

BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE.

SIERRA LEONE

Notes on the 1876-77 Issue

by Colin McCaig

In the R.L. Encyclopedia the 1876-77 issue is described as "Perf 14 line" but a note states "Perf 14 comb possibly exists". Examination of the stamps in my own collection and others seen at the recent Manchester meeting leads me to the conclusion that all values other than the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. exist with the comb perforation. I understand that this comb perforator was first used by De La Rue about 1880 so the early printings of this issue must have been line perf. I summarise my views on the individual values and consignments as follows:-

<u>$\frac{1}{2}$d.</u>	Sent 13.12.75.	30,600 - line
	27.7.76.	<u>121,380</u> - line
		<u>151,980</u>

As this value was not issued with the $12\frac{1}{2}$ perf the 13.12.75 sending must have been line perf 14 and it is reasonable to assume that other values sent on that date would have been perforated by the same machine.

<u>1d.</u>	Sent 27.7.76.	60,240	
	27.11.78	<u>64,080</u>	124,320 - line
	30.8.80		<u>48,000</u> - comb
			<u>172,320</u>

The comb perf is comparatively scarce.

<u>$1\frac{1}{2}$d</u>	Sent 27.7.76	<u>60,030</u> - line
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Only one sending

<u>2d.</u>	Sent 13.12.75	17,160	
	27.7.76	<u>60,030</u>	77,190 - line
	30.8.80		<u>60,300</u> - comb
			<u>137,490</u>

The previous consignment of the 2d. was dated 12.3.75 and is accepted as having been perforated with the $12\frac{1}{2}$ line machine which was used for Lagos in May, 1875, and for Gold Coast in June, 1875.

<u>3d.</u>	Sent 27.7.76	60,120 - line
	30.8.80	<u>18,060</u> - comb
		<u>78,180</u>

The comb perf is relatively scarce.

<u>4d.</u>	Sent 27.7.76	30,720	
	27.11.78	<u>30,560</u>	61,280 - line
	30.8.80		<u>90,000</u> - comb
			<u>151,280</u>

Here, the comb perf is rather easier to find than the line perf.

<u>1/-</u>	Sent 27.7.76	6,480	
	27.11.78	<u>12,480</u>	18,960 - line
	30.8.80		<u>15,060</u> - comb
			<u>34,020</u>

As with the 4d. the comb perf is easier to find than the line perf - in spite of the smaller number sent to the Colony.

April, 1967.