

Guinea: Oddities

West African Study Circle: Zoom meeting March 23rd 2024

The covers and stamps here all came from mail to the BBC World Service during the period 1995 to 2005.

I was in charge of audience research from 1982 to 1998.

The department was also responsible for the handling, analysis, reporting and replying to mail from around the world. We received between 450,000 and 600,000 letters a year.

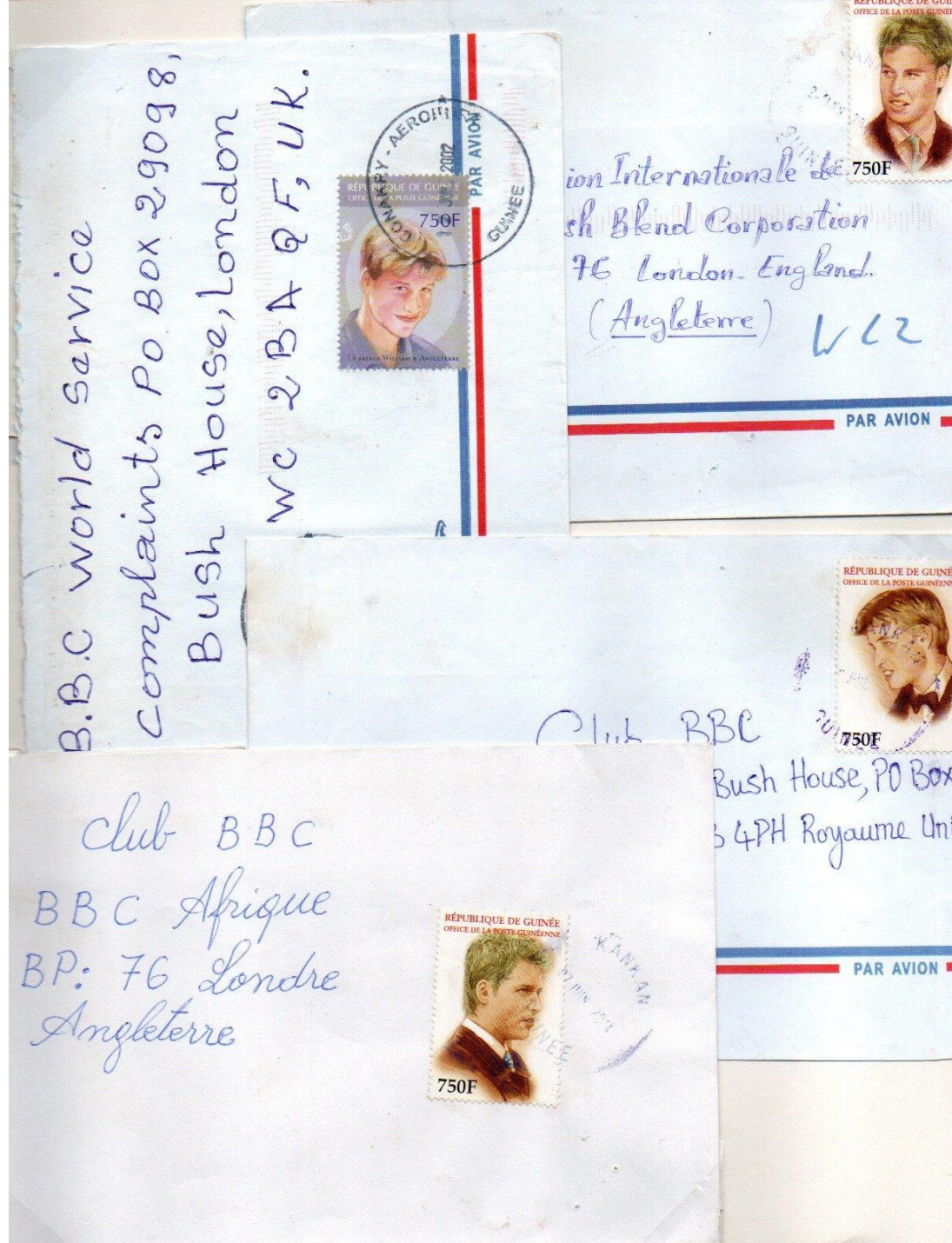
The continent producing the most mail was Africa.

I call the period 1960 to 2010 the Golden Age of mail in Africa.

You might think that stamps of British Royalty, and especially of Princess Diana, were aimed at the philatelic market. But they get used – a lot. These stamps are not listed by SG, not even in its appendices



And of Prince William.
These are also not listed by SG, not even as “appendixed stamps



Mystery number one: Why this use of a delivery service other than Royal Mail?



PRIORITAIRE N° D'AUTORISATION 2608
EN CAS DE NON DISTRIBUTION, PRIERE
DE RETOURNER A
DCI / TIM 01
BT 420
93351 LE BOURGET CEDEX FRANCE
PORT PAYE
FRANCE

CLUB B.B.C AFRIQUE

And why use a French one
in this example?

B.P: 76

WC2

LONDRES (ENGLETERRE)

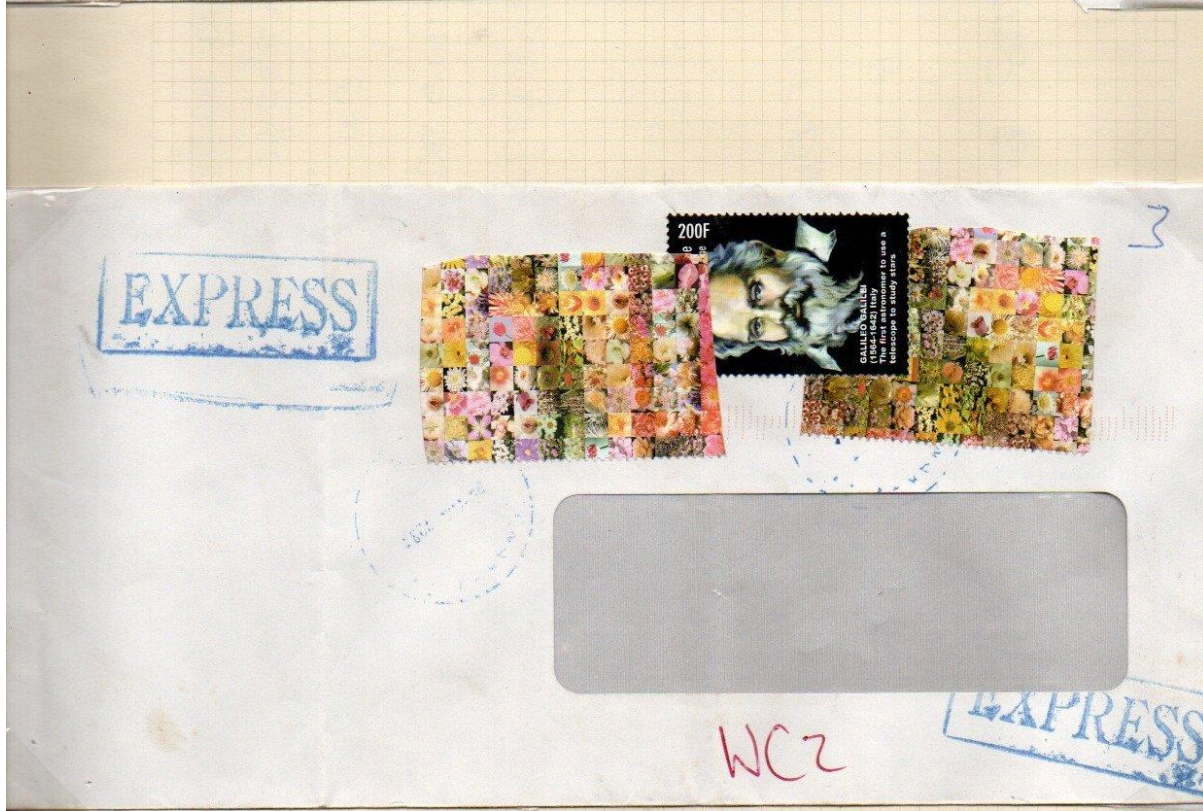


AFRIQUE DE L'ouest
REP DE GUINEE - CONAKRY

B.P: 49 KAMSAR



EXPT: MAMADOU DIAU DIALLO
ELEVÉ AU LYCÉE AMADOU MAHTAR MBOUYI



Mystery number two:
The use of selvages from stamp sheets! Not stamps but the borders of sheets! And of course no values!

One or two of these may be regarded as accidents or aberrations. But I have a lot of them. The selvages here come from the railway loco sets of 1998 and 1999. There were several sets during those two years.



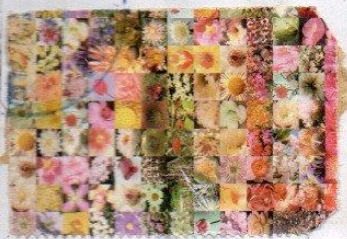
Human Rights
B.B.C World Service
Bush house London

England



PAR AVION

BBC AFRIQUE (TA
BP 76 LON
ENGLTERR



Here are some more. I am still doing my own research into what stamps sheets these come from.

B.B.C. WORLD
Service London england



try WC2



A Club BBC

BBC-Afrique
BP: 76 Londre - Angleterre.



BBC Afrique
Club BBC Afrique
BP: 76 Londre
ANGLETERRE



PAR AVION

GUINEE





BRITISH BROADCASTING BUSH HOUSE PO BOX 76
 STRAND LONDON WC2B 4PH TELEPHONE 0171 240 3456

B B C WORLD SERVICE.



Club BBC.

BBC Afrique. Service Langue Française.

B.P 76

Londres Angleterre.



PAR AVION

PAR AVION



Club BBC Afrique

B.P 76 Londre Angleterre

PRIORITAIRE N° D'AUTORISATION 2608
 EN CAS DE NON DISTRIBUTION, PRIERE
 DE RETOURNER A
 DCI / TIM 01
 BT 420
 93351 LE BOURGET CEDEX FRANCE

PORT PAYE
 FRANCE

CLUB B.B.C AFRIQUE

And this one again. Let's take a look at the stamp. It looks like it is in the same genre as the last one on the previous slide.

B.P: 76

WC2

LONDRES (ENGLETERRE)



AFRIQUE DE L'ouest
 REPUBLIC DE GUINÉE - CONAKRY

B.P: 49 KAMBAR

PT: MAMADOU DIANU DIALLO
 VE AU LYCÉE AMADOU MAHTAR MBOUYI

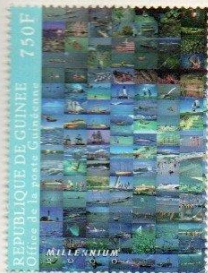
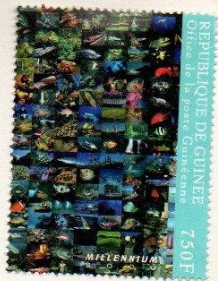


Research will continue!

stories of THE MILLENNIUM of stories

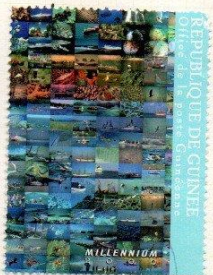
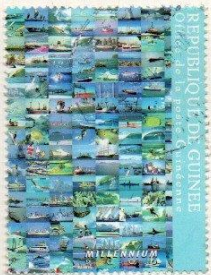
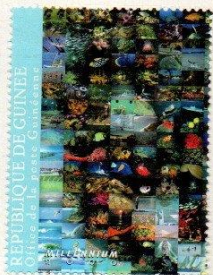


This is where some of my examples come from. A sheet for the millennium consisting of 20 stamps making up a composite of the Titanic. Some of the stamps bear no value and these are not NVI stamps!

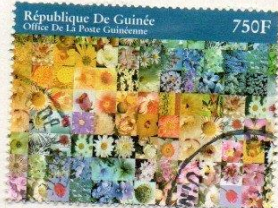


lowest middle
rows for right

bottom row
for left



NO values!



And here are some used stamps from that Titanic sheet with some notes by me for further investigation.
(I know, I should have kept them on cover!)

Notes to Graham Mytton's presentation: "Guinea: Oddities"

Graham was in charge of the department at the BBC World Service that was responsible for the analysis of mail from listeners. He was Head of Audience Research and Correspondence from 1982 to 1998. One of the Britain's most famous postal addresses was Bush House, London, the home of the BBC World Service until 2012.

Each year between 450,000 and 600,000 letters were received. Africa produced more letters than any other continent. Letters from West Africa came from francophone, lusophone and anglophone countries. The largest mailbags from the region were from anglophone Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. But some francophone countries were not far behind. In his short presentation he focused on two oddities he had noticed in several items of mail from Guinea, mostly written in French to BBC Afrique, the French language service for the whole of Africa.

Mystery number one was the fact that during the 1990s La Poste Guinéenne sent its mail to the UK to the private courier service Mailfast for onwards delivery to UK addresses: Why did it use a courier service rather than go direct to Royal Mail? He also showed an example of the use of a French courier service for the same purpose.

Mystery number two was the curious but quite regular use, apparently accepted by La Poste Guinéenne, of the selvages of stamp sheets in place of stamps. In some cases he has managed to identify the miniature sheets from which the selvages came. But his research continues. Gibbons is almost useless for Africa in general since about 1990 and all of the stamps Graham shows from Guinea, both real ones and the selvages from mini sheets in this presentation are not even in Gibbons' infamous appendices! Stamp World, a brilliant new online resource for collectors, is helping solve some of the questions he has but not all of them.