

Online presentation to the West Africa Study Circle

**Some rare postal cancels from the early areas of British influence
from 1880 up to 1901**

SIERRA LEONE

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(The Beving Collection)

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History of the Beving Collection

The Beving Collection of stamps, picture postcards and covers of the British and French West African colonies from 1876 to 1907, is named in honour of Karl-Adolf-Georg Beving, born in Donaueschingen, in the Kingdom of Baden in 1858 and naturalised as a British Citizen in 1895 under the name of Charles Beving - and his son Charles “Addy” Beving. It is currently managed by his grandson, Simon Beving Binsted in Andorra. The collection today features more than 3.500 items, mostly postally used, and nearly all identified by 600 d.p.i. - 1.200 d.p.i. scans.

The collection originated in the schoolboy collection of Addy Beving from stamps steamed off letters sent by his father, a pioneer cotton trader and merchant from his travels all over West Africa. The Charles Beving Collection of Native Textiles is the largest collection of its kind in the world and was donated to the British Museum in 1935.

Reference material, scans from the collection and specialist, highly-detailed, up-to-date self-calculating spreadsheets for each Colony are available to members of the West Africa Study Group and France and Colonies Philatelic Societies upon request

SG 11 1d Penny rose-red



This stamp is illustrated in the second edition of the Walton Handbook on p. 19

Ref. 035.02. (Proud D1. Sent out in 1853)

SG 23 Halfpenny Brown



The cancel is the 035.07 Th2 code C in the Walton Handbook (Proud D5. Sent out in 1882) rated as rare, so only "3-5 copies known". However, the handbook has the EKD as 15 Feb 1885, so this is now clearly the new EKD.

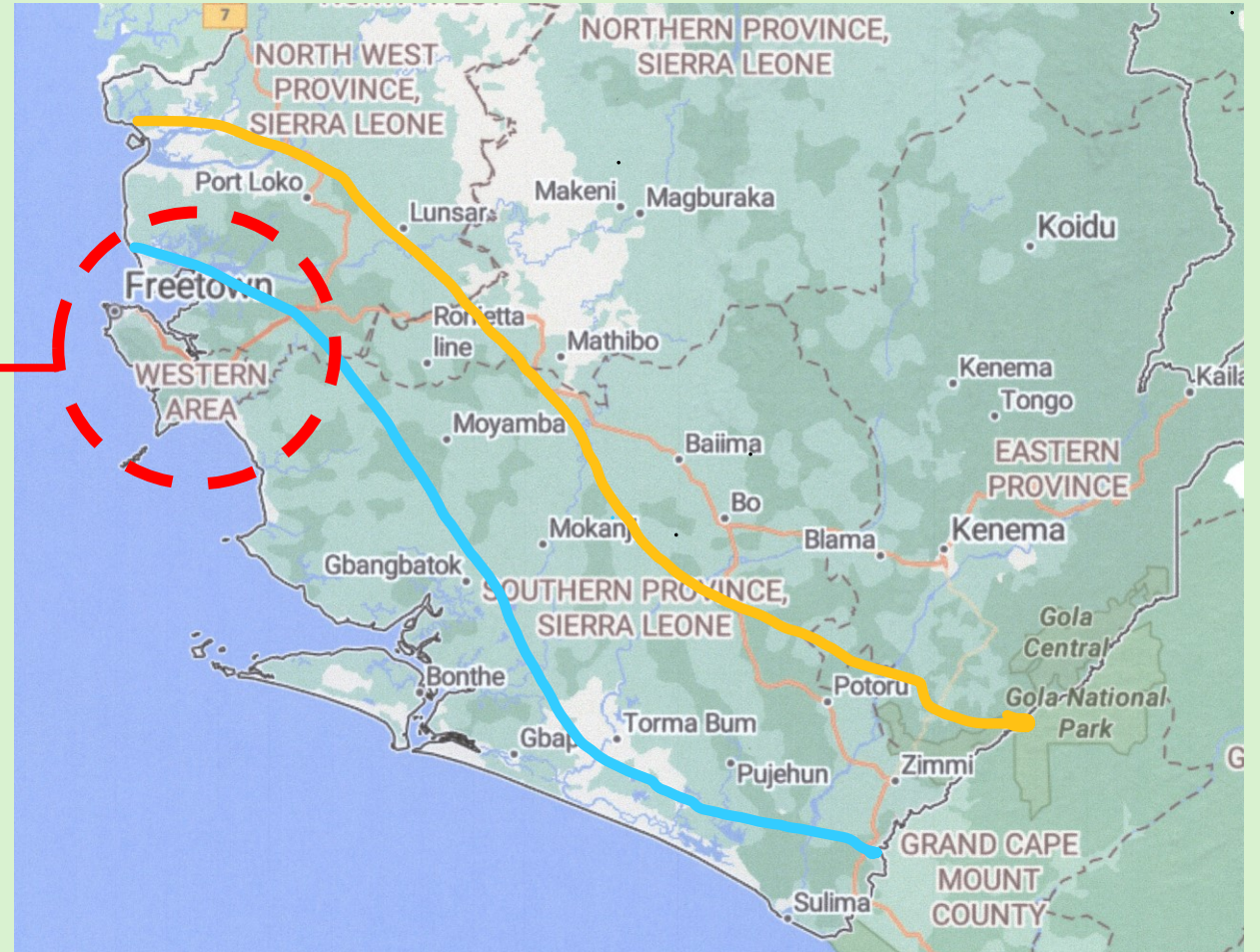
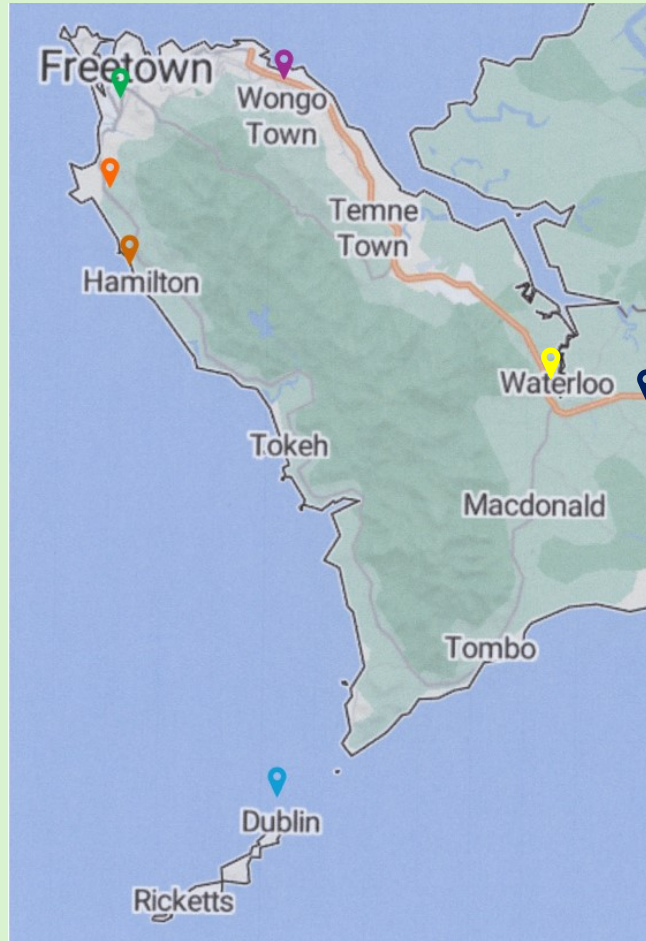
Reported to Walton on 3rd January 2019

Approximate areas of British influence

>1897


1898>1905

-  Dublin Bananas
-  Goderich
-  Wellington
-  Wilberforce
-  Hamilton
-  Waterloo
-  Prince Alfred Town (Songo)




SG 42 lilac and green



 Dublin Bananas

This cancel is 005.01 s.SC1 marked as Rare "Just 3-5 copies known". The stamp shown in the handbook is from the Walton collection (Proud D2. Sent out in 1893).

The Post Office on Banana (or Bananas) Island, opposite Kent on the mainland, opened 16 March 1893 (Walton says: 20 April) Proud has a fascinating extract from the Post office register: Name of Post Town: Dublin. Extent of Postal District: Bananas Island and Ricketts. Situation of Office: The house occupied by the Postmaster!


 Wilberforce

This cancel is Walton 158.01 (Proud D1), rated in the Walton 2015 handbook as Rare meaning "only 3-5 copies known". The stamp shown in the handbook is now in the Beving Collection

Wilberforce was opened on 21 September 1893 as a Postal Agency in the original Sierra Leone Colony on the peninsula, spreading out from Freetown in the north.



SG 42 lilac and green


 Goderich



"EKD and LKD per Walton handbook. Currently the only recorded example struck on a QV adhesive". However, in the 2015 edition Walton reports the LKD as 27 June 1910 but still rated the cancellation as Very rare i.e. "Only 1 or 2 known", which suggests that this is one of only two known.

cds 048.01 Walton (Proud D2. Sent out in 1896). Proud and Walton say it was sent out on 15 April 1896 and confirms this 4 Sept. 1897 strike as being the first known but says cds was in use until 3 July 1909 (which would indicate that there might be three known although Walton has evidently failed to find any evidence of this).

SG 27 ½d dull green


 Wellington

Both Proud and the Walton handbook (157.01) have the only known date of use of this cancel, without date, as MY 08 96 so this is highly likely to have been struck then, perhaps on a cover with a further Freetown cancellation proving the year.

This is used as an illustration in the the Walton 2015 handbook and is probably unique without the year plugs. Walton only mentions another strike known dated DE 28 95, and hence the cancellation is rated as Rare i.e. "Only 3 to 5 copies known".



SG 27 ½d dull green

 Hamilton



This cancel is definitely 049.01 .HAMILTON. (with dots) SIERRA LEONE (Proud D1. Sent out in 1899) and has a very faint Code B reversed as can be seen from scan. This handstamp is only recorded in Proud as being without code and used only on one recorded day: JY 31 99. However, the Walton 2015 handbook shows a strike from AU 1 99.


This strike is noted in the Walton 2015 handbook as being the earliest known date of use. A member of WASC, I believe has a copy of a .HAMILTON. with B code reversed from 1897 and reported to Walton that another member had an 1896 date, so this is possibly one of only four known.

Cancellation rated as Rare in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "Just 3-5 copies known".

Hamilton Postal Agency opened on 10 March 1893

SG 54 Watermark CA over Crown. Overprint POSTAGE AND REVENUE (Overprint 7)



 Waterloo

156.01 s.:SC1 Code B in the Walton handbook (Proud D2.)

Cancel rated as Rare in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "Just 3-5 copies known" (and is possibly the only known strike on a fiscal).

 Prince Alfred Town (Songo)



Ex Hamilton (2011) who said: "Last recorded date for B code. Extremely rare office and unrecorded in the Walton handbook". This was at that time but in the 2015 handbook Walton recorded the B code EKD as AP 27 96 and this stamp (shown in the handbook) as the LKD.

Thus, the conclusion must be that this particular handstamp with the proper date slugs is probably a unique survivor seeing that it was used in 1898 in error, one supposes, as the PRINCE ALFRED TOWN was re-named as SONGO in 1897, although it was still knocking around the office in 1903, as we see from the manuscript-dated example shown by Walton.

Cancel rated as Rare in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "Just 3-5 copies known".

Approximate areas of British influence

>1897

1898>1905


1905>



-  Shaingay (Shunge)
-  Bendoo (Bendu)
-  Sherbro
-  Sulymah (Sulima)
-  Bonthé
-  Lavanah

SG 28a 1d rose carmine




 Shaingay (Shenge)

Customs handstamp is Walton 145.01 Type sOv with the only known date of use recorded as being 6 Aug 1888, presumably on a cover.

Cancel rated as Rare in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "Just 3-5 copies known" (Proud K1).

SG 28 carmine

 Shaingay (Shenge)




These cancels are 145.02 s.SC:1 Code B in the Walton handbook and D1 in Proud, although Proud only records the D1 in use without code and only between 27 March 1896 and 9 April 1896 (27 March and 26 April 1896 according to Walton).

Both of these, however, show Code B and this code is also listed in Walton, who shows the Code B for AU 6 95, so these are two of perhaps 4 or 5 known (poor strike of B/AU 6 9(6?) on SG31 offered by Hamilton in Aug 2016) and the one on the left is the EKD. Hence both cancels, with and without code are rated as Rare in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "Just 3-5 copies known".

Shaingay was opened as a Customs Port on 22 Jan 1884. The Shaingay Post Office was opened on 01 Oct 1892; destroyed in 1898, and only re-opened as Shengeh on 01 June 1901.

SG 28a 1d rose carmine



 Sulymah (Sulima)


This SLYMAH cancel is 146.01 dated JA 6 86 and the EKD with C code. Along with the 2d grey SG 30 below dated JY 14 88, which is the LKD, these are apparently the only two stamps ever recorded with this postmark and code - and both are in the Beving Collection. I shall be very happy to be proved wrong!

The cancel is rated as Very Rare in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "Only 1 or 2 known".

SG 30 2d grey

There are a couple of known usages of the 146.01 SLYMAH cancel with A code on stamps (one on NO 23 88 and one on JY 31 89 and one used as a backstamp on a cover to England with Code A sideways dated DE 8 88 offered by Steve Drewett in April 2016 – of which I also have a scan. This one on the right with C code is the LKD. I would love to know of any more out there with whatever code.

Walton only records one usage of B code dated JU 7 95

 Sulymah (Sulima)






📍 Sulymah (Sulima)

Proud identifies this canceller as D2 sent out on 7 May 1900 and only known in use on 25 March 1902. Walton identifies this as 146.03 with the only other known Code C strike also as being on 25 Mar 1902. Are there any more out there?

Our stamp on the left is recorded (and illustrated) in the 2015 Walton handbook as being the EKD and the cancel is rated as Very Rare i.e. "Only 1 or 2 known". The undated oval Customs stamps are more easily found.

Walton says: Opened as a Customs Port 22 Jan 1884 (Sulymah) and opened as a Post Office on 1 October 1892; destroyed during the uprising in 1898 and re-opened as a Post Office on 7 July 1900 as Sulima.




 Lavanah

cds is 084.02. Code B in red (Proud D2).

Proud says this in use from 31 Dec 1889 to 25 August 1896 without code (Walton 2015 says the only recorded strike was on JU 11 89) but also says "set with B code in 1890". Walton says B code used between 5 June 1890 and 11 Oct 90. We would love to see good scans of any more examples out there.

Code B cancels are rated as Rare in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "Just 3-5 copies known". Customs cancels in both red and black are fairly common.



 Bendoo (Bendu)


This very rare BENDOO-SHERBRO cancel is 012.01 in the Walton handbook and Proud D2, who say it was in use for just over a month from 18.5.96 to 24.6.96. Both Walton (where this stamp is illustrated) and Proud confirm that this is the EKD for this cancel. The confusing “Sherbro” of the handstamp refers to the mainland province rather than the actual island itself and the confusing set up of the date and code hint at a clerk with a hangover!

Bendoo-Sherbro Post office opened on July 1, 1894, as BENDOO and was destroyed in the 1898 uprising.

Very rare postmark. Cancellation rated as Very Rare in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "Only 1 or 2 known". (Ex John Forrest collection).




SG 28 3d yellow

 Sherbro

This postmark is 018.03 in the Walton handbook, recorded as being in use at Bonthé between 2 June 1887 until 28 July 1905 (Proud D3 recorded as being used from 21 June 1888 to 28 July 1905) and is rarely found on this issue.

Cancellation rated as Very Scarce in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "No more than 15 known to exist".

SG 41 ½d lilac and green

 Bonthé

Interesting very late use of the stamp itself and the postmark is probably unique on a QV label, unless the stamp on the right-hand side of it was also a QV. Cancel rated as Scarce in Walton 2015 handbook i.e. "Probably no more than 35 exist". Code C appears to be the only code ever used until 1917.

Canceller (sent out on 21 June 1905) is 018.04 in the 2015 Walton handbook . Proud identifies this as D4 and says it was in use until 26 January 1917 (Walton says 2 January).





And, finally, has anyone else got one of these?

The handstamp is 535.02 Registered Oval in the Walton handbook which is rated "Common" but it is definitely not common to see this used as a stamp canceller and this stamp is illustrated in the book.

Proud (R2) says it was only used 25.10.88 to 17.09.94

Thank you!

**I also very much hope to be able to
make a future presentation of our rare-office
cancels on Edward VII issues to 1907**

Any further questions: ceo@servissim.ad