintained their independence in the broken country, and a chronic struggle was kept up, paralysing development, the Fulahs, on the one hand, devasting large areas of land by slave raids, and the pagan tribes retaliating by stopping caravas.

CHIEF TOWNS.

Zungeru, situate on the Kaduna River, was the seat of the Government, and Lokoja, at the juncture of the Niger and Benue Rivers, was one of the principal towns.

The most important trading centre was Kano, ancient, mysterious, gigantic, the emporium of Central Africa, with its great ll-mile wall, and from which starts the great caravan routes to Lake Chad on the northeast and Timbucktu on the north-west. Kano had a population of about 100,000 natives, a marvellous medly of all types, with only about twenty whites.

Other principal towns were Bida, Bauchi, Gando, Ilorin, Jebba, Kontagora, Keffi, Sokoto, Wurno, Yakuba, Yola, Zaria, and Zurmi.

POSTAL HISTORY.

On January 1st, 1900, the only post office throughout the Protectorate was at Lokoja, established about September, 1899, by the Reyal Niger Company, where the current British stamps were then used. The postal department was under the charge of Mr. Adye, who undertook the organisation of the postal services, and a second post office was established at Jebba about April, 1900, followed by one at Ibi in 1901 and one at Zungeru in 1902.

Owing to ill-health Mr. Adye resigned, and great difficulties being experienced in finding efficient postal clerks, it was little wonder that poor progress was made.

In 1902 Mr. Somerville took over the duties of the post office, and formulated a system of postal rules and regulations.

In 1903 new post offices to the number of twenty-five were opened. These new post offices were: Amar, Barijuko - Telegraph Office only. Bauchi, Bida, Boussa, Damjiri, Dekina, Egga, Gando, Gujba, Illo, Ilorin, Kano, Katagum, Katsina, Keffi, Kontagora, Lau, Loko, Maifoni, Pategi, Sokoto, Yelwa, Yola, and Zaria. The Resident Officer of each province acted as the Postmaster, and the work of the postal service was undertaken by the clerks attached to the Political and Telegraphic services. The general post office was at Lokoja.

A fortnightly inland mail was despatched from Lokoja to every post office in the Protectorate immediately after the arrival of the English mail from Forcados, the means of transport employed in its distribution including the railway, the river steamers, canoes, post carts, and native runners. The approximate mileage by the postal routes was 1,523 by land and 1,000 by water.

The following was the internal postal tariff then in effect:-

Letters within the Cantonment (drop letters), ad. per 2 oz; within the Protectorate, including Burutu, ld. per oz.

Inland Parcels. - Not over 3 lb., 6d; not over 7 lb., ls.; not over 11 lb., ls. 6d. Additional fees were imposed in respect of parcels delivered up-country by the inland transport service, as follows:- not over 3 lb., 4d.; not over 7 lb., 7d.; not over 11 lb., ls. 4d. Parcels sent by express service in the ordinary letter bags were charged with double fees.

In 1904 three additional post offices were opened at Guidan, Kukawa, and Magumeri, and in the same year the post offices at Amar, Damjiri, and Maifoni were closed. In 1904 the total number of post offices in operation was 29.

During 1910 seven additional post offices were closed down, being those at Boussa, Dekina, Gando, Gujba, Illo, Kukawa, and Magumeri, but in the same year eleven new post offices were opened at Ankpa, Baro, Birnin-Kebbi, Egori, Kabba, Kaduna, Maidugeri, Minna, Mutum Biu, Nafada, and Naraguta.

The following is an extract from official returns regarding the number of post offices in operation each year.

Year.	No. of	Post C	ffices.		External	Outward Lette (private).	rs
1901	•••	10 %	•••	• • •		16,836	
1902	•••	11	•••	• • •		12,072	
1903	•••	11		•••		13,148	
1904	•••	29	•••	• • •		44,300	
1905	•••	29	•••.	• • •		179,070	,
1906	•••	27	• • •	•••		185,000	
1907	•••	33	•••	•••		223,880	
1908	•••	34	•••	• • •		237,980	
1909		32	•••	• • •		267,420	
1910	•••	32	• • •	•••		303,000	
1911	•••	31	• • •	• • • ,		338,492	
1912		32	•••	•••		533,598	

X In his Official Report for 1901 the High Commissioner states there were only two regular post offices - Jebba and Lokoja. This is obviously incorrect, the writer has letters cancelled EGGA, IBI, and EWANAGA, and probably two others at least might be added, viz., LOKO and ZUNGERU.

THE POSTS AND POSTAGE STAMPS OF NORTHERN NIGERIA.

FIRST ISSUE. HEAD OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

An order for the first supply of stamps was placed with Messrs. De La Rue & Co. of London, who were the Government Printers of postage stamps, and from motives of economy the Colonial Authorities decided to avail themselves of the general Colonial Postage & Revenue key-plates, which were provided gratis by the Printers. This entailed only the provision of a set of duty plates for printing in the name and value on each stamp.

The design of this general Colonial key-plate was by common consent very mediocre, and after such heautiful examples of postage stamps provided by the Niger Coast, it is a great pity that Northern Nigeria did not follow the example of Southern Nigeria, and provide a distinctive design for its own use. Owing to the design on cannot say that Northern Nigeria has ever been a popular country with collectors, and it is a curious fact that when these stamps were placed on sale at Lokoja in March 1900, there was practically no demand for them by Philatelists, in fact one firm of Stamp Dealers & Publishers in London offered a set up to 1/- value in return for any interesting item of philatelic news, but there was little demand even for this. Afterwards, when the King Edward series of stamps were issued in July, 1902, the remainders of the Queen Victoria set were officially burnt without notice, then everybody wanted them and prices rose with a bound.

The design shews a diademed profile of the head of Queen Victoria facing left within an octagonal frame, having the background of the frame shaded by horizontal lines. The words POSTAGE & REVENUE appear at the sides of the stamp.

There were 9 values in the set, viz:- $\frac{1}{2}$ d, ld, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 6d, l/-, 2/6 and 10/-, the stamps being printed on medium white wove paper, water-marked with Royal Crown over C.A. one for each stamp, in addition the words CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES appeared in large watermarked capitals in the sheet margins.

The pence values ½d to 6d were printed in a dull shade of mauve, and the shilling values in green, all in doubly fugitive ink. The Protectorate name and value were printed in ordinary coloured ink at a separate operation by duty plate overprinting 60 stamps at one impression. All the tablet values were shaded by horizontal lines of colour with the exception of the 5d and 6d which were on plain white ground.

Key-plate No 3 was used throughout for all values and the stamps printed in sheets of 120 comprising two panes of sixty in ten horizontal rows of six. Continuous single marginal lines were printed in colour enclosing the panes and the plate No 3 appeared in the margin at all four corners over the second stamp. This marginal line and plate number is in lilac for the pence values and in green for the shilling denominations. No sheet numbers were printed at top.

Perforation was by comb machine 14 gauge.

There were two printings of all values up to 1/-, one printing only of the 2/6 and 10/-. The total number of stamps printed according to official figures being:-

Despai	ched.		₹d.	<u>ld.</u>	2d.	2½d.	5d.	6d.	1/-	2/6	10/-
Febry Augt	22nd 27th	1900.	33 8 609	672 302	166 206	212	86 101	6 8 203	72 204	68	67 -

all in sheets of 120.

The total numbers working out as follows:-

 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1d. 2d. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. 5d. 6d. 1/- 2/6 10/- 113.640. 116.880. 44,640. 37.800. 22.440 32.520. 33.120. 8160 8040

SPECIMEN STAMPS. 750 stamps of each value were overprinted SPECIMEN in black for Postal Union services.

DIE PROOFS. In black shewing the head in unfinished & finished states.

ESSAY. An imperf. essay of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value in green is known. It is from the usual De La Rue Key-plate but with postage. Postage at the sides, the name Northern Nigeria and the tablet of value were painted in.

On June 30th 1902 all remainders of this issue at Lokoja post office were officially burnt, but the post offices up-country were permitted to retain their stocks and these were used up concurrently with the Edwardian series which followed.

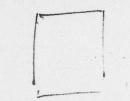
From the quantities printed it would appear that the 5d. is scarcer than the 6d. and 1/- values although the catalogue tells us differently. It would be interesting to know the quantities of each value that were officially burnt, but in any case the issue only had a short life and all values are scarce. Good postally used specimens, especially of the higher values, are harder to locate than mint specimens.

MARCH 1900. HEAD OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

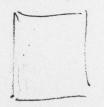
SET OF NINE VALUES.

Engraved and printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. at two operations from general Colonial key plate No 3, in sheets of 120. Medium white wove paper, white gum. Name and value given in second colour.

Watermarked Crown over C.A. Perf 14.



THIS TYPE.



VALUES THIS
TYPE

Cat. No.

1. ½d. dull mauve and light green.

2. ld. -do- and carmine.

3. 2d. -do- and orange-yellow.

4. $2\frac{1}{2}d$. -do- and ultramarine.

5. 5d. -do- and chestnut.

6. 6d. -do- and violet.

7. 1/- green and black.

8. 2/6 -do- and ultramarine.

9. 10/- -do- and brown.

THE EDWARDIAN ISSUE. SINGLE C.A. WATERMARK.

Following the death of Queen Victoria, a new series of stamps bearing the portrait of King Edward was placed on sale on July 1st 1902.

The Colonial Authorities again availed themselves of the general Colonial key-plate design, which was similar in appearance to the previous issue except that the King's head was substituted for the Queen's and a small Crown broke the frame design above the head.

The colours and general method of printing were identical to the previous issue and the same duty plates were used along with key-plate No 1. No sheet numbers at top as before.

PRINTINGS. There were three printings of each value, excepting the 2/6 and 10/-, of which only two printings were made. The total number of stamps printed being as follows:-

Despatched.	₹d.	ld.	2d.	2½d.	5d.	6d.	1/-	2/6	10/-
28th Apr 1902. 18th Dec 1902. 16th Jan 1903.	448 808 1000	801 808 800	100 200 500	100 204 496	50 104 195	48 100 388	102 100 608	100	98
	2256	2409	800	800	349	536	810	153	147

Total numbers being:- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 2d. $\frac{2}{2}$ d. 5d. 6d. 1/- 2/6 10/- 270,720 289,080 96,000 96,000 41,880 64,320 97,200 18360 17640

DIE PROOF. A die proof in black shewing the head only is known.

SPECIMEN STAMPS. 722 stamps of e ach value were overprinted SPECIMEN in black for the Postal Union.

It will again be noticed that the 5d. value is by far the scarcest of the lower values, the 6d. coming next, whilst there were actually less numbers printed of the 2d. and $2\frac{1}{2}d$. values than the 1/-.

lst JULY 1902.

HEAD OF KING EDWARD.

SET OF NINE VALUES.

Engraved and printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. in two operations from the general Colenial key-plate No 1, in sheets of 120, two pares of sixty-ten horizontal rows of six-Medium white wove paper, white gum. Name and value given in second colour.

Watermark Crown over C.A. Perf 14.



Cat. No.

ad. dull purple and light green. 10.

11. ld. dull purple and carmine.

2d. dull purple and yellow-orange. 22d. dull purple and ultramarine. 12.

13.

5d. dull purple and chestnut. 14.

15. 6d. dull purple and violet. 16.

ls. green and black. 17. 2s. 6d. green and ultramarine.

18. los. green and brown.



In April 1904 a stamp with the face value of £25 appeared. The design was similar to the other values, being printed in green and carmine on ordinary unsurfaced paper, perforated 14, the watermark Crown over C A in multiple.

Nine sheets of 120 stamps giving a total printing of 1080 were despatched to the Colony on February 4th, 1904, the majority of these being afterwards officially destroyed. The stamps were used solely for the payment of certain liquor licences and for economic reasons the Colonial ment of certain liquor licences and for economic reasons the Colonial Authorities did not wish to incur the expense of a special printing plate, but made use of the general Colonial key plate, hence the words POSTAGE & REVENUE appearing on the stamp. A new duty plate to print in the £25 was at the time made.

It is therefore a revenue stamp pure and simple, despite the words POSTAGE & REVENUE appearing on it.

No used specimen of the stamp has ever been recorded and that it is a very rare item can be judged from the fact that a mint specimen was sold at H. R. Harmer's Auction of May 11th, 1937 for £310. Another specimen realized £500 at Harmer's sale 19th November, 1946, and another £500 at H. R. Harmer's sale January 2nd, 1951.

PROOF. A colour proof of this stamp is in the Author's collection. It is printed on paper watermarked single Crown over C A, in green and purple, imperf.

KING EDWARD. MULTIPLE CA WATERMARK ON ORDINARY UNSURFACED PAPER.

On February 7th, 1905, a printing of eight values from 1d. to 2s. 6d. was dispatched from London. The same plates were used as for the preceding issue, but the watermark was of the new multiple type introduced by the Crown Agents in 1904.

As there were sufficient supplies of the 10s. value from the previous printing, this denomination was not printed on the ordinary paper. In fact the 10s. of the 1902 issue remained current until 1910, when the new supply printed in accordance with Postal Union requirements was issued.

Only one printing of each value was made, the official figures being:-

ld. 2 td. 5d. ls. 2s.6d. 510 1,346 166 68 68 Sheets of 61,200 Total 161,520 20,640 30,240 8,400 19,920 8,160 8,160 120

No stamps were overprinted "Specimen".

It is to be regretted that the catalogue does not list these unsurfaced stamps sparately from the chalk-surface printings, but perhaps in the near future the publishers may see their way to do so. All real philatelists would welcome this alteration to the lists.

The 5d. is quite a good stamp, falling little behind that of the ls. and 2s. 6d. values.

The whole set printed on the ordinary paper is by far the best of the Edwardian issues, and in good postally-used conditions is more scarce than mint specimens.

The ld. value was issued first in August, 1905, the other seven values being issued on October 20th of the same year.

AUG-OCT 1905. HEAD OF KING EDWARD. SET OF EIGHT VALUES \$\frac{1}{8}d\$. to 2/6d.

Key plate No 1.

Designs and printings as before, but on paper watermarked with multiple Crown and C.A. Perf. 14.

ORDINARY UNSURFACED PAPER.



Cat. No.

20. ½d. dull purple and green.
21. ld. -do- and carmine.

22. 2d. -do- and orange.

23. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. -do- and ultramarine. 24. 5d. -do- and chestnut.

24. 5d. -do- and chestnut. 25. 6d. -do- and violet.

26. 1/- green and black.

27 2/6 do and ultramarine.

KING EDWARD. MULTIPLE CA WATERMARK ON CHALK SURFACE PAPER.

In 1905 the Crown Agents adopted a special chalk-surfaced safety paper as an additional safeguard against fraudulent cleaning of used postage stamps, the doubly fugitive ink not proving sufficient to stop this practice.

The first printings on the new safety paper were despatched on October 13th, 1906, but no supplies of either the 22d. or los. values were ever printed

There were three printings of each of the 6d. and ls. values and two printings only of the other denominations. The total numbers of stamps printed were:-

pespatched. October 13th, 1906 September 18th, 1907 October 6th, 1908	300 3,019	1d. 2,097 3,015	2d. 302 1,016	5d. 102 253	6d. 504 305 254	13. 103 100 252	2s.6d. 100 103
	2,319	5,112	1,318	355	1,063	455	203
	In	sheets of	120.				
otalling	278,280	613,440	158,160	42,600	127,560	54,600	24,360 stamps

Dates of Issue.

The approximate dates of issue were:-

October, 1907. ġd. December 5th, 1906. ld. . . . 2d. June 12th, 1908. . . . 5d. February, 1909. 6d. May 6th, 1907. ... ls. April 23rd, 1907. 2s.6d ... June 9th, 1909.

No stamps were overprinted SPECIMEN.

The 2s. 6d. value is the best of this set, but the 5d. is again the best f the lower values.

906-09. HEAD OF KING EDWARD.

SET OF SEVEN VALUES.

Designs and printing as before. Keyplate No 1.

atermark multiple Crown C A. Perf 14.

ON CHALK SURFACE SAFETY PAPER.

at. No.

20a. ad. dull purple and light green. 21a. ld. -doand carmine. 22a. 2d. -doand yellow-orange. 24a. 5d. -doand chestnut. 25a. 6d. and violet. -do-26a. green and black. 1/-

27a. 2/6 do and ultramarine.

KING EDWARD. UNIVERSAL COLOURS. WATERMARK MULTIPLE CROWN C.A.

As from October 1st, 1907, it was made obligatory in all countries adhering to the Postal Union to conform to the recommandations adopted at the Rome Convention of 1906 for uniformity in the colours of stamps in most general use for International correspondence. The Crowh Agents adopted the universal colour scheme in 1908, and Northem Nigeria came into line the same year, but it was not until 1910 that the stamps in the new colours made their appearance at the post offices. This was to enable existing stocks to be used up.

The designs were identical to the previous issues, but the colours differed. A new 3d. value was printed for the first time to prepay the combined postage and registration fee for single letters within the British Empire. Another new value was the 5s.

The 3d., 5d., 6d., and 5s. values have the tablet unshaded, all other denominations have the value tablet shaded by horizontal lines.

The new duty plates for the 3d. and 5s. values have the name NORTHERN NIGERIA in lightly smaller capitals than the other values. I have a copy of the 3d. value with the key-plate printing showing faint double impression.

At first sight the $2\frac{1}{2}d$. value looks as if it had been printed on chalk-surfaced paper resenting a very blotchy appearance, this is probably the result of printing from a dirty late.

The first printing of the 6d. value in 1910 from plate No. 1 was in dull purple hroughout, but a later printing in 1911 from plate No. 2 had the name and value printed in distinct shade of bright purple. In Plate 2 of the 6d. value there are two sizes of etters for the name NORTHERN NIGERIA. Evidently a new plate was made for the last printing.

Unfortunately no official record was kept of the key-plate numbers used for the arious printings of this issue, but my own collection records the following:-

late No. 1: $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 5d., 6d., (S.G.35), 1s., 2s.6d., 10s. late No. 2: $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 5d., 6d. (S.G.35a), 1/-, 5s., 10s.

It may be probable that all the 1911 printings were from plate No. 2.

Plate No. 1 appears at all four corners of the sheet at second stamp as before. Plate No. 2 appears at top of sheet only over second stamp from each end.

No sheet numbers were printed at top of sheets.

Printings.

There were three printings of each of the $\frac{1}{2}d$., ld., and 6d. values, two printings only of each of the others.

Despatched.	<u> </u>	ld.	2d.	21/2d.	3d.	5d.	6d.	ls. 2	2s.6d.	5s.	10/-
October 6th, 1908 April 30th, 1910 July 5th, 1911 October 26th, 1911	1,026	2,015 3,044 3,084	507 499	200 997	2,022 1,984	252 952	509 987 1,006	498 1,000	204 100	491 985	103 200

3,039 1,006 1,006 1,197 4,006 1,204 2,502 1,498 304 1,476 303 Sheets of 120.

This gives a total number of each value as follows:-

 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. $\frac{2}{2}$ d. $\frac{2}{2}$ d. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. $\frac{1}$

SPECIMEN STAMPS. The following were the numbers of stamps overprinted SPECIMEN in black for the Postal Union.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and ld. values ... 455 of each. 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6 & 10/- ... 413 of each. 3d. and 5/- ... 404 of each.

Dates of Issue.

The approximate dates of issue were as forlows:-

1d. ... April 15th, 1910.

ld. ... January 30th, 1910.

2d. ... October 26th, 1911.

2½d. ... October, 1910.

3d. ... September 10th, 1911.

5d. ... February 28th, 1911.

6d. ... November 10th, 1910.

ls. ... November 10th, 1910.

2s.6d.... March 15th, 1911.

5s. ... September 10th, 1911.

10s. ... March 15th, 1911.

Designs etc. as before. Engraved and printed by De La Rue & Co. from the general Colonial key-plates Numbers 1 and 2 at two operations. Paper medium wove. White for $\frac{1}{2}d$, 1d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}d$, 5d, and 6d, values, yellow for the 3d. and 5/-, green for the 1/- and 10/- and blue for the 2/6. The four lower values printed on ordinary unsurfaced paper, values 3d. to 10/- on chalk surfaced safety paper.

The 3d, 5d, 6d, and 5/- have the value tablet unshaded, all others with shading of horizontal lines. Name and value given in second colour.

Watermark Multiple Crown C.A. Perf 14.

UNIVERSAL COLOURS.

Mustratus

Cat. No.

28. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green.

29. ld. carmine.

a bright carmine.

30. 2d. grey.

31. 22d. ultramarine.

32. 3d. dull purple on yellow (plate 1) a deep purple on yellow (plate 2)

34. 5d. dull purple and olive green.

35. 6d. dull purple (plate 1)

a dull purple and bright purple (plate 2)

36. 1/- black en green.

a jet-black on green.

37. 2/6 black and red on blue.

38. 5/- green and red on yellow.

39. 10/- green and red on green.

The 2/6 value is a far better stamp than the catalogue suggests. There was only one more sheet printed than for the 10/-d.

Upon the death of King Edward a new series of stamps was ordered from the printers Messrs. De La Rue & Co. As usual the general Colonial keyplate design was again adopted and save for the portrait of King George in place of the late King the general appearance is identical.

Three new values were added to the set consisting of the 4d, 9d, and £1, whilst the $2\frac{1}{2}d$. value was dispesed with.

The colourings were in conformity with Universal Postal regulations, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ld, 2d, $\frac{1}{-}$, $\frac{2}{6}$ and $\frac{10}{-}$ having the value tablet shaded by horizontal lines as before, the 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 9d, $\frac{5}{-}$ and £l values had the tablet unshaded.

The letters "Northern Nigeria" in the 3d. value are in smaller type than the others.

Keyplate No. 1 was used throughout and the stamps printed as before in sheets of 120, two panes of 60 comprising ten horizontal rows of six with gutter margin between. A single marginal line of colour enclosed the panes, this line being printed in the colour of the keyplate. These marginal lines were broken over each stamp and not continuous as in previous printings. The plate number appeared in the margins in the same colour as the key-plate printing.

Plate No. 1 appeared at bottom of sheet only, under second stamp at each side for all values. No sheet number at top. The second printing of the ld. value had plate No. 1 at the top of sheet only.

PAPER. The paper was medium wove, white in the case of the $\frac{1}{2}d$, ld, 2d, 5d, 6d, and 9d, values, yellow for the 3d, 4d, and 5/-, green for the l/- and 10/-, blue for the 2/6 and red for the £1.

The lower values to the 2d. were printed on ordinary unsurfaced paper, values 3d. to £1 on the chalk surfaced paper.

SHADES. Although there was only one printing of the 5/- the shade of yellow varies. I have noted specimens with ordinary yellow back and also with a deep yellow.

VARIETY. I have a copy of the 10/- value shewing a faint double impression of the key-plate printing. The 5d. value will also be found with the top line of the tablet surrounding the value defective. It is irregular and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times thicker than the normal frame line.

PRINTINGS. Only one printing was made except in the case of the ld, a second consignment of this value being despatched in 1913.

DIE PROOFS. Die proofs of the name & value tablet in black on glazed cards of the 4d, 9d and £l values exist.

The following is a copy of the official figures:-

Despatched.	₹d.	1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	5d.	6d.	9d.	1/-	2/6	5/-	10/-	£1	
	:	4088. - 10168	2033.	986.	2035.	1022	1031.	1009	1001	1001	1015	505	506	

all in sheets of 120.

This gives us the following totals:-

241,800	1,710,720	2d. 243,960	$\frac{3d}{118,320}$	244,100	<u>5d.</u> 122,640	6d. 123,720
9d. 121.080	1/- 120,120	2/6 120,120	<u>5/-</u> 121,800	10/- 60,600	60,720	

SPECIMEN STAMPS. 404 stamps of each value were overprinted SPECIMEN in black for all values except the 4d, 1/- and 2/6 which were done in red.

SET OF THIRTEEN VALUES. HEAD OF KING GEORGE Vth. 1912.

Engraved and printed by De La Rue & Co. from key-plate No 1 at two operations. The three lower values on ordinary paper, all Medium wove paper white and coloured. values 3d. to £1 on chalk surfaced paper.

Watermark Multiple Crown C.A. Perf 14.



Cat. No.

d. deep green. 40.

ld. carmine. 41.

bright carmine. a

42. 2d.grey.

3d. purple on yellow. 43.

4d. grey-black and red on yellow. 44.

5d. dull purple and olive-green. 45.

6d. dull purple and bright purple. 46.

9d. dull purple and red. 47.

48. 1/- black en green.

2/6 black and red on blue. 49.

50.

5/- green and red on rellow.
10/- green and red on green.
£1 purple and black on red. 51.

52.

This was the last of the Northern Nigerian issues.

By an Order in Council dated 22nd November, 1913 and which came into operation on the 1st January, 1914, the Protectorates of Northern and Southern Nigeria were combined under one Administration and the name of the Colony changed to "THE COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF NIGERIA".

The stamps remained current for some years in the new Colony of Nigeria and may be found with many interesting postmarks from the new offices opened and also bearing cancellations of Lagos, Southern Nigeria, the German Cameroons, etc. They are also occasionally met with bearing the postmarks of Tunis and other towns in the French Protectorate of Tunis, shewing the letters to have travelled by caravan route across the Sahara Desert from Kano and other inland towns, the stamps being cancelled by the receiving Post Office.

NORTHERN NIGERIA FORGERIES.

BY HERBERT G. PORTER.



Illustrations show two types of forgeries for the ls. value Queen's Head issue. These are easily detected, the green colours are badly faded and the overprint "Northern Nigeria" differs from the original.

A large number of used specimens are in circulation but all copies examined bore postmarks never in use in Northern Nigeria.

£25 Value. There is an exceedingly dangerous forgery of this stamp. It has been made by fading out the name and value of a genuine Colonial stamp (in all probability the Leeward Islands ls. value, S.G. No. 37), thus obtaining a genuine design, watermark, and perforation. A die plate has been made for printing in the new name "Northern Nigeria" and value £25 and this work has been excellently performed.

In the mint specimen examined the forgery was apparent only by the fact that the paper was chalk surfaced, whereas is should have been ordinary unsurfaced paper for a genuine stamp.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF POST OFFICES IN OPERATION AT ONE TIME OR OTHER.

			Opened	•	Closed.
Abinsi	•••	•••	1000		3004
Amar	•••	•••	1903	• • •	1904
Ankpa	• • •	•••	1910		
Badeggi	. • • •	• • •	700-		
Barijuko		• • •	1903		
Baro	•••	• • •	1909		
Baro M.C		• • •			
Bautchi		ed			
Bauchi		• • •	1903		
Bida	***	• • •	1903		
Birnin K	ebb1	• • •	1910		
Boussa	• • •	• • •	1903	• • •	1910
Choiwa	• • •	• • •			
Damjiri	• • •	• • •	1903	• • •	1904
Dekina	• • •	• • •	1903	• • •	1910
Egga	• • •	• • •	1903		
Egori	• • • •	• • •	1910		
Epu	• • • •	• • •			
Gando	• • •	• • •	1903		1910
Gujba	• • •	• • •	1903	• • • •	1910
Guidan	• • •	•••	1904		
Ibi	• • •	• • •	1901		
Illo	• • •	• • •	1903		1910
Ilorin	• • •	• • •	1903		
Jegga	• • •	• • •			
Jebba	• • •	• • •	1900		
Jemaa	• • • •	• • •			
Kabba	• • •	• • •	1910		
Kaduna	• • •	• • •	1910		
Kaduna P	.0.	• • •			
Kano	• • •	• • •	1903		
Katagum		• • •	1903		
Katsena		spelt			
Katsin	a)	• • •	1903		
Keffi	• • •	• • •	1903		-
Kontagor	a	• • •	1903		
Kukawa	• • •	• • •	1904	• • •	1910
Lau	• • •	• • •	1903	• • •	,
Loko	• • •		1903		
Lokoja	• • •	• • •	1899		
Lokoja T		• • •			9
Maifoni		• • •	1903	• • •	1904
Maiduger		• • •	1910		
	• • •	• • •	1904	• • •	1910
Minna	• • •	• • •	1910		
Mutum Bi		• • •	1910		
	• • •	• • •	1910		9
Naraguta		•••	1910		
Offa	• • •	• • •	1911	(?1910)
Pateji		• • •	1903		
Rahama	• • •	• • •			
Sokoto	• • •	• • •	1903		
Yelwa		• • •	1903		
Yola	•••	•••	1903		
Zaria			1903		a.
Zama	•••				
Zungeru		• • •	1902		
Zungeru	M.O.O.		-		

THE POSTMARKS OF NORTHERN NIGERIA.

When the first series of postage stamps were issued, Lokoja was the only cost Office possessing a cancellation stamp. This was the rubber hand stamp used by the Royal Niger Company when they opened Lokoja Post Office about september 1899 and as it did not bear the Niger Company's name, it remained in until the regulation postmarker arrived from England. The early stamps of the Protectorate will be found cancelled in violet thus:-



Jebba and other offices had no postmarkers at all, and the stamps had to be cancelled by hand with pen and ink. Both red and black inks were used, but the red certainly predominates. The cancellation generally consisted of the words POST OFFICE JEBBA and date, sometimes P.O. JEBBA and date, and not infrequently with the additional cancellation in violet of the Lokoja rubber stamp referred to above, shewing that the mails were despatched from Jebba via Lokoja.

These manuscript cancellations are perfectly legitimate postal defacings and are very interesting indeed. The earliest cancellation I have seen is that of Jebba dated 25/4/1900.

Thi, situate on the southern bank of the River Benue about 150 miles south of Yola on the same river, is another office using the pen and ink defacings. This was perhaps the finest of all the trading stations as it lay on the routes of several caravans from the north and was the headquarters of the Royal Niger Company, having a population of about 4,000. The earliest cancellation I have of this office is dated 15/5/1901.

Egga Post Office is supposed to have been opened in 1903, but it certainly was operating in 1900, the earliest recorded date so far seen being 28/9/1900. I have also seen a cover pen cancelled Bida 17/7/01 with the Lokoja Post Office oval cancellation at back - dated 22. JUL. 1901.

The following offices have been noted using manuscript cancellations - all on the Queen's Head issue of 1900 - BIDA, EGGA, XEWANAGA, IBI, JEBBA, LOKOJA.

X or AKWANAJA or AKWANEJA, situate on the right bank of the River Benue, roughly half way between IBI and LOKOJA on the borders of MUNSHILAND, 100 miles from the Niger. Was once a Divisional Headquarters but to-day is of little importance.

Type 2.





The first regulation steel postmarker to be used was a single circle dating stamp about 25 to 26 mm. diameter, bearing the words NORTHERN NIGERIA and without any name of post office. The year in the centre of circle will be found placed over and below the month, shewing the type to be of a removable pattern. Specimens will be found where the name of post office has been added in ink and sometimes the date in centre has been added in ink.

The coloured cancellations appear generally to have dropped out of use, but blue cancellation is known.

A rather curious cancellation was that first used at Illo post office. Type 2 cancellation was used and the name ILLO added by a separate stamping. I have a pair of the ld. value - S. CA. watermark.



Between 1903-4 postmarkers bearing the name of each post office were brought into use. These consisted of a large double circle about 28 mm. diameter with the name of town between the two rings and a small Maltese Cross at the base, the date being in two lines across the centre. In most post offices the date is sometimes reversed making the Maltese Cross appear at the top of circle, but this is probably the result of carelessness when setting the type.

About five years later a similar dating stamp was employed (Type 4) it was identical in pattern to the earlier type but the wording was in slightly larger capitals, making the inner ring slightly less in circumference. Most offices used both types.

The principal Post Offices such as Lokoja and Zungeru will be found with dating stamps also varying slightly from the foregoing, sometimes the year is in two figures only. The differences are very sight and do not call for a special type numbering.

Types 3 and 4 were used by the following:-AMAR, BARO, BAUCHI, BAUTCHI, BIDA, DEKINA, EGGA, IBI, ILORIN, JEBBA, JEGA, JEGGA, JEMAA, KATSENA, KANO, KATAGUM, KEFFI, KONTAGORA, LOKO, LOKOJA, LOKOJA T.O., MAIDUGERI, NAFADA, NARAGUTA, PATEJI, SOKOTO, YOLA, YELWA, ZAMA, ZARIA, ZUNGERU, ZUNGERU M.O.O.



Type 5.

About 1910 a slightly different type was introduced, the words NORTHERN NIGERIA were omitted and the name of Post Office was in larger capitals.

Used by: - CHOIWA, EGORI, ILORIN, JEMAA, KABBA, KADUNA, KADUNA P.O., KATAGUM, KATSINA, LOKO, MINNA, NAFADA, NARAGUTA, RAHAMA.



Type sa

Type 6.

5a. This was a double circle similar to type 5, but the name of Post Office was in widely spaced capitals.

Used by: ABINSI, ANKPA, BARO M.O.O., BENUE BR, ILORIN, LAGOS, MINNA, NARAGUTA, YELWA, ZARIA.

Other post offices will be found with cancellations of this type, but owing to the specimens being badly struck the postmarks were illegible.

170 5a.

About 1911-12 a similar canceller to type 5 was in use, the circle being about 28 mm. diameter, but the letters N N were added after the name of Post Office in each case.

Used by: - EPU, KADUNA, LOKOJA, MUTUM-BIU, NARAGUTA, OFFA, RAHAMA, ZUNGERU.

Evidently types 5 and 6 were made so that the type could be inserted at will, as examples are known where the name of Post Office has been omitted altogether. Yelwa is known with the letters put round the circle upside down proving that the type was interchangeable.



About 1908 yet another type was introduced. This was a double ringed circle about 28 mm. diameter as before, but the name of Post Office was in large size capitals conforming to the upper radius and the words NORTHERN NIGERIA in smaller type in the lower half. dots - one at each side - separated the upper and lower segments.

Used by: - BARO, ILORIN, KADUNA, MINNA.



Between 1914-1917 a still larger cancellation was used. The diameter of the double circle was approximately 30 mm. and the letters were slightly larger in proportion. Generally the cancellation is similar to type 4.

Used by:- BAUCHI, BIRNIN-KEBBI, JEBBA, JEMAA, KADUNA, KANO,

LOKO, LOKOJA, NARAGUTA, ZARIA, ZUNGERU.

123.

Type 9.

A double circle about 29 mm. diameter le Type 9. AL PAID at top and the name of post office underneath. The date is in centre in two lines.

Used by: - LOKOJA, ZARIA, ZUNGERU.



ype 10.

n oval cancellation lettered MARINE DEPARTMENT as illustration. This has seen noted on piece bearing the 6d. value M.C.A. watermark of the 1906/9 issue.

ANUSCRIPT CANCELLATIONS. As in the case of the Queen's head issue referred o earlier, specimens of the King Edward stamps will also be found with pen and nk cancellations, shewing that steel dating stamps were not available for use t the time. Of these manuscript cancellations, all of which are on piece, he following offices have been noted.

BADEGGI, JEBBA, KADUNA P.O. and ZARIA.

vidently some of the negro postal assistants were very painstaking when tamping mail, as interesting specimens have been observed where the date as been added in ink owing to imperfect stamping of the steel postmarks.

The amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria into the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria brought many interesting varieties of postmarks. Covers will be found bearing Northern and Southern Nigerian stamps used together, Northern Nigerian stamps will also be found used with Lagos and Nigeria issues.

The following Southern Nigerian cancellations will be found on the stamps of Northern Nigeria.



Southern Nigeria.-

a single circle varying from 21 to 22 mm. diameter

Used at:- Forcados River "A"
Sapele "A"



Southern Nigeria. - Type 2.

a single circle about $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter.

Used at:- Akassa "A"



Southern Nigeria.-Type 4.

a single circle about 24 mm. diameter with small Maltese Cross at base.

Used by:- Niger: Travelling Post Office. "A"



Southern Nigeria .-Type 5.

a single circle about 24 mm. diameter with large Maltese Cross at base. Used by: - Onitsha "A".





Southern Nigeria .-Type 7.

a single circle varying from 23 to 25 mm. diameter.

Used at:- Aba, Abeokuta, Benin City Brass, Burutu "A", Calabar "A" "B", Degema, Ibadan, Idah, Igbein Hill (Adeokora), (Absolute), Ikom, Jebu-Ode, Oron, Uyo, also at Freetown. Sierra Leone.



Southern Nigeria. -Type 8.

a double circle about 28 mm. diameter.

Used at:- Asaba, Bonny, Badagry, Buguma, Eket, Epe, Ibadan, Ifon, Tho, Lagos, Ode-ONpo Oshogbo. "A". Travelling Post Office "A" "B" "C".

KOKO





Southern Nigeria. - Type 8a.

a double circle similar to type 8 but with Maltese Crosses in place of the intersecting dots.

Used at:- Ahoada, Ebute Metta, Lagos B.O., Onitsha, Sapele.



Southern Nigeria. - Type 11.

Parcel post cancellation.

Used at:- Brass, Calabar, Lagos.

NORTHERN NIGERIA, POSTMARKS.

As regards registration cancellations Northern Nigeria Offices do not appear to have had special registration dating stamps in use, all registered correspondence examined bearing ordinary postal cancellations, sometimes with a hand stamp reading REGISTERED in black, thus:-

REGISTERED

The following SOUTHERN NIGERIA registration cancellations will be found on Northern Nigeria stamps following the amalgamation:-

Registration Type 1.

Used at:- Asaba "A", Burutu "A".



Registration Types 2 & 3.

Used at:- Benin City "A", Brass "A", Degema "A", Forcados "A", Ifon "A", Sapele "A", Sokoto, Warri"A".

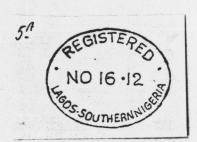


Registration Type 5.

Used by:- Creek Town "A", Calabar "A", Lagos "A", also with Sierra Leone registration.

Registration Type 5a.

Used by:- Lagos.



Registration Nigeria Type 1.

Used by: - Lagos, Zaria.



The stamps of Northern Nigeria remained current in the new Colony of Nigeria for sometime, until exhausted. The following cancellations of NIGERIA will be found.

NIGERIA. TYPE 1.

A double circle with name of Post Office at top and NIGETIA below, separated by a small Maltese Cross each side.

Used by:- Abeokuta, Degema, Ibadan, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Maidugeri, Nafada, Port Harcourt, Sokoto, Travelling Post Office, Warri, Zungeru.

NIGERIA. TYPE 2.



A double circle about 29 mm diameter with the name of post office in widely spaced capitals.

Used at: - Lagos.

NIGERIA. TYPE 3.



TYPE 4.



A single circle about 29 mm diameter.

Type 3 used at: - Victoria, Cameroons.
Type 4 used at: - Kaduna Jct, Olokemeji, Ogoja, Post Office Eket.

NIGERIA. TYPE 5.



Similar to type 3 except that the word DATE is shewn above the time of posting.

Used at: - Aba Post Office.

GERMAN CAMEROONS. TYPE 7.



A double circle about 25 mm. diameter left by the ex-German Postal Officials.

Used at:- Duala, Kamerun.

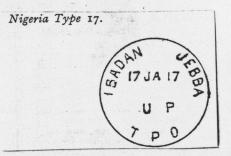
Nigeria, Type 8.

NIGERIA. TYPE 8.



A small single circle about 24 mm diam, left by the ex-German postal officials. Used at :- BUEA. KAMERUN.

NIGERIA TYPE 17.



A single circle used by the Travelling Post Office attached to the JEBBA- IBADAN train.

lettered JEBBA-IBADAN T.P.O. DOWN. IBADAN-JEBBA T.P.O. UP.

NIGERIA TYPE 21a.

A single circle about 30 mm diameter lettered LANDING STAGE used at LANDING STAGE. LAGOS.

NIGERIA TYPE 23.

GOVI TELS.UYO.

SHIP LETTER, PAQUETBOT & PORT OF ENTRY POSTMARKS found on the correspondence from NORTHERN NIGERIA.

These cancellations seem to be particularly scarce but the following postmarks have been noted.



Northern Nigeria stamps will also be found cancelled with postmarks of

CAPE COAST. GOLD COAST. FREETOWN. SIERRA LEONE.

620