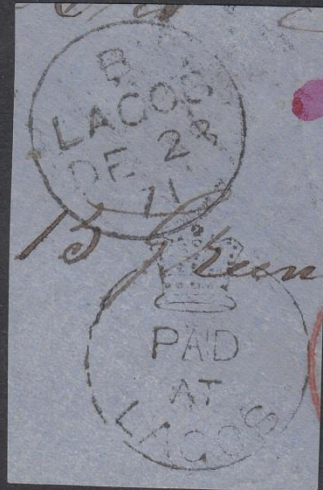


150th Anniversary of Nigeria's First Postage Stamps issued by Lagos in 1874

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Pre-adhesive handstamps, 1859-74



SIX PENNY



GAGOS. WEST AFRICA

Lagos, 1874: Specimen Stamps



1874 Mint Set



**Two kinds of One Shilling stamp:
15½mm & 16½mm value tablets**



Value	Colour	Number of stamps printed	Stanley Gibbons Number	Value of mint stamp (£1 = N2,000)	Value of used stamp
1d	Lilac-mauve	330 sheets, or 19,800 stamps, in 6 printings	SG1	£80 N160,000	£55 N110,000
2d	Blue	236 sheets, or 14,160 stamps, in 4 printings	SG2	£80 N160,000	£48 N96,000
3d	Red-brown	263 sheets, or 15,780 stamps, in 4 printings	SG3	£130 N260,000	£50 N100,000
4d	Carmin	372 sheets, or 22,320 stamps, in 7 printings	SG5	£150 N300,000	£60 N120,000
6d	Blue-green	377 sheets, or 22,620 stamps, in 7 printings	SG6	£160 N320,000	£25 N50,000
1s	Orange	260 sheets, or 15,600 stamps, in 4 printings	SG8 (value 15½mm, Feb 1875)	£700 N1,400,000	£200 N400,000
1s	Orange		SG8a (value 16½mm, July 1875)	£425 N850,000	£90 N180,000

Sale of postage stamps, 1874-81 (£.s.d.)

Year	Total		Year	Total
1874	166.13.10		1878	10.0.0
1875	49.4.0		1879	12.8.9
1876	30.0.0		1880	7.4.0
1877	16.10.0		1881	5.15.10

Note: £2,114 of stamps in 1874 issue; new issues in 1876 and 1879.

Sources: Lagos Blue Books, 1874-81.

Stamps postmarked December 1874



Varieties:
**Straight-line Lagos, date, year handstamp used as
a canceller**



Varieties: Lagos code B, without date



In my collection, monthly distribution of postal cancellations

Why so few cancellations in some months of 1874?

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1874						0	13	1	0	11	11	10
1875	9	6	12	8	8	13	11	12	4	18	4	11
1876	11	3										



Lagos Postal Department, 1874: a year of three Postmasters!

William C. Pratt, Postmaster; joined colonial service Feb 1867; 6 Dec 1872-5 Apr 1874, £150 salary.

W. R. King, Superintendent of Police, but also Acting Postmaster, 6 Apr-24 Aug 1874, £150 salary

William E. Cole joined colonial service as Clerk, Jan 1871, Postmaster, 25 Aug 1874 onwards, £150 salary.

Joseph B. Taylor joined colonial service 6 June 1872; Clerk, 9 Dec 1872, £50 salary.

A.W. Thomas, Messenger, joined colonial service, 8 Nov 1873, £10 salary.

George Josephus Cole, Messenger; joined colonial service 7 Jul 1874, £10 salary .

1. Robbery at Lagos GPO, 1 April 1874, with mail bag cut and letters stolen. Postmaster William Pratt only reported it to senior colleagues later on. Government suspended Pratt and employed Superintendent W. R. King of Police as Acting Postmaster. King asked for Pratt's help in reconciling the accounts for the Imperial Post Office in London who had found a £300 shortfall. Pratt responsible and in January 1876 was sentenced to five years imprisonment for embezzlement.

2. "After the "Eko" [ship] left for Sierra Leone to be repaired, the Administration used every endeavour to get a vessel in her place to carry the mails across the bar. But the prices asked by the merchants for the use of their steamers (£10 a day plus fuel, £15 a trip plus fuel or £33 a week!) were most exorbitant and the Administration, with an impoverished exchequer, rightly refused to pay them."