

# BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

## POSTAGE STAMPS

used or issued by  
FERNANDO P.O. (G.B. only)

THE NIGER TERRITORIES

THE OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE

THE NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

This is the second bulletin to be published by the Circle on these territories and should be read in conjunction with the first, dated September 1975, which covered the use of handstruck stamps and cancellations.

This bulletin also includes sections on plate flaws and re-entries occurring on the Waterlow stamps printed for the Niger Coast but the 1893 and 1894 "provisionals" have been excluded and will form the subject of a later bulletin.

The stamps of Lagos are the subject of a separate editorship and are therefore not included herein.

Advice of omissions and fresh information relative to the contents of this bulletin will be welcome, but should be addressed to J.F. INCE who, in the interests of "division of labour" has been primarily responsible for the compilation of the contents.

The assistance of members is gladly acknowledged, and especially that of Messrs C. McCaig, M. Samuel, R.B. Sanderson and J. Whitfield on the subject of the "proofs" of the 1893 and 1894 issues.

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## PREFACE

The first stamps to be printed specially for use in the Niger area of the West African Coast were the G.B. overprints of July 1892 provided for the British Protectorate of the Oil Rivers.

However, the Circle's interest in this area extends to the postal history of Fernando Po and The Niger Territories where G.B. adhesives were used and which comprise a fascinating study in themselves. This bulletin therefore, commences with the use of G.B. adhesives in these two places.

## FERNANDO PO

- a. Prior to 1860, G.B. adhesives on covers from African naval stations were cancelled on arrival London. Rates per half ounce were 1d for sailors mail and 6d for officers, the stamps used presumably being 1d SG Type 5 and 6d SG Type 12.

Unless the cover is endorsed or the contents are still extant, the place of origin of such mail can not be identified positively.

- b. From 1860, G.B. adhesives could be used on mail following the appointment in 1859 of the resident Consul as British Postal Agent.

- i) The following are known cancelled by the duplex 247. (with dot) : -  
- 4d value, SG Type 27, vermilion, plate 13 (1872) and 14 (1873).  
No examples have been seen on cover. These stamps were probably provided for local delivery to the W. African ports.

- 6d value, SG Type 43, grey, plate 13 (1874), plate 14 (1875)  
plate 15 (1876), plate 16 (1878)

(See Beale "West African Postal Agencies - Fernando Po",  
BWASC bulletin 1974).

- ii) Between 1858 and 1870, G.B. values 1d, 6d and 10d exist, cancelled by mail boat cancellers B.12 and B.56.

A cover dated 1860 bearing G.B. 6d is known and this stamp is presumably SG Type 18.

The 1d, 6d and 10d values occurring subsequent to 1860 are presumably 1d SG Type 5, 6d SG Type 23 and 10d SG Type 30, although this last value requires corroboration.

### THE NIGER TERRITORIES

The use of British stamps only commenced following the grant of its charter to The Royal Niger Company in 1886, supplies being obtained by the Company, and to a lesser extent, by the Bank of Liverpool, for use on homeward mail. The earliest date of use so far recorded is a G.B. 1884 6d value cancelled on 19th November 1886 at Liverpool. G.B. values have been noted as follows : -

1881 - 1d - SG Type 57 die 11  
1883-84 - 6d - SG Type 63, and 2/6d SG Type 58  
1887-92 (Jubilee issue) -  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 4d, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 6d, 9d, 10d.

Values 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1/- have not so far been recorded, while the use of values 2d, 4d, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 9d seems to have been rare.

These G.B. issues remained in use in The Territories until it was absorbed into the Colony of Southern Nigeria on 1st January, 1900.

### THE BRITISH PROTECTORATE OF THE OIL RIVERS

This Protectorate was formally assumed in July 1884. Postal arrangements followed those for Lagos and The Niger Territories, mail steamers calling regularly at the ports of Old Calabar and Bonny. The first post office was opened at Old Calabar in November 1891, with sub-offices following at Benin, Bonny, Brass, Opobo and Warri (Forcados). G.B. postage stamps were in use from this time until gradually replaced by the overprinted G.B. issue of July 1892. Some values continued to be used until late 1893, although the Sierra Leone Gazette No. 301 of 17th September 1892, had stated that acceptance thereof would only continue until 30th September 1892.

Period 1884 to 1892 (July). Until post offices were opened after November 1891, it is virtually impossible to identify usage of British stamps originating from the Protectorate, unless 'on piece' or 'on cover' where there may be an identifying endorsement from the sender; or where the contents of the cover are still inside. However, by this period, the other main West African Settlements had their own postal systems and town cancellers were in use, e.g. Bathurst, Freetown, Accra, Lagos etc. It seems that the only G.B. values used during this period were 6d SG Types 63 and 79, no other values having been recorded. It is equally probable that in some cases the G.B. adhesive was affixed and cancelled on arrival at Liverpool.

Period subsequent to July 1892. Towards the end of July 1892, G.B. values overprinted "BRITISH PROTECTORATE", "OIL RIVERS" were placed on sale, comprising : -

1881 - 1d - SG Type 57 die II  
1887-92 (Jubilee Issue) -  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 1/-.

The printers, Thomas de la Rue & Co must still have had in stock some 5d values duty plate 1 for these do occur. The bulk of the 5d values are duty plate II, including examples overprinted "SPECIMEN".

These overprints were ordered by a letter from the G.P.O. to the Board of Inland Revenue dated 8th April, 1892, which was sent by the Controller of Stamps at Somerset House to de la Rue. Six separate lots, so overprinted, were to be sent one for each of the following vice-consulates or stations : -

Benin River  
Brass River  
Old Calabar River

Bonny River  
Opobo River  
Forcados River

Each lot was to contain 5000 each of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d and 5d values, and 1000 each of the 1/- value, the sheets to be interleaved with sheets of blotting paper (owing to the humid climate) and despatched in a tin-lined case. It is in fact possible with some mint copies still to find pink (or red) fibres from this blotting paper adhering to the gum. De la Rue submitted specimens on 21st April, which were approved on 5th May. The invoices dated 2nd July gave the following particulars :- (ex "History of De la Rue 1855 - 1901")

"Overprinting Oil Rivers Stamps etc."

Description	Sent to Oil Rivers	Sent to Inland Rev.	Total Sheets	Pulls	Per 100	£ s. d.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d Unified	30,000	3,600	140 (240 Set)	280	5/-	14. 0.
1d "	30,000	3,360	139	278	5/-	13. 10.
2d "	30,000	3,480	279 (120 Set)	279	5/-	13. 11.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d "	30,000	3,600	280	280	5/-	14. 0.
5d "	30,000	3,540	559 (60 Set)	559	4/3	1. 3. 9.
1/- "	6,000	720	56 (120 Set)	56	8/- lot	8. 0.

A further 22,500 of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d was ordered on November 21st, and on February 23rd, 1893, the General Post Office sent the following order : -

- ' With reference to my letter of the 5th April last, I beg leave
- ' to inform you that a further supply of Postage Stamps and
- ' Registered Envelopes is applied for by the Postmaster General,
- ' Oil Rivers Protectorate.'
- ' The quantities required are as follows : -

<u>Number</u>	<u>Postage Stamps</u>
2500	Value $\frac{1}{2}$ d
2500	" 1d
1500	" 2d
2500	" $2\frac{1}{2}$ d
1000	" 5d
500	" 1/-

- ' for each of the undermentioned vice-consulates : Benin, Warri
- ' (Forcados), Brass and Opobo ; and



<u>Number</u>	<u>Postage Stamps</u>
5000	Value $\frac{1}{2}$ d
5000	" 1d
3000	" 2d
5000	" $2\frac{1}{2}$ d,
1000	" 5d
1000	" 1/-

' for the Vice-Consuls at Bonny and Old Calabar. '

' I am informed that the stock of stamps in the Protectorate is nearly  
' exhausted and shall, therefore, be much obliged if you will kindly  
' arrange for the requisite number of postage stamps to be over-  
' printed and sent to the various Vice-Consulates at the earliest  
' opportunity, if possible by the direct steamer leaving on the 1st of  
' March. '

The above quantities were sent to the Oil Rivers on March 27th, and the surplus stamps of each duty to the Board of Inland Revenue. They were charged at 8/- per 100 sheets, or pulls.

It can be seen from the above that the actual number of stamps of each value actually sent to the Protectorate were : -

<u>Number</u>	<u>Postage Stamps</u>
50,000	Value $\frac{1}{2}$ d
50,000	" 1d
42,000	" 2d
72,500	" $2\frac{1}{2}$ d
36,000	" 5d
10,000	" 1/-

These numbers (excluding those sent to the Inland Revenue) are of interest since they differ from those quoted by Porter (Philatelist Vol. XI V 1957/8 p. 168) and R. L. Encyclopaedia Vol. II p. 306. Both authorities start with the numbers of the first invoice of 2nd July (except  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ); Porter then states that 24,000 x 2d were made in December 1892 while R. L. Enc. Vol. II, as amended by Philatelist Vol. XX11 1955/6 p.101, endorses this, (did Porter use R. L. as his source ?). However, R. L. Enc. actually shows 57,000 x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d compared with Porter's 33,600. Both authorities do not appear to have seen the final invoice of 27th March, 1893, while some error of advice concerning the value of the stamps ordered on November 21st (invoice Dec.?) seems to have occurred, 2d being recorded instead of the actual  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

#### OVERPRINTING

The overprinting of the 1892 Provisional Issue is in black sans-serif type applied by means of electrotpe plates. Whether the type was set up for six stamps and electros made to build upto a setting of 60, which was then used to make a second plate of sixty; or whether the first plate was used twice in the overprinting process is not known. The result is the same. Two plates were used in the overprinting,

the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values in sheets of 240 were run through twice; the 2d,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1/- values in sheets of 120 were printed in one operation, while the 5d value, in panes of 60 only, required the use of only one plate.

The measurements of the six types vary in length, as follows : -

Vertical Columns	1 and 7	2 and 8	3 and 9	4 and 10	5 and 11	6 and 12
BRITISH	8 mm	7.75 mm	7.75 mm	7.75 mm	7.75 mm	7.75 x 1.75mm high
PROTECT-ORATE	16.25mm	16.5 (bare)	16.5 mm	16.5 mm	16.5 mm	16.5 x 1.75 mm high
OIL RIVERS	16.5 mm	16.5 mm	16.5 mm	16.5mm (full)	16.75mm	16.5(bare)x 2mm high

In addition to the slight differences in the length of overprint, there are also variations in the alignment of lettering, making it possible to allocate even single specimens to their particular column on the sheet.

The chief type variations are summarised as follows : -

Vertical Columns	1 and 7	2 and 8	3 and 9	4 and 10	5 and 11	6 and 12
BRITISH	B.H. raised	B.H. raised	B. lowered H. raised	R. slanting H. raised	B.H. raised slightly	B. level H. raised

NOTE : The "T" is always lower than the other letters.

A feature of the overprinting is that the 1d value has the surcharge always placed well towards the top of the stamp and the 1/- value (in most cases) towards the bottom. All the other values have the surcharge applied equi-distant top and bottom.

### SPECIMENS

All six values were overprinted 'Specimen' in small black capitals for U.P.U. purposes. They are also known with overprint 'Cancelled' for the same purpose. In addition, they will be found with a punched circular hole in lieu of the 'Specimen' overprint. It is worth noting that G.B. postage stamps, destined for use in British Post Offices overseas, were overprinted 'Specimen' by the Inland Revenue at Somerset House, London. Consequently, this provisional issue for Oil Rivers received the same type of 'Specimen' overprint as that used for the normal G.B. 1887 Jubilee issue i.e. small serif capitals (R. L. Type 306) instead of the de la Rue 'Specimen' type used for colonial stamps of the period (R. L. Enc. Vol. II p.430 Type S.D.7).

Only three 'Specimens' of each value were sent to U.P.U. members as the issue was ordered before 1st July 1892.

### CONTROL LETTERS

Only the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values had control letters on the sheet margins :  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d - E, K, L, M and 1d - L, N, O, P, Q.

### ESSAY

There is an essay of the overprint on the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d vermilion in a different type from that actually used (Melville). See also R. L. Enc. II p. 306.

### TRIAL CANCELLATION

It may be of interest to record the following from R.B. Sanderson : -

"I have a pair and a block x 6 of the Oil Rivers 1892  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and a pair of 1d same issue, all overprinted with the usual small 'SPECIMEN' (R. Lowe Vol II p. 430 Type SD6) but cancelled (a) Pair of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d with a heavy oval (?) type of canceller similar to the large Oil Rivers Protectorate Ovals, in black; (b) Block x 6,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, by rough single, double, treble and 4 bar obliterations in black; (c) Pair of 1d by single line bars over word 'SPECIMEN'.

"It would appear that they were done in order to ascertain to what extent the 'specimen' overprints were likely to be obscured by cancellations".

### ERRORS

One sheet of the 1d value was printed out of register so that the overprint was transposed, 'Oil Rivers' appearing at the top and 'British Protectorate' below. With the exception of eight stamps from the bottom row, all the remainder of the sheet is reported to have been destroyed. One specimen of this stamp from the bottom row and showing the imprint 'Oil Rivers' in the sheet margin was sold in London in April 1973 for £325.

Owing to the presence of loose perforation discs during overprinting, especially on the 2d value, the ink has been prevented from registering, resulting in broken or incomplete lettering. However, there are a number of consistent flaw varieties on all values which developed during printing and they comprise an interesting study in themselves. A table of these, as extracted from Porter in the Philatelist Vol X1V 1957/8 p. 267/8 is attached.

### FORGERIES

Many values of this provisional issue have been the subject of forgery of the overprint from Fournier himself down to very crude efforts. Usually the forgery manifests itself by the use of the wrong type or wrong spacing but sometimes the overprint is inverted. The 1d value, where the print is out of register, has also been the subject of quite dangerous forgeries. Often one can be alerted to the possibility of forgery by the use of a cancellation other than from the Coast, G.B. cancels being those usually adopted. Presumably, the sale price to gullible collectors was higher for an apparently 'postally used' rarity than for a mint copy.

### C.T.O.'s

Remainders from this provisional issue were sold to a London dealer who returned a large number to the Coast to be "cancelled to order". Fortunately, it would seem that the bulk of these were cancelled "Old Calabar C" (and not Old Calabar River) which facilitates identification. However, during the currency of the stamps, there was a demand for C.T.O.'s and such have been noted, inter alia, for Benin River (red ink) and Opobo.

### BISECTS & LOCAL OVERPRINTS

'The Old Calabar Provisional' - 3rd Sept. 1893. The 1d value was surcharged locally for temporary use as a  $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp, the surcharge comprising a narrow bar printed diagonally across the stamp dividing it into two halves with the figure  $\frac{1}{2}$ d printed in a slanting direction in each half.

'The Old Calabar "Half-Penny" Provisionals' - December 1893. The 2d and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d values were locally overprinted 'half-penny' in ten differing type settings and in varying coloured inks.

The 2d value was also surcharged 'One shilling' in two different settings and in violet and vermilion inks, and 8 copies in black.

This 2d value was additionally surcharged "5/-" in violet, only 28 copies are said to have been so printed, while the 5d value was surcharged "10/-" in vermilion, only 32 copies having been printed.

'The Opobo Provisionals'- June/October 1894. The 2d value was bisected vertically, each half being locally surcharged with a vertical "1" in vermilion to provide a 1d stamp.

All these surcharges and local overprints form a specialist study in themselves and, it is hoped, will form the subject of a later bulletin. In view of the date of issue, they fall to be included under stamps of the Niger Coast.

### DATE OF ISSUE

A Post Office notice under the signature of T.A. Wall, Postmaster General at Old Calabar, was published on 20th July, 1892, stating that all the values of the G.B. overprinted issue were now available at the following Post Offices : - Old Calabar, Opobo, Bonny, Brass, Warri (Forcados) and Benin. In fact, the earliest recorded date of use, held in the Circle, is at Old Calabar on 23rd July 1892.

### IMPRIMATUR SHEETS

The National Postal Museum holds the Imprimatur Sheets of this overprinted issue carrying the date 13th May 1892. Three stamps have been removed from each pane under the signature W. Rose 13.5.92.

It is of interest that stamp No. 114 of the 2d value carries a misprint of the 'I' of Rivers as two dots - thus, R:VERS. This is not a constant error.



THE BRITISH PROTECTORATE OF THE OIL RIVERS

FLAW VARIETIES OF OVERPRINT

(As listed in The Philatelist Vol XXIV 1957/58 pages 267/8 - H.G. Porter).

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| No. 3  | First "1" of BRITISH bent to right at base   |
| No. 6  | "E" of RIVERS has break below centre stroke  |
| No. 14 | "L" of OIL has break near top  |
| No. 16 | "B" of BRITISH has top corner broken off and the "E" of 'ATE' has curved foot.   |
| No. 17 | "E" of 'ATE' raised and has short slanting top stroke and extra long lower stroke with curved toe.   |
| No. 18 | Short "P" of PROTECTORATE. "E" of 'ATE' has short rounded lower stroke.  |
| No. 31 | Second "T" of PROTECTORATE bent to right at base.  |
| No. 35 | "P" of PROTECTORATE has thin loop showing signs of fracture at centre stroke.  |
| No. 37 | "T" of PROTECTORATE has short stroke at top left side. The "T" of OIL is broken at bottom left.  |
| No. 40 | Has three small dots between "R" and "I" of RIVERS. In some values the "E" of RIVERS shows break. The "T" of 'ATE' is short and set slanting. No. 40 can be distinguished from No. 100 by this slanting "T". |
| No. 41 | "O" of 'TOR' has break in centre at left.  |
| No. 47 | "R" of BRITISH has right leg rounded. "O" of 'TOR' has slight bulge at right.  |
| No. 49 | First "R" of RIVERS has flaw at junction of loop and diagonal stroke at right. Both "I's" of BRITISH are slightly larger than the "T".   |
| No. 52 | Triangular break in second "R" of RIVERS at junction of loop with upright stroke at left.  |
| No. 58 | Short lower stroke to "L" of OIL.  |
| No. 60 | "R" of 'PRO' is raised and slightly larger than other letters. It also has a thick curved stroke at right.   |
| No. 61 | "T" of 'PROT' has short top stroke at right and is set slanting.   |
| No. 62 | "O" of 'PRO' is elongated and malformed at right.  |
| No. 64 | "O" of OIL has flaw at base right, almost a break.   |
| No. 65 | "O" of 'TOR' has break in centre at left.  |
| No. 78 | "I" of OIL is larger and has small break near top. First "R" of RIVERS has long left-hand stroke.  |
| No. 79 | Break in centre "T" of PROTECTORATE at junction of vertical stroke and right horizontal bar.   |
| No. 83 | Large stop between "R.S" of RIVERS.  |
| No. 85 | Second "R" of RIVERS is broad and malformed with clear break in centre at loop.  |
| No. 95 | "P" of 'PRO' broken through upright and top of loop.   |

- No. 100 Comma and dot between 'R; I' of RIVERS; sometimes these are not joined and then they show as three dots like No. 40.
- No. 105 "R" and "T" of 'PROT' are both malformed and have long strokes; the "E" of 'ATE' has short, upturned, curved foot.
- No. 106 Small dot between "R·I" of RIVERS.
- No. 112 "E" of RIVERS has gash in lower stroke almost severing the end.
- No. 117 "T" of BRITISH has broken foot at right.
- No. 120 "E" of 'ATE' is raised and the "T" is short and set slanting.
- NOTE :
- (1) The 5d value is known with badly printed letter "R..H" of BRITISH and "C.T" of PROTECTORATE, the "HCT" being printed in afterwards so that these letters are doubly struck.
  - (2) The 2d value is known with the lower R.H. stem of the second 'R' in RIVER missing; and also the second 'T' of PROTECTORATE is mostly missing. An R.P.S. certificate is held

### THE BRITISH PROTECTORATE OF THE OIL RIVERS

JULY 1892 - Stamps of Great Britain (1881 and 1887 issues) overprinted in London by Thomas de la Rue & Co in black from electrotypes plates. Watermark Imperial Crown Perf : 14.

SG	No. 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	Vermilion	
"	" 2	1d	Lilac	(Die II )
"	" 2a	-		overprint reversed "Oil Rivers" at top
"	" 3	2d	Green and Carmine	
"	" 3a	-		bisected vertically or diagonally - used as 1d. <u>NOT</u> overprinted with 1d.
"	" 4	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d	Purple on blue deep purple on blue	
"	" 5	5d	dull purple on blue	Die II (Die 1 occurs)
"	" 6	1/-	green pale green	

CONTROL LETTERS  $\frac{1}{2}$ d E, K, L, M 1d L, N, O, P, Q.

NOTE : All local overprints, whether of bisects or of complete stamps, have been excluded from the above list and generally from this bulletin, as they will be the subject of another bulletin later.

## THE NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

On 12th May 1893, by an Order in Council the Oil Rivers Protectorate was extended indefinitely into the interior of the country under the name of The Niger Coast Protectorate.

Negotiations had already been in progress late in 1892 between the Controller of Stamps at Somerset House and Sir Claude Macdonald (the Commissioner and Consul General) with stamp printers for the provision of the first definitive series for the Oil Rivers. Thomas de la Rue & Co who had earlier provided the G.B. overprints for the Protectorate and who had introduced the typographical process of stamp printing, were asked to submit proposals. This they did in November 1892, in a design similar to SG Types 29 and 39 for Ceylon (approx) quoting the usual rates for a typographed keyplate issue. However, the contract was lost to Waterlow & Sons who had submitted a tender using the recess method of printing on copper plate. (see paragraph on 'Essays' page 17)

### DESIGN

Early in 1893 Waterlows completed the engraving of the dies and printing plates for six values. The designs were the work of G. Drummond, and the portrait die by H. Browne. Each comprised, enclosed in an oval or circle, a three-quarter face portrait of Queen Victoria, surrounded by a frame which was different for each value. This issue was to prove one of the British Colonial classics and the beauty and workmanship remain outstanding to this day. However, each design bore the title 'Oil Rivers Protectorate' and, in the meantime, The Niger Coast Protectorate had been established. In order to avoid delay in making new dies, it was decided to use the existing ones by screening out the words 'Oil Rivers' and engraving at the head of each stamp 'Niger Coast' in bold sans-serif type.

### PRINTING

The following table gives details of the three printings which were made for each value, the numbers printed being taken from Porter (see bibliography). While these are the same as given in R. L. Enc. Vol II p.307, the latter is in error in that the 5d value was sheets of 48 stamps ( 8 x 6 ) and not 30 stamps ( 6 x 5 ). The numbering of the sheets gives rise to an interesting problem, since many exist with no serial number, while those that do, have been numbered in manuscript at the top right-hand corner in blue pencil. If one accepts the reasonable assumption (see R.L. Enc.) that earlier printings were in darker shades then, from available material, it would seem that the first printing comprised sheets which were unnumbered, numbering being applied to the second and third printings and, in both cases, starting again at Number 1 rather than being progressive through each printing. Much depends where the numbering was applied but, presumably, this was done at the printers.

Apart from unnumbered sheets, the following have been seen : -

$\frac{1}{2}$ d value	Sheet No.	108, 316
1d value	" "	33, 43, 272
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d value	" "	207
5d value	" "	129
1/- value	" "	70

The handwriting appears to be limited to two types and, as an example the 1d value, sheets numbered 33 and 43 are dark blue and in the same hand, while sheet number 272 is a light blue and in a different hand. Clarification would facilitate identification of the separate printings.

TABLE OF PRINTINGS

VALUE	NUMBERS	<u>1st Printing</u> 2.6.93	<u>2nd Printing</u> 9.1.94	<u>3rd Printing</u> 12.3.94	<u>Total</u> Printed
<u><math>\frac{1}{2}</math>d</u> <u>Vermilion</u>	Number printed	9000	8000	20,000	37,000
	" per sheet	60	60	60	-
	" of sheets (estd)	150	133	353	616
<u>1d</u> <u>Blue</u>	Number printed	11,000	10,000	18,400	39,400
	" per sheet	60	60	60	-
	" of sheets (estd)	183	166	306	656
<u>2d</u> <u>Green</u>	Number printed	6,000	5,000	5,000	16,000
	" per sheet	60	60	60	-
	" of sheets (estd)	100	83	83	266
<u><math>2\frac{1}{2}</math>d</u> <u>Carmin-Lake</u>	Number printed	16,000	15,000	15,000	46,000
	" per sheet	48	48	48	-
	" of sheets (estd)	333	312	312	957
<u>5d</u> <u>Grey-lilac</u>	Number printed	9,000	9,000	8,000	25,000
	" per sheet	48	48	48	-
	" of sheets (estd)	187	166	166	519
<u>1/-</u> <u>Black</u>	Number printed	6,000	5,000	5,000	16,000
	" per sheet	30	30	30	-
	" of sheets (estd)	200	166	166	532



A feature of this printing was that the 1d value was printed in blue, and the 2½d in carmine lake whereas, if these colours had been reversed, it would have been in keeping with the usual Colonial colours of that time.

#### PAPER

The paper, which was in unwatermarked white wove, varied in thickness and texture; it has the appearance of being handmade (Porter). It varies from a thick opaque paper to a thin, almost pelure and from white to a bluish-white shade. All values will be found on a toned paper. Thick toned paper was also used for one printing of the 1/- value and, on this paper, is scarce (Porter).

#### SHADES

R. L. Enc. Vol II states that the first printings were darker, the subsequent printings presumably becoming lighter as the plates got worn, and this would tend to confirm deductions about sheet numbering above.

However, apart from dark and light shades (which was especially apparent with the 1d blue value) there were definite gradations of colour, viz :-

- ½d - from brick-red to vermilion
- 1d - from deep blue, blue to pale blue
- 2d - from deep green, green to light green
- 2½d - from deep carmine lake to a brighter and lighter shade
- 5d - 1st Printing - grey lilac to slate  
2nd Printing - a deeper lilac  
3rd Printing - a dull lilac (Porter)
- 1/- - Deep black varying according to paper

The humidity of the climate has also affected colours which may often render difficult the allocation of an item to a definite printing.

#### PERFORATION

The perforating was carried out by the normal single line machines used by Waterlow & Sons. There are a number of puzzling features which were the subject of an article by D.B. Armstrong and referred to by Porter. It is considered that 6 separate guillotine machines were used. Many combinations of perforations exist from the ordinary regular gauges of 14 and 15 together with irregular and compound gauges. One of the machines used was undoubtedly irregular, since differing gauges can be found on the same stamp. R. L. Enc. Vol II lists the following combinations which can be found : -

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) Perf. 14 - all values             | f) Perf. 12 x 13 x 14 - 1d, 2½d       |
| b) Perf. 14½ - all but ½d & 2d       | g) Perf. 12 x 12½ - 2d                |
| c) Perf. 12 x 14 - 1d, 2d, 1/-       | h) Perf. 12 - 2d, 2½d                 |
| d) Perf. 12½ x 14 - 1d, 2d, 2½d, 1/- | i) Perf. 12½ - 2½d                    |
| e) Perf. 12 x 15 - 2d, 1/-           | j) Perf. 12 x 14 x 14 x 14 - 2½d, 1/- |

NOTE : Perforation 12 and combinations of 12 are scarce.

### IMPERFORATE

The 2d value is known imperf vertically between pairs. A block of four and a pair (the latter cut round the perimeter) were in the Danson Sale, both items bearing the Forcados c.d. sType 1, dated MR 8 94, with the code 'c' reversed.

### DIE PROOFS, PLATE PROOFS etc.

Difficulties in classification have arisen over the years as a result of differing descriptions in sale catalogues and elsewhere of the same material. As a result, some of the classifications used in this bulletin, based on such material, must to a degree, be tentative, pending more information or until the relevant Waterlow's Engraver's Records and Proof Books are located ( if they still exist).

The following definitions have been applied where practicable :

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <u>Die Proofs</u>         | - Generally on card and usually black. A coloured specimen has only been included where there is supporting evidence to show that it is not a plate proof e.g. guide lines still apparent showing that it is an Engraver's Progress Proof.  |
| <u>Plate Proofs</u>       | a) On unwatermarked paper; imperforate and in unissued colours<br>b) On unwatermarked paper; imperforate and in issued colours<br>c) Perforated colour proofs.  |
| <u>Colour Trials</u>      | Proofs pulled in various colours BEFORE the stamps are printed for issue. Without the Proof Books, it would be difficult to establish the difference between trials and some proofs. It is very possible that, with the early Niger Coast issues, the bulk of colour proofs, labelled as colour trials, were in fact, reprints. |
| <u>Travellers Samples</u> | There is evidence that colour proofs for the 1894 issue were printed from special plates of nine, laid down from the rollers, and that these imperforate stamps were used as "Travellers Samples". It is not confirmed whether similar plates were made for the 1893 issue, but it is believed to be so.                        |

#### A. OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE

a) The following imperforate die proofs of the original engraving (before alteration to Niger Coast) both showing the guide lines still extant (thus indicating Engraver's Progress Proofs) are currently held in the Circle : -

2½d indigo                      1/- black

In addition, a 1/- olive bistre is held which is considered to be a die proof, while in the Danson Sale Catalogue of 10.3.71 there appears a colour photograph of 5d value in lilac (62 x 92 mm).

b) Perforate die proofs are reported : - in the Circle 1/- black perf.15; in the Moseley Collection (British Museum) ½d grey blue, 1/; grey green - these latter, probably being the two perforate die proofs listed in R. L. Enc. Vol II p.307.

c) The Encyclopaedia, on p.307, states that "die proofs exist in issued colours". Porter states that "die proofs and colour trials" exist in issued colours and in other colours, as follows : ½d deep green, 1d vermilion, 2d carmine-lake, 2½d deep blue and also olive bistre, 5d slate/lilac and 1/- in both grey black and carmine-lake. Most of these items were in the Danson Sale and were described there as die proofs. All of these items are imperforate and are tabulated provisionally herein as plate proofs.

#### B. NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

a) Values ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d and 5d (but not apparently the 1/- value) exist in the Oil Rivers die, imperforate and in the issued colours but overprinted (not re-engraved) in black 'NIGER COAST'. This set is presently held in the Circle and could perhaps be described as 'ESSAYS'. This set was acquired in the Danson 1971 Sale, and is probably the same set as advertised in the Pilkington Sale of May 1954. It is interesting to speculate whether or not there was ever an essay of the 1/- value, resulting in black on black !

b) R. L. Encyclopaedia states that imperforate die proofs exist "as issued in various colours" (but not apparently in the issued colours) and perforate die proofs in ½d vermilion and 1/- black. Two of such sets were in the Danson sale described as die proofs. Four sets are currently held in the Circle and another has been currently seen - all the same colour values. It is the unanimous opinion of members concerned that these are plate proofs. It is also considered by one authority, that there is no evidence to suggest that these are colour trials as such, but that they may have been produced for internal colour trial, or some other special purpose after the authorised stamps had been issued, or for use as 'Printers Samples', though again, there is no evidence to this effect.

The following tabulation attempts to summarise the material as far as it is practicable to do so for the 1893 issue :

<u>IMPERFORATE</u> <u>DIE PROOFS</u>	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	1d	2d	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d	5d	1/-	Remarks
<u>Oil Rivers</u> (original engraving)	-	-	-	indigo	lilac	black olive-bistre	
<u>Niger Coast</u> (name re-engraved)		NONE	SEEN	(see narrative)			
<u>PERFORATE</u> <u>DIE PROOFS</u>							
<u>Oil Rivers</u> (original engraving)	grey-blue	-	-	-	-	grey-green black p.15	R. L. Enc. Circle
<u>Niger Coast</u> (name-re-engraved)	vermilion black	-	-	-	-	black	R. L. Enc.
<u>IMPERFORATE</u> <u>PLATE PROOFS</u>							
<u>Oil Rivers</u>  (R. L. & Porter)	vermilion  green	blue  vermilion	green  lake	lake  indigo olive-bistre	lilac  slate-lilac	black  lake grey-black	issued colours
Held in Circle	-	-	-	orange-bistre	-	-	
<u>Niger Coast</u> (Essays) (overprinted in black)	vermilion	blue	green	lake	lilac	-	issued colours
<u>Niger Coast</u>	green	vermilion	lake	blue	slate-lilac	black	Porter "proofs"
	violet	lake brown	blue	bistre	lake	green ) olive-bistre)	Circle



THOMAS DE LA RUE - ESSAYS FOR OIL RIVERS

De la Rue failed to obtain the Contract to print the first definitives for The Oil Rivers. A design had been sent to Sir Claude Macdonald in London for approval. The De La Rue History illustrates the hand-painted designs for three values, in key plate, which were prepared, namely 1d (for printed post card); 2d - dated 23/11/92; 2½d dated 24/12/92, all with the name "Oil Rivers Protectorate" included.

The following have been noted at Auctions : -

- a) Ex-Pilkington 10/5/54 : "An original bi-coloured hand-painted essay on card for proposed 2½d stamp for Oil Rivers. The Essay is somewhat similar in design and colour to the then current G.B. 2d stamp, example of the latter being mounted below the card dated DEC 21st 92".

The illustration shows the name in the tablet "Oil Rivers Protectorate".

- b) Ex-Hinde 14/1/59 : " 1894 (Sept) de la Rue's Queen's Head essays, one marked "BEFORE HARDENING" with tablets blank; the other "AFTER HARDENING" and with "OIL RIVERS" inscribed in pencil in top tablet and, in manuscript (red ink) 'Expl die'. " (Presently held in Circle).
- c) Ex-Danson : This item was first offered in the Danson Sale of 10/3/71, withdrawn and then sold in the Robson Lowe Auction 23/11/71.

"1894 die proof in black on glazed card of an essay for head and background, with blank name and duty tablets, dated 12 SEP '94 and marked "AFTER HARDENING". (Presently held in Circle).

In 1894/95 de la Rue's were negotiating somewhat similar frame designs, especially with the South African colonies and no doubt used the Oil Rivers essays (with the name tablets blank) as samples.

In addition to the above examples there are in the National Postal Museum, a hand-painted 1d stamp on a postcard, and a hand-painted 2d stamp, green and red on buff paper, both dated 23.11.92 and marked "Design A submitted 21.12.92 to Sir Claude Macdonald.

SPECIMEN

None are known bearing either 'Specimen' or 'Cancelled', although the stamps were issued for Postal Union purposes. However, copies do exist with a punched circular hole, in lieu of 'Specimen'.

BISECTS

In May, and again in September 1894, in order to meet a shortage of ½d values, the 1d blue (both light and dark shades) was bisected vertically and each half was locally overprinted in red with the figures '½d'. Varieties exist with the surcharge inverted on both shades and, on pale blue, with the surcharge 'tete beche'.

Although these bisects were issued to meet a shortage at Opobo, they seem to have been used extensively elsewhere, especially at Bonny, where the c.d.s. of 22nd May 1894 may well be C.T.O's.

The 1d value also was bisected diagonally with no overprint.

The 2d green value was also bisected diagonally to meet a shortage of 1d values, with no overprint, and in addition, occurs bisected vertically (see Danson Sale).

### DATE OF ISSUE

The earliest postmarked date is 2nd Dec. 1893 at Forcados, but as a number of these specimens exist they are thought to be C.T.O's. It has been on the basis of these cancellations that catalogues give the date of "November (?) 1893". Apart from these, the earliest date found by Porter was on a registered cover from Bonny containing a full set and dated 1st Jan. 1894. Another cover with a full set is known dated 4th Jan. 1894.

### PLATE FLAWS & RE-ENTRIES

VALUE	NO. ON SHEET	DETAILS
$\frac{1}{2}$ d	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Plate dot in the curl of 2 in <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> (both sides)</li> <li>b) There are only 8 circular white dots around the base of the centre oval on the left side but 9 on the right.</li> </ul>
	SOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decorative "V" (on its side) on right centre of oval has the following :-</li> <li>a) <u>Upper Arm</u> - No. 14 - the final right hand graving line extends through to outer margin, with additional line in lower arm</li> <li>b) <u>Lower Arm</u> - Nos. 10, 13, 20, 30, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 45 and 50 carry a single or double additional line in outer right hand margin. The most definite single additional line is on No. 16, where it's position is centred.</li> </ul>
	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A line of colour passes through right hand fraction of 1 of <math>\frac{1}{2}</math>d - extending through circle to triangular ornament above.</li> <li>b) Right hand vertical frame line extends well beyond the upper horizontal frame line.</li> </ul>
	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Additional lines to circle and frame above ONE</li> <li>b) The 'P' of Penny is slightly distorted</li> <li>c) The background of the centre oval overlaps slightly at lower left</li> <li>d) Small dots in pearls at lower left</li> <li>e) Re-touching lines at the top of 'F' of HALF and 'P' of PENNY.</li> </ul>
	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A small additional frame line extends horizontally to right from foot of 'T' of COAST.</li> <li>b) The background of centre oval overlaps slightly at top right.</li> <li>c) The horizontal shading lines in curl of right-hand scroll overlap scroll to right.</li> </ul>

Continuation of Plate Flaws & Re-entries/....

VALUE	NO. ON SHEET	DETAILS
$\frac{1}{2}p$	51, 52	Additional vertical stroke to stem of 'T' of COAST on left-hand side finishing short of cross-piece. No. 51 is more definite than No. 52.
1d	ALL SOME  SOME	<p>Additional short vertical line at top left-hand corner of picture. Tendency for a single or double line of colour to appear in upper half of left-hand margin. A single line is very definite on Nos. 19, 33, 36 and 53, while a double line is very apparent on Nos. 13 and 23.</p> <p>Several graver marks exist to the letters of NIGER COAST; Porter cites Nos. 9, 10, 12, 18, 32, 42, 43, 44 and 56. However, more specifically : -</p> <p>a) a graver line extends from upper arm of 'E' of NIGER varying distances towards loop of 'R', from which a line sometimes extends left back to 'E'. In the pale blue, lighter printings this line is not always apparent. On No. 12 the two lines appear to join up. Generally, this line can be seen on Nos. 3, 6, 8, 10, 20, 25 and 42. No. 44 also has a heavy mark at top right arm of 'E' descending at <math>45^{\circ}</math>, often resembling a white triangle.</p> <p>b) Another graving line often appears on right-hand loop of 'R' of NIGER towards 'C' of COAST - from varying points on loop and of varying length e.g. Nos. 9, 18, 21, 32, 43 and 56. On No. 30 the line appears midway between 'R' and 'C'.</p>
	1	The outer vertical frame lines at top left are increasingly double as they descend, out of the true vertical.
	11	The doubling is as for No. 1 but there is also an unconnected line of colour in the outer upper left-hand margin, descending at $45^{\circ}$ .
	39	Two long lines of colour at left, from below 'N' of NIGER, descending at an angle to intersect outer perimeter line and continuing down in margin to half-way. The outer line is shorter and fainter but appears more definitely in the deeper blue printings.
	40	<p>a) Extra lines to oval at left and right just below centre.</p> <p>b) Extra line of colour to frame at left opposite 'R' of 'PRO' and also on right of frame opposite 'A' of 'ATE'.</p>
	50 & 60	<p>a) The oval surrounding the Queen's Head has a double line on both sides, just below centre - as in No. 40, but the left-hand doubling is not always apparent on No. 50. There are no extra frame lines as in No. 40.</p>

Continuation of Plate Flaws & Re-entries/....

VALUE	NO. ON SHEET	DETAILS
1d	50 & 60	b) There is an additional horizontal frame line at top right-hand corner intersecting stem of 'T' of COAST and extending to right thereof. (Signs of this re-touching appear on other stamps but it is most apparent on these two stamps).
2d	ALL	a) The 'T' of COAST does not print fully on most stamps. b) There is a plate dot in the centre of each 2 and in the final 'E' of PENCE. c) The inner and outer perimeter lines of circle enclosing right hand '2' break out of the circle below the foot of 'T' and have been re-drawn (not doubling).
	SOME	a) Many stamps have up to three or more horizontal graver marks in upper arm of final 'E' of PROTECTORATE e.g. 13, 17, 19, 26, 27, 31, 32, 34, 50, 51, 56, 59. b) A thin outer doubling of perimeter of left-hand circle enclosing 2 by foot of 'N' of NIGER. This sometimes intersects the right stem of 'N' and sometimes appears broken by stem, e.g. 12, 21, 22, 44 and 32, 41, 43, 51, 52, 53, respectively. The outer R.H. circle enclosing 2 is broken on right of junction with 'S' of COAST. There is faint doubling (as above) below 'T', but very pronounced on this stamp.
	10	
	13	a) A small dot of colour to left and above 'T' of COAST. b) Doubling of outer perimeter line enclosing R.H. 2 - doubling and not intersecting. c) Thin hair-line from 'T' of COAST to 2 - from middle of stem intersecting both perimeter lines on R.H. 2.
		<u>NOTE</u> : This does not appear on a sheet of 2d values held by me, but I have a clear single example. Porter quotes this flaw.
	17	a) Extra line of colour in R.H. side of loop of 'P' of PROTECTORATE. b) Three consecutive graver marks in final 'E' of PROTECTORATE (see above).
	21	a) The L.H. figure 2 tends to be double. b) The dot in this figure is double. c) Extra line of colour to outer perimeter of L.H. circle by 'N' of NIGER.
	22	a) All letters of NIGER COAST are strongly double. b) The dot in L.H. 2 is only partially double. c) Extra line of colour to outer perimeter of L.H. circle as on 21.



Continuation of Plate Flaws & Re-entries/....

VALUE	NO. ON SHEET	DETAILS
2d	46	a) Break in circle enclosing L.H. 2 just before 'N' of NIGER and very definitely after 'G' of NIGER. b) The R.H. circle enclosing 2 is also defective giving a worn appearance.
	56	a) Identical breaks to L.H. and R.H. circles as in 46. b) Upper arm in final 'E' of PROTECTORATE has three clear, parallel, graving marks, with traces of a fourth.
	60	a) R.H. end of frame enclosing PROTECTORATE shows split or forking immediately below final 'E'. b) Line of colour intersects loop at top end of adjacent scroll under same 'E'. c) Letters 'CT' of PROTECTORATE show graving marks in upper half of 'C' and stem of 'T'.
		<u>NOTE</u> : No. 59 listed by Porter is excluded. The two short lines or graving marks in final 'E' of PROTECTORATE do not seem to be unique and this stamp falls to be included under the general item listed at the beginning "Some (a)".
2½d	ALL	a) Plate dots in both 'O's, the 'A' and second 'R' of PROTECTORATE, also in perimeter below 'A'; also in cone-shaped ornament above 'CT'. b) An extra line of colour on outer vertical perimeter line on both left and right sides, usually more apparent in upper half, probably resulting from re-touching.
5d	21	Dash of colour in outer margin to left of 'N' of NIGER.
	40	Spot of colour in outer margin at bottom left-hand corner.
	ALL	Inner frame line at top left tends to double at beginning of downward stroke.
	SOME	a) Inner frame line on left-hand side is double at top and especially near centre opposite 'P' of PROTECTORATE. b) At the same position background shading tends to overlap frame line. For examples of both see Nos. 9, 11, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 43, 45.
	6	Spot of colour on outer frame line to left of foot of 'N' of NIGER.
	8	Spots of colour on outer frame line to right of foot of 'T' of COAST, and on R.H. outer frame line. Stem of 'T' tends to taper at top.
	19	Hairline of colour from crosspiece of 'A' of COAST down to inner frame line.
	41	Inner R.H. vertical frame line intersects background shading in upper half. There is also a tendency to doubling in this line.

Continuation of Plate Flaws & Re-entries/....

VALUE	NO. ON SHEET	DETAILS
1/-	ALL	a) There is a plate dot at top and at bottom of oval ring enclosing Queen's head - also in letter 'O' of ONE.
	SOME	b) There is a tendency for a faint line of colour, in letters of PROTECTORATE, to pass left to right at top of lettering.
		a) The outer frame line on the upper L.H. side tends to doubling - possibly due to re-touching, see Nos. 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28.
	5	b) This doubling also occurs on the upper right-hand side, see Nos. 1, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27. Additional stroke in loop of 'P' of PROTECTORATE (see also No. 24).
	14	Outer R.H. top frame line is double and a second 'doubling' line extends above the upper horizontal frame line.
	15	Stroke of colour resembling a comma in R.H. arm of 'A' of PROTECTORATE.
	18	a) Large spot of colour to left of foot of 'T' of COAST, and under 'N' of NIGER.
		b) The R.H. serif to the foot of 'P' of PROTECTORATE is missing.
	22	c) A lot of small dots and scratches appear on this stamp. Vertical line joining inner and outer perimeter of margin surrounding PROTECTORATE immediately above loop of 'P'.
	24	a) The Queen's veil at centre right has two parallel lines intersecting lines of the veil and entering surrounding margin.
		b) The letters 'P.R.O.' of PROTECTORATE are all malformed: 'P' in the lower part of the stem with an additional stroke in the loop (see No. 5); the 'R' is woolly especially on inside strokes; the 'O' has a bulge at right. The second 'O' has an additional a line at lower right, while the first 'E' has a sloping upper serif.

NOTES ON FLAWS, ETC.

- 1) The flaws and re-entries listed herein have been based on the author's own studies, but with reference to Porter's list in the Philatelist 1958/9 (see bibliography). Certain additions to Porter's list have been made and, in some cases, the description varied or amplified. In one case, 1d value No.59, the item has been excluded for reasons given.
- 2) Virtually all details given in this list have been confirmed, not just from complete sheets, but also from mint or used examples either singly or in blocks.

- 3) Enlarged drawings of the detail in each case have been made and photostats made. A manually bound copy of these photostats has been handed to the Circle's Librarian.

In addition, Mr Colin Graham, Circle member, has photographed these drawings and they are included in his circulated list of September, 1974.

#### DATE OF ISSUE

The Postal Revenue Annual Report of 1895-96 states that postal revenue showed a decrease due mainly to the 'requirements of stamp collectors wants being satisfied. They had bought largely of the new issue of 1894'.

This would appear to confirm date of issue as 1st January, 1894.

#### INTERLEAVING

From observation, it seems that, instead of using blotting paper, Waterlow's used a type of thin tissue paper for the 1893, 1894 and 1897/8 printings. Many examples can be found with this fully adhered to mint items.

#### THE NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

NOVEMBER 1893 ? (1st JANUARY 1894 ?) PROVISIONAL DESIGN.

Head of Queen Victoria in various frame designs. Engraved in taille-douce and printed from steel plates by Waterlow & Sons from designs by G. Drummond. Portrait engraved by H.G. Browne. Thick and thin papers of various textures; also in a thick toned paper, and a white wove paper.

Perforations - various		No watermark
S.G. No. 45		$\frac{1}{2}$ d vermilion to brick red
" " 46		1d pale blue
" " 46 a	" -	bisected* diagonally and used as $\frac{1}{2}$ d
" " 46 b		1d dull blue
" " 46 b a	" -	bisected* diagonally and used as $\frac{1}{2}$ d
" " 47		2d green - deep to bright
" " 47 a	-	imperf between pair
" " 47 b	-	bisected diagonally and used as $\frac{1}{2}$ d
" -	-	bisected vertically and used as $\frac{1}{2}$ d
" " 48		$2\frac{1}{2}$ d carmine - deep lake to bright lake
" " 49		5d grey lilac, lilac, slate lilac, dull lilac
" " 50		1/- black on thin white paper black on thick toned paper

- \*a) These bisects are NOT overprinted
- b) Overprints will be covered in a later bulletin
- c) Information is sought as to whether the 1d value occurs bisected vertically, without overprint and whether pale or dull blue.

THE NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

PERMANENT ISSUE - MAY 1894

No Watermark

DESIGN

The re-engraved dies, bearing the title Niger Coast Protectorate, for the permanent issue were completed by Waterlow & Sons from the designs (as in the 1893 Provisional issue) of Mr G. Drummond and the portrait die of Mr H. G. Browne.

The first supplies were despatched on 22nd March 1894 and were first placed on sale in May at Old Calabar. The values were the same as in the 1893 issue, but the colours were altered to conform to the U.P.U. (In 1879, it had been agreed that green should apply to printed matter, red for postcards and blue for letters to overseas addresses. Thus the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d value became green, 1d became vermilion, and the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value became blue).

The portrait of the Queen remained unchanged but the frames were re-designed and, once again, these stamps constituted a most attractive issue.

PRINTINGS

The printing was made from plates engraved in recess and the sheets were made up in the same numbers as previously, but this time, nearly all the sheets bore a red printed serial number in the top right-hand margin. There were no less than eight separate printings during 1894 and 1895, although not for each value as may be seen from the table overleaf. Colours, as in 1893, varied considerably (At least one printing - the first - was numbered in manuscript.

R. L. Enc. Vol II p.309 cites four printings for the 2d value. Porter, while agreeing on the total numbers printed for each value, tabulates the various printings to show five for the 2d value, and Porter's figures have been adopted.

The numbering of the sheets for each value was presumably consecutive through each printing but this may have applied ONLY from the second printing. In fourteen examples, sheet numbers have been printed in red in the top R.H. corner, but in six other examples, the numbering is in coloured manuscript viz :  $\frac{1}{2}$ d - Sheet 92 in blue; 1d - Sheet 199 in red;  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d - Sheet 202 in blue and Sheet 335 in violet; 1/- - Sheet 207 in blue.

The assumption must be that at least the first printing was numbered in manuscript, while sheet No. 335 for  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value would seem to indicate that numbering in manuscript may have continued at least until the third printing - see table overleaf.

Apart from the 5d value, printings are not easy to identify in this issue.



TABLE OF PRINTINGS

VALUE	PRINTING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	TOTAL PRINTED
		1894	1894	1894	1895	1895	1895	1895	1895	
$\frac{1}{2}$ d GREEN	Number printed	8,736*	24,000	36,000	36,000	-	36,000	24,000	8,000	172,736
	" per sheet	60	60	60	60	-	60	60	60	-
	" of sheets (estd)	145	400	600	600	-	600	400	133	2,878
1d VERM- ILION	Number printed	10,736*	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	-	-	10,000	116,736
	" per sheet	60	60	60	60	60	-	-	60	-
	" of sheets (estd)	178	400	400	400	400	-	-	166	1,944
2d LAKE	Number printed	5,736*	-	36,000	36,000	-	18,000	18,000	-	113,736
	" per sheet	60	-	60	60	-	60	60	-	-
	" of sheets (estd)	95	-	600	600	-	300	300	-	1,895
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d BLUE	Number printed	15,736*	-	48,000	48,000	-	-	-	-	111,736
	" per sheet	48	-	48	48	-	-	-	-	-
	" of sheets (estd)	327	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	2,327
5d VIOLET ---	Number printed	8,736*	-	36,000	36,000	-	-	-	-	80,736
	" per sheet	48	-	48	48	-	-	-	-	-
	" of sheets (estd)	182	-	750	750	-	-	-	-	1,682
1/- BLACK	Number printed	5,736*	-	18,000	18,000	-	-	-	-	41,736
	" per sheet	30	-	30	30	-	-	-	-	-
	" of sheets (estd)	191	-	600	600	-	-	-	-	1,391

NOTE:\* 736 stamps of each value from the first printing were taken as specimens for U.P.U. purposes. However, none of these stamps appear to have been overprinted "Specimen" but all values are known cancelled with a round punch hold.

### PAPER

The paper was without watermark, while wove and of varying thickness. A later printing was on medium toned paper, with very poor gum as regards adhesion. Another printing was on thin transparent paper, with an oily appearance, and another on greyish paper.

### DIE PROOFS, PLATE PROOFS etc.

The comments made earlier herein on the 1893 die proofs etc. apply equally to the 1894 issue. There has again been difficulty in reconciling descriptions from the various sources both as to colour and to the nature of the material e.g. die proofs, colour proofs, colour trials.

In the Pilkington sale in 1954, the following items were advertised : -

- a) Imperf. proofs  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 1/- in various colours and stuck down on sunk card.
- b) Imperf. proofs  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d in various colours (different from preceding lot) and stuck down on sunk card.
- c) Imperf. proofs  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 1/- (2) all in issued colours and stuck down on sunk card.

In the Danson March 1971 Sale "Die proofs sunk on card of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d carmine and 5d lilac," above is written 'original Set Cast' and on back 'E.S. Frayne'. In addition, the following further items : -

- a) Die proofs (imperf.) of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d vermilion, 1d blue, 2d green, 1/- black.
- b) Die proofs (imperf.) in the issued colours of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 1/-.
- c) Imperf. colour trials, probably from the dies, of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d blue, 1d mauve, 2d sepia,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d vermilion, 5d lake, 1/- blue green. (These colour descriptions are similar to sets held in the Circle and are included in Porter's list of colour trials).

Other material has over the years, been advertised for sale, which is covered by the details included in the R. L. Enc. p. 309 viz : "Imperf. as issued and other colour trials", while Porter states that the complete set of proofs in actual issued colours (imperf. as issued) are in the Pilkington Collection and, that a number of colour trials also exist. These colour trials are listed in the tabulation hereafter.

Nearly four sets of 'colour plate proofs' are held in the Circle, which with the set in the Moseley Collection in the British Museum, makes virtually five sets of similar colours.

In response to an enquiry in the preparation of this bulletin, Marcus Samuel writes "The 1894 colour proofs were certainly printed from special plates of nine, laid down from the rollers. I have had one in my hands and I am pretty sure that they were produced for use as sample stamps. My definition of colour trials is that they were proofs pulled in various colours before the stamps were issued to enable the colour or colours, in which a stamp or series of stamps were to be printed, to be selected."

"In the case of de la Rue & Co, colour trials were generally made from the plate of the first denomination to be completed, or from Imperium or Key plate proofs with the value painted in. In any case, they are proofs of one particular denomination in various different colours. I appreciate that the engraved stamps of the Niger Coast all have different designs but I find it hard to believe that a series of colour proofs of different denominations in different (or the same) can be pre-production colour trials. I may be wrong - it has been known to happen before ! "

The following tabulation has been prepared as a guide, and, as with the 1893 issue, has to a degree, adopted the views on classification as now expressed. It can, however, only be regarded as tentative, pending further information.

<u>IMPERFORATE DIE PROOFS</u>	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	1d	2d	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d	5d	1/-
(Mounted on Card)						
ex Pilkington : -						
- issued colours	green	vermilion	lake	blue	lilac	black
- colours not known	x	x	x	x	x	x
	x	x	x			
ex Danson : -						
(unmounted) Wide Margins						
ex Danson	green	vermilion	lake	blue	lilac	black
Imperforate die proofs(?)						
with narrow margins						
ex Danson	vermilion	blue	green	-	-	black
<u>IMPERFORATE PLATE PROOFS</u>						
ex Circle, Moseley & Porter	blue	plum mauve	brown	orange vermilion	lake	dark green
ex Porter (other colours)	salmon deep- violet grey blue	blue red/brown	green	violet/blue	rose	blue green
<u>PERFORATE "PROOFS"</u>						
ex Circle		plum (14x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ )				
ex R. L. Enc.	indigo	plum	brown	orange	vermilion	dark green



## NOTES :

1. Colour descriptions tend to overlap according to the eye of the beholder, but, where practicable, duplication has been eliminated.
2. It is intriguing to note that the R. L. perforate "proofs" are identical to the bulk of the five sets of imperforate colour plate proofs.
3. The present whereabouts of the bulk of the aforementioned material, especially that ex Pilkington, is not known.
4. In view of U. P. U. requirements (to which the 1894 issued colours conformed) it is perhaps surprising that there have been so many previous references to colour trials, and this fact would tend to support the views of Marcus Samuel regarding travellers' samples etc.

## SHADES

<u>½d GREEN</u>	The first printing was in yellow-green. Later printings were in dark green, pale green and a dark sage-green, (7 printings).
<u>1d VERMILION</u>	The shades vary from orange-vermilion to vermilion, (6 printings).
<u>2d LAKE</u>	In lake-red of varying tones, including a very deep lake on toned paper, (5 printings).
<u>2½d BLUE</u>	Blue, pale blue (2nd printing) and greenish-blue on thin transparent paper, (3 printings).
<u>5d VIOLET</u>	First printing in red-violet on thin paper, second in violet on toned paper, third in purple.
<u>1/- BLACK</u>	All three printings in black, including toned and white paper and a thin transparent paper.

## PERFORATIONS

The same perforation complications exist as for the 1893 issue. R. L. Enc. p.309 lists the following combinations : -

a) Perf. 15	all values	f) Perf. 13 x 14	½d and 1/-
b) Perf. 14½	" "	g) Perf. 12 x 14	1d and 1/-
c) Perf. 14½ x 15	" "	h) Perf. 12½ x 14	½d and 1/-
d) Perf. 14	" " except 2½d & 5d.	i) Perf. 12½ x 12½ x 14 x 12½	- ½d
e) Perf. 14 x 15	½ value	j) Other combinations are known,	including 1d - Perf. 16.

### IMPERFORATE

Only a 2½d value is known with the L.H. margin imperforate.

### BISECTS

During 1894 the 1d value was bisected both vertically and diagonally and overprinted ½d. The surcharge is also found double. The overprinting was carried out in black, vermilion or blue ink.

The 1d value also occurs bisected diagonally without the surcharge.

The 2d value is also found bisected diagonally, with no surcharge. (see S. G. Catalogue - SG 52b and 53a).

### C.T.O's.

These are known. The writer has a sheet of 2d cancelled in red at Old Calabar River 'A' - date indecipherable, and part sheets for Sombreiro River dated 15.12.94 both 2d and 2½d.

### PLATE FLAWS & RE-ENTRIES

VALUE	NO. ON SHEET.	DETAIL
½d	53	Fraction bar of right-hand ½ has double stroke.
	60	Right-hand fraction has dots in the stroke and in figure " I ".
1d	ALL	Dots occur in "O" of 'PRO..', in the 'O' of ONE, and on each numeral "I" of 1d.
2d	MOST	Dots in stem of "T" of 'PROT..', and in final "E" of PENCE. NOTE : "T" dots seem to be in all stamps but "E" only in most).
2½d	ALL	Dots in base of left-hand stem of "H" of HALF.
1/-	ALL	Plate dots in IGR of NIGER: in the 'A' of COAST , in the first 'E' and first 'T' of PROCTECTORATE; in the first "L" of SHILLING and in the right hand "1" of 1/-
	30	

### THE NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

<u>MAY 1894</u>	<u>Permanent Issue</u>	<u>No Watermark</u>	<u>Perforations various</u>
S. G. 51	½d - yellow green, dark green, dark sage green, pale green. ( Note : 51a "dark green" ).		
S. G. 52	1d - orange-vermilion (Note : 52a - vermilion).		
S. G. 52b	1d* - bisected diagonally (½d).		
S. G. 53	2d - lake, deep-lake.		
S. G. 53a	2d* - bisected diagonally		

- S.G. 54    2½d - blue, pale blue, greenish-blue (thin oily paper)  
                    ( Note : 54a - pale blue )  
S.G. 55    5d - purple, violet  
                    ( Note : 55a - deep violet ).  
S.G. 56    1/- - black

\* These bisected are NOT overprinted.  
Overprints will be covered in a later bulletin.

THE NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

ISSUE 1897 (MAR) - 1898 WATERMARK CROWN C.A.

DESIGN

Following the transfer of the Protectorate's Administration in 1896 from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office the values (as for the 1894 issue) were re-printed on paper watermarked 'Crown over C.A.' The first printings, comprising the three lowest values and which marked the change, were printed in the latter part of 1896. These were however, slow to be placed on sale, the 1d value appearing in March 1897, and the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 2d values in July. The  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value had by then been printed and appeared in August, while the 5d and 1/- values appeared the following year - 1898.

Hitherto, the designs and values had been identical to the 1894 issue. However, in June 1898 three new values were added, comprising 6d yellow-brown, 2/6d olive bistre and 10/- violet. The designs retained the die of the Queen's head but with differing frames.

PRINTINGS

The printings were made from plates engraved in recess, as previously, the sheets being made up in the same numbers for the corresponding values. The three new values were made up as follows : -

6d	in sheets of 48 in 6 horizontal rows of 8
2/6d	" " " 30 in 5 " " " of 6
10/-	" " " 20 in 4 " " " of 5

A number of the new values were overprinted, in red, "CONSULAR" for fiscal use, the numbers of each (which are excluded in the following table) being : 10,000 x 6d, 5,000 x 2/6d and 2,500 x 10/-.

Sheets of each value were numbered consecutively in red type through all printings from the first, a system (for record and security purposes) increasingly being adopted by the Crown Agents at this time. This sheet numbering therefore constitutes a positive aid to identification of the printings and the table overleaf gives a rough guide in this connection. (NOTE : all printings are not an exact multiple of sheet totals).

It would seem from Porter's comments and the author's experience that the 5d value is considerably more scarce in used condition, than the other values. Complete sheets have not been seen while even blocks (especially bearing a sheet number) are rare. (See also 1902 - 3 Re-issues later herein).



VALUE	PRINTING	1st 1896	2nd 1897	3rd 1897	4th 1898	5th 1898	6th 1899	7th 1899	8th 1900	9th 1900	TOTAL PRINTED
$\frac{1}{2}$ d GREEN	Number printed	48,000	-	48,000	-	24,000	20,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	390,000
	" per sheet	60	-	60	-	60	60	60	60	60	-
	" of sheets	800	-	800	-	400	333	833	1,666	1,666	6,500
	approx. sheet Nos.	1-800	-	801-1600	-	1601- 2000	2001- 2333	2334- 3166	3167- 4833	6834- 6500	(inc. fractions) -
1d VERM- ILION	Number printed	36,000	36,000	-	-	18,000	30,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	370,000
	" per sheet	60	60	-	-	60	60	60	60	60	-
	" of sheets	600	600	-	-	300	500	833	1,666	1,666	6,166
	approx. sheet No.	1-600	601- 1200	-	-	1201 - 1500	1501 - 2000	2001 - 2833	2834 - 4500	4501- 6166	(inc. fractions) -
2d LAKE	Number printed	24,000	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	25,000	109,000
	" per sheet	60	-	-	-	60	60	60	-	60	-
	" of sheets	400	-	-	-	333	333	333	-	416	1,816
	approx. sheet No.	1-400	-	-	-	401- 733	734 - 1066	1067- (say) 1400	-	1401- 1816	-
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d SLATE - BLUE	Number printed	-	24,000	24,000	-	12,000	20,000	20,000	-	25,000	125,000
	" per sheet	-	48	48	-	48	48	48	-	48	-
	" of sheets	-	500	500	-	250	416	416	-	520	2,603
	approx sheet No.	-	1-500	501 - 1000	-	1001 - 1250	1251 - 1666	1667 - 2084	-	2085 - 2604	-
5d RED- VIOLET	Number printed	-	-	-	-	9,600	-	10,000	-	20,000	39,600
	" per sheet	-	-	-	-	48	-	48	-	48	-
	" of sheets	-	-	-	-	200	-	208	-	217	625
	approx sheet No.	-	-	-	-	1-200	-	201 - 408	-	409- 625	-
6d YELLOW -BROWN	Number printed	-	-	-	24,000	-	-	-	-	20,000	44,000
	" per sheet	-	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	48	-
	" of sheets	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	417	917
	approx. sheet No.	-	-	-	1-500	-	-	-	-	501- 917	-

TABLE OF PRINTINGS (Contd.)

VALUE	PRINTING	1st 1896	2nd 1897	3rd 1897	4th 1898	5th 1898	6th 1899	7th 1899	8th 1900	9th 1900	TOTAL PRINTED
1/- BLACK	Number printed	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	25,000
	" per sheet	-	-	-	-	30	-	30	-	30	-
	" of sheets	-	-	-	-	166	-	334	-	333	833
	approx. sheet No.	-	-	-	-	1-166	-	167- 500	-	501- 833	-
2/6d OLIVE- BISTRE	Number printed	-	-	-	12,000	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	32,000
	" per sheet	-	-	-	30	-	-	30	-	30	30
	" of sheets	-	-	-	400	-	-	333	-	334	1,067
	approx. Sheet No.	-	-	-	1-400	-	-	401- 733	-	734- 1067	-
10/- VIOLET	Number printed	-	-	-	500	-	500	2,000	-	2,500	5,500
	" per sheet	-	-	-	20	-	20	20	-	20	20
	" of sheets	-	-	-	25	-	25	100	-	125	275
	approx. sheet No.	-	-	-	1-25	-	26-50	51-150	-	151-275	

### SPECIMENS

None of the earlier values ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1/-) would seem to have been overprinted 'Specimen' or 'Cancelled', nor apparently, have copies been so far recorded with the punched circular hole, in lieu. However, the later values 6d, 2/6d and 10/- were overprinted 'Specimen' in black sans serif type for Postal Union services, the 10/- value being so overprinted in both the deep and bright shades of violet. 730 'Specimen' copies of each of the 6d, 2/6d and 10/- values were issued to the U. P. U. Each member of the Union received five copies of each value.

### PAPER

The paper was white wove, with white gum and watermarked Crown over C.A. A feature of this watermark is that the paper did not register with the stamp designs so that the watermark may be found out of centre and in various positions on the stamp. The words "Crown Agents for the Colonies" are also watermarked in the sheet margins and may occasionally be found, in part, on the stamps for the reason given above.

### WATERMARK VARIETIES

The following are known : -

Watermark reversed	on	$\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d and 6d
" " inverted	on	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d
" with "C" reversed	on	2d
" with "A" dropped	on	10/-
diagonally below "C"		

### DIE PROOFS & COLOUR TRIALS

An imperforate proof of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d value in the issued colour (blue) is known; and also in red ? (R. L. Enc. Vol II p.310). A perforated 5d in slate purple and an imperforate copy in purple also occurs. The 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d blue and the 5d perf. copies are stated by Porter to be on watermarked paper.

It is surprising no proofs or colour trials appear to exist for the three new values.

### SHADES

The following are taken from Porter : -

#### $\frac{1}{2}$ d GREEN

First printing - yellow green; second - deep yellow green, followed by green, pale green and grey green, (Seven printings).

#### 1d VERMILION

Shades of the seven printings vary from orange-vermilion to vermilion. The sixth printing was in aniline colours.

Continuation Shades/.....

2nd LAKE

The shades of the five printings vary from rosy-lake, bright lake to dull lake.

2½d BLUE

Six printings varying from slate-blue, greyish-blue, deep blue to a deep bright blue.

5d VIOLET

The three printings vary from reddish-violet to purple.

6d YELL-BROWN

The first printing was in deep yellow brown; the second was in a paler shade.

1/- BLACK

The three printings vary from jet black to grey black.

2/6d OLIVE - BISTRE

First printing - pale olive bistre; the second yellow-bistre, and the third deep yellow-bistre.

10/- DEEP VIOLET

First printing - deep violet; the second an intermediate shade. Another was an aniline violet (showing through at back) and the other was in bright violet.

PERFORATIONS

A finer perforation was introduced by Waterlows for this issue gauging  $15\frac{1}{2} \times 16$ , but the gauges used in the 1893 and 1894 issues continued also to be used (with all the reported variations). As the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue states, "Perf. 14-15, and 12 to 16 in various combinations."

Porter states Perf. 15 for 1/- value and 10/- value appear to be scarce, while Perf. 15 for 5d value does not appear to exist, the nearest being  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ .

IMPERFORATE VARIETY

1d vermilion imperf. between pair is known.

RE-ISSUES

Due to a temporary shortage, the stamps of this issue were re-issued by the Southern Nigerian Govt. in 1902-3 and, for this reason, comprise a specialised subject on their own. These re-issues should not be confused with stamps bearing S. Nigerian cancellers in the early days of the new Colony pending provision of new definitives. These did not appear until March/June 1901 and, Niger Coast issues can be found so cancelled not only up to this time, but also thereafter. Porter states that Niger Coast stamps remained current until July 1901 and this is confirmed by the author, whose latest date is 31st July 1901 (pending, of course, re-issues in 1902).



BISECTS

None are recorded.

PLATE FLAWS & RE-ENTRIES

Generally, those flaws and re-entries applicable to the 1894 issue apply also to these stamps and, are included in the following table. Porter has no comments on the three new values except for No. 7 on the 6d sheet. A few more have been added. However, as regards 5d and 10/- values, the author has been handicapped by lack of sufficient material (especially sheets). From a study of the 6d and 2/6d values especially and, in conjunction with the items given for the 10/- value, it would seem that the plates for these three new values were not subject to the same degree of skill shown in the earlier Waterlow plates. Was there a new engraver ?

VALUE	NO. ON SHEET	DETAIL
$\frac{1}{2}$ d	53	Fraction bar of right-hand ' $\frac{1}{2}$ ' has double stroke.
	60	Right-hand fraction has dots in the stroke and in figure " 1 ".
1d	ALL	Dots occur in "O" of 'PRO..' in the "O" of ONE, and on each numeral 1 of 1d.
2d	MOST	Dots in stem of "T" of 'PROT..' and in final "E" of PENCE ( NOTE : "T" dots seem to be in all stamps but the "E" only in most).
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d	ALL	Dots in base of left-hand stem of "H" of HALF.
5d	-	See separate section following.
1/-	ALL	Plate dots in "IGR" of NIGER; in "A" of COAST; in the first "E" and first "T" of PROTECTORATE; in the first "L" of SHILLING and in the right-hand " 1 " of 1/-.
	30	Short dash and three dots in "O" of COAST.
6d	5	All letters in SIXPENCE show signs of re-entry, especially "S".
	7	Prominent flaw - a line of colour - under final "E" of PENCE.
	15	Right-hand figure "6" slightly double; marks in "COT" of COAST, and shading lines enter right-hand scroll under first "T" of 'PROTECT..'
	42	Both figures "6" show signs of doubling, and marks in right-hand stem of "N" of NIGER. Also white circle enclosing left hand six intersected by blob of colour under "P" of PROTECTORATE. Background shading intersects inner frame line at top left.
	48	'S' and 'T' of COAST show signs of re-entry, especially foot and right arm of 'T'.
2/6d	ALL(?)	Left-hand and right-hand value tablets - horizontal shading lines and vertical graver marks cut into vertical margin at top and bottom.

Continuation Plate Flaws & Re-Entries/....

VALUE	NO. ON SHEET	DETAIL
2/6		Re-touching in oval margin surrounding Queen's head at left and right-hand value tablets above and below.
	1	(3rd Printing) - white hair line joins upper and lower curl of "C" of COAST. Right-hand toe of "E" of '...ATE' cut off from stem by line of colour (see also 5, 6, 11 & 12 below).
	5, 6, 11, 12	Second 'S' of SHILLINGS has short white 'tail' at bottom left which is matched by a similar tail at top right of second "E" of PENCE. (This is apparent in the 2nd Printing).
10/-	? SOME	Diagonal stem of "N" of NIGER woolly with plate dots etc. - likewise numeral '10' of 10/-. Shading lines from centre oval left and upper left irregular in appearance. "SHILLINGS" - letters full of dots and other marks.

"The Stamp Lover" June/July 1942, published flaws for the 5d and 10/- values. These would appear to be very minor and in any case require positive confirmation, preferably from more than one complete sheet. However, single stamps and corner blocks may be able to contribute valuable evidence for the 10/- value, particularly as the sheet of this value carries only 30 stamps in four horizontal rows of 5. The existence of complete sheets must be rare.

Information is also scarce for the 5d and 2/6d values.

THE NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1897 (MAR) - 1898		<u>WATERMARK CROWN CA</u>	<u>PERFORATIONS-VARIOUS</u>
SG 66	½d	green; deep yellow green, yellow green, pale green, grey-green. (NOTE : SG 66a Sage-green).	
SG 67	1d	orange-vermilion; vermilion; vermilion (aniline). (NOTE : SG 67a - vermilion).	
SG 67(b)	1d	Imperforate between pair	
SG 68	2d	lake; bright lake.	
SG 69	2½d	Slate-blue; deep bright blue, (NOTE : SG 69a - deep bright blue).	
SG 70	5d	red-violet; purple. (Note: SG70a - purple)	
SG 71	6d	deep yellow-brown; pale yellow-brown.	

SG 72	1/-	jet black; grey black.
SG 73	2/6d	pale olive bistre; deep yellow bistre; pale yellow bistre.
SG 74	10/-	deep violet; bright violet; violet; aniline violet, (NOTE : SG 74a - bright violet).

VARIETIES with No. S. G. reference : -

SG 66	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	yellow green	- watermark reversed
SG 68	2d	lake	- watermark reversed
SG 69	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d	blue	- watermark inverted
SG 71	6d	pale yellow brown	- watermark reversed
SG 74	10/-	(colour not known)	- "A" of watermark dropped below "C" e.g. C <sub>A</sub>

## ADDENDUM

### OIL RIVERS/NIGER COAST - DIE PROOFS

Since going to press, the following items have been noted in the Robson Lowe "British West Africa" Sale Catalogue for 24th November, 1976, photos being published therein for all but one. These items, all of which are imperforate, make a material contribution to this subject and the tabulations in this Bulletin on earlier pages should be amended.

The Oil Rivers proofs are those designed for the Protectorate by Waterlow & Sons and before the change of name to Niger Coast which was effected to provide the November (?) 1893 issue:-

#### OIL RIVERS (1893)

- a.  $\frac{1}{2}$ d die proof (115 x 75 mm) in black on surfaced paper
- b. 1d in black, similar proof (112 x 142 mm) numbered "1557" in reverse
- c. 2d in black, similar and unfinished proof (115 x 145 mm) with some handpainting in black with pencilled instructions, numbered "725" in reverse.
- d. 2d in green, similar and nearly finished proof (75 x 112 mm) some touching up by hand in blue-green at foot.
- e.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d in black, similar and finished proof (76 x 117 mm) marked "736" and "1501" in reverse.
- f. 5d in black, unfinished proof (90 x 145 mm) details of scroll ornamentation are lacking.
- g. 1/- in black, similar proof (90 x 145 mm) with left hand value tablet and scroll to upper left of head blank and right hand value tablet and scroll with outline only, marked "793" in reverse.
- h. 1/- in black, an identical proof but with left hand value tablet painted in by hand.

#### NIGER COAST (1894)

- a.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d in black, finished die proof (76 x 90 mm, irregular margin at top)
- b. 5d in black, practically finished die proof (115 x 145 mm)