

Nigeria canceller errors

Introduction.

With over 8000 different cancellations recorded, and no doubt more to come, it is not surprising that the occasional error crept through, particularly given the extensive use Nigeria made of 'skeleton' cancellers involving removable type.

This display provides a whistle-stop tour through the examples I've come across over the years.

Mistaken Identity, where someone got the post office name wrong, or the name spelling changed with time

Permanent damage, whether accidental or deliberate

Reversible errors in use, a catch-all covering examples where the canceller appearance was inadvertently altered

Nigeria canceller errors

Mistaken Identity 1

First, some examples where the canceller as issued was plain wrong

The canceller supplied read 'ZANA' Cross bar of the N chiselled in a bold attempt to make ZARIA. Used for 12 + years!



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Mistaken Identity 2

KANA for KANO parcel canceller



POSTMATER OWO I presume that 'POSTMASTER' was intended. Only known date, so not used for long!



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Mistaken Identity 3

PORT HARBOUR for PORT HARCOURT



POTASKUM for POTISKUM



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Mistaken Identity 4

CAMPUS / CAMPOS For the Square on Lagos island, and relating to Nsukka University. The same error in reverse!



Nigeria canceller errors

Spell that again 1

Variations in names arose through genuine uncertainties over spelling, usually arising when an administrator tried to write down the name he heard spoken – especially difficult with tonal languages.

BAUTCHI came before BAUCHI

PATEJI before PATEGI

KATSENA before KATSINA (or not) ?



Nigeria canceller errors

Spell that again 2

A few more...

MAIDUGERI Vs MAIDUGURI



As for OZORO... (or is it USORO, or UZORO)



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Spell that again 3

Nowadays the symbol ₦ is used where formerly 'SH' approximated the sound. However, ₦ doesn't fit on cancellers so a plain S is used instead

ILESHA to ILESA, OSHOGBO to OSOGBO and the reverse transformation, of SOMOLU back to SHOMOLU

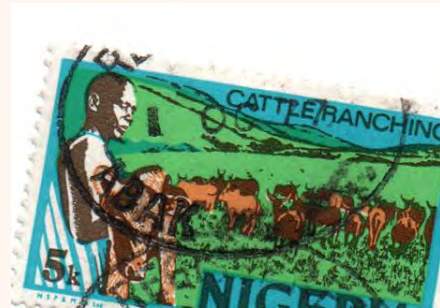


Nigeria canceller errors

Permanently damaged 1

When Biafra broke away, 'NIGERIA' was cut from a pre-existing canceller for use during the late-1967 to January 1970 life of the breakaway state. Many such cancellers continued in service for years after the end of the war. Here are several examples

ABAK, ABONNEMA, IKEDURU



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Permanently damaged but why?

The Port Harcourt example (below right) was probably derived from a Port Harcourt Branch Office canceller (Proud type D2 see left) last known used in 1975. Why was it altered? This is the only reported example.

The early example of IKANG CALABAR on the left is unusual in showing IKANG clearly. At some stage 'IKANG' almost disappears, though the canceller continued like that for several years.



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Reversible errors in use 1

Some early cancellers were constructed with a letter code which might be changed or which might fall out. Errors gave rise to wrongly-orientated code letters.

SOMBREIRO RIVER Code C normal,
facing down, facing left



LAGOS ISL9
type with Code B, facing right,
left, down and
on its back



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Reversible errors in use 2

The canceller(s) which Ince and Sacher call 3 and 4 was used in Northern Nigeria and in the early years of Nigeria. The type could move within the circumferential slot, and in some cases did. The OFFA cancels below (outlines from Proud) show some spectacular variations – most are extremely scarce.



D1 S1



D1 S2



D1 S3



D1 S4



D1 S5



D1 S6



D1 S7



D1 S8



D1 S9



D1 S10



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Reversible errors in use 3

There are a great many instances of a 'skeleton' canceller being reassembled with different spacings or letters missing or wrongly ordered, and finding examples adds extra interest to collecting Nigerian cancellations. Here are some examples from KINGSWAY STORES LAGOS

