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Front Cover

Gold Coast to St Lucia by airmail, 1942, via Pan Am,
showing AV2 cachet applied at Trinidad.

See page 4

Editor's Notes

The index for volume 18 is now available on line on the Study Circle website. In an attempt to bring the January package within the 250g weight step for postage we have decided not to send the index as an insert with this *Cameo*. Instead Ray Harris will post this index upon request from those members who do not have ready access to the website.

The future of the Study Circle library was put to members at the 2017 AGM. Despite listing the library in the January 2017 *Cameo* #100 actual usage of the library remains very low, with just three items borrowed in the last year. At the same time several archives of deceased members have been put into our care. We have therefore decided to re-designate the librarian as archivist and to clear space to store the material contained in bequeathed personal archives by dispersing all the published books from the library holdings. Also, as *Cameos* are progressively digitised onto our website by Ray Harris, our webmaster, the print copies held in the library and any excess stocks will either be sold through our auction or recycled. We hope this will see more use made of the archive holdings by researchers wishing to continue to develop projects undertaken by past leading members.

Hugh Jefferies has written to say that he is starting to prepare the next edition of the SG West Africa catalogue. He would welcome information from members about post-1970 varieties and new issues from all our territories.

The next issue will be edited by me, datelined June 2018, and the copy deadline is 24 May

Rob May



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Scope

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

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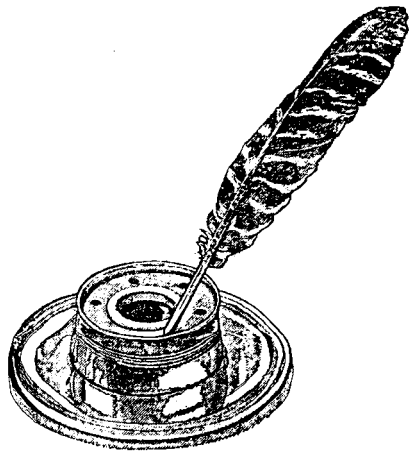
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Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

Rob May & Barry Burns

Post office at Cabolé, Dahomey

Dear Rob & Barry,

I can answer Simon Binstead's query in *Cameo* 102 (October 2017). In the year 2000, together with a friend and colleague in the United States, the late Laurence Lambert, I published an article in the F&CPS Journal on the post offices of Dahomey (Ref. 1). We included tables of known post offices over the period 1888-1960 with dates of opening, closure and transfer. So far as Cabolé is concerned, we noted that it was recorded in 1907 and 1909, opened on 16 November 1903 and closed on 27 February 1913.

In the historical note that begins our article, Laurence and I commented that Cabolé was the only Dahomey post office affected by numerous boundary changes. We also said that, according to Crombez (Ref. 2) the post office was apparently not re-opened after transfer to Togo.

I have no information about the location and attractions or otherwise of Cabolé and have been unable to trace a record of postal facilities at Kamboli or Kambolé, the new spellings noted by Maurice Tyler.

I hope this helps. I agree that this is a very rare cancel. The strike is very fine, being nearly complete and very legible. A real find!

Bill Mitchell
London SW14

References

- 1 Mitchell & Lambert, *The Post Offices of French West Africa: Part 1 Benin/Dahomey*, F&CPS

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

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

Publications Committee Chairman is Rob May

Journal, whole no 215, March 2000, vol 50, pages 4-12

- 2 Crombez et al, *Dahomey - Marcophilie, essai de nomenclature des Bureaux*, Col. Fra. Bulletin Hors-série No 14-6, 1997 (The six parts of this study were re-printed in a single volume, bulletin Hors-série No 14, in 2004)

Access to the internet?

Then visit the West Africa Study Circle Web Site at: <http://www.wasc.org.uk>
Webmaster is Ray Harris - contact: harris6@which.net

There are now direct links to our advertisers and other websites
Other recent additions include documents by WASC members including information on
Air Routes and Nigerian Postmarks, with extra material frequently added

Obituary

Robert J. (Bob) Maddocks

Bob Maddocks passed away on October 31, 2017 at the age of 83 following a heart attack.

Bob was born in Herefordshire in 1934. He was proud to have attended Whitchurch Grammar School in Shropshire. After two years in the Royal Air Force in the 1950s to fulfil his national service, Bob joined Barclays Bank DCO. Among his overseas postings were the British Cameroons in 1957-58 and independent Cameroun in 1962-68. He lived in Victoria, Mamfe and Bamenda. In between, he was in Port Harcourt. Bob had many stories to tell and experiences to relate during these turbulent times, including his travels and the transport of currency and other goods to / from Bamenda and N’Kongsamba, and other locales. Bob particularly loved Bamenda.

Bob’s final posting with Barclays DCO was in Zambia, from which he had to retire after an extended illness, which would have prevented future overseas postings. He undertook contract banking work in Swaziland, then joined HSBC after having seen an advertisement for a position while aboard the *Queen Elizabeth II* en route to New York. Bob staffed positions literally worldwide, from Hong Kong to Papua New Guinea, the Gambia, South Africa, and elsewhere. Wherever he was, Bob took advantage of local archives and libraries to conduct research which found its way into *Cameo* and many other publications.

Bob valued his privacy. He retired to Oswestry in Shropshire where he resided in a picturesque cottage with a lovely view out of his picture window. There he enjoyed the birds and wildlife that frequented his garden and the fields beyond. Bob liked gardening, bird watching, and the peace and beauty of nature. Although retired, his love of travel led him to undertake contract work in Jamaica and elsewhere. Bob was a great supporter of the Globe Theatre in London, and appreciated the atmosphere created there for productions of Shakespeare’s works.

Thereafter, Bob continued his travels to exotic locations for pleasure, to remote tropical islands in the Pacific (including Pitcairn) to St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension, the Galapagos, Easter Island, Antarctica, the Canadian Arctic, and many points in between.

Bob authored or co-authored several philatelic books, and he contributed many philatelic articles with poignant insights, for the edification and benefit of us all. Bob, you will be sorely missed!

Marty Bratzel and David Garnett (Bob’s cousin)

Gold Coast 1942 A.V.2 Cachet

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

The front cover illustration of this issue of *Cameo* shows a cover, franked 3/6d, postmarked at Tafo on 24 July 1942 and marked *per Pan American Airways African American Service*. It received the standard type 1A number 18 censor cachet (Ref. 1).

The double-circle A.V./2 handstamp in violet, type 19, was applied at Port of Spain, Trinidad (Ref. 2). The letter arrived in St. Lucia at Castries on 19 August 1942.

It is not certain what A.V.2 stands for. The standard handbook on such marks is by Murray Heifetz (Ref. 3) which I recommend for further information.

It seems that such markings were applied at certain exchange offices where mail in transit was transferred between aircraft; in this case onward from Trinidad to St. Lucia.


References

- 1 Martin J.J., Walton F.L & Harris R., *West African Censorship*, p56, WASC, Princes Risborough 3rd Edition 2015
- 2 Heifetz M., *OAT and AV2 Markings*, 3rd edition, p146, American Air Mail Society, Mineola, New York, 2007
- 3 idem.

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annual membership dues: North America \$27, international \$32, paperless \$15

Big Qua Town Postal Agency, Nigeria

Edet Akpan

Further to Dr. Simon Heap's recent article in *Cameo* (Ref. 1) I can show at Figure 1 a recent photograph of the original site of the Big Qua Town postal agency at No. 1, King Street, Big Qua Town, Calabar. It is located about 20 metres from Big Qua Township Hall (Ekpe Hall) and adjacent to the former postal agency building is the Ndidem Palace (though the Ndidem now resides at Ikot Ansa). That is an ancient building where Big Qua Town Chiefs held meetings and the Coronation of new Chiefs.



Figure 1: former Big Qua Town PA building



Figure 2: former PO window and post box

The Postal Agency was a family Compound having the postal agent's family living alongside the agency, located at the left side of the building. Currently, a tenant occupies the building and runs a fruit business under a umbrella outside the building.

Figure 2 shows the original counter-service window and notice, at the bottom of the picture, the post box slot that has been sealed with wooden material and painted grey to match the old building.

According to a Nipost staff member, Mr. Akpabio who has served more than 30 years in Nipost and grew up in Big Qua Town till the present, the last Post Master he knew of at the PA is one Mr. Mborra before it finally shutdown in the 1990s.

Reference

1 Heap S., "Opening Big Qua Town Postal Agency in Calabar", *Cameo*, Volume 18 pp237-8, WASC, October 2017

The KEVII Imperium Style Key Plate Issues

Peter Fernbank FRPSL

About 10 years ago I produced an article for the *London Philatelist* (Ref. 1) that proved that Key Plate 2 was not a 240-set plate, as had been generally assumed, but was two plates of 120-set, both numbered '2'. These I termed Plate 2a (plate numbers in top margin) and Plate 2b (plate numbers in the bottom margin). To establish this it was necessary to extract all the printings from De La Rue's *Colonial Stamps* books from all of the sixteen colonies that employed this design. The fact that of nearly 1,000 printings of all values only five were issued with 240-set sheets of paper for printing (for the Straits Settlement 1902 1c and 3c values), the rest being 120-set sheets, clinched the argument. However, the lists of printings did not form part of this article.



I still have all the details of these printings and felt that it would be a great pity if it were left to my executors to dispose of this valuable information (not that I plan going any time soon hopefully). My intention is to produce some sort of publication (nothing approaching the depth of my KGV book on the Imperium style issues) that will list all these printings plus whatever other useful information I can gather in. I am doing this in collaboration with a fellow KEVII enthusiast, Jeff Blinco, who is attempting to plate the issue through the progressive states of the plates (and is making surprisingly good progress).

It appears that there were some changes in the marginal markings on Plates 1, 2a and 2b fairly late in the life of these plates and the full extent and date of implementation of these changes need to be defined. Similarly the various key plate flaws that developed need to be established and their introduction dated where possible.

What we both need are scans of study material, particularly sheets, panes or large marginal blocks (Jeff requires these at 600dpi since he is looking for very small plate characteristics in each position). Regarding Plate 2 examples, the Royal Philatelic Collection (the principal source of information on the plate numbers used for each value) does have a number of omissions for specific colonies that are known to exist elsewhere and hence scans of Plate 2 pieces (singles or blocks) would be most welcome, especially those from Plate 2b.

Within the territories covered by the WASC the colonies of Gold Coast, Northern Nigeria, St. Helena and Sierra Leone employed this design and we would most grateful if members having such material (from these or any other colony utilising this design) would assist us in this project. Please send scans to pfernbank@tiscali.co.uk.

Reference

- 1 *King Edward VII Imperium Style Postage & Revenue Key Plate 2*, Peter Fernbank, *London Philatelist*, No. 1351, 2007, Vol. 116, pp. 391-396



Nigeria KGVI 1d Watermark Inverted

Richard Campbell

The used copy of Nigeria KGVI SG50b, 1d bright purple shown here has watermark inverted. This variety is already listed by Stanley Gibbons, unpriced, so this is probably the second known copy.



Southern Nigeria Cash on Delivery Service

Rob May

A specific postal stationery envelope marked C.O.D. in red exists only for Southern Nigeria, a used copy of which is shown at Figure 1. I included it in a display to the 2017 WASC conference, following which Simon Heap has very helpfully located a copy of the Rules relating to this service. They are Rule No 7 of 1908 and Rule No 3 of 1912. I will scan the documents to the WASC website and summarise them here.

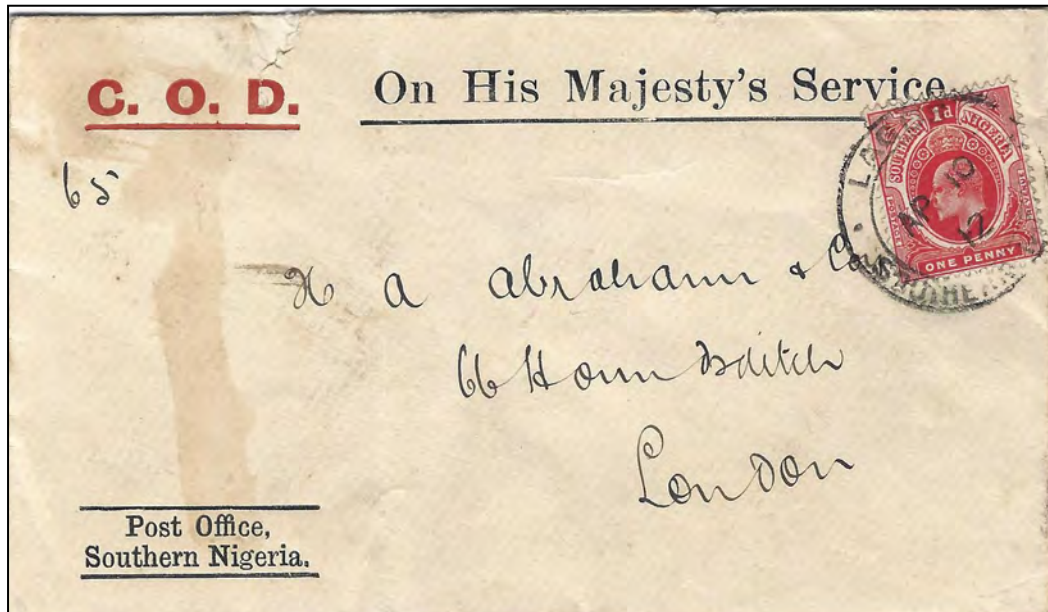


Figure 1

The documents are both headed “Rules for the Conduct of the Cash on Delivery Service made under the Post Office Ordinance” and clause 1 of both reads:

The Postmaster-General undertakes, on certain conditions, to collect from the addressee the price of an article sent by post and to remit it to the sender by Money Order or Postal Order.

The service applied to parcels (uninsured or insured), insured letters and registered packets of all kinds sent from Southern Nigeria to the UK, Egypt and certain listed British Possessions, or vice versa. It was available initially only at GPO Lagos, and the post offices at Calabar and Warri in 1908, but the 1912 rules extended the service to Bonny, Forcados, Ibadan, Onitsha and Opobo. The COD service first came into effect on 1 October 1908.

The sender was required to write on the cover of the packet his name and full address, the amount of the Trade Charge (i.e. the amount to be collected from the recipient) and the name of the office on which the Money Order or Postal Order is to be drawn. The sender would also need to fill out a request form (Form C.O.D. No 1, a specimen of which is appended to the 1908 Rule) and lastly to pay the COD fee by affixing 3d in postage stamps to that request form. Only the ordinary postage and registration fees were affixed to the packet. The specimen form is shown here as Figure 2.

The sender then handed the packet into the postal system at a post office counter and received a special COD version certificate of posting. It was very important for the sender to keep that document safely because he or she would be required to give it back when presenting the Money Order or Postal Order to be cashed. Without it the sender would not be paid for the goods!

A COD label in orange, as shown illustrated in the 1908 Rules and copied here as Figure 3, was to be affixed to every COD packet at the originating office, as well as any other labels required under the ordinary regulations.

On arrival at the post office nearest the recipient the postmaster notified the addressee that a COD packet

was available for collection. No postman delivery was permitted. The addressee paid the Trade Charge to the counter clerk and, although knowing the identity of the sender from the address shown on the outside of the packet, the recipient was not permitted to open the packet until the Trade Charge was paid in full. Cheques were not accepted in payment of Trade Charges!

Payment of the Trade Charge for successful deliveries was made by ordinary post from the Postmaster of the receiving post office to the sender's chosen post office (deducting a further fee on a sliding scale according to value), up to a maximum permitted Trade Value of £20. The payment order was to bear the letters COD and the serial number of the COD packet, which the sender could collect from the postal clerk by handing in the corresponding certificate of posting.

C. O. D. Form No. 1.

Request Form.

CASH ON DELIVERY.

Regn. or Parcel No. _____
(To be inserted at Office of Posting)

I
 We request that the _____ herewith
(Insert "Registered Packet," "Insured Letters" or "Parcel.")
 may be forwarded to

Name and full postal address { _____

 _____}

and that the sum of £ _____ : _____ s. _____ d. may be collected on delivery and remitted to ^{me,} as under, less _{us,} Delivery Fee and Commission, by Money Order or Postal Order payable at the _____ Post Office ;

and I
 we hereby declare that the packet is sent in fulfilment of an order.

Name and full postal address of sender, { _____

 _____}

Date _____

A stamp, or stamps, of the value of 3d. must be affixed here by the sender.

[For conditions of service, see back.]

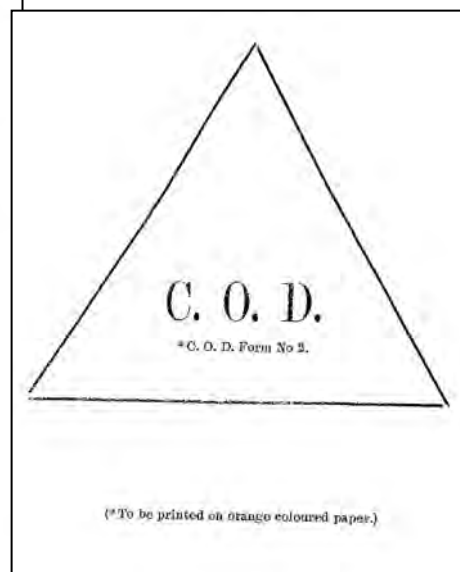
Date Stamp
Office of Posting.

Figure 2

Packets that were refused or otherwise undeliverable were returned to sender by the Returned Letter Office.

I think these Southern Nigeria COD postal stationery envelopes were meant for use to return the Money Order or Postal Order to the originating post office. I also think that use of a specially printed envelope for this purpose only in Southern Nigeria may have arisen from a misunderstanding of the above paragraph. Whilst the Rules stated that the Money Order or Postal Order was to bear the letters COD, there was no rule that the return envelope should also do so.

Figure 3



Cameroun Sterling and Reunification Issues with Specimen Handstamp – Follow Up

Marty Bratzel

As a follow-up to my article about specimen handstamps on the Cameroun sterling issue of 1961 and the reunification issue of January 1, 1962, published in the October 2017 issue of *Cameo* (Ref. 1), I consulted Bendon's landmark publication, *UPU Specimen Stamps 1878-1961* (Ref. 2). Another possibility for the origin of the Specimen handstamps was that the stamps had been distributed by the Universal Postal Union to its member states. As per policy, the UPU distributes stamps in mint condition without any markings. In years past, upon receipt, some member states, or receiving authorities, marked the stamps in some way, for example, by applying SPECIMEN or equivalent with a handstamp. There was, however, no information about handstamps being applied by any receiving authority in 1961 or 1962.

I then contacted Bendon who kindly replied that he had not seen these stamps handstamped SPECIMEN before but that it was possible that the stamps originated from the UPU distribution and that they received an unidentified receiving authority handstamp.

So, another possibility for the origin of the Specimen markings. Any further thoughts by anyone?

References

1. Bratzel, Marty. Cameroun Sterling and Reunification Issues with Specimen Handstamp. *Cameo*, Vol. 18, No. 3, October 2017, pages 239-240
2. Bendon, James. *UPU Specimen Stamps 1878-1961*. Oxford Book Projects, 2015. xii + 547 pages. ISBN 978-1-870696-05-0



A Treasure Trove of Cameroun Philately: Jean-Xavier Goetz's Great Legacy

Michel Collet

This article was first published in French in the Bulletin de COL.FRA Bulletin No 157 of September 2016 and is now published, in translation to English by Dudley Cobb, with the author's permission.

Jean-Xavier Goetz should be well-known to Cameroun collectors. This gendarme philatelist was seconded to Douala in 1939, remaining there till the end of the war, in other words throughout the period of the Cameroun Francais overprints. He wrote a 100-page memoir dealing with these stamps and offering a wealth of philatelic and historical detail. An early version of his story was published in 1945 in the Douala newspaper *L'Eveil du Cameroun* and a final version is available at the "Musee de la Poste" in Paris (Ref. quarto 2995). The memoir was presented, with numerous comments, by Dudley Cobb in his introductory articles in 2009, in Col.Fra Bulletin n° 128.

Goetz is also known for the philatelic covers he produced for collector friends, which regularly come up in postal sales. Many of them have Douala-Deido cancellations and carry the official mark of the Akwa Deido police station which he commanded.

Philatelic covers, attractive and useful to collectors, plus a substantial memoir on these busy times, what more has Goetz left us? Something quite unexpected. Thanks to a happy combination of circumstances and the luck that can often reward obsessive specialisation, I have stumbled across a philatelic treasure, the collector's dream, the opportunity to explore an archive on my particular interest, the postal history of Cameroun.

Last year I went 400 km to see Henri Bordes in the suburbs of Toulouse. Henri took up philately when he was thirteen. Now retired, this former heating engineer can indulge his lifelong interest: stamps. He assists and advises auction houses in south west France. One fine day he was asked to examine and appraise a large box packed with letters, albums and papers summing up Goetz's philatelic career in Cameroun, some 75 years ago.

I can now present a summary of what Jean-Xavier Goetz collected and safeguarded.

Among the papers

- First and foremost, the originals and copies of his memoir, in various forms. There were, it seems, two versions of the memoir, One was printed in 1945 in the *L' Eveil du Cameroun*. Another version, dated 1965, is very close to that one. Yet another, fuller and rejigged, is dated 11 February 1981 - That is the one on which Dudley Cobb based his introductory articles of 2009. We then have the issues of *L' Eveil du Cameroun* with the 1945 version entitled "Historical Account of the stamps overprinted in French Cameroun in 1940-41-43" which, for reference purposes, appeared in newspaper issues n° 749, 750, 752, 754, 756 and 757, between 31 August and 3 November 1945 (Figure 1).
- A Harrison's propaganda booklet sent out to governors and luminaries in six colonies (some twenty A5 pages, and previously unknown to me): "The new stamps of Free French colonies", describing the so-called "London issues", with a photo of General de Gaulle and a dedication by him (Figure 2).
- Also, originals of Goetz's correspondence with stamp circles locally and elsewhere in France, parts of the letters being reproduced and quoted in his memoir.

Among the stamps and covers

- The archive contains some thirty of the type of philatelic covers which Goetz made up (I had not imagined he would have kept so many back). All the stamps usually found on his covers are represented, mostly with duplicates: the two *Spitfire* issues, and the *Laquintinie*, *Oeuvres de guerre* and *Valmy* issues. There are some useful stamps, too: among them, I saw the R = broken B anomaly (sheet position 37) on the 5fr SPITFIRE surcharges (Figure 3), plus rare Fezzan covers (Figure 4), and numerous AEF and Madagascar mails franked with stamps of the Free French issues.
- Among the curiosities, Goetz preserved a number of covers improperly franked with the 90c *elephants* stamps that had been overprinted locally for revenue purposes TIMBRE FISCAL - 3 Francs or 3 FRANCS. In his memoir he explains that their use for postage within Cameroun was tolerated, as officials simply took account of the face value of 90c. At the time the inland rate for a 20g letter was 1fr, so another 10c postage had to be added; otherwise extra postage was charged (see Figures 5 and 6).
- The 31 stamps in the set of 27.8.40 overprints are well represented, with twenty or thirty copies of each value (Among which one entire page with about thirty good copies of the 20fr *canoe* design!). Can be found, too, the various "closed 4" (Figure 7), the more common varieties "27, 8", frequently in pairs, and all values in blocks of four with original printing dates (Figure 8).
- The five surcharged issues of 1941 and 1943 are also found in the archive, complete with duplicates of all the known varieties: blocks of the 1941 *General de Gaulle Spitfire* with "a" or "e" inverted (Figures 9 and 10), blocks of the *Oeuvres de guerre* issue with "s" omitted (Figure 12), and some curious anomalies on the *Laquintinie* issue. Also blocks of the *Valmy* issue and blocks of four of the 5F *Spitfire*, mint and cancelled, with printing dates.
- Several 5x5 blocks (notably of the 5fr, 10fr and 20fr *Liana bridge* designs (uncommon in this form) as well as full sheets; in particular one of the 2fr25 *World Fair* with overprint displaced. On top of that, accumulations of cancelled stamps and all values with postmarks of Douala-Deido, the district which Goetz policed (Figure 11).

Four most uncommon varieties, inverted and displaced overprints

Cobb's article of 2009 focused particularly on the varieties that Goetz reported in his memoir. I thought of these virtually unseen items as I went through the archive. Had they been preserved? Yes, all present and correct!

So I had an opportunity to look at:

- A 25c *waterfall* with overprint inverted (Figure 14) : Goetz reports that the single sheet of this variety was sold over the counter at Yaounde, and the lucky finder had his collectible postmarked for the purposes of authentication. He then had the sheet photographed, before breaking it up for sale. The archive contains a copy of the authenticating photo (Figure 13).

- A mint block and a cancelled pair (Douala Deido) of the 25c *waterfall*, with overprint markedly displaced (Figure 16). The SO-stamp sheet was apparently sold at the counter of Akwa-Deido post office on 3 November 1941. The block, the pair, along with four similar stamps that I hold, will help me reconstitute the full sheet.

- A block of four 2fr25 *elephants*, with overprint displaced to the right (Figure 15). A full sheet of this anomaly was "*found and sold at the counter of Douala main post office*", according to Goetz. Back in 2013, in ColFra Bulletin n° 143, I reconstituted this displacement, using a number of philatelic covers made up by postmaster Roblin. At that time, I was surprised to find stamps only from the bottom half of the sheet. This block in the archive will complete the puzzle, giving overprint positions 1,2,6 and 7.

- Now the best! Three copies of the *World Fair* 2fr25, with overprint inverted. Goetz reports that there were two full sheets of this uncatalogued variety. One of them was found in October 1940 at the main Douala post office where postmaster Marcel Roblin (also a familiar figure to Cameroun collectors) proceeded to destroy it in the presence of Goetz: "*using a pair of scissors, cutting each stamp in half from the top of the sheet down, right from the selvedge ...*". Was this destruction staged? Coincidentally, the sheet seems likely to be the "lacerated" one illustrated in the recent Col.Fra Bulletin n°156, auctioned by David Feldman SA in June 2016, with a 2015 certificate by Jean-Francois Brun (Figure 18). The lot was not sold. The way from official destruction in Cameroun in 1940 is a mysterious one, and perhaps paved with gold!

A second sheet of this variety was "*broken up by mistake*" by the postmaster's secretary, and the stamps included in batches reserved for collectors in AEF and Belgian Congo, some of whom noticed the anomaly and reported it when they received their stamps. Goetz describes in detail how, in 1944, he was able to obtain, in AEF, the three copies shown here (Figure 17).

In conclusion, I should say that the archive has been well stored and the stamps are in good condition. Goetz is still a sound reference for the Cameroun stamps overprinted between 1940 and 1945. He has his suspicions about varieties which later appeared outside of Cameroun, where he had not seen or heard of them, such as the inverted overprints on the 50c *rubber tapping* and on the 1fr75 *elephants*.

His report seems to suggest that these varieties were discreetly removed from the country and only offered for sale outside after some time had elapsed. The trials prior to the main 1940 issue (whose existence is well attested by official correspondence) may have followed the same foreign paths: Goetz had not seen them on the spot, and the ones he did see, later on, he incorrectly termed forgeries.

This article is an expanded version of one which appeared in French, in ColFra bulletin n° 157 (2016). Thanks to Martin Bratzel and Dudley Cobb for timely assistance, and to Dudley for his English translation.

Fig 5 - Mail improperly franked with 90c *éléphants* overprinted : "TIMBRE FISCAL - 3 FRANCS or 3 francs"



Fig 6

Only the face value (90c) was counted when calculating the postage paid. On the cover above, a further ten centimes worth of stamps was added to make up the inland rate of 1fr. Postage due of 20c (twice the shortfall of 10c) was charged on the cover to the right



Fig 7 - A "closed 4" on 20fr liana bridge



Fig 8 - 20fr canoe, with date of original printing



Fig 9 - 2fr25 General de Gaulle Spitfire with "a" inverted



Fig 10 - 1fr25 General de Gaulle Spitfire with "e" inverted



Fig 11 - Postmark of Douala-Deido



Fig 12 - Overprint Œuvres de guerre with "s" omitted



Fig 13 - 25c waterfall with overprint inverted; right-hand half of sheet



Photograph in postcard format, made in 1941

Fig 15 - 2fr25 elephants with overprint displaced



Stamp positions 1, 2, 6, 7

Fig 16 - 25c waterfall with overprint displaced



Stamp positions 1, 2, 11 and 12

Fig 14
25c waterfall with overprint inverted



Stamp positions 29 and 30

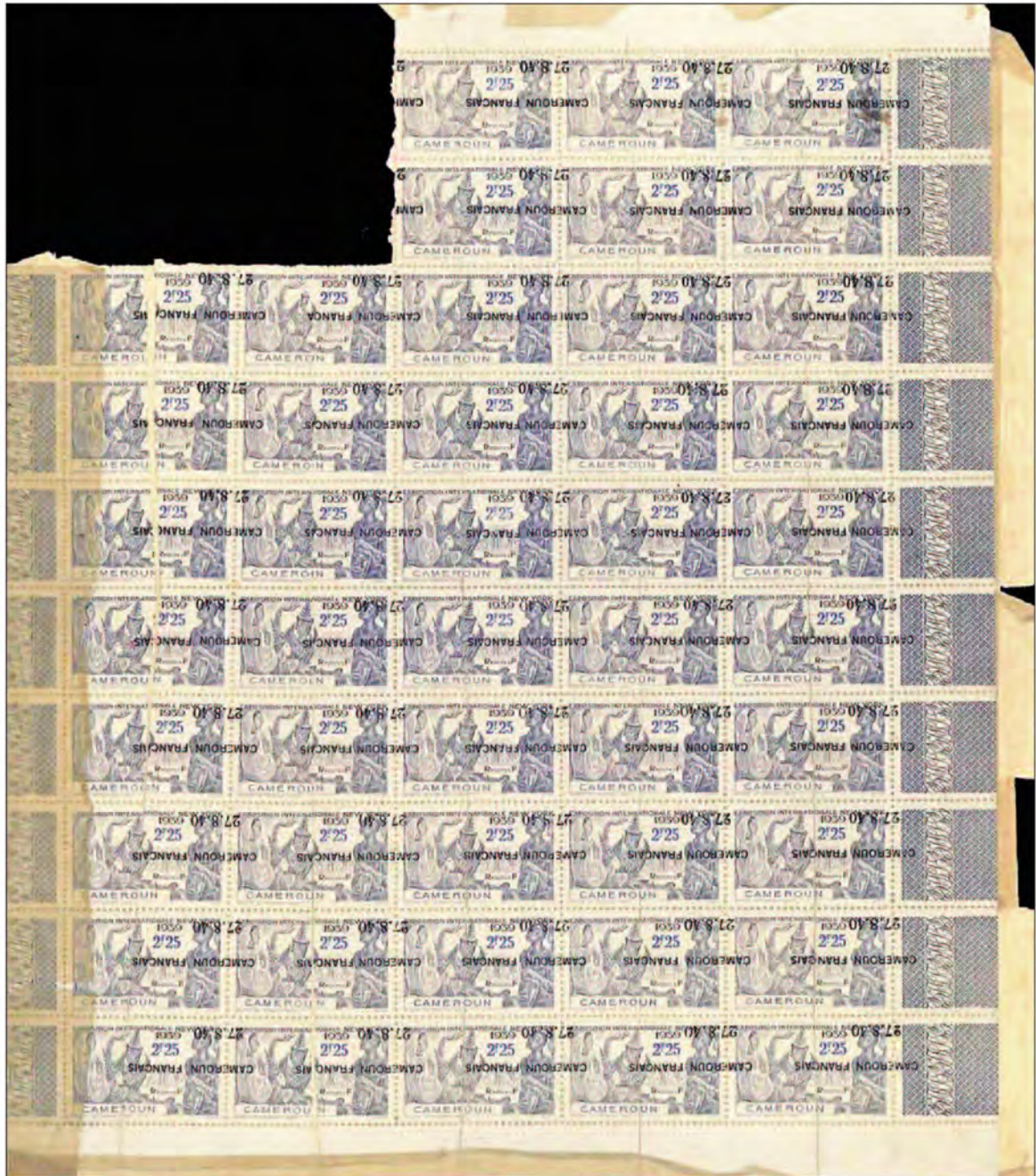
Fig 17 - Goetz's three copies of the 2fr25 NY World Fair, with overprint inverted
 (They come from a sheet which was "broken up by mistake" and sent to collectors in AEF)



Stamps positions 42 with overprint position 09, and 41 with overprint position 10

Stamp position 20 with overprint position 31

Fig 18 - The sheet of the World Fair 2fr25, with overprint inverted, auctioned by David Feldman SA in June 2016.
 It is probably the one which was found in October 1940 at the main Douala post office, where postmaster Marcel Roblin reportedly proceeded to destroy it, as Goetz tells in his mémoir: "using a pair of scissors, cutting each stamp in half from the top of the sheet down, right from the selvedge..."



Victoria, West Coast of Africa 1878

Jeremy Martin FRPSL



Figure 1

I showed this entire letter (Figure 1) in my Cameroon display to WASC in November 2016. It is addressed to George Thomson. Peter Richards looked him up on Wikipedia and, courtesy of that website, I am able to add more details.

George Thomson (1819 - 1878) was sent in 1870 by the Baptist Church to West Africa as a missionary in Limbe, Cameroon (then known as Victoria) where he combined his religious activities with a passion for botany. He died at Victoria from malaria on 14 December 1878.

The 1d rate on this letter is explained by the entire being a *PRICES CURREN.*, and this to a missionary! The entire could have been carried by the *Ambriz* (Ref. 1) of the African Steamship Company, which left Liverpool on 14 September 1878 and called at Fernando Po on 25 October and Bonny on 27 October.

This is a very early letter addressed to Victoria, which had been founded in 1858 by the Baptist missionary Alfred Saker. After the date of this letter the coastal strip of land around Victoria became a separate British Protectorate in September 1884, but was handed over to Germany on 28 March 1887 to become part of German Kamerun.

Reference

- 1 Tabcart C., *British West African Mail Packets to 1900; Rates, Routes and Ships, out and home*, pp193 & 198, WASC, Princes Risborough 2015



Missent to Accra, Ghana

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

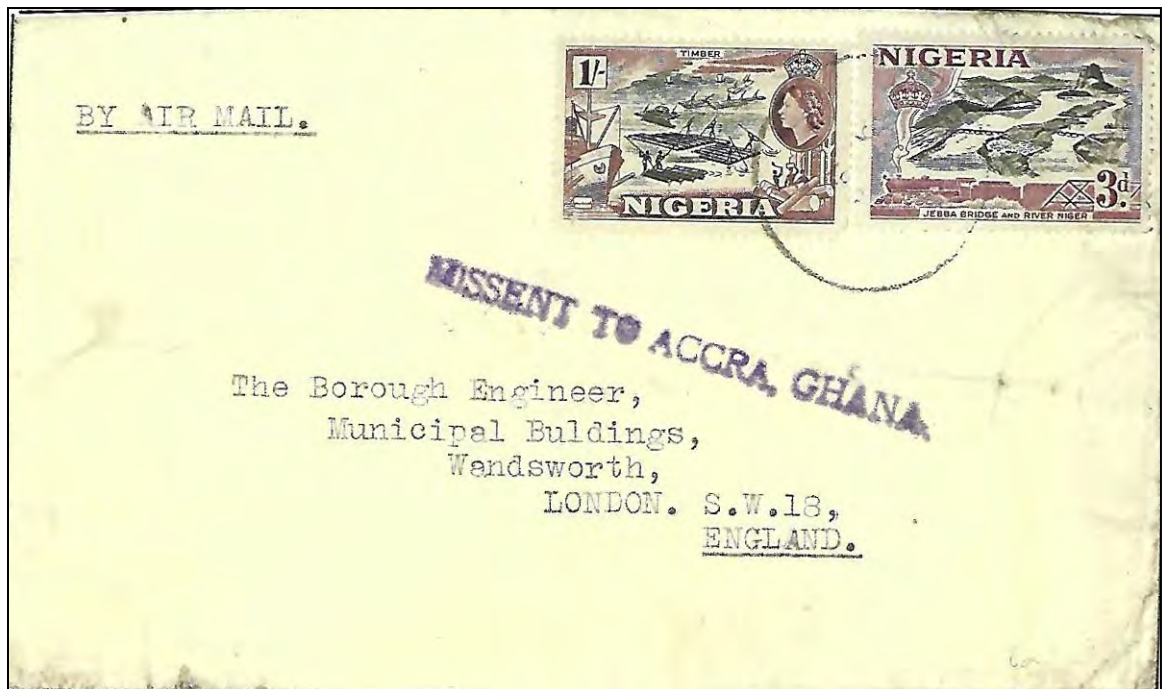


Figure 1

This cover (Figure 1) from Nigeria to England, date not clear but possibly circa 1960, has a violet cachet MISSSENT TO ACCRA, GHANA. I have not seen this before. It is unusual to find both the town name and country in the same cachet. Possibly this was due to the recent change of country name in 1957, upon independence, with Gold Coast becoming Ghana.



Nigerian Army Cachets During the Biafra War

Michael St J Wright

In April 2009 I wrote to Dudley Prestedge sending him black and white illustrations of covers sent by members of the Nigerian Forces opposing the Biafrans which I illustrate on the following pages:

“I was interested in your article on the Nigerian side of the Biafran war in Cameo (Ref 1). Surviving covers seem to be scarcer, if only because not so immediately interesting and therefore kept, than Biafran ones”.

I have just come across some which I bought in an auction about 15 years ago with other material. They had originally been acquired by an American who seems to have been interested in what was going on in the immediate aftermath of the war. He was writing all over the place and collecting press cuttings, but often having his letters returned” (*Ed – this bundle of correspondence and cuttings will appear in the next WASC auction*).

I have endeavoured to classify the markings into categories. Most of them are addressed to the radio Station ELWA (sometimes misspelt) or simply its PO Box. Three are to the Radiological Dept of the University College Hospital in Ibadan and two are to other addresses. Only two of the cachets feature among those assembled in this previous article. I now show black & white copies of the fronts of my covers (there is usually nothing on the back).

Nigerian OAS Covers and Cachets of the Biafran War and aftermath

- | <u>1) On Active Service</u> | | <u>On cover</u> | <u>Colour</u> | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| a) | FORCES MAIL / ON ACTIVE SERVICE / ARMED FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES
Three lines, 64x15mm overall
Reverse has single-ring datestamp UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL / IBADAN 9 JY / 70 | Red
2h | | |
| b*) | ON ACTIVE SERVICE / SIGNAL TRAINING SCHOOL / NIGERIA ARMY SIGNAL VI | | | |
| c) | FORCES MAIL / ON ACTIVE SERVICE [framed] 58x16mm
Front has machine postmark LAGOS 945PM / 4 MAY / 1971 / ETCPIS | | Violet | |
| d)* | ON ACTIVE SERVICE / NIGERIAN ARMY SIGNALS [framed] 57x15mm
Front has machine postmark LAGOS 945PM / 3 MAY / 1968 ETCPIS | | Violet | |
| e) | ON ACTIVE SERVICE [double framed] 69x12mm | 2f | Violet | |
| f) | ON ACTIVE SERVICE [framed] 62x9mm | 3b | Violet | |
| g) | ON ACTIVE SERVICE 65x10mm | 2e | Violet | |
| h) | ON ACTIVE SERVICE 44x4mm | 2b | Violet | |
|
 | | | | |
| <u>2) Horizontal three-lined Oval Handstamp with Inscriptions in 'Belt' and in Centre.</u> | | | | |
| | <u>Upper Belt</u> | <u>Lower Belt</u> | <u>Centre</u> | <u>Colour</u> |
| a) | 30 BN. NIGERIAN ARMY / * TEGO BARRACKS APAPA * | Date..... | [5/1/68] | Violet |
| b) | 1 2 4, BATTALION / * NIGERIAN ARMY * | 14 AUG 1970 | | Violet |
| | Front has single ring datestamp OGOJA 2-564 / 14 AU / 70 | | | |
| c) | ON ACTIVE SERVICE / * 74 BN NIG ARMY * | Sign..... | [17/69?] | Violet |
| | Front has double-ring datestamp ASABA / NIGERIA / 17 NO / 69 | | | |
| d) | HQ 81 BATTALION / * NIGERIAN ARMY * | DATE | | Violet |
| | Front has double-ring datestamp OTURKPO / 8-AM / 2 DE / 59 | | | |
| e) | HQ 17 CDO BDE / * NIGERIAN ARMY * |19 / 3 MARINE CDO / MAIN | 2/11/69 | Viol |
| | Front has single-ring datestamp PORT HARCOURT B.O. / NIGERIA / * / 5 NO / 69 | | | |
| f) | Headquarters 26 Bn / * NIGERIAN ARMY * | 12NOV1969 | | Violet |
| g) | CONVALESCENT CENTRE ELETU / * NIGERIAN ARMY ???MCDO DIV (MAIN) * | Blue? | | |
| | PORT-HARCOURT / DATE _____ 19 | | [16/11/69] | |
| h) | ARMED FORCES HOSPITAL / * KADUNA | | [No date] | Red |

3) Horizontal two-line Oval Handstamp, somewhat smaller, with Inscriptions in 'Belt' and Centre

a) HQ 103 BN / 1 DIV N. A. / DATE..... Violet
Front has double-ring datestamp IKOM / NIGERIA / 430.PM / 17 JY / 70

b) Headquarter[illegible] / ? Nigeria[illegible] / 19 NOV1969 Dirty Violet
Front has machine postmark KADUNA 7 AM? / 20 NOV / 1969 LYR

Notes

Covers 2b, 2e, 2f, 2g, 3a and 3b are addressed to ELWA (and/or Box 14 Kano), the other three to the Radiological Department, University College Hospital, Ibadan.

ETCPIS = ENSURE THAT / CORRECT POSTAGE / IS PAID
LYR = LICENCE / YOUR / RADIO

[] surrounds dates written in manuscript

* These were not in my auction purchase. They are well written. 1b may be philatelic; it does not appear to have been through the mail; the envelope had never been stuck down. It may even have been faked (but why?) - note that unlike 1d, there is no N at the end of NIGERIA, and even more wrong, no S at the end of SIGNAL.

Reference

1 Prestedge D., "Nigerian Army Mail during Biafra Conflict", *Cameo*, Volume 11 p64, WASC, January 2009

Editor's note—the addressee of the cover in Figure 1d, overleaf, might be familiar to collectors of Nigeria postmarks. It was Michael Dransfield who assembled the accumulation of early 1960s postmarks on 1961 halfpenny stamps that are found cut from self-addressed postcards he had sent to the postmasters at almost every post office or postal agency operating at that time.

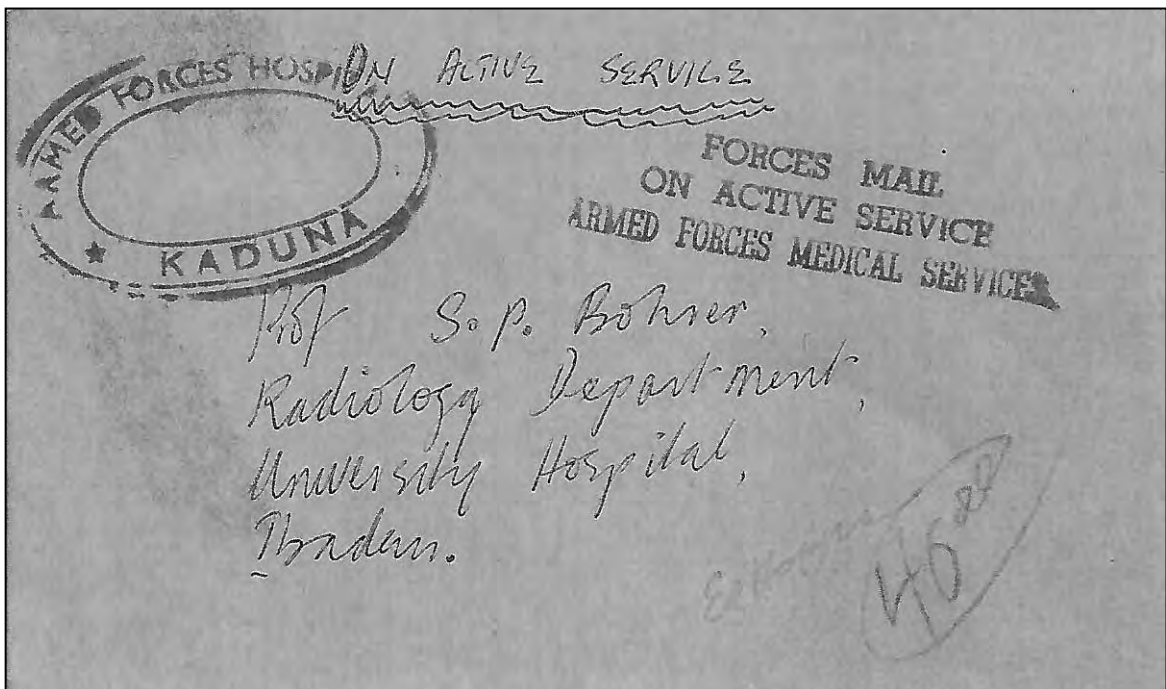


Figure 1a

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
SIGNAL TRAINING SCHOOL
NIGERIA ARMY SIGNAL

Mrs. Eric A. Lomax.
Kaduna Textiles Ltd.
P.O. Box 68,
Kaduna.

Figure 1b

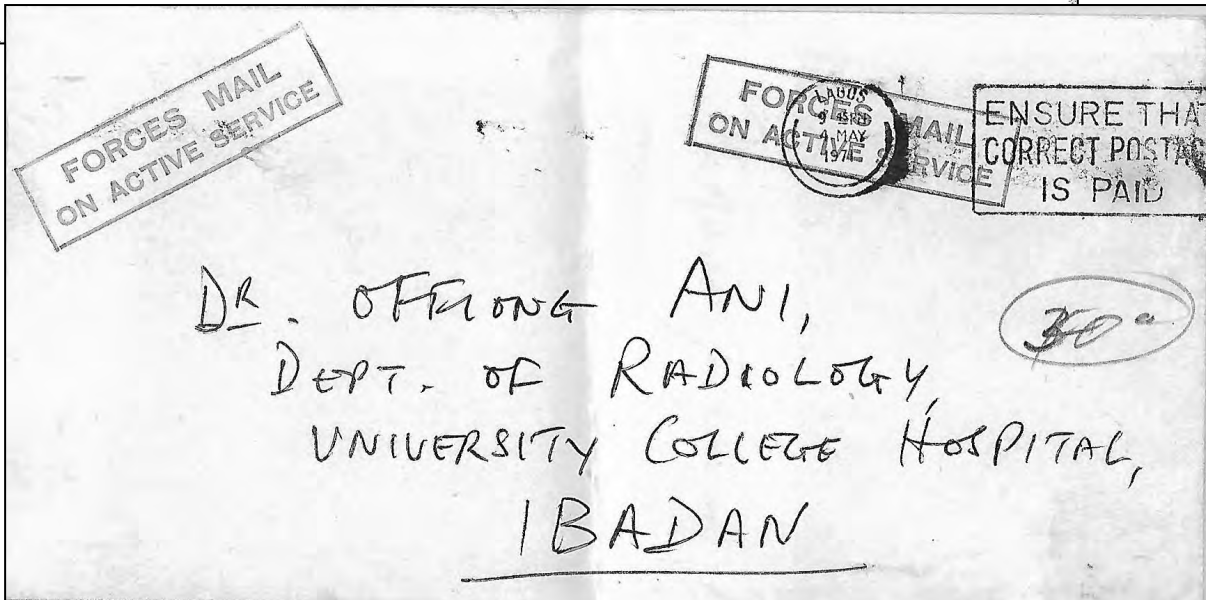


Figure 1c (reduced)

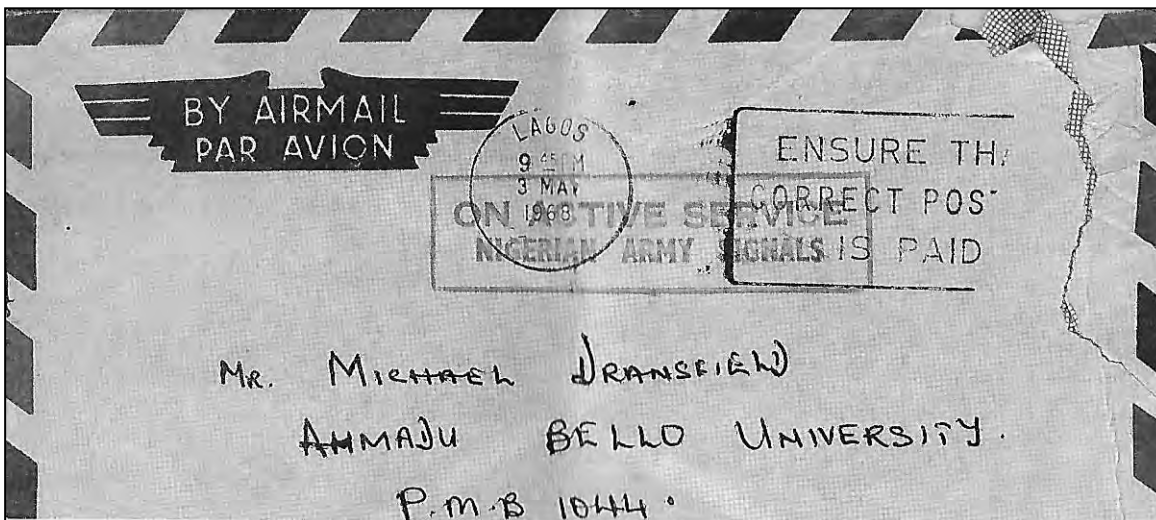


Figure 1d

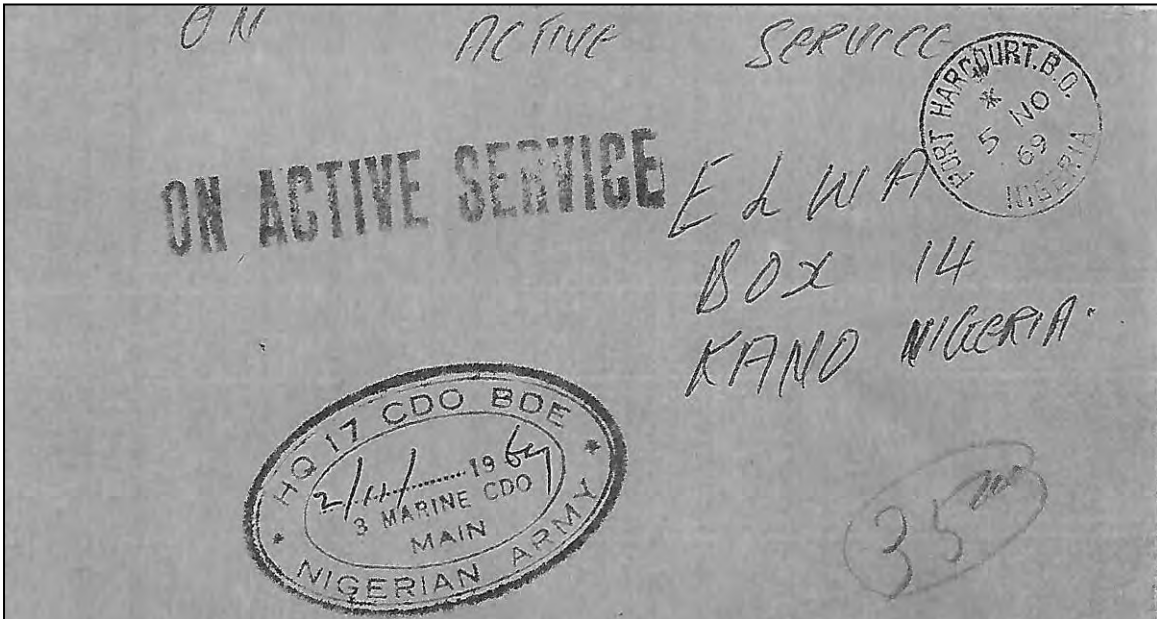


Figure 1e

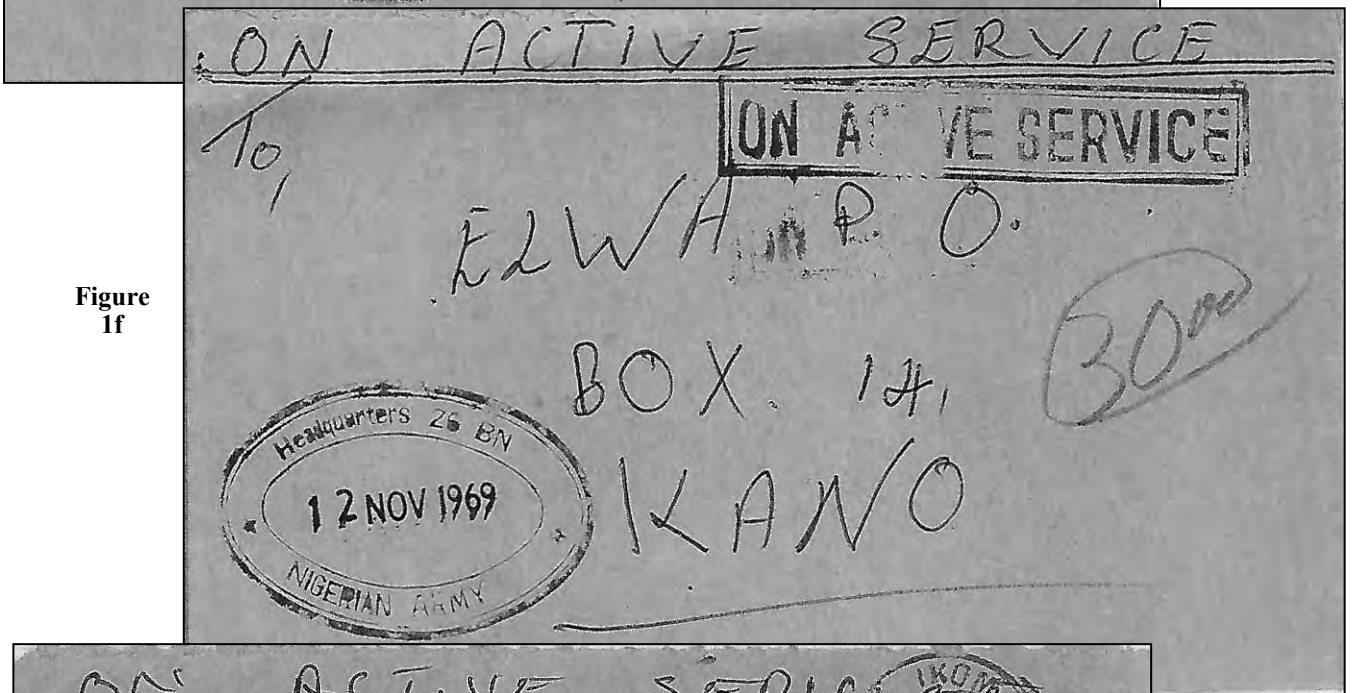


Figure 1f

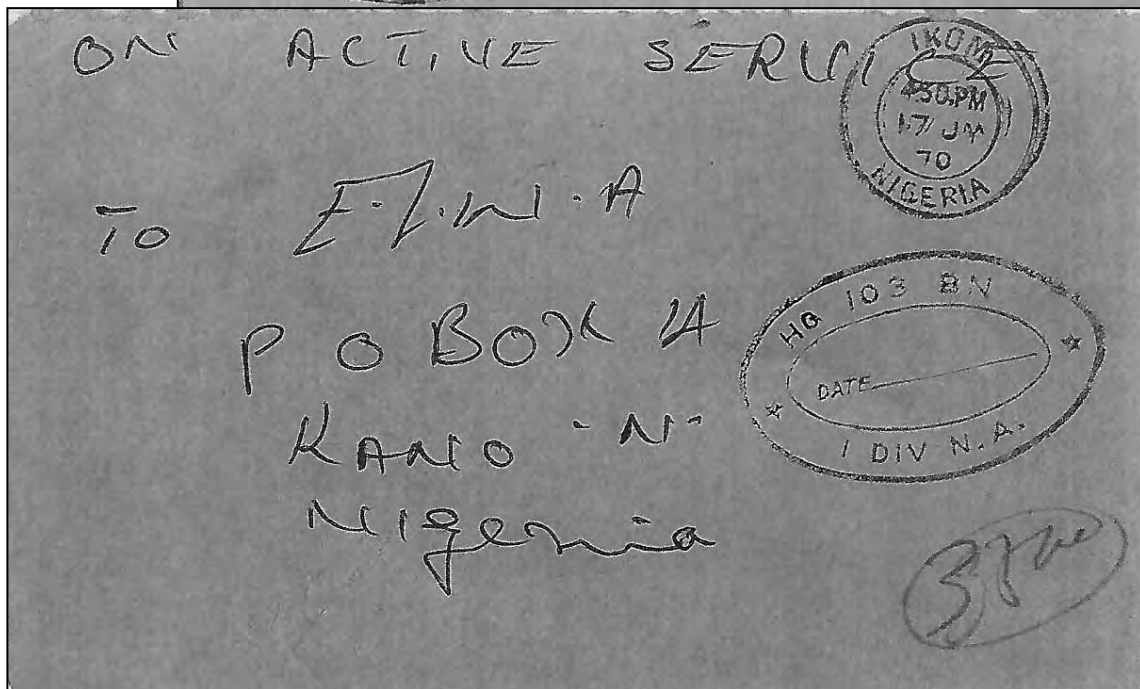


Figure 1g

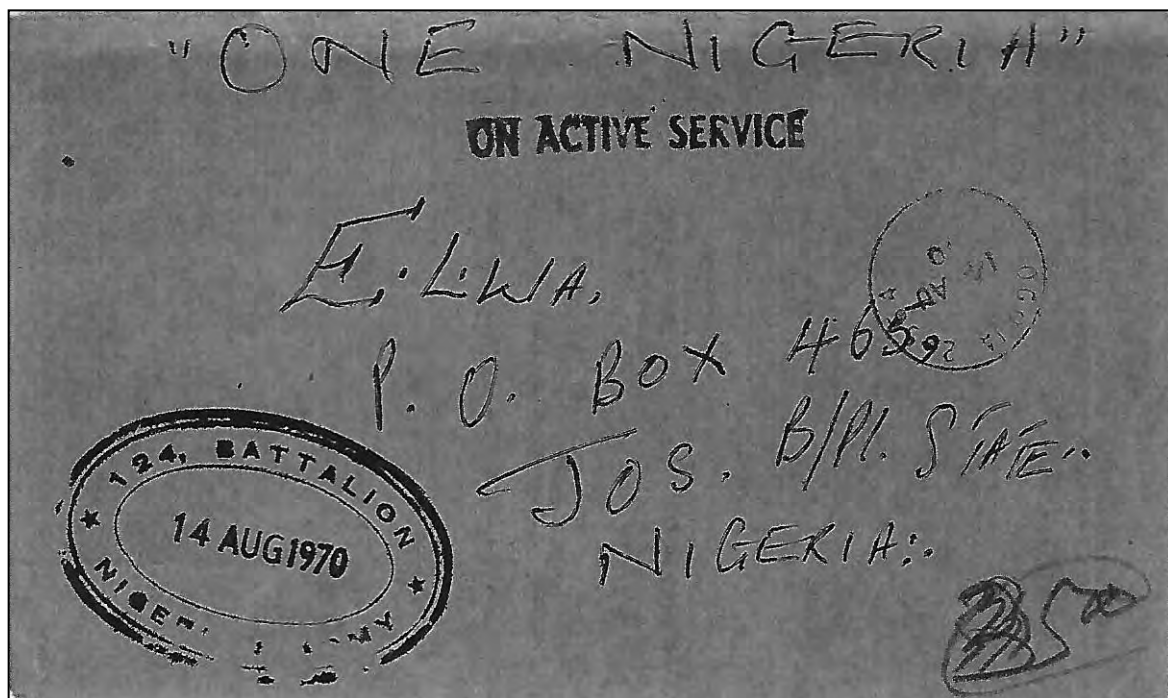


Figure 1h

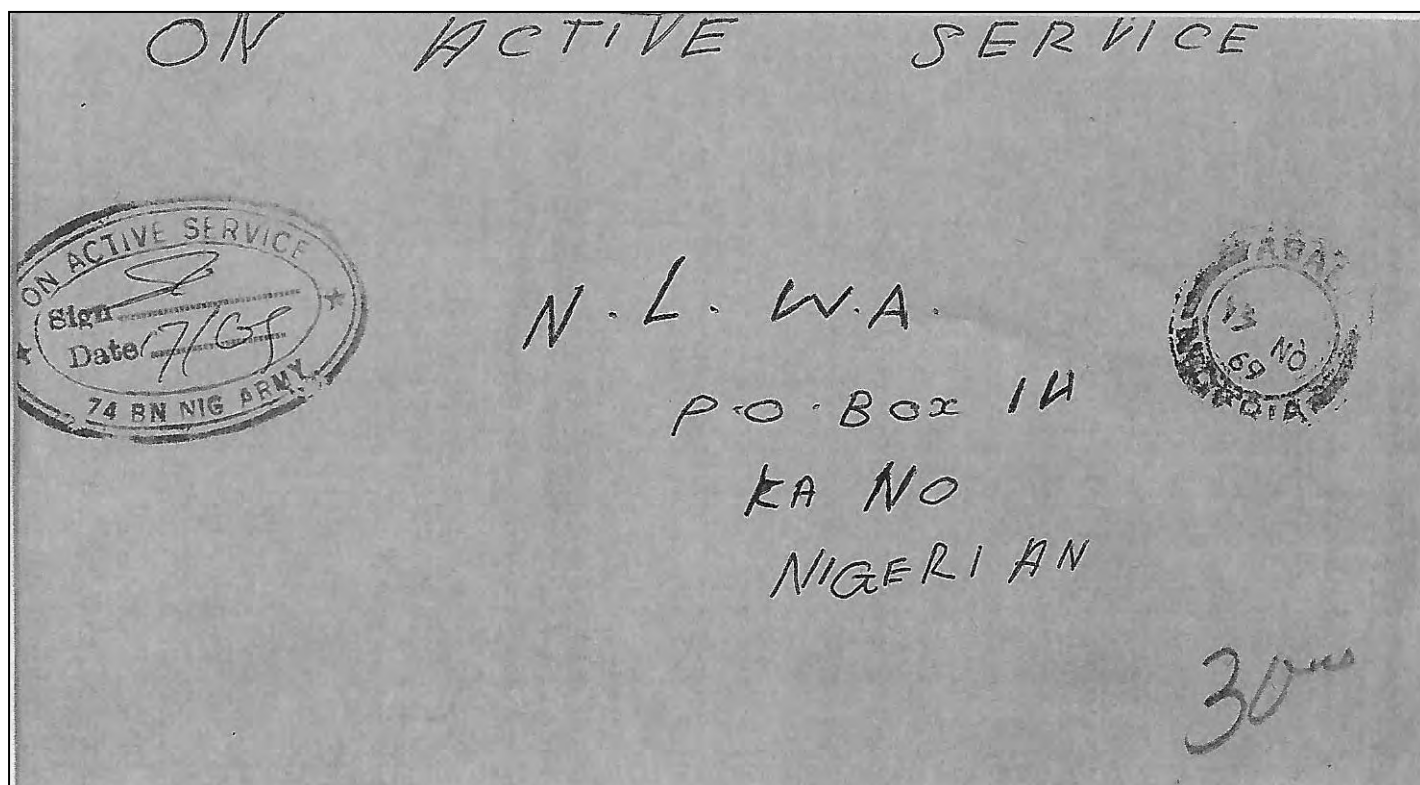


Figure 2c

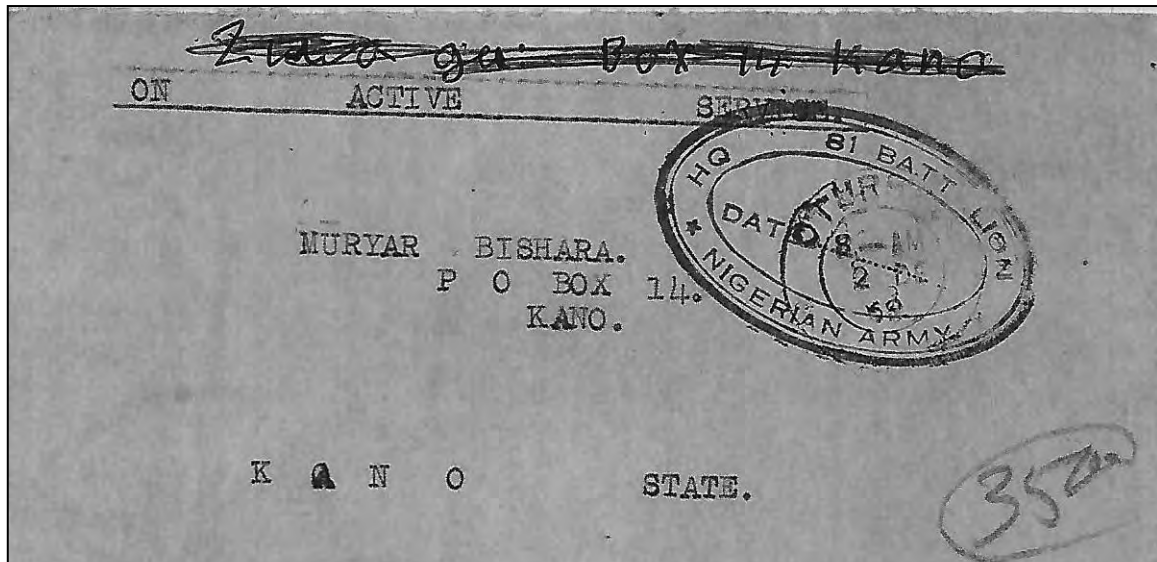


Figure 2d



Figure 2g

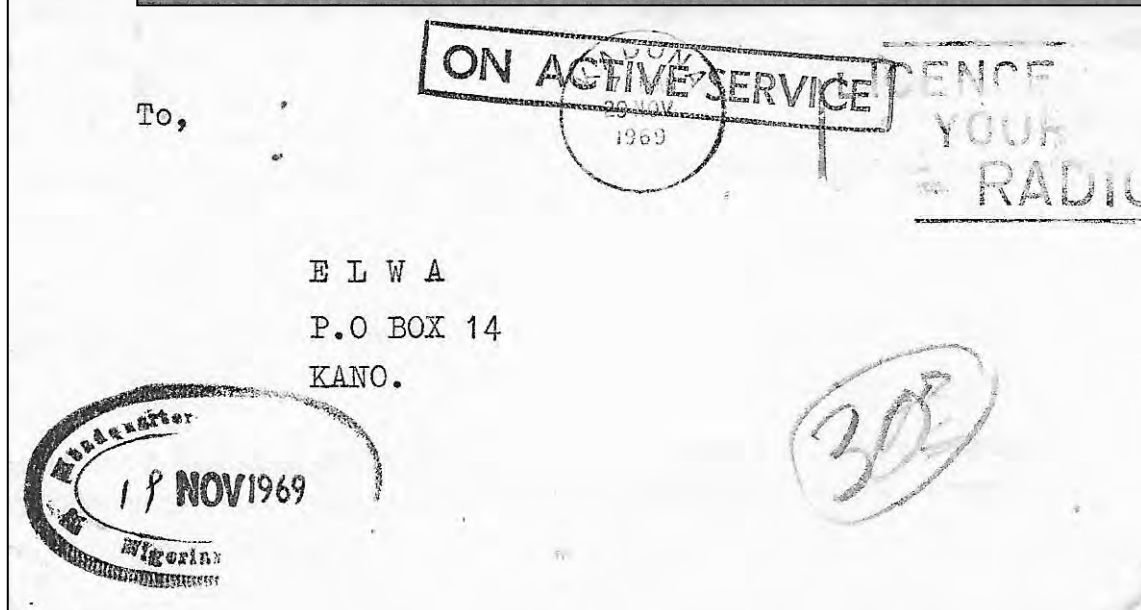


Figure 3b

Nigerian Commemoratives since 2012

Ray Harris

Since the second edition of the SG catalogue of West Africa (Ref. 1), Nigeria has pursued its very acceptable stamp issuing policy. From late 2012 until the end of 2016 there have been only nine small series of commemoratives, some of which were probably sponsored by organisations to publicise significant anniversaries. The tables below list these issues. In time, no doubt, SG will provide catalogue numbers.

All stamps are printed in litho on unwatermarked paper. All were issued in sheets of 50, except for the ECOWAS stamp (2015) in sheets of 25. That design was used in all the member countries of ECOWAS.

Subject / Issue date / Printer	Face value	Design / Designer	Perf.	hologram?	NIPOST phosphor?
Centenary of Enugu 27 September 2012 NSP&M plc	₦50	Symbol 100 + coal miner John Makop	12½x13	no	no
Ahmadu Bello University Golden Anniversary 24 November 2012 (nominal) 22 January 2013 (launch date) My FDC dated 19 JU 13 from NPS! Tacoms International Ltd.	₦50	Senate building Oshodi Abdulhafiz	13	yes	yes
	₦50	Sir Ahmadu Bello Adeniyi Taiwo Adedjoja	13	yes	yes
	₦90	ABU crest Commemorative Stamps Committee ABU	13	yes	yes
	₦120	Shika Brown Layer (hens) Commemorative Stamps Committee ABU	13	yes	yes
Tacoms International Ltd. (stamps) and Enschedé (booklet presumably)		booklet for the above; all stamps a little smaller, 3 panes of 4 se-tenant, total face value ₦930, in- terleaved with white paper			non-reflective paper under UV makes this very dis- tinctive
	₦50	Senate building	14x13½	no	yes
	₦50	Sir Ahmadu Bello	13½x14	no	yes
	₦90	ABU crest	13½x14	no	yes
	₦120	Shika Brown Layer (hens)	14x13½	no	yes
		Souvenir sheet has small images of the stamps	imperf	no	no
50 th Year of Philippines- Nigeria Diplomatic Rela- tions 20 December 2013 Superflux International Ltd.	₦50	Daisy Bode Akinyemi	12½x13½	yes	yes
	₦120	Sampaguta (mis-spelt for Sampaguita) Bode Akinyemi	12½x13½	yes	yes

Subject / Issue date / Printer	Face value	Design / Designer	Perf.	hologram?	NIPOST phosphor?
Centenary of Nigeria 1 st series Circular stamps in square perforated borders showing Civilian Leaders (centenary symbol in all places where used has "CENTINARY") 27 November 2014 Tacoms International Ltd.	₦50	Nnamdi Azikwe (names are quoted from the stamps, though a letter in <i>Cameo 94</i> points out the numerous errors in the names) G.N.Osuji	13½	yes	yes
	₦50	Sir Tafawa Balewa G.N.Osuji	13½	yes	yes
	₦50	Alhaji Aliyu Shehu Shagari G.N.Osuji	13½	yes	yes
	₦50	Earnest Shonekan G.N.Osuji	13½	yes	yes
	₦50	Olusegun Obasanjo G.N.Osuji	13½	yes	yes
	₦50	Umar Musa Yar' Dua G.N.Osuji	13½	yes	yes
	₦50	Goodluck Ebele Jonathan G.N.Osuji	13½	yes	yes
		miniature sheet of all 7 stamps	imperf	no	yes
University of Nigeria, Nsukka 55 th Anniversary, initial issue without holograms (not generally available but used for FDCs) 23 October 2015	₦50	Prof. Benjamin C. Ozumba Abdul Khabir Olalekan Olaitan	14x13½	no	yes
	₦50	Badge of University Abdul Khabir Olalekan Olaitan	14x13½	no	yes
	₦100	Dr. George M. Johnson Abdul Khabir Olalekan Olaitan	14x13½	no	yes
	₦120	Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe Abdul Khabir Olalekan Olaitan	14x13½	no	yes
		miniature sheet of 4 stamps	stamps with simulated perforation	no	yes
University of Nigeria, Nsukka 55 th Anniversary, stamps as above, reissued with holograms for general use not available by 23 October 2015 – release date uncertain					
ECOWAS 40 th Anniversary 7 December 2015 Cartor, France	₦50	symbol 40 Yellow & Amber Designs (Abuja)	13x13½	no	No, but fluorescent under NIGERIA
		"proof" on card in FDC	imperf	no	no

Subject / Issue date / Printer	Face value	Design / Designer	Perf.	hologram?	NIPOST phosphor?
Nigeria Centenary 2 nd series (centenary symbol in all places where used has "CENTENARY") 10 October 2016 Tacoms International Ltd.	₦50	Amalgamation House, Calabar G.N.Osuji	13½x14	yes	yes
	₦50	Lord Lugard Court, Lokoja G.N.Osuji	13½x14	yes	yes
	₦50	Seat of Administration of Sir Frederick Lugard, Lokoja G.N.Osuji	13½x14	yes	yes
	₦50	National Assembly, Abuja G.N.Osuji	13½x14	yes	yes
	₦50	Supreme Court, Abuja G.N.Osuji	13½x14	yes	yes
	₦50	State House, Marina, Lagos G.N.Osuji	13½x14	yes	yes
		miniature sheet of 6 stamps		stamps with simulated perforation	no
Nigeria Centenary 3 rd series hexagonal stamps (centenary symbol in all places where used has "CENTENARY") probably same date as 2 nd series Tacoms International Ltd.	₦50	"One Nigeria great promise" G.N.Osuji	14 on all sides	yes	yes
	₦50	"United we stand" G.N.Osuji	14 on all sides	yes	yes
	₦100	Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Sir Ahmadu Bello, Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe (<i>sic</i>) G.N.Osuji	14 on all sides	yes	yes
	₦120	Sir Frederick Lord Lugard G.N.Osuji	14 on all sides	yes	yes
		miniature sheet of 4 stamps		stamps with simulated perforation	no
Anti-Corruption 7 November 2016 Superflux International Ltd.	₦50	Say No to "Theft" Godrick N. Osuji	12½x13½	yes	yes
	₦50	Say No to "Bunkering" Godrick N. Osuji	12½x13½	yes	yes
	₦50	Say No to "Fraud" Godrick N. Osuji	12½x13½	yes	yes
	₦50	Say No to "Bribery" Godrick N. Osuji	12½x13½	yes	yes
		Miniature sheet with the 4 stamps se-tenant (distinguishable from main issue by shaded margins of those on m/s)		12½x13½	yes

Reference

Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue West Africa, Stanley Gibbons, Ringwood 2012

Note that Hugh Jeffries has recently started to prepare the 3rd edition and welcomes potential new listings.

Sierra Leone to England by French Air Service, 1930

Jeremy Martin FRPSL



Figure 1

The cover shown at Figure 1 was displayed at the WASC 2017 conference at Cheltenham and later I discussed it with Charles Leonard and Peter Richards.

The basic details are that it is franked 1/2d, made up of 2d for the first ounce, surface rate, plus an air supplement of 1/- for weight up to half ounce. There is a manuscript mark *12 grms* and a boxed POSTED ON STEAMER. It was date-stamped at Freetown SP 13 30.

One suggestion of the postal arrangements pertaining to this cover is that the purser aboard a steamer held a supply of Sierra Leone stamps and sold them to a passenger who applied the stamps. The cover was then posted on board, receiving the boxed cachet. The steamer may have been outward bound.

The purser would then have taken the cover to the Freetown post office where the stamps were cancelled and the air mail etiquette added. The next available homeward bound steamer would have taken it to Dakar to join the French air service to Toulouse.

Do any members have other suggestions?

Philip Beale in his book on Sierra Leone (Ref. 1) notes that in 1931 only 226 air mail items were despatched from Sierra Leone, via Dakar. He gives no statistic for 1930.

Reference

- 1 Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, p47, RPSL, London 1988



In a Brazilian Harbor: The Report of Capt. Triebe of the *Henny Woermann*

translated by **Erich E. Schlieper**, eschliepermg@t-online.de

[Translator's Note: I discovered this report in the archives of the Reichskolonialamt, when I first visited them in Potsdam in 1995; these archives are now in Berlin – Lichterfelde. I have translated it into English, to give a sense of the situation for the postal steamers at the beginning of WWI]

Report

Pernambuco, September 12, 1914

Woermann-Linie
[Mail Steamer] *Henny Woermann*.
Woermann – Linie A. G.
Hamburg

After an extremely favorable outward voyage, I arrived at Duala on July 14. I discharged here for two days to lighten the vessel and went on to Kribi, where passengers were put ashore. On July 17, I continued south to load the stored cargo for the return voyage and returned to Duala on July 18, where the discharge of the outward cargo was continued. In Duala there was good cargo for the return voyage. In Kamerun, I loaded about 1,600 tons and in Lagos about 600 tons of products, so I had about 500 tons vacant in the vessel.

Throughout the voyage, the traffic of passengers was satisfactory. At Monrovia I had 183 passengers aboard. I received your telegram in the night of July 31 / August 1, according to which I was to care for the safety of the vessel according to my judgment. I decided on the spot to put into the nearest neutral port, which could only be Pernambuco, Brazil. I informed you accordingly by telegraph. (Note 1)



Figure 1. 20 July 1914 registered cover from Ukoko, Kamerun to Aachen, Germany, carried on the last voyage of the *Henny Woermann*; address side.

After arrival in Monrovia in the morning of August 1, I informed the foreign passengers about the political development, after which the English and French (in all 38 persons) left the vessel. The people went berserk with joy and a general fraternization took place. After all who wished to debark and all Kru-boys [Krujungen] were put ashore, I continued my voyage. I declared Duala to be my destination, so as not to betray my true intentions. As I had been told in Monrovia that the [German] gunboat *Eber* was nearby, I

tried all night to call *Eber* by wireless with the surprising result that around 3 a.m., I sighted two English cruisers steaming slowly north exchanging signals by searchlights. All lights on board [the *Henny Woermann*] were immediately put out and by several changes of course I managed to get away unseen. [The cruisers] steamed about 180 miles off the African coast and were in the route of ships bound for East Africa and Australia. From then on, the wireless station was used for listening only and no telegrams were sent. The *Professor Woermann* called us several times at night, but I could not answer in order to protect our safety. In the night of August 4 we received the telegram from Nauen (Note 2) that England had also declared war on Germany. We also intercepted several telegrams which the French coastal stations exchanged, so we were completely informed at all times.



Figure 2. 20 July 1914 registered cover from Ukoko, Kamerun to Aachen, Germany, carried on the last voyage of the *Henny Woermann*; reverse, showing ‘AACHEN 2.10.14’ receiving cancel.



Figure 3. 22 July 1914 postcard from Duala, Kamerun to Charlottenburg, Germany, carried on the last voyage of the *Henny Woermann*; note handwritten ‘7/X 14’ receipt notation.

10
 Köln Deutz, 2. Oktober 1914
 10
 HAMBURG
 Eing. 3. 10. 14
 ..19
 Züwink
 nach
 Hamburg 1
 Die Post von Lt. Henry Woermann
 ist gefahren für Ausgehungen in P
 zuseh ab Pernambuco mit einem
 Kreuzer des Joll. Lloydlinien
 Amsterdam - Hellen.
 Hamburg, 3. 10. 14
 Züwink
 an
 Der Kaiserlichen des Reichspostamts
 in Berlin 24. 66
 mit den neuesten Ausgehungen
 der 4. P. O. 10 in Köln-Deutz.
 J. W.
 Züwink
 4.

10. 10. 1.
 u. f. a. m.
 I. B. 857
 vorgelegt.

Figure 4. Note from Coln-Deutz 2 postoffice, concerning the mails from the Henny Woermann.

After a fair journey and without being molested any further I arrived at the entrance to Pernambuco harbor in the morning of August 7, where the following German steamers had found refuge:

Blücher, Sierra Nevada, Tijuoa, San Nicolaus, Sanotos, Bahia Laura, Eisenach, Baden. and Cap Fillano.

Later arrivals were *Gudrun, Otavi, Walburg, Holger, Corrientes, and Patagonia.*

On August 11, we put the vessel into port where she was securely tied up. Since by entering a port of refuge, we had complied with the conditions for General Average, I declared a Seeprotest at the German Consulate and later lodged a Verklarung at a local Brazilian court (Note 3). Otherwise, as the local agents informed me, I would have had to pay harbor and mooring fees for the whole time I was in port. As agents, I appointed the firm used by the Hamburg-Südamerikanische Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft and the Hamburg-Amerika Linie, namely Messrs. Borstelmann & Co. I have already sent five telegrams to Hamburg without any reply, which worries me a great deal.

Upon my arrival here, the Europe-bound Norwegian sailing ship *Norge* was ready for departure, on which departed five of our passengers who were eligible for military duty. First Officer Leibauer and Second Officer Volkmann were subject to military service and wanted to get home, and so were discharged and left with the *Norge*. Later, several passengers left with Brazilian steamers to Rio and to New York in order to try to get home, so I now have 93 passengers on board.

The passengers, who were on board during the home-bound journey and are still on board, seem not to have grasped the gravity of the situation. Particularly distinguished with excessive and abusive insults directed at the company, the vessel, and the crew, is the government architect and railroad commissioner Eitel from Kamerun, against whom I wish to file a complaint with the Reichskolonialamt if at all possible.

[*The German report bears a handwritten note at this point, obviously applied later: "Amsinck's view is that this matter should not be investigated any further". Arnold Amsinck was one of the principals of the Woermann Line in 1914.*]

Provisions and coal are getting short and I am in consequence compelled to reduce food rations and ship-board lighting a great deal, just as has already been done on all other German vessels harbored here. Since August 29, first-class passengers on all German vessels where passengers are still aboard are being charged daily fees of 5 Marks and second-class 3 Marks, to cover part of the costs of food. However most passengers no longer have any cash and thus sign a receipt, so that the amount owed can be collected later. As for our supply of provisions, since very little can be purchased ashore and that only at high prices, we have begun to use the cargo of vessels mooring or departing here. A ton of coal delivered on board costs 10.000 Milreis or 3 Pounds Sterling. I have only 150 ton left and will try to get coal from other steamers. The health [of the passengers and crew] on board leaves much to be desired. Two passengers, who had come on board very ill, died on the homeward bound journey. In addition, First Cook Philips died of malaria.

The vessel is becoming badly fouled [anwächst] and before departure after armistice I will have to clean the bottom if possible. Unfortunately the antifouling paint is running very short as is all other equipment and supplies, and cannot be replaced locally. Understandably the other vessels are not willing to share their supplies.

The public opinion in this country is not very favorable towards Germans. The antennas of the wireless have to be taken down in this harbor and the wireless station has been sealed by the authorities. The English cable-vessel *Norseman* on the other hand is permitted to keep her wireless station operating and exchanges cables with the English cruisers, six of which are cruising the coast here, all the time. The English have directed their entire East-Asian Cruiser-Brigade to the South American coast and every few days an English cruiser comes to the entrance to the harbor to take over coal and water and sends a dinghy into the harbor to note the names of all moored German vessels.

I hope that this report gets into your hands and that you get an impression of the present situation and that you are reassured about the ship. Also I beg to get your instructions about the journey back home and the replenishment of the coal supply.

There is nothing more to report.

Yours sincerely
[signed] Triebe
Captain
[Mail Steamer] *Henny Woermann.*

Illustrated in Fig. 4 is a note, also found in the Reichskolonialamt archives, which explains what happened to the mail on the *Henny Woermann*. The German text is:

“Coln/Deuttz 2. Oktober 1914
Zurück
nach
Hamburg 1
Die Post von s.s. Henny Woermann ist gestern hier eingegangen und zwar
ab Pernambuco mit einem Dampfer des Holl. Lloyd über Amsterdam --
Elten”

which translates into English as:

“Coln/Deuttz 2. Oktober 1914
return
to
Hamburg 1
The mail from the Steamship Henny Woermann arrived here yesterday
from Pernambuco on a steamer of the Dutch Lloyd Line, via Amsterdam --
Elten”

Elten is the first railroad station in Germany on the line from Amsterdam. The note was passed to the main Hamburg post office, and from there to the Reichspostamt in Berlin.

We are able to illustrate two items of mail from the *Henny Woermann*, part of the delivery described above. Fig. 1 on page 28 and Fig. 2 on page 29 illustrate a registered cover from Ukoko, Kamerun, canceled at Ukoko on 20 July, loaded on board the *Henny Woermann* when she returned to pick up more cargo between 18 July and 31 July, and received at Aachen on 2 August. Fig. 3 on page 29 illustrates a postcard from Duala, canceled at Duala on 22 July, carried on the *Henny Woermann*, and with a receipt notation of 7 October.

Notes

- 1 The major deep-water port in the Brazilian state of Pernambuco is Recife, which is also the capital of Pernambuco. Recife is the port in South America nearest to Western Africa, and thus a logical neutral destination to which Capt. Triebe would take the *Henny Woermann*.
- 2 According to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nauen>, the town of Nauen, near Berline, was the site of a major wireless transmission facility from 1906 to 1945.
- 3 General Average (in German “Havarie grosse”) is an important maritime law term. During my (EES) professional time as marine underwriter, I had to deal with hundreds of General Average claims. The term means that if both ship and cargo are faced by a peril, the defensive costs are divided between the ship owner and the owners of the cargo (or their respective underwriters). For example if there is fire on the ship, the ship being worth \$1,000,000 and the cargo \$500,000, the costs of fighting the fire (including the damage done to the cargo by water for fighting the fire) are distributed on the basis of these values (two-thirds to the ship owner, one-third to the cargo owner, in the example). In the case of *Henny Woermann* the port of refuge was entered to avoid a seizure by the British navy, so all the harboring and mooring costs would have been paid out of the General Average fund. Issuing a “Seeprotest” is part of the General Average procedure.



Mail from Kamerun at the Start of WWI

John Mayne

The cover shown front and reverse at Figure 1 was offered in the Württembergische Auktionshaus of Stuttgart on 16th September 2017. It was sent from Duala, Kamerun on 25 July 1914 by surface mail and carried on the northbound voyage of the SS *Henny Woermann* of the Woermann Line. The ship called at Togo on 27 July.

The captain elected to seek safety in Brazil, joining other Woermann Line ships at Pernambuco, where it stayed until it was seized in 1917 to be operated by Lloyd Brasileiro as the *Uberaba*. This cover, marked

“via Southampton”, was intended to be dropped off in the Channel before reaching Germany but the *Henny Woermann* never got that far. Her mails were returned from Brazil to Germany by Dutch steamer in September/October 1914 (see previous page) but there is no evidence that this cover was handled in Germany.

It seems the mails addressed to the UK were separated in Brazil and delivered (by the same steamer?) directly to the British GPO. The cover bears a fine official seal of the UK Returned Letter Office on the reverse, but unfortunately does not have a British date-stamp. I have seen no similar example and the estimate was €2500.



Figure 1



Last Mail from German Togo before WWI

John Mayne

I refer further to the above article by Erich Schleiper translating a report from Captain Triebe dated 24 September 1914 from Pernambuco Brazil, captain of the *Henny Woermann*, which was the last ship to collect mail from Kamerun and Togo before World War I broke out.

I possess a postal stationery card (Figure 1) posted Lome 25 July 1914, cancelled by the difficult Lome 'a' cancel in use from April 1914 but not known in the occupation period, which was collected by the *Henny Woermann*. It has a manuscript endorsement of October 5th when redirected which ties in with Captain Triebe's report from the ship which reached Germany via a Dutch ship between October 2nd and 4th. The item carries a Steuer certificate.

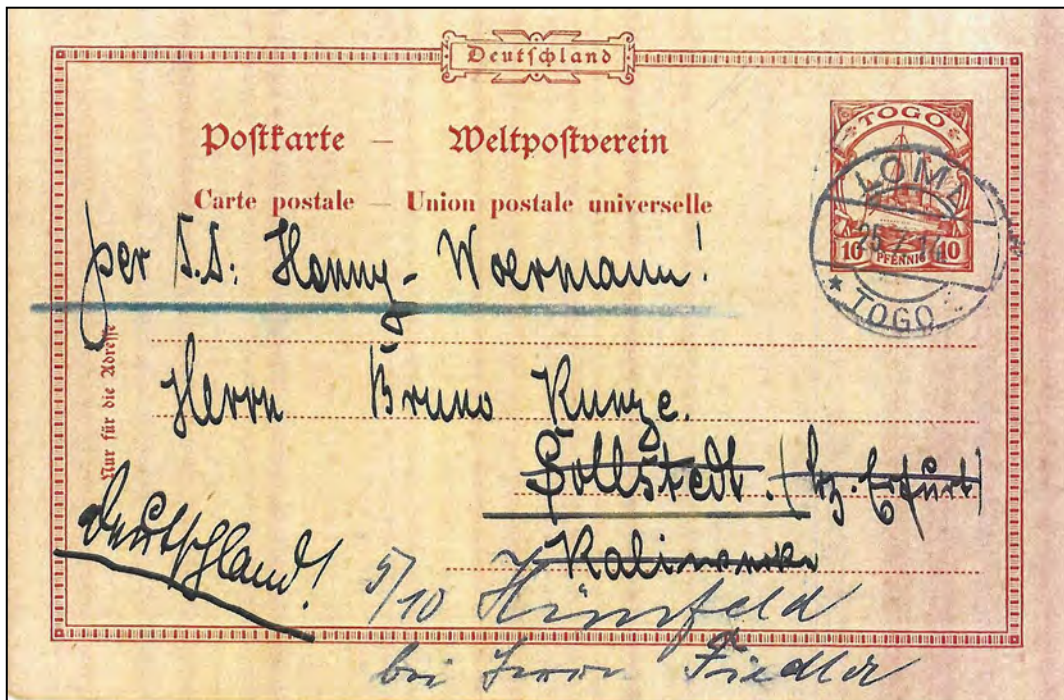


Figure 1: postal stationery card from Lome to Germany, carried on the last northbound voyage, which diverted to Pernambuco, Brazil



Lagos Machine Postmark, 1990-91

Jeremy Martin FRPSL



This red machine postmark, dated 31 December 1990, on a cover provided by Ray Harris, is similar to a meter impression but with an entwined scroll instead of the paid cachet. I own a long envelope bearing the same mark dated 4 March 1991, which also failed to cancel the adhesives. This seems to have been set up as a canceler rather than a paid meter mark, but does anyone have any information about it?

Ed - whilst preparing Michael Wright's material for the WASC auctions I found another example on a long cover, dated 11 December 1990, which did cancel the adhesive. It should appear in the summer auction.

Ghana: Redenomination of the Cedi in 2007

Nicholas Pertwee

This article first appeared in two parts in "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" in February and March 2011 as "Recent Philatelic Happenings in Ghana" and is republished here by permission of the author, with a postscript updating it to 2017.

Officially the Cedi currency sign should have a bar through the 'C' which can appear horizontally, vertically or broken. One could use the US cent sign '¢' but it is not always the right shape. Locally-printed Ghana stamps use versions of the '¢'.

Stamps printed overseas usually have just 'C' though Cartor is careful to use the correct form. Overprints can appear with both forms, though given their provisional nature it is not thought that this means that some stamps have been overprinted abroad.

Earliest-seen dates of use quoted in this article are 'subjective', in the sense that they stem from covers – numerous – in my possession. They are given in an attempt to determine when a stamp might have been issued but postmarks on letters from Ghana are frequently illegible - the YouTube clip of work at the University post office in Accra suggests why this is so - and the picture could change if clearer strikes produce new dates. Readers are strongly encouraged to provide earlier dates of use if they come across them.

Accurate information on the stamps of Ghana is hard to obtain at the best of times and communication with officialdom in Accra is often frustratingly one-sided. Even eye-catching special issues are difficult to pin down and so it should surprise no-one that details of definitive stamps, especially the provisional definitive overprints which appear randomly to fill a particular face-value gap when genuine postal needs dictate, are effectively unobtainable. If this is so, how can one write anything about Ghana's stamps? The answer is to try to find strands that link disparate pieces of information, build up plausible theories based on specimens that come one's way, and produce a convincing narrative. Here, based on this investigative approach, I have introduced some ideas about what has been taking place on Ghana's stamp front in the last couple of years. What has emerged is interesting enough in itself, but when there is an element almost of mystery involved, it becomes all the more challenging. The redenomination of the Cedi effective 1 July 2007 is a convenient focal point for comment.

The Redenomination of the Cedi

Currencies with rows of zeros after the base figure are not necessarily unstable – the Yen is a case in point – but they do tend to have a bad reputation. Even economic powerhouse Germany was no stranger at one stage of its history to the corrosive effects of inflation and its stamps of the Weimar period reflect this. Drastic measures were needed to restore its fortunes. Often stage-managed, the exchange-rate progress of the Cedi was never regular and one can hardly fault Ghana for wanting to improve its appearance, especially as this led to some unexpected developments for the philatelist – two parallel series of stamps for the 50th anniversary of independence in the old and new currency; the locally-printed series for this event intended to be new definitives proving insufficient when their printer failed; early 1980s-vintage stamps brought back into service at face value with official sanction; and provisional definitive overprints produced at random as stop-gaps.

'The current note regime places significant deadweight burden on the economy' said the Bank of Ghana when it began its campaign in January 2007 to publicise the redenomination of the Cedi to take place on 1 July that year. There were several reasons given for this, not the least of which was the 'general inconvenience and high risks involved in carrying loads of currency for transaction purposes'. The decline in the value of the cedi also meant that coins had become irrelevant, so that basic consumer aids like vending machines and parking meters were unusable. Warning that in countries where inflation had not been properly brought under control redenomination was of dubious benefit as it resulted in repetitive removal of the zeros and further loss of credibility, the Bank of Ghana justified its move by saying that over the previous 5 years 'a policy of commitment to fiscal and monetary prudence' had cut inflation, stabilised the currency and reduced interest rates to create 'the appropriate conditions' for the redenomination exercise in Ghana.



Figure 1 Cartor uses the correct Cedi sign with bar. Kumasi 6 Sep 2006. SG 3492 with an unlisted Panafest 2005 C2000 value.

The Redenomination of the Cedi



Figure 2 Banknotes: C10000 and GHc1. The GHc1 note is dated 1 July 2007, the day of the redenomination. These circulated alongside each other for 6 months from that date with the same purchasing power.



Other Rates

Figure 3 The correct rate to England between February 2007 and September 2008 was C7500, shown on this letter from Swedru dated 12/11/07.

Despite being after the redenomination date of 1 July 2007, only one stamp is in the new GHc currency which, at 40Gp, would be C4000 in the old currency.

Figure 4 The C8000 rate, though often seen, makes no sense, all the more so as this letter is smaller and lighter than that in Figure 3.

Tema Newtown 2/11/07. All stamps are still in the old currency.



The new currency, previously known simply as the Cedi (C), was to be the Ghana Cedi (GHc) divided into 100 Ghana Pesewas (Gp). This would be achieved by removing four noughts from the old Cedi so that C10000 became GHc1. A significant feature of this whole exercise was the effective reintroduction of the Pesewa sub-unit as a medium of exchange after the inflation years that saw it descend into irrelevance. New banknotes would circulate alongside the old for 6 months from July 2007 after which time the old currency would only be exchangeable at the Bank of Ghana and commercial banks.

The Bank of Ghana's publicity campaign was also at pains to stress that this was not a devaluation and that people would not lose money, but it was cannot have been easy to persuade the public that taking C10000 to a bank and receiving just C1 in return was to come away with exactly the same amount of money with the same purchasing power as before. This was no doubt the reason why the old C10000 note and the new C1 issue look not dissimilar, with the so-called Big Six activists behind the drive for Ghanaian independence, Kwame Nkrumah among them, featuring prominently on the front of both of them.

The redenomination date fell within striking distance of the anniversary of Ghana's independence from Britain on 6 March 1957, and it may be that the intention was to link the two, so that as the country entered its second half-century of independence the financial slate would be wiped clean with the currency restored, outwardly at least, to respectability. Over the years the Cedi had seen a precipitous decline in value, with the rate that had stood at C90 to the dollar in March 1986 having fallen to C9600 in the early part of 2007. The increasing face value of postage stamps also reflected the steady decline of the currency and the accompanying rise in postal rates. The table below shows how the cost of sending a letter to Britain has changed since 1986.

Date	Base Rate	10g Increment	Source
1986, 17 Mar	C25	n/a	People's Daily Graphic newspaper, 14 Mar 1986
1988, 1 May	C80	C70	Posts & Telecommunications Corporation (later Ghana Post)
1993, April	C300	C200	Posts & Telecommunications Corporation
1997, 1 Jan	C800	C550	Ghana Post
2003, 6 Oct	C4500	C1300	Ghana Post
2007, 7 Feb	C7500	n/a	Daily Guide newspaper, quoting Ghana Post
2008, 8 Sep	GHc1.20 (C12000)	GHc0.25 (C2500)	Ghana Post

Other Rates This is the picture based on information from official and semi-official sources, but it is clear from the frequency with which they are seen on letters that there were other rates. Either one missed the official announcements or there were none. Going by the earliest dates seen on covers a C1200 rate applied from 14 March 2000, with a possible first increment of C500. Similarly, C2500 was the rate from 22 April 2002, with an increment of C1500. Rates valid for other areas like the USA or the Far East are often seen wrongly applied. Examples are C5000, which was the first-tier rate to the USA from October 2003, and has been seen used in all years from 2003 to 2007, or C9000 and C10000 which were for the USA and the Far East respectively after February 2007. There are also unlisted rates. C8000, frequently seen from early 2007 (14/2/07), throughout that year and into early 2008 (8/1/08), is a rate that does not exist officially, nor does it make mathematical sense based on the first-tier weight plus any increment. It was presumably the result of some internal directive.

The 50th Anniversary of Independence

The stamps marking this event are not that simple. Moving now to one of the most important landmarks in Ghana's history, the 50th anniversary of its independence from Britain, an examination of the related stamps reveals some interesting features.

The 50th Anniversary of Independence - The stamps marking this event are not that simple



Figure 5 The Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. Stamps were presented to the hospital's director, Professor Frimpong Boateng, by the Deputy Managing Director of Ghana Post. This set might have been seen with the Ghana@50 anniversary logo had its release not been delayed.

The stamps themselves did appear though, if not on the right date

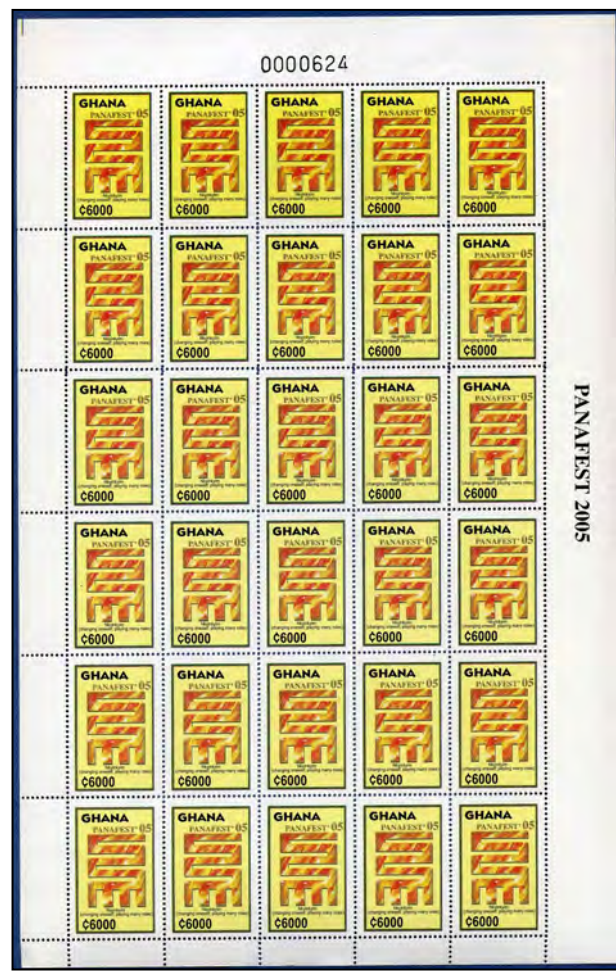
Figure 6 The code number 0705 appears in small red figures at the bottom right-hand corner of the Aburi Gardens miniature sheet.



Different printers were used: - Printed by Ikam. The stamps for Panafest 2005 appeared in two forms:-

Figure 7A (below left) In a set of 3 with processional and other scenes (C2000/SG3479a, C4000/SG3479c, C4500/SG3479d), and

Figure 7B (below right) In a set of 4 with symbolic designs C2000/3479b, two C5000s/3479e/f, C6000/3479g).



The first and most striking fact is that no stamps appeared on the actual 50th anniversary day of independence, 6 March 2007. This is hard to believe as this was such a significant date. After all, even the 40th anniversary was marked by a set issued on the correct date of 6 March 1997 (SG2422-2426), while for the 50th anniversary a special Ghana@50 Planning Committee had been set up with its own extensive website and many celebratory events were planned. But the intention surely was to mark the day itself with stamps. Indeed, a report carried by Modern Ghana on 21 February 2007 said that ‘Ghana Post will launch specially-designed stamps on the 5th of next month (*5 March 2007, in other words*) in commemoration of the country’s Golden Jubilee celebration’.

Despite that, it was not apparently until much later in the year - 15 September according to SG’s West Africa and other well-known catalogues - that this event was commemorated on stamps. Though it would appear that time lost was made up for by the issue of 13 different sets, it seems implausible that so many stamps would all have been issued on the same day, to say nothing of the fact that unrelated agency-driven sets for Cats (SG3653-3656, MS3657), Dogs (SG3658-3661, MS3662), Birds of Africa (SG MS3663/3664) and Orchids (SG3665-3668, MS3669) were reportedly also issued on that date.

As if this was not enough, the number of independence sets planned seems to have been even greater, with the addition of at least that for the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. Evidence for this is a Ghana News Agency (GNA) report of 5 May 2009 about the presentation of stamps to the hospital’s director, which quoted the Deputy Managing Director of Ghana Post as saying that ‘the release of these stamps was delayed, therefore they had to convert the commemorative stamps into regular postage stamps by deleting the anniversary logos on the original designs’. These stamps finally appeared on 31 March 2009 (SG3737-3740). Given that this announcement also mentioned that it was part of the Ghana@50 Committee’s remit ‘to issue stamps to cover areas like education, sports and cultural landmarks including health care delivery’ it may be that the Tweneboa Kodua High School stamps (SG3749-3752) and who knows what else would also have been issued under this slogan.

The stamps themselves did appear, if not on the right date

The issued Ghana@50 stamps can be divided into 3 groups. The sets are numbered according to the Stanley Gibbons West Africa catalogue, 1st Edition, 2009.

Group 1: Printed outside Ghana with face values in the old currency – sets 1-7.

Group 2: Printed locally, in the new currency – sets 8-11.

Group 3: Printed overseas, in the new currency – sets 12 and 13.

The Korle Bu Hospital and any other originally-proposed sets would have fitted into Group 3.

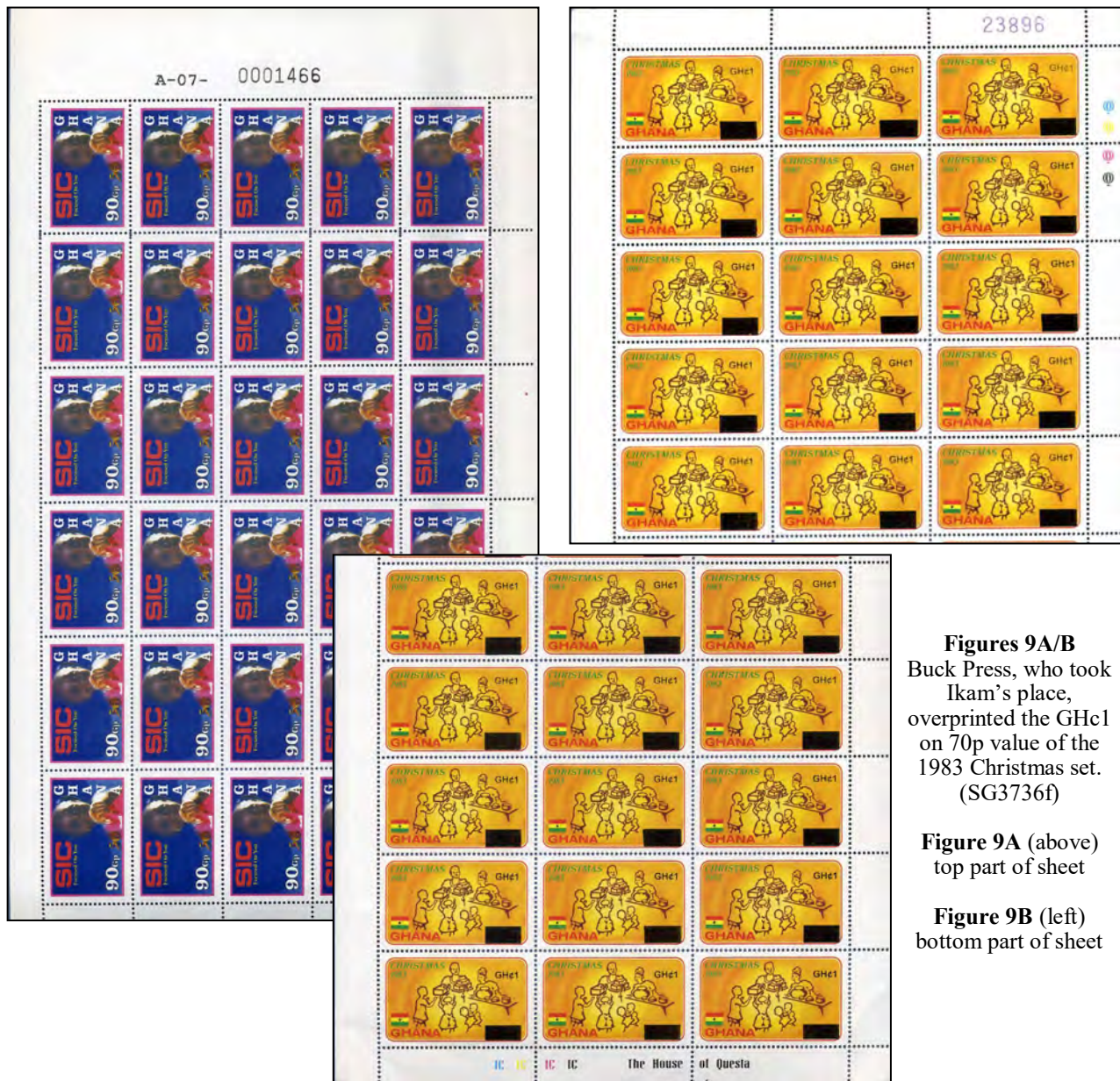
The face values of all these Ghana@50 stamps, whether in the old or the new currency, conform to the postal rates in force at 7 February 2007, but it is logical to assume that Groups 2 & 3 were intended to be issued on or after the redenomination date.

There are code numbers in the bottom right-hand corner of miniature sheets, issued between 2006 and 2008, which show the year and the order in which the sets were printed or intended to appear. These numbers are not confined to one printer alone and so are either the work of Ghana Post or their agents. As far as the Ghana@50 stamps are concerned the numbers are 0705 (Aburi Gardens, set #4), 0707 (Cocoa Products, set #3) and 0720 (Ghanaian Heads of State, set #13). The currency in which these sets are denominated sets them correctly in the groupings above – Aburi and Cocoa being in the old Cedis and Heads of State in the new. Other sets like Kente Designs, Costumes or Minerals of Ghana were only issued in sheet form as far as we know, despite being in the same large size and format. It seems that no accompanying miniature sheets were produced for these, though it would have come as no surprise if they had been and it is inconsistent with their style that they were not. Thus, no code numbers are available and their position in the number sequence cannot be established.

Different printers were used

Printed by Ikam Four of the Ghana@50 sets were printed by the local firm of Ikam (formerly Alhelou-Marfo) which, having overprinted the provisional definitives of 1988-91 (SG1245-1264), then produced the permanent definitive series starting in 1991 (SG1639a-1645, 2156c-2162b) and a number of locally-relevant special issues (e.g. the Panafest 2005 sets), and established itself as Ghana’s leading security printer.

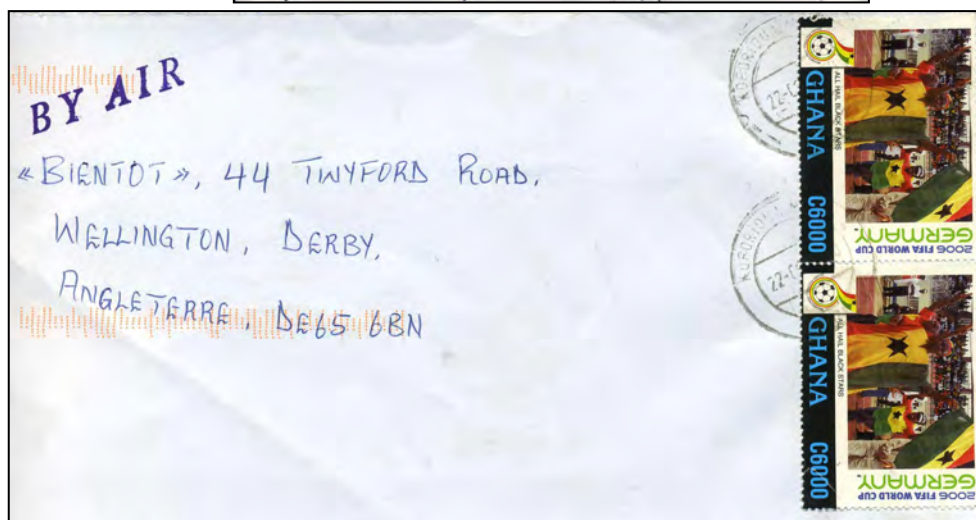
Figure 8 (below left)...New-currency stamps printed by Ikam for Ghana@50. These were to have been definitives but had not been produced in sufficient quantities by the time Ikam went bankrupt. A sequential code appears at the top of each sheet.



Figures 9A/B
Buck Press, who took Ikam's place, overprinted the GHc1 on 70p value of the 1983 Christmas set. (SG3736f)

Figure 9A (above)
top part of sheet

Figure 9B (left)
bottom part of sheet



Printed by Cardon, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Figure 10 Cardon printed the 2006 FIFA World Cup stamps, and the Ghana@50 stamps not printed by Ikam. Cardon's despatch label for one of the set's two C6000 values (SG3573) and this stamp used in March 2010.

The Ikam stamps, dated 2007, were denominated in the new currency and highlight the products and services of local financial institutions, the State Insurance Corporation (SIC), Ghana Commercial Bank (GCB) and the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB), plus Antrak Air, a scheduled airline based in Accra for services in West Africa, set up in September 2003. The printer's sheet codes for a total of 15 stamps in the 4 sets run from A-07 to P-07, with O-07 omitted. This gives the order of printing as SIC, GCB, Antrak Air and ADB. The omission is from the ADB set, and would probably have been the GHc0.73 value which appeared in the other three sets, unless it was left out deliberately because of possible confusion between 'O' and '0' in the registration code.

The face values made available by the Ikam stamps were Gp40 (C4000 in the old currency) for domestic mail, Gp73 (C7300) for airmail within Africa, Gp75 (C7500) for airmail to England and Europe, Gp90 (C9000) for airmail to the USA and GHc1 (C10000) for airmail to the Far East. At first, lists from Accra's philatelic bureau also had a Gp74 value in the SIC set (and in the Aburi Botanical Gardens, Costumes and Minerals sets) but this was later corrected. I ordered these stamps direct from Accra on the off-chance that this value might indeed have been prepared and not withdrawn, but disappointingly it was not forthcoming.

However, Ikam's business unfortunately failed not long afterwards. All had not been well with the firm for some time and as early as April 2006 the National Investment Bank (NIB) had obtained judgment against it for outstandings owed to them and a court order was made freezing the company's assets in favour of the bank. On 21 November 2007 NIB filed a contempt notice against Ikam's CEO and senior officers after seals on the company's premises were broken so that the workforce could enter to work. This also raised the possibility that equipment held as security by the bank would be sold, though the company maintained that their equipment was valued at some 5 times the debt owed. The bank, however, differed and described Ikam as being insolvent. References to these events can be found frequently up to this date but from the end of 2007 Ikam drops completely off the radar. Information from another Ghana source, however, puts the date for it having ceased business at March or April 2008.

Its position in Ghana security printing circles appears to have been taken by Buck Press, who overprinted the often-used GHc1 on the 70p value of the 1983 Christmas set (not listed), which appeared on 4 December 2008.

Printed by Cardon, Kaohsiung, Taiwan Evidence is not entirely conclusive but what there is points strongly to the Taiwan firm of Cardon, who printed the large-format 2006 FIFA World Cup stamps (SG3548-3573), as being the printers of the other nine Ghana@50 sets. These were denominated in both the old and the new currency with the same values as the Ikam stamps, with some sets also adding a C6000 (Gp60) value, though this served no specific rate purpose on its own. With that exception, both groups of stamps were rate-specific according to the schedule set at 7 February 2007 which would have carried them over the proposed redenomination date, but rendered them theoretically obsolete when new rates came into force in September 2008, none of which catered for any of those values. Why both currencies were shown on these stamps is not clear, though as in the case of the old and new banknotes which were to circulate for a period alongside each other, it may have been with the intention of familiarising people with the new monetary system.

Cardon provokes thoughts about date of issue

I have already expressed doubts about whether all the golden jubilee sets appeared on the same day and it may be that some were not available in 2007 at all. I have not seen stamps from any of the 'foreign' sets used on mail from Ghana before January 2008 and letters from late 2007 generally use the small-format definitives printed by Ikam. The only exceptions are the Gp40 value of Ikam's Antrak Air set (SG3701) and the Gp40 and GHc1 values of their SIC set (SG3688, 3692), which have been seen used in November 2007. Moreover, where the stamps printed overseas are concerned, firm evidence for a later, no doubt unplanned, issue date is provided in at least one case by Cardon's despatch label for the 75Gp value of the Monuments set (#12, National Theatre, SG3706), which has their 'checking date' as December 2007. Clearly, this means that these stamps were only sent to Ghana on or after that date, though it is reasonable to assume that the order had been placed to allow sufficient time for them to be available for use on or reasonably near, in this case, the currency redenomination date. The reason why this did not happen is probably that Cardon had not been paid.

Ghana Post's difficulties in paying its suppliers are nothing new and an article as far back as 1987 mentions this ('*Ghana: an unusual stamp issue*' by R.J. Seaman, in *The London Philatelist* Vol. 96, 1987, pp.73-76). Rumours circulating for some time that this state of affairs has continued were brought into sharp focus by a GNA report of 28 July 2010 - '*Workers of Ghana Post appeal to Government for*

Intervention’ - that Ghana Post could not pay its workers for July 2010, its accounts having been frozen as a result of a substantial sum of damages being awarded against it in favour of a partner in an erstwhile scheme to introduce Instant Money Transfer in its branches.

Another surprise courtesy of Cardon

Fluorescent Paper The Cardon delivery label also described the paper used for this National Theatre stamp as having ‘colour fibers (*sic*) visible under UV light’. Upon examination this proved to be the case, as it was with the other values in this Monuments set. The fibres are widely scattered and glow blue when tested at 380nm. One’s curiosity having been aroused, this same paper was found to have been used for all the other Ghana@50 commemoratives not printed by Ikam, i.e. the first, single, stamp (SG3624) and the Kente Designs (SG3625-3630), Cocoa Products (SG3631-3641), Aburi Botanical Gardens (SG3642-3652), Important Personalities (SG3670-3677), Costumes (SG3678-3682), Minerals of Ghana (SG3683-3687), and Heads of State (SG3708-3716, MS3717) stamps.

Separately, the Visit of President Bush mini-sheet of September 2008 (SG MS3736) also has this characteristic. However, this type of paper has not been used for more recent (2009) issues like the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital already mentioned, the Vegetables of Ghana (SG3741-3743), Footballers of the 1960s (SG3744-3748), Tweneboa Kodua High School (SG3749-3752) or Kwame Nkrumah Birth Centenary / Volta River Authority stamps, suggesting that Cardon bowed out sometime in 2008. It is not known yet for certain who printed these but suggestions are that a Middle East or Gulf State firm might have done the work.

The Cats, Dogs, Orchids and Birds sets were printed by BDT International Security Printers Ltd and are not on fluorescent paper (Figs 13a and 13b)

Puzzlingly a similar pattern of fluorescent fibres which also glows blue under UV light is visible on the stamps issued for the 50th anniversary of relations between Ghana and China which appeared on 8 July 2010. These have to have been printed in China – it would have been inconceivable for a Taiwanese firm to have printed a stamp showing the flag of the People’s Republic, or an image of Chou En Lai, even for a foreign postal administration – which donated 100,000 ‘pieces’ to Ghana Post. By pieces is meant the small sheets of 16, containing 4 of each of the 4 stamps in the set placed se-tenant horizontally. It is likely that China’s influence will increase for at the joint ceremony to launch these stamps Haruna Idrissu, the Minister of Communications, appealed to China via the Chinese Ambassador ‘to extend support to Ghana Post to enable it to pursue its modernisation plans’.

1980s-vintage stamps brought back into service at face value

Ikam’s failure in 2008 must have been a blow to Ghana Post’s plans, not just from a cost point of view but also because these stamps were intended to form a new definitive series and to stand alone after the overseas-printed commemoratives had run out. This led to a shortage of stamps, especially of 1 Cedi values, which was corrected either by overprinting, or else taking stamps dating from the early 1980s and using them without changing their face value, exactly as if they were denominated in the new currency.

Nor did this take into account the fact that in theory the value of such stamps was many times more than the stamps they were representing. In 1982 for instance, when the earliest of the stamps so far seen used in this way was issued (see the first entry in Table 2), 20p was the rate for a local letter. A local letter in 2010, when it was used again, cost C10000 (GHc1), so even simple arithmetic without considering other factors gives a cross-rate of 1:50000.

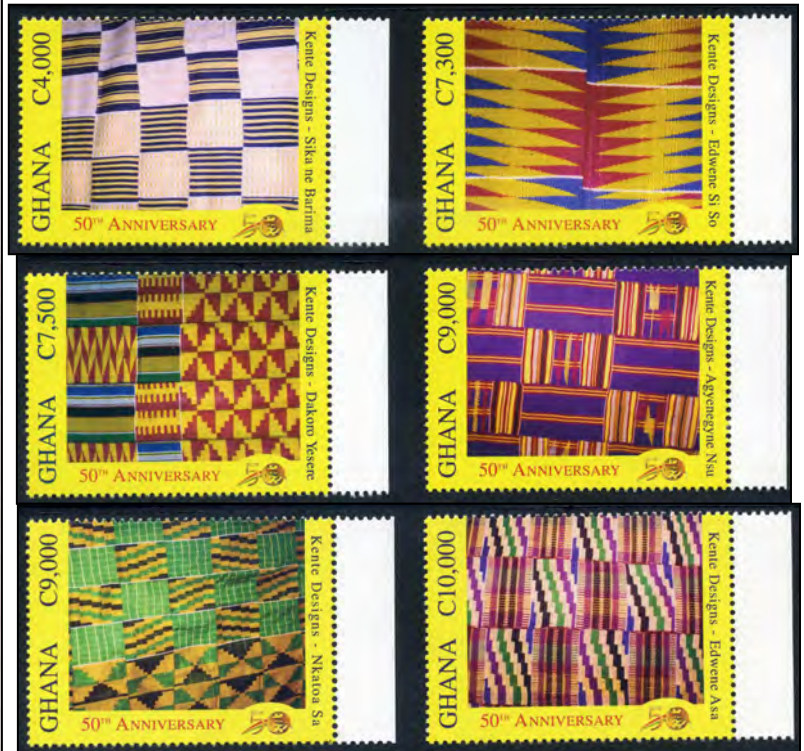
It could be argued that there is a parallel in this with the practice here in Britain, where any stamp no matter when issued since February 1971 as long as it is denominated in decimal currency can still be used. But this is misleading as sterling has never been redenominated and even if one takes the then and current cost of sending a letter domestically as a comparison, the difference is only that one would have paid 10p 30 years ago and 56p now.

The practice of using old stamps dating from the early 1980s in this way was first noticed in February 2009, though it had already been under way for at least 6 months by then, and confirmation was received from Accra that this was being done with official knowledge. Most of the examples have been used to make up the GHc1.20 (C12000) basic airmail rate to England. There are some exceptions though, as where C1.40 stamps, taken as equivalent to GHc1.40 (C14000), which should be the airmail rate to the Far East, have been used to England. The sender appears either to have been overcharged, or has been charged Gp5 too little as the increment for an extra 10g should be Gp25, not Gp20.

Cardon provokes thoughts about date of issue

Figure 11 (left) Cardon's despatch label for the 75Gp National Theatre stamp from the 12th Ghana@50 issue, Monuments

ORDER NO:	60950
DESCRIPTION:	THE NATIONAL THEATER
ITEM ID:	8152
JOB NO:	5771
CKING DATE:	2007.12
PAPER:	Security Gummed Stamp Paper With Color Fibers Visible Under UV Light
PACKING:	MARY
QUANTITY:	30X200PCS
GHA0719C0	
	
FACE VALUE:7500	
TERRITORY SUPPLY	
CUTTING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRINTING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PERFORATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
www.Cardon.tw Q. C. KELLY	



**Another surprise courtesy of Cardon
Fluorescent Paper**

Figure 12 (above) The Kente Designs set (SG3625-3630) is typical of the large-format Ghana@50 commemoratives, and is printed on security paper with fluorescent fibres.

BDT INTERNATIONAL Security Printing Limited

Territory Ghana

Issue JOVC

Denomination 2500c

Code _____

Requisition No. 5X

Issue No. _____

Quantity 54 sheet 15 set

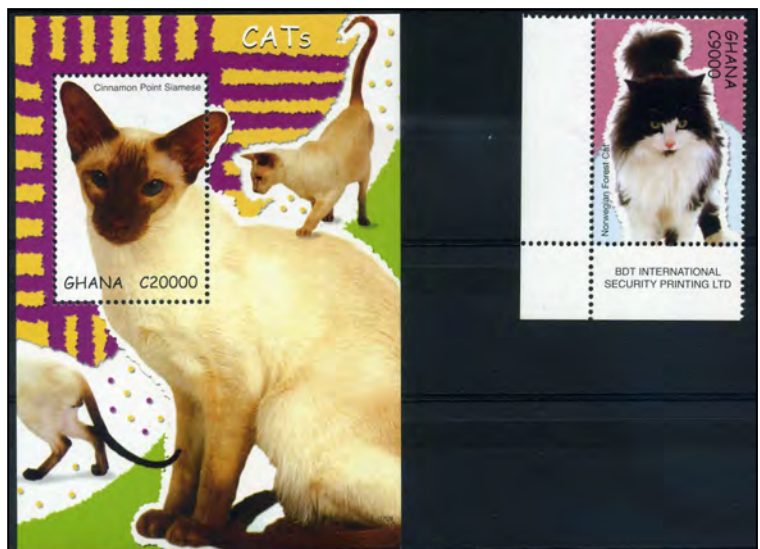
Counted by _____

Checked by _____

Independent Check by C.H. Ode

Numbering publicity

Date 27-9-02



BDT International despatch label

Figure 13a (above) The stamp in question is SG3352, the 2500c value of the set for the 25th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers, issued on 23/10/2002.

Figure 13b (above) BDT International Security Printing Ltd was also active for Ghana during 2007 but their paper has no phosphor features. SG3656 and MS3657 from their Cats set are representative of their work. The miniature sheet has a small code number in the bottom right-hand corner – 0709 in this case (see Fig. 6).



Figure 14 50 Years of China-Ghana Friendship. Issued 8 July 2010. When this article was first published in GSM in February and March 2011 I said: ‘This cannot have been printed in Taiwan despite the similar phosphor paper, as the late Premier Chou En Lai and the flag of the People’s Republic are shown’. This statement at least still holds good.

Since then a correspondent in Beijing, who used to buy a lot of stamps from the philatelic bureau in Accra but became frustrated by the poor condition they arrived in due to inadequate packing, has told me that they were printed at the Stamp Printing House of Henan, Zhengzhou, Henan Province. The sheets had no printer’s imprint or other markings. Another reason he gave for not having contacted Accra for some little time now was that with most Ghana stamps now being handled by the IGPC they were easy to obtain in China. So my prediction in 2011 that the imprint of the Peking (*Ed.: Beijing?*) Stamp Works would appear frequently on Ghana stamps was misplaced, as this 50th anniversary issue is the only one so far to have been printed in China.



1980s-vintage stamps brought back into service at face value

Figure 15 Examples of 1980s stamps used on cover to England. (1) SG 1055 of 1983 (used at Axim 12/12/08) and (2) SG 1110 of 1984 (used at Madina 10/10/08). The old C1 value has been treated as GHc1, which would have been C12000 in the pre-redenomination currency.

The use of the C3 Mangabey definitive is also interesting, with 4 of them used on a conventional-sized envelope, indicating that their total value has been interpreted as GHc1.20 (C12000) rather than GHc12, which would be C120000 – 10 times what a basic airmail letter should cost. Here, the sender appears to have been allowed less than his due, as even with one stamp he would still have been paying far too much for his letter.

Value	Details	Where/when used
20p	Butterflies, Blue Spot Commodore 3/5/82 SG986 T391	Wa 1/10
C1	Christmas 1983 28/12/83 SG1055	Axim 12/08, 4/10; Cape Coast 3/09; Tarkwa 12/08, 3/09, 5/09; Kumasi 1/09
C1	World Communications Year 13/12/83 SG1048 T401	Larteh 1/10; Akuse 4/09; Tema 12/08; Wa 11/09
C1	Christmas 1984 19/11/84 SG1128	Cantonment 10/08
C1	Endangered Antelopes, Bongo 7/9/84 SG1116 T410	Aflao 12/08
C1	Flowers <i>Amorphophallus johnsonii</i> 24/8/84 SG1110 T409	Madina 10/08
C1	Easter 1984 26/6/84 SG1098 T407	Accra North 9/08
C1	Ghanaian Culture, Dipo Girl 3/10/84 SG1121 T411	Koforidua 12/08; Dunkwa 11/09
C1	Coastal Marine Mammals 15/11/83 SG1032 T399	n/a 1/09
C1.40	Coastal Marine Mammals 15/11/83 SG1033	Obuasi 1/09, 4/09; Kumasi 7/09
C1.40	Los Angeles Olympics 13/8/84 SG1105	Ashiaman 4/09; Tema 7/09
C3	De la Rue Mangabey definitive 12/12/83 SG1044	Tema 9/08
C5	Bicentenary of Audubon's Birth 16/10/85 SG1159 T418	Accra 2/09

Provisional definitives created to cater for immediate needs

C1 stamps are also shown to have been in short supply by the number of times old stock has been overprinted with that value, gradually at first with GHc1 on the 70p 1983 Christmas stamp appearing singly in December 2008 and more frequently recently, in the period from at least the third quarter of 2009 into 2010. The following overprints from a variety of old stock have been seen (Table 3).

Old Ikam small-format definitives still available

Supplies of certain later values of the small-format Ikam definitives from the SG2156c-2162b range – notably the C3000 Guinean Finger Fish or the C5000 Heron with red border – were still available and continued in use (*Ed. - as at 2011, when this article was first published*), either with their own kind, the C1500 Martial Eagle or C2500 Kestrel for instance, or alongside the 50th anniversary commemoratives of either currency designation, or subsequent special issues (see Table 4).

TABLE 3		
Provisional Definitives		
New value	Old value	Earliest date noted
10GP For: Inland, extra 10g	C20 Christmas 1988 SG1275 T442	16/6/10 Legon
GHc0.20 For: Africa airmail, extra 10g	C800 Butterfly definitive SG 2158a	1/12/09 Accra North
GHc0.30 For: Americas airmail, extra 10g	C18 Islamic Festival of Id-el-Fitr SG1147	13/05/10 Ho
GHc0.75 No specific use	C1100 Kente Cloth definitive SG2159	n/a
GHc0.75 Note j	C2500 / C800 Butterfly definitive SG3309	n/a
GHc1 Note k For: Inland letter 20g; inland & overseas postcards	70p Christmas 1983 SG1054 T402	Frequent use. Issued 4/12/08. Optd. By Buck Press
GHc1	C20 Christmas 1988 SG1275 T442	10/11/09 Mamprobi
GHc1	C5 Tribal Costumes Akwadjan Men SG1242 T435	n/a
GHc1	C250 Tribal Costumes Agwasen Women SG1244	10/11/09 Tafo Asante
GHc1 Note l	C60 Christmas 1988 SG1276	Reportedly issued 16/9/09. 4/10 Wa, 1/6/10 Navrongo
GHc1.20 For: Europe airmail 10g	C800 Bananas definitive SG2158b	2/12/09 Amasaman
GHc1.20	C550+C50 JVC U-17 World Soccer SG2515	12/11/09 UST Kumasi
GHc1.20	C800+C50 JVC U-17 World Soccer SG2516	27/10/09 Tema
GHc1.20 Note m	C1100 Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST) 50 Years SG3251	29/1/10 Koforidua
GHc1.30 For: Americas airmail 10g	C1800 KNUST 50 Years SG3253	11/11/09 School Service Prempeh College (Kumasi)
GHc1.30 Note n	C60 Larabanga Mosque definitive SG1641b	24/8/09 Legon
<p>Notes</p> <p>j New value and masking block very faint.</p> <p>k Occurs (a) with two sizes of masking block (10½ x 5mm, 11 x 5mm) and (b) doubled overprint.</p> <p>l New value virtually invisible against black background and can only be made out by tilting stamp backwards and forwards. However, prominent rectangular masking block over old value distinguishes this from original. Places from which seen used are in the far north of Ghana. Possibility of some overprints only being applied locally. Major security printers, all in Accra, where quality control would have been more advanced, not likely to have passed a stamp with new value so difficult to see. Again, all examples seen of the GHc1.20 overprint on SG2515 are from Kumasi, suggesting a bias in its favour either by printing or by distribution.</p> <p>m New value very difficult to see against black part of design; rectangular masking block prominent however.</p> <p>n Occurs with double overprint.</p>		

TABLE 4		
Older stamps still in stock / used in 2009/2010		
Definitives		
C500	Freshwater Fish	2157d
C1000	Mushroom <i>Gomphidius glutinosus</i>	2158e
C1500	Butterfly <i>Bebearia arcadius</i>	2159a
C1500	Martial Eagle	2159b
C2000	Butterfly <i>Euphaedra francina</i>	2160b
C2500	Kestrel	2161
C3000	Guinean Finger Fish	2161a
C4000	Flower <i>Lagerstroemia flos-reginae</i>	2161b
C5000	Heron – red border	2162a
C6000	Flower <i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	2162b
Special Issues		
C6000	Panafest 2005	3479g
C6000	Early Vehicles	3484
C3000	Campaign against TB HIV/AIDS	3488
C6000	Campaign against TB HIV/AIDS	3494
C4500	International Year of Physics, Einstein	3524
C4000	2006 FIFA World Cup	3550
C5000	2006 FIFA World Cup	3570
C5000	2006 FIFA World Cup	3571
C6000	2006 FIFA World Cup	3572

The long-lived C2500 on C800 butterfly definitive, first issued in March 2002 (SG3309), has continued to be available. There are reports that a new batch of these was overprinted in February or March 2010 (there is no information about what happened to their printing plates or equipment after Ikam went out of business) but an examination of covers with this stamp from 2002 to the present has shown no sign of any difference in the measurements between the value and the obliterating block, or the distance between the blocks, whether taken horizontally or vertically. From a cost point of view it might make sense, if the original overprinting plates were still available, to use them again rather than have another printing firm set up new GHc0.25 plates but then the new printing, if it exists, would be indistinguishable from the old. There are still supplies of the C800 Butterfly available, as shown by its having been used for another of the overprints in this series of provisionals, namely the GHc0.20 value.

Prospects for more provisional definitives

This depends on Ghana Post's financial situation. If there are more payroll problems it can hardly pay for new stamps without upsetting its workforce and this raises the distinct possibility that more old stock will have to be brought out of the vaults for overprinting as provisional definitives.

Most of the main rates advertised in Post Office Notice No. 1 of 2008, valid from 8 September 2008, have been catered for by the provisional definitives listed in Table 3, and several different stamps have already been used for just two of the values, GHc1.00 and GHc1.20, indicating a significant volume of letters sent within Ghana itself and to Britain or Europe. These overprints can be expected to appear on still more stamps.

Provisional definitives created to cater for immediate needs



Figure 16 (left)
Example of GHc1.30 on C60 Larabanga Mosque with doubled overprint. The first overprint and masking block were inadequate and replaced with a much bolder version. Even then the new masking block was out of place and had to be amplified with a stroke from a marker pen.

Figure 17 (above)
Example of GHc0.75 on C2500/C800 Butterfly. The new overprint very tentative.

Figure 18 (below, left and right)
2009/2010 Provisionals on cover. Letters with wholly legible postmarks are unusual. These images are cropped from covers and reduced.



Figure 18A
(1) Ho, 17/6/10. GHc0.30 overprint on SG1147. The GHc1 stamp is from the set numbered SG3744-3748.
(2) GHc1.20 on SG2158b. Amasaman 22/12/09.



Figure 18B
(1) GHc1.20 on SG3251. Tafo (Ashanti) 27/4/10.
(2) GHc1.30 on SG3253. Prempeh College (Kumasi) 11/11/09.

Old Ikam small-format definitives still available

All images greatly reduced

Figure 19A (right)

SG2159b, Martial Eagle. Tarkwa 10/5/10.
SG2160b, *Euphaedra francina*. Jirapa 6/8/09.



Figure 19B (below)

SG2161, Kestrel. Tema 16/3/09.
SG2161a, Guinean Finger Fish. Santasi (Kumasi) 12/7/09 with SG3651.

The Guinean Finger Fish is the only one of these that has lingered, and the latest example I have seen on cover is dated 31 August 2015, probably from Accra judging from the return address. Its use seems to have ceased since then. And I haven't seen any of the other Ikam definitives recently used either.

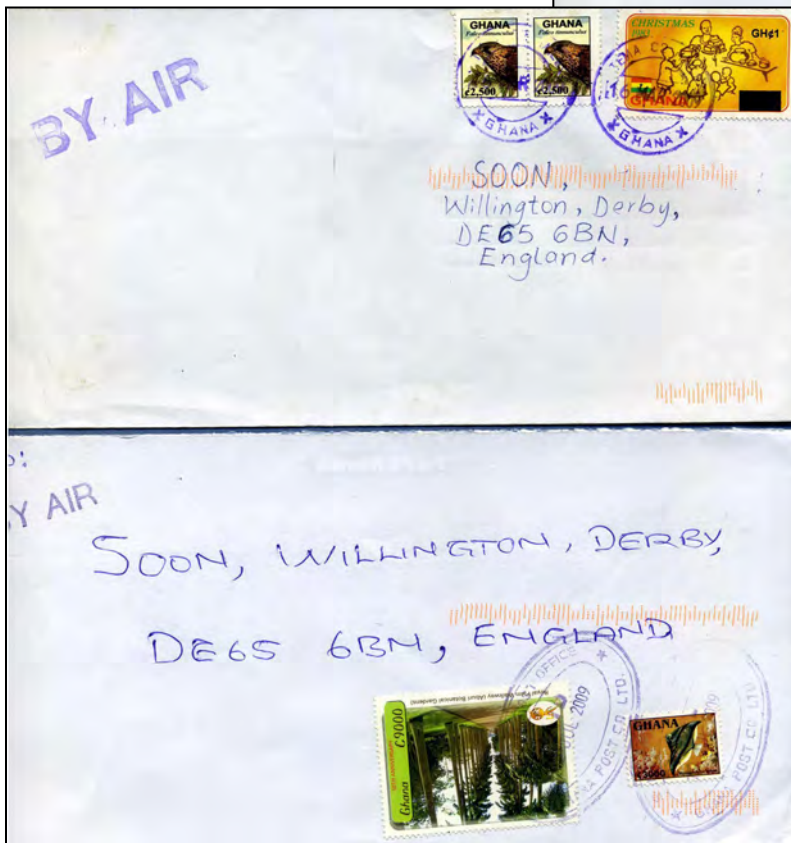


Figure 19C (above right)

SG2162b, *Spathodea campanulata*. Fanti New Town (Kumasi) 21/1/10.
SG3309, C2500/C800 *Cyrestis camillus*. Tepa-Ashanti 24/12/09 with SG3701.

Two rate omissions, the basic GHc1.10 airmail rate to African countries and GHc1.40 for airmail to the Far East, have been filled by quasi-regular stamps issued in March 2009 (among which is the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital set mentioned earlier), but given the uncertainty for financial reasons of a regular supply these are two values that might be seen added to the provisional definitive list as presently known.

There are several 'each additional 10g' rates, like GHc0.25 or 0.35, which in happier times might have been given tailor-made overprints, but which would now only incur unnecessary expense. As GHc0.20 and GHc0.30 stamps already exist, the addition simply of a GHc0.05 value would fit the bill. This value could also serve as an add-on to make up other betwixt-and-between rates, like GHc1.05 for printed matter to the Americas, though envelopes might get rather cluttered.

Oddly enough the Ghc0.75 value does not meet any particular postal need on its own.

Candidates for stamps to be used for any new provisional overprints are those which have seen regular, un-overprinted, use in 2009 and 2010. These are shown in Table 4.

The Future

Co-operation with Corporates

GNA reported on 2 March 2010 the Volta River Authority's launch of stamps for the centenary of the birth of Kwame Nkrumah, who had been the driving force behind this hydro-electric project. 'The stamps, *which were printed and issued by Ghana Post on behalf of the VRA*' (my italics), were to be sold 'at the various post offices country-wide for both local and international mailing'. Nicholas Dery, Ghana Post's Acting Managing Director, said that his company 'took pride in partnering the VRA to issue these stamps ... because they recognised Dr. Nkrumah as the trail blazer in the country's development'. Significantly, he went on to say that 'Ghana Post, as a corporate policy, was alive to the reality of doing business with corporate bodies in the areas (sic) of the issuance of commemorative stamps'.

Exotic products possible?

Ghana Post's financial situation is still suspect and if things are not put in order suppliers will be unwilling not just to print entirely new stamps, but even to incur the cost of overprinting old ones. This raises the intriguing prospect of more drastic measures being taken than even provisional overprinting, such as writing in a new value by hand on a stamp, by producing cheap rubber handstamps by which a new value could be applied when a stamp was bought or, as a last resort, by dispensing with stamps and simply writing on the envelope that postage had been paid, but stamps were not available. Otherwise there might be a reversion to the practice seen in the 1980s when stamps were overprinted 'Not for Philatelic Use', mainly because of a shortage of C1 stamps, which is also the case at present. This feature was the main focus of the article in *The London Philatelist* by R.J. Seaman to which I have already referred. All these methods have been used, if not in Ghana, certainly in other countries. Aerogrammes from Senegal with new values written in by hand alongside the imprinted stamp demonstrate one of these measures.

Corrigendum

Trying to alter a text written some time ago to bring it up to date can lead to all sorts of problems, grammatical and otherwise. So in the case of this article, originally published in two parts in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in February and March 2011 under the title *Recent Philatelic Happenings in Ghana* and now reproduced here in *Cameo* as *The July 2007 Revaluation of the Cedi*, we (the Editor and I) thought that it would be better to provide a brief overview of where the main changes have occurred.

In 2011 only the first edition of the *SG West Africa* catalogue had been published and the article had two references to stamps not listed there. Since then the second edition has appeared (2012) and Hugh Jefferies is now working on the third edition. The 1995 Panafest set in particular, which was issued in two distinct forms, has now been listed as 3479a/g. And the GHc1 on the 1983 Christmas 70p is now 3736f.

Table 3 (the 2008 provisional definitives, SG3736a/s): GHc1 on 80c Christmas 1988 (SG3736k) should be added, with a known use on cover dated 1/3/2011 from Axim. I then made a new discovery in the summer of 2017 among a group of covers of a GHc1.30 on the Ikam 80c Fort Sebastian - Shama (SG1642), where so far the only other direct equivalent has been GHc1.30 on the 60c Larabanga Mosque stamp (SG1641b).

The Future



Figure 20 (above) Will this 2006 FIFA World Cup stamp (SG3550), or others, be seen overprinted as a provisional definitive? Used at Ningo on 21/5/10. This set emerged to see renewed use in 2010 due to the World Cup in South Africa.



Co-operation with Corporates

Figure 21 (above) The Volta River Authority (VRA) stamps for the Centenary of the birth of Kwame Nkrumah were printed and issued by Ghana Post on behalf of the VRA. All stamps bear the logo of the VRA.



Figure 22 (above)

Cover with stamps overprinted 'NOT FOR PHILATELIC USE' during a shortage of stamps in 1983. Stamps were still in short supply in 2011.



Figure 23 (left)

This Senegal aerogramme illustrates one way of dealing with changes in postal rates. It has been adjusted by writing in a new value on the adhesive by hand to make up an F190 rate.



Figure 24 This Chad stamp has been handstamped with its new value, 170, to meet a similar rate-change situation. The postmark in the bottom left-hand corner is faint and incomplete, but shows 1997.

It was used on 20/5/16 with the place name illegible and has a blurred or doubled overprint; the masking block has regular outlines though.

Table 4 (old stamps used 'at par' for their original face values): The most notable remains the Guinean Finger Fish 3000c Ikam definitive (SG2161a). The latest example I have seen on cover was dated 31 August 2015 but I have seen none since then so maybe stocks are finally exhausted, though the 2012 Enschede fruit and vegetable definitives do not have a 30c/Gp value.

I made some predictions about China's continuing involvement in Ghana's stamp programme but these have proved inaccurate as the only set to have been printed in China is the one for 50 Years of China-Ghana Friendship.



Northern Nigeria Date of Issue of the First Stamps

Ray Harris

The issue date of the first stamps of Northern Nigeria is noted by SG as being in April 1900; until then GB stamps were used. Can we ever be more specific about the date of issue?

Ince & Sacher's research (Ref. 1) states that De la Rue's despatch date of the first printing was 22nd February 1900. Sailings from Liverpool to West Africa were fortnightly, including 21st February, 7th and 21st March. Ships took 19 days to reach Forcados in the Niger delta, then 8 days more travelling by steamer up the Niger to reach Lokoja, the postal HQ; that means that arrivals would have been 21st March, 4th and 18th April. Ince & Sacher suggest that the stamps arrived at Lokoja on 4th April, but with no certain evidence for this. The latest recorded use of GB stamps in Northern Nigeria is on a cover cancelled in Lokoja on 31st March.

Until now, the earliest certain date of use of Northern Nigeria stamps had been on a cover cancelled in Jebba on 27th April. Jebba is 6 days upstream from Lokoja, then the boat would leave Jebba for its return journey 3 days later. Consequently, stamps reaching Lokoja on 18th April could feasibly have been taken on to Jebba, the Protectorate's HQ, arriving in time to be put on mail leaving Jebba on the 27th April steamer.



Figure 1

Two recent discoveries provide conclusive evidence that the new stamps must have reached Lokoja on the boat arriving 4th April and not the 18th. The piece in Figure 1 was cancelled at Lokoja on 14th April, which would have travelled in the mailbag on the steamer leaving Lokoja on 16th April. It is unlikely that the canceller used a mistaken date, but the item in Figure 2 is enough to confirm proof. It does not have a Nigeria cancellation; perhaps it was on a cover put into the mailbag by someone writing while on the steamer. There is a manuscript cross as protection against re-use.

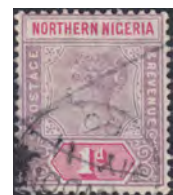


Figure 2

However, it did receive an arrival mark in London, on 11th May. Mail leaving Lokoja on 16th April would have transferred at Forcados to a ship reaching Plymouth on 10th May, just right for a London arrival on the 11th.

Therefore the first stamps reached Lokoja on the boat due on 4th April and the earliest known date of use is 14th April. Collectors can continue to search for copies with cancellations between these two dates to identify a first day of issue.

Reference

- 1 *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region Prior to 1914*, Ince J., Sacher J. RPSL 1992

Kwitta, Gold Coast: Incoming Post Office P.S. Wrapper from GB

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Kwitta, also known severally as Quittah, Kitta and Keta, is an early trading stop on the west coast of the Gold Coast close to the border of Togo. A North German mission was set up in Kwitta. The only known recorded example of a post office postal stationery wrapper from Great Britain to Kwitta was off-loaded at Accra on 22 April 1901 and travelled east to Kwitta.

The wrapper was addressed to Kwitta rather than the alternative transliterations. The English postmark name of *Quittah* was used between 1875 and 1903 and then again between 1911 and 1927. The name *Kwitta* was used between 1894 and 1909 and the native name *Keta* between 1907 and 1921 and then again between 1928 and 1957, when the Gold Coast was granted independence. There was some overlap in the dates of Quittah and Kwitta both being English versions of the name.



Figure 1
 Gold Coast map showing locations of Accra and Kwitta



Figure 2
 GB E10 PS stationery envelope to Kwitta

In London, postmarked from a small district branch office allocated with the number '1', this WP17/E10 wrapper, issued 1898, without text, was postmarked 1-4-01 at 5.30PM. The wrapper is updated with a 1900 Queen Victoria blue green ½d (SG213, Sc125), the total of 1d paying the second weight scale for printed matter up to 4 oz.

The wrapper was delivered to Accra on the Atlantic Coast, the capital of the British Colony of Gold Coast. It was backstamped at the Accra post office with an arrival 24mm ACCRA AP 22 01 GOLD COAST. The in-transit time between London and Accra was 22 days. The wrapper then travelled by the overland mail route from Accra to Kwitta.

Kwitta

Kwitta aka Keta was initially a small village located on the Atlantic coast and was the site of an abandoned English fort, Fort Prinzenstein. Kwitta is 20 miles west of Lomé on the border of the German frontier of Togo and is located on a sandy spit with the Atlantic Ocean on the west side and the Keta lagoon the east side. Keta was an important trading post between the fourteenth century and the late twentieth century. The town attracted the interest of the Danish, who felt they could establish a base there without interference from rival European nations. Their first initiative was to place a factor at Keta to sell alcohol.



Figure 3 Fort Prinzenstein

The Dutch West India Company had built Fort Singelenburgh at the site of the current fort in 1734, but the Dutch abandoned the fort in 1737, probably because of the Dutch taking sides with the defeated Akwamu in the Akyem-Akwamu conflict. The Danish had developed a presence in Keta, the commercial capital of the Anlo people. After a conflict in 1783 against the Anlos, the Danes imposed a treaty which enabled them to build Fort Prinzenstein and also compelled the Anlo to trade exclusively with

them. Until 1803 the fort was used to hold slaves awaiting transportation to the Caribbean. In 1850 the fort, along with the rest of the Danish Gold Coast was sold to Britain. From 1874 the Hausa Constabulary were based at Keta, and with law and order a community developed of Hausa traders, and Keta developed into a commercial mecca by the 1880s. The presence of 186 Hausa soldiers in Keta in 1885, when the population was estimated to be about 1,700, contributed to ethnic diversity and social life.

Trading and other firms needed clerks and agents for interior and coastal stops, creating economic opportunities for literate Anlo. The demand for education in Keta was on the rise, and missionaries were the only providers, initially from the Bremen Mission. The reduction of the spoken language Ewe into writing by the Bremen missionaries created Anlo-Ewe as the standard language and enhanced Keta's image as a centre of learning in Eweland. The Keta of 1890-1910 was a complex, cosmopolitan society.



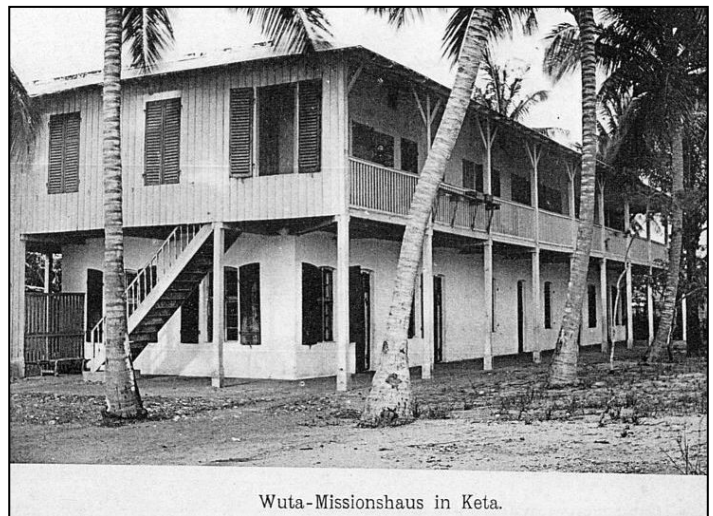
Figure 4
Kwitta Beach 1899

North German Mission

The North German Missionary Society was founded in 1836 as a trans-denominational (Lutheran and Reformed) institution. In 1851 the society moved from Hamburg to Bremen, where the Reformed Church held a dominant position. Although the first missionaries had been trained in Hamburg, in 1851 the Basel Mission took over this task because Bremen was not able to finance a seminary of its own.

After short-lived attempts in New Zealand and the East Indies the missionary society decided to focus on West Africa. However, the previous West African mission in Gabon failed when missionaries were not allowed to remain because the Spaniards wanted only Spanish Roman Catholic missionaries.

The North German Mission Society (also known as the Bremen Missionaries) settled in Christiansborg, a suburb of Accra, where Basel missionaries had settled since 1828. The Bremen missionaries were advised to move to Peki, Eweland, 87 miles east of Accra. At that time Peki had trade links with Accra. However, there were difficulties at Peki - the King did not want them, and there was ill health, shortage of money and difficulty in sending supplies from Accra. Eventually, in 1853 the Home Mission Board was petitioned to permit the work to be transferred to Keta, an influential harbour town in Eweland. The missionaries were convinced that Keta was a better starting place than Peki because of its geographical location. It would be easier on the coast to obtain the supplies from Accra needed by the missionaries and to maintain a reliable and regular contact with Germany.



Wuta-Missionshaus in Keta.

Figure 5
Keta Missionshaus

The Keta lagoon area was thickly populated with the flourishing market town of Dzelukofe which was a 30-minute walk from Keta. The missionaries landed at Dzelukofe on September 2, 1853. Keta consisted of a fort with a garrison of fewer than 30 men, a factory or warehouse belonging to the fort Commandant and a few African huts. The missionaries started building a very substantial Mission House and in 1855 the first formal school was opened in Keta. The period 1855-1893 was one of great progress for the mission. They set up the Bremen Factory and Coconut plantation, which, being close to the high-water mark was swept away by the sea in 1924.

Reverend H. Beck

Heinrich Beck, who was born 10 April 1869 in Belschneureuth, Baden, was sent to the Mission in Lomé, Togo for a period to acclimate him to the climate and native culture. He was then moved to Kwitta on 11 January 1894, the same year he married his wife Rosa Tolch who was the daughter of missionaries. He stayed at the Kwitta Mission until 1918 when he was recalled home at aged 49 where he then worked at Mission House in Dobben. He died 17 April 1957 at the age of 88 (see Note 1).

Mrs. C. Osswald

The addressee on the wrapper, Mrs. C. Osswald, was the wife of Carl Osswald, a missionary who was located at the Bremen Mission House in Lomé, Togo. She was visiting the Mission House in Kwitta en route to Lomé. The unpredictable surf conditions in Lomé caused steamers to anchor at least one mile from shore. Given the overland distance between Kwitta and Lomé was only 20 miles, many missionaries, traders and the occasional adventurer preferred to make the overland trip rather than risk a soaking when disembarking from a canoe sent out to an Elder Dempster steamer off Lomé.

Mrs. Carl Osswald's name was Margarethe Osswald née Hesse, born in Ronneback, Germany. She was a missionary with her husband in Lomé. There is reference in the Bremen archives of personal diaries written and deposited by the husband and wife Osswalds.

Getting to Kwitta

The wrapper's remarkable journey and survival started in London. The postmark bearing the numeral '1' was allocated to the village branch post office of Highgate, a wealthy suburban area of north London. The wrapper was sent on Monday 1 April 1901 by mail coach the 5½ miles to the London Post Office where it was sorted for the West African mails and sent by rail to the Liverpool G.P.O. Weekly outbound mails for the west and south-west coasts of Africa left Liverpool on Wednesdays.

The name of the ship should have been published in the *Liverpool Mercury* newspaper. Colin Tabcart's *British West African Mail Packets* ceased its listings in December 1900. After 31 December 1900 the British Library's online coverage of newspapers with shipping information ceased (Tabcart, 2015, p512.) Accordingly, the name of the ship cannot be proven, but if the 1901 sailings followed the same pattern as the prior year, the mail would have closed at 8.30 a.m. and the British & African Steam Navigation vessel would have been the SS *Sokoto*. This cargo ship would have departed Liverpool on Wednesday 3 April 1901 bound for Madeira, Grand Canary, Sierra Leone, Cape Coast Castle, Assinie, Grand Bassam, Axim, Adjuah, Chame, Discove, Sekundi, The Mines, Elmina, Saltpond, Appam, Winnabah and Accra, which since September 1877 was the postal headquarters of the Gold Coast.

Even though steamships continued to Prampram, Addah, Quitta and another 16 places en route to Old Calabar, the Accra marking indicates that this mail was offloaded at the capital Accra, with arrival at the post office on 22 April. There were no dock or harbour facilities in 1901, the year of the wrapper. Surfboats were paddled both in and out to anchored steam vessels to collect or deliver mail which was protected in waterproof sacks and special casks from rough surf conditions (Newroth 1999).

Rural postmen were the mail carriers and essential to the overland system, providing a service for administrators, merchants, missionaries and the public. They carried locked boxes of up to 70lb of mail, with no single item exceeding 3lbs. The wrapper was not more than 4 oz. The Post Office Blue Book recorded the routes and weekly service between postal towns. By 1901 the route may have been amended,



Figure 6 Volta River canoe

but the revised overland mail route between Accra and Quittah announced in June 1892 was via Prampram, Addah, Attiteteh (on the bank of the Volta at its mouth) and Hutey (Sacher 2003).

This section of the wrapper's voyage was undertaken by relays of postmen who travelled the whole distance on foot, with a public ferry (native canoe) paddling for 40-50 minutes across the 5-6 miles of the mouth of the Volta River between Ada and Attiteteh. Shown is a photo of a canoe for crossing the mouth of the Volta river (Gaunt 1912.)

In 1901 there were ten overland mail trips three times per week on the eastern route B between Accra and Kwitta. Mail was dispatched at 1.30 pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The wrapper arrived in Accra on Monday 22 April 1901, in time to meet the overland mail timetable departing on Tuesday afternoon. After the 25 miles of rural postmen running to Pampram via Great Ningo, the next departure schedule was Wednesday at 11.00 am travelling the 35 miles via Atiteteh and Hutey to Ada. The final leg left Ada on Thursday at 11.00 am and travelled 39 miles to Kwitta arriving at noon on Friday. Mails stopped overnight between Accra and Prampram, and between Ningo and Ada and at Hutey (Newroth 1999). The overland route between Accra and Kwitta took almost three days. The wrapper therefore arrived in Kwitta at noon on Friday 26 April making the in-transit time 26 days from Highgate, London to Kwitta, Gold Coast.

The Contents

Mrs C. Osswald was a missionary so we could realistically speculate that the wrapper's enclosure was of an educational or religious nature. Mrs. Osswald was in-transit to Lomé in 1901 and stayed at the Kwitta missionary house while en route, the wrapper and its contents being sent to her care of Beck who had previously been at Lomé. The sender of the wrapper in Highgate appears to have known the intended itinerary of Mrs. Osswald.

Summary

This 116-year old GB wrapper was sent on a journey to an exotic location that included mail cart, rail, steamship, surfboat, rural runner and canoe. From Highgate, London it took 26 days to reach the German Mission Station in Kwitta, Gold Coast. Offloaded at Accra using natives paddling surfboats, the wrapper was protected in a waterproof sack, sorted at the post office headquarters to connect with the overland mail route to Kwitta leaving the next day. From there it went via rural postmen running with up to 70 lbs of mail, and across the Volta River by canoe and onward by runner to Kwitta.

The German Missions in Kwitta were a well-established part of the community with schools and plantations. It is notable and of value to postal history researching that clergy frequently hoarded their incoming covers. Mrs. Osswald, a missionary wife to a missionary husband was in-transit to the German Mission in Lomé, Togoland, did not discard this wrapper, elevating it to the status of the only known recorded post office postal stationery wrapper from Great Britain to the destination Kwitta, Gold Coast.

Note

1 The archival records of the North German Missionary Society were deposited with the State Archive in Bremen between 1969 and 1975. The records, written in German, can be located under the classification “Depositum 7,1025”. They show that there was correspondence for a number of years from Heinrich Beck and his wife, mostly after World War I and beyond the date of the wrapper. They authored a booklet entitled *Wooden Trip to the Jungle*. There is also reference to “My first departure from Hamburg to Keta in West Africa”.

References

- 1 Akyeamong Emmanuel Kwaku (2001), *Between the Sea and the Lagoon: An Eco-Social History of the Anglo of Southeastern Ghana c1850 to Recent Times*, Ohio University Press, pp245
- 2 Gaunt Mary (1912), *Alone in West Africa*, Charles Scribner’s Sons, London, pp628
- 3 Newroth P.R. (1999), Gold Coast Overland Mail Routes: 1875-1901, *London Philatelist*, Vol. 108, pp267-282
- 4 Sacher John (ed.) (2003), *The Postal Services of the Gold Coast to 1901*, RPSL, pp254
- 5 Tabcart Colin (2015), *British West African Mail Packets to 1900: Rates, Routes and Ships Out and Home*, WASC, pp549

Acknowledgements

Sheila Mackenzie spent many hours helping to research the backstory of the wrapper and especially the missions in Keta and the role of the recipients of the wrapper. She also read and edited an earlier version and I thank her most sincerely for her contributions. Allan Gory read and commented on an earlier version and I thank him for his input.



Sierra Leone Aerogrammes

Peter Rolfe



Figure 1

A recent acquisition of two unusual aerogrammes raises some questions. The first item is a 1951 King George VI issue, H&G type 2 (Figure 1) with a SPECIMEN overprint. Philip Beale (Ref. 1) tells us that this issue was not overprinted and the date of issue is rather late for the UPU requirements. My questions are whether this overprint was made by the UK printer or in Freetown, and for what purpose? Has anyone seen this style of overprint on material issued for other countries in this period?

The second item is a formula aerogramme addressed to the USA with a Service des Postes handstamp and not cancelled. The inside comprises a pre-printed form headed "Posts and Telecommunication Department, General Post Office, Freetown" dated 11th August 1961. I have seen a similar item dated 4th October 1961 with a similar hand-stamp (Frank Walton has it) but the two hand-stamps seem to be different. My example has much finer lettering. Are there any further examples out there?

Reference

- 1 Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, p226, RPSL, London 1988

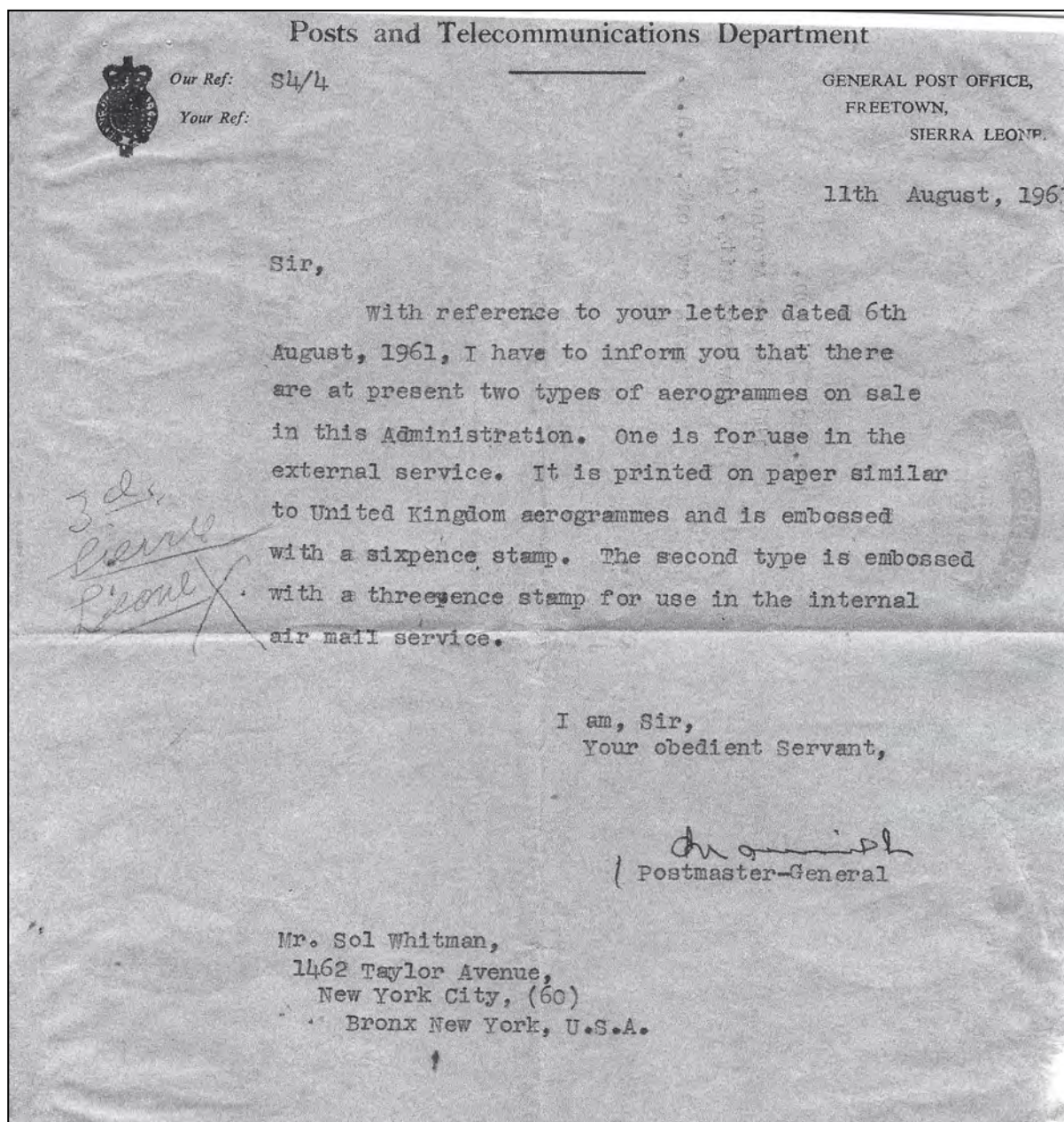


Figure 2



Cameroons: February 1915 Inbound Registered Letter with Advice of Receipt

Rob May

The recent demise of Bob Maddocks has reminded me to publish an article that Bob helped me to prepare 18 years ago! I publish this now, in appreciation of his great contributions to the study of the stamps and postal history of the Cameroons in all its guises.



Figure 1

Front of a badly-opened inbound cover to General Dobell at Duala, sent from the Posts and Telegraphs Dept, Conakry, French Guinea on 7 February 1915. There is a transit Lagos Registered oval date-stamp of 13 February 1915 but no date of arrival at Duala. There are two pairs of pinholes and 23 written in blue crayon.

In his comprehensive study of the communications arrangements for the British forces in the Kamerun campaign (Ref 1) Bob Maddocks states that no outbound registration was available before the French took over the post office at Duala on 1 April 1916 (which they renamed Douala) as a civilian post office. A letter dated 4 December 1915 from Duala to the Postmaster-General, GPO London confirms this. Between the capture of Duala in September 1914 and the partition of the country on 1 April 1916, the British had run only a forces postal service from a warehouse building close to the docks. So I wrote to Bob to ask whether he had seen any notice about inbound registered mail to that British post office.

Bob told me that inbound registered mail prior to April 1916 was not something he had thought about before this cover. The R and AR marks are of the French type, so they would have been applied at Conakry, where the AR return form was attached to the cover with pins. Bob owned a registered cover from the USA to Cameroons dated 6 Oct 1915 from a stamp dealer which bore a one-line handstamp "return receipt requested" and an AR handstamp. That cover was handled at Liverpool on 18 October and received at Duala on 10 November 1915.

It can only be speculated as to where the AR form was detached and returned. One logical thought is that Lagos was the terminus for the civilian postal service; any mail to the forces in Kamerun then being bagged and forwarded by naval ship or launch, in the absence of civilian ships linking the two ports at that time. There may also have been a diplomatic bag for General Dobell as he would have been in constant communication with Gov. Gen. Lugard in Lagos.

But another possibility is that the AR form was intended to confirm receipt at Dobell's office in Duala and that he was able to record receipt of registered mail then return this AR form via the diplomatic bag. One thing is certain; outbound forces mail from Duala to the UK and France was not routed via Lagos. That mail was loaded onto ships at Duala and, as Conakry could have been a port of call for such ships, the return AR form need not have been returned via Lagos if this cover reached Duala with the form attached.

The blue crayon 23 was applied to the cover when the AR form was detached: - either at Lagos or Duala; we cannot tell. A very interesting cover which would be all the more interesting if we knew what it contained.

Reference

1. Maddocks R.J., *The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force 1914-1916*, p184-188, Author, Oswestry 1996



Sierra Leone Xmas Air Letter

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

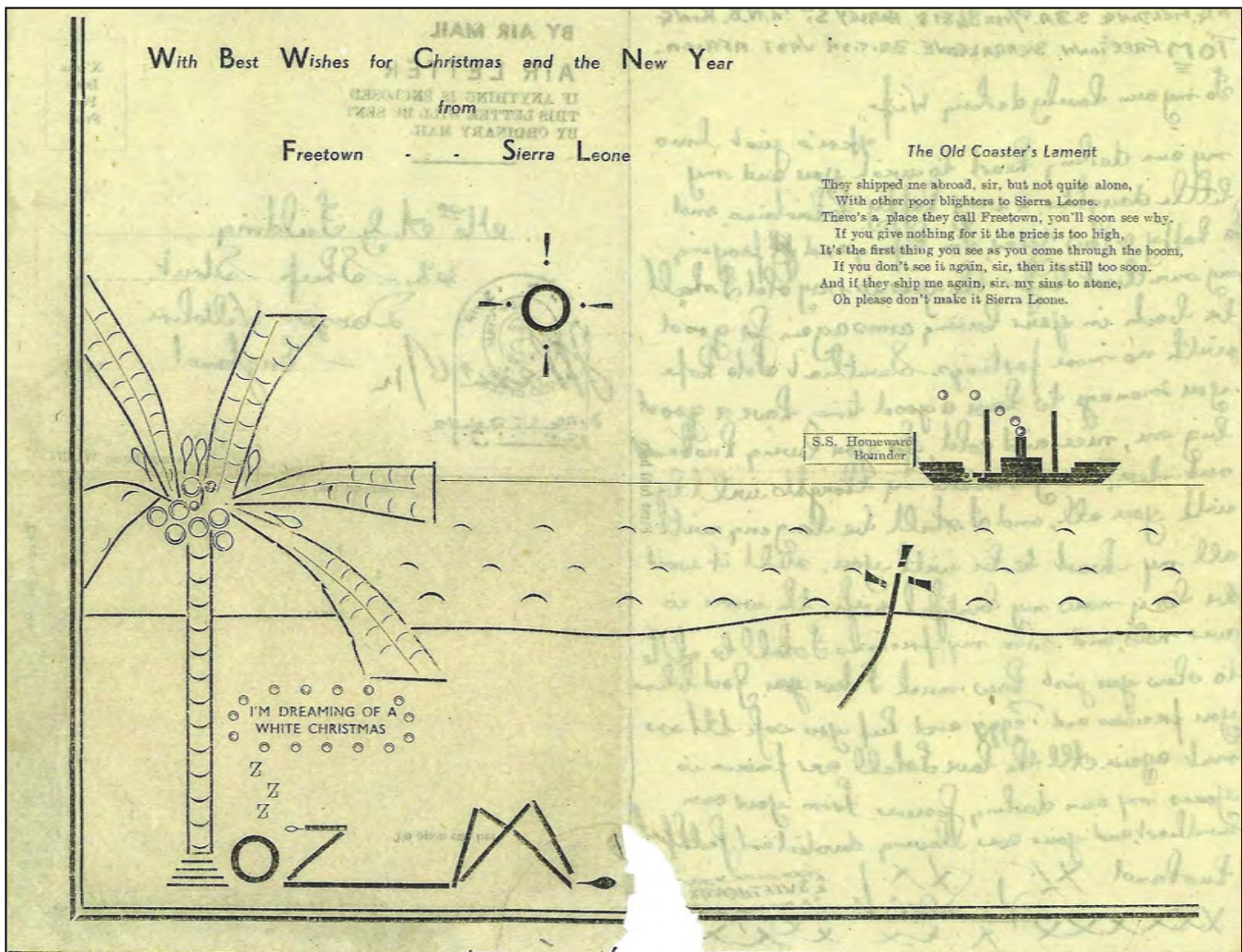


Figure 1 inside design (reduced)

This airletter (Figures 1 and 2) is a special issue with *Xmas / Issue / Post / Free* indicum. It has a naval censor cachet type N100 (Ref. 1) signed and dated 6/12 but no year stated. I have a similar example dated 1944. The inside, shown at Figure 1, includes the Old Coaster's Lament: *They shipped me abroad.....*



Figure 2

Reference

- 1 Martin J.J., Walton F.L & Harris R., *West African Censorship*, p134, WASC, Princes Risborough 3rd Edition 2015



Sapele, Southern Nigeria Type 7C Cancel

Stanley Field



Figure 1: Postcard to Germany cancelled with the Sapele Type 7C cds of 2 May 1914

This is an update to Ince & Sacher's book on the postal services of Nigeria (Ref. 1). The authors left the dimensions for the Sapele, Southern Nigeria cancel Type 7C blank, and also the latest known date of use.

Figure 1 shows this cancellation, which has the dimensions 28/19 mm. and is dated MY 2/14, which fills in two bits of information left out of the book.

Reference

- 1 Ince J.F. & Sacher J., *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region Prior to 1914*, p361, RPSL, London, 1992



St Helena - Another Censor (W.J.P.M.) Unmasked

Wilf Vevers FRPSL



Figure 1

Another example of initials WJPM within the BW1 censor mark used on outward PS reply card to Germany, 30 January 1901

On pages 218 and 219 of the October *Cameo* (Ref. 1) Dennis Engblom produced the clearest example yet of a censor marking that has puzzled many of us for some years.

There are four initials with stops between each, and the last two are clearly 'P' and 'M'. Dennis suggested that the first two initials were 'N' and 'I'. From my research both on St Helena and at the National Archives at Kew there is, in my opinion, only one person that this could be, namely Captain W.J.P. Marling of the 4th Gloucestershire Regiment who arrived at St Helena aboard the Union Castle steamer *Goth* on 21 April 1900. He left the Island on 8 July 1901 aboard the *Mohawk* with the rest of the regiment.

I believe it is inconceivable that there was anyone else on the Island at that time who would have had both such a combination of initials and possibly the necessary language skills.

Reference

- 1 Engblom Dennis, "Unidentified St Helena Boer Camp Censor - Update", *Cameo*, Volume 18, pp218-9, WASC October 2017

Sierra Leone Civil Unrest in the 21st Century

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

The late John Daynes of the Forces Postal History Society arranged for philatelic covers to be sent to him from British troops deployed in Sierra Leone. That material is now in my possession.

Details of the field post offices can be found in *West African Censorship* (Ref. 1). Illustrated here is a cover (Figure 1) cancelled with a single ring FPO 142 postmarked in May 2000. The day is not clear.

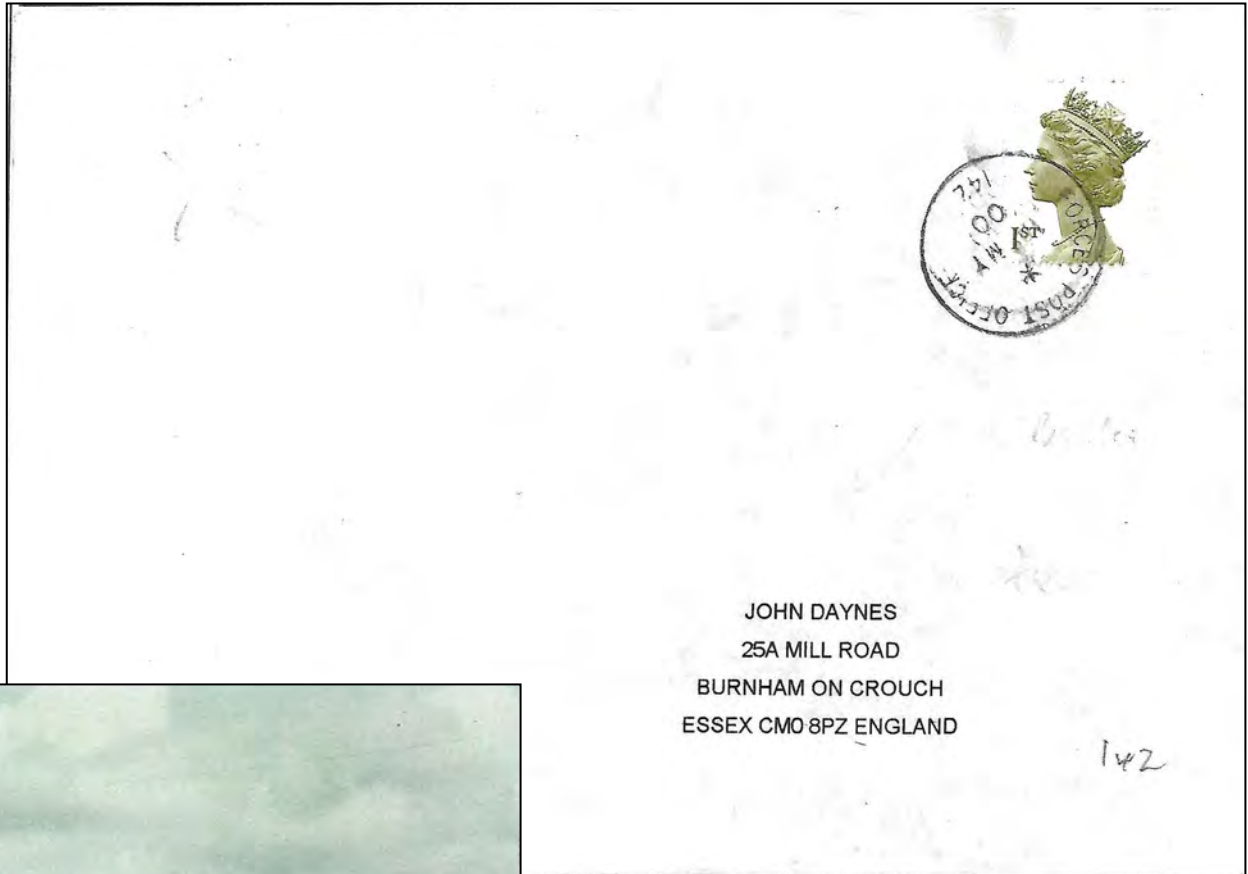


Figure 1



Figure 2

I also show at Figure 2 a photograph sent to John by one of the deployed troops

Reference

- 1 Martin J.J., Walton F.L & Harris R., *West African Censorship*, p151, WASC, Princes Risborough 3rd Edition 2015

Articles of Interest Published in Other Journals

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

Journal of the France & Colonies PS, Volume 67, no. 1, March 2017

pp iii-iv, *West African Airmail display* by Barbara Priddy to the London Group meeting of 17 February 2017

Volume 67, no. 3, December 2017

pp82-110, *Chère Maman—a sailor's story: from France and the Mediterranean to Gabon and Cameroun. The vicissitudes and Impact of World War II* by Marty Bratzel. A comprehensive study of a pre-war and WWII correspondence between a young French sailor and his mother

Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, volume 45, no.1, January 2018

pp28-34, "*Double Atlantic*" from Lebanon carried by Pan American. The routes, the rates and the reasons, by John Wilson and Bob Wilcsek

pp38-44 *Modern Postal Censorship in Cameroun* by Marc Parren. An updated version of the article first published in *Cameo*

Les Congolâtres, journal of the Belgian Congo Study Circle, no. 30, October 2017

This journal is normally published in French but an English translation of this issue, *Belgian Congo - Great Britain Postal Relations 1884-1960*, has been made available via the RPSL free of charge. 129 pages and superb

<http://www.philamercury.com/board.php>

Understanding FAM 22 and *When did FAM 22 end?* by Ken Lawrence, posts dated 22nd, 25th and 27th December

WEST AFRICA OFFERS FROM STOCK

GAMBIA. 1887 ½d sheet watermark Crown to right of CA. Very fine mint. Rare piece. Ex Rose. SG 21w. £1100	NIGER COAST. 1893 1/- on 2d (Type 11 in vermilion). Very fine mint. Exceptionally fresh. SG 38. £450
GAMBIA. 1887 6d olive-green overprinted 'SPECIMEN' in vertical strip of three. Very fine mint. SG 32dsp. £225	NIGERIA. 1914/29 set of 12 optd 'SPECIMEN' (D12). Unmounted mint. An exceptional set. SG 1s/12s. £225
GAMBIA. 1889 (3 rd Delivery) 6d bronze-green sheet with both sloping labels. Very fine mint. SG 33/33a. £600	NIGERIA. 1925 ½d green in vertical Die I/II se-tenant pair. Very fine mint. SG 15c. £275
GAMBIA. 1935 1/- Jubilee with short extra flagstaff. Very fine used and scarce thus. SG 146b. £350	ST HELENA. 1894 1/- top marginal with surcharge double. Unmounted mint. Exceptional. RPS Cert. SG 45a. £3500
GHANA. 1965 1c20 on 10/- surcharge double (green and black). Unmounted mint. Rare (just 30 can exist). SG 390a. £275	SIERRA LEONE. 1935 1/- Jubilee with lightning conductor 'used' with Madame Joseph forged oval d.s. Rare! SG 184c. £175
GOLD COAST. 1884 1d carmine (Plate 2) in complete pane of sixty. Very fine mint. Wonderful piece. SG 12a. £350	TOGO. 1915 (Sansane-Mangu) 5pf green block of four. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. BPA Cert. SG H30. £550
NIGER COAST. 1893 ½d on 2½d (Type 8 in vermilion). Very fine used with OCR c.d.s. 'MR 16 94'. SG 25. £400	TOGO. 1915 2/6 with no hyphen after 'ANGLO' (Pos# 5). Very fine mint. SG H43c. £175

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