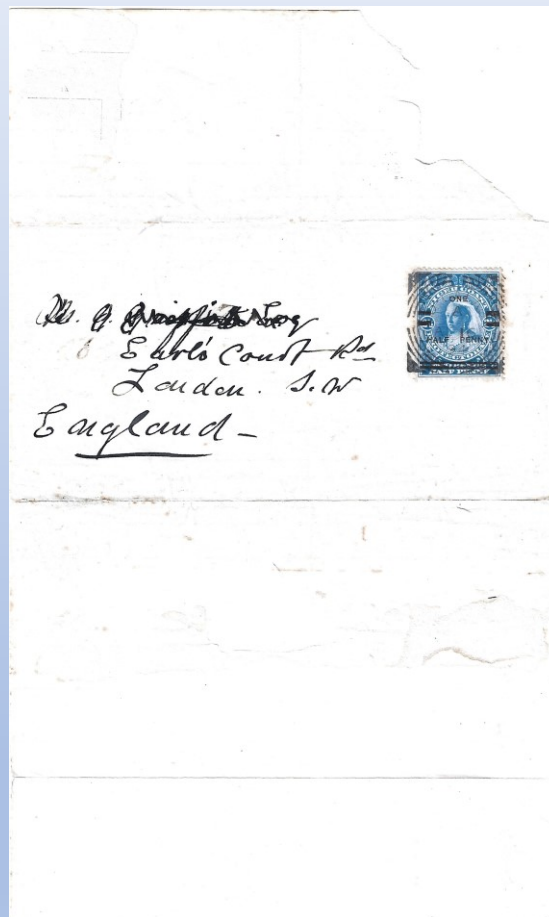


Some new acquisitions.  
A wrapper from Old Calabar and  
two postcards

John Froggatt

# A wrapper from Old Calabar



# A wrapper, or is it?

- Recently I was lucky, or rash, enough to buy a cover, described as a wrapper, presumably for newspapers or printed matter, with an Old Calabar provisional, SG65.
- This was interesting in itself but what particularly appealed to me on closer examination was that I thought I recognised the handwriting and the name of the addressee which had been partly crossed out.
- Comparison with another cover convinced me that the sender was Arthur Griffith.

Mr. E. Griffiths  
16 Charles Court Rd  
Lauden. S.W  
England





RR



596

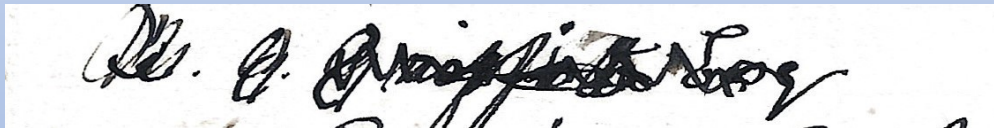


M. G. Giffeth Esq  
50 Beccasfield Rd  
St Margarets  
Twickenham  
near London  
England



# Comparison

**The wrapper of 16 August 1894**



M. G. Gouffette Esq

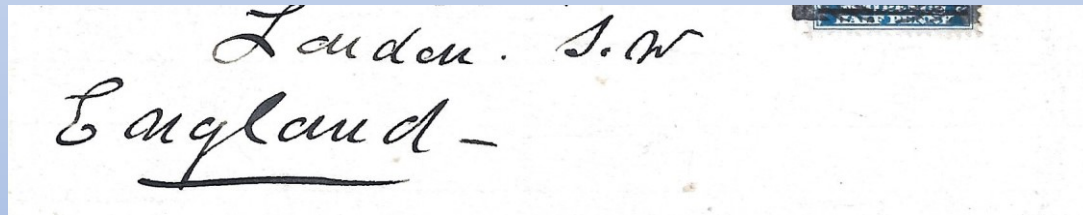
**The letter of 24 April 1895**



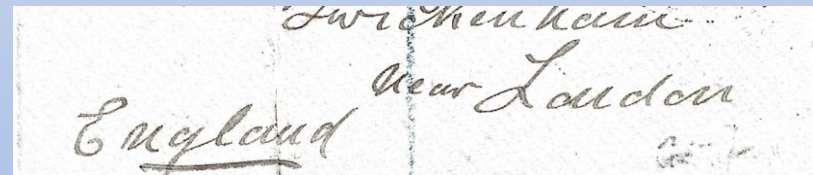
M. G. Gouffette Esq

# Another comparison

**The wrapper of 16 August 1894**



**The letter of 24 April 1895**



# Who was Griffith?

- Vice Consul Old Calabar
- According to John Sacher in his 2009 paper on *The Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Surcharged Provisionals and Bisected Stamps*:
- “no less than 50 of the bisected and surcharged covers” out of the 113 that he examined, addressed to a variety of people, were in his handwriting



# Questions

- Is it Griffith's handwriting? I think so.
- Who is it addressed to?
- John Sacher recorded letters to:
  - Miss Griffith at Hall Place, Denbigh
  - M. G. Griffith and Mervyn G Griffith at Beaconsfield Road, Twickenham
- There is a Mrs A. J. Griffith at Hall Place, Denbigh and Soho Square
- I think the cover and wrapper are to M. (Mervyn) G. Griffith not Arthur J. Griffith
- Who was Mervyn G Griffith? A lot of covers are to him.

# More questions?

- John Sacher refers to Arthur J Griffith
- I have a transcript of a newspaper article recording the death in Ryde Isle Of Wight in September 1905 of Arthur Gerald Griffith aged 48 “late District Commissioner in Old Calabar and Opobo”.
- Did Griffith actually send any letters with provisionals to himself?
- Has anyone seen another “Griffith” cover to 26? Earls Court Road?
- Is the cover actually a wrapper or simply a home made envelope given that I was told during the presentation that there were no newspapers in Old Calabar?

## Another “Griffith” cover

During the meeting Stanley Field produced a cover in exactly the same handwriting addressed to Mrs A. G. Griffith in North Wales.

This is reproduced here with his permission and is interesting in itself in that it is the only “Griffith” cover that I have seen that has ordinary, rather than at least one provisional stamp on it.

I can only assume that his provisional covers, which were of course intended for collectors, were kept whereas the survival rate of his conventional correspondence would be much lower.



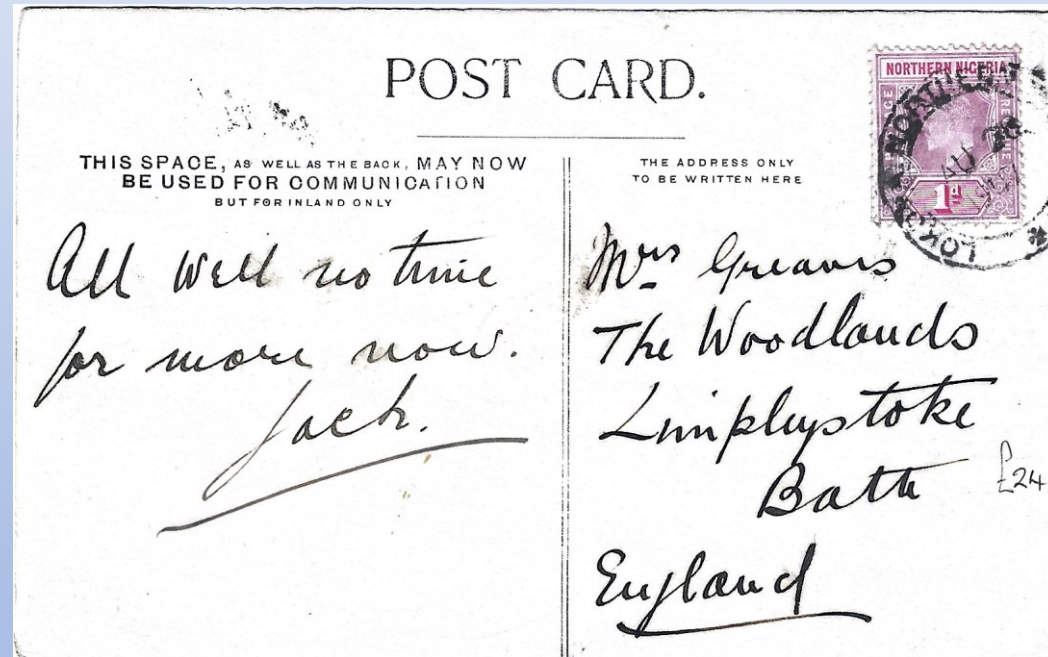
# And on a lighter note

- Two postcards that I found amusing for the same reason
- In each case the writer, presumably a man, has taken the trouble to send a post card thousands of miles to a lady in England.
- Where they compete is how few words they use and you wonder how impressed the respective recipients were to receive them?
- The first was sent in 1907 from Lokoja
- The second in 1904 from Lagos

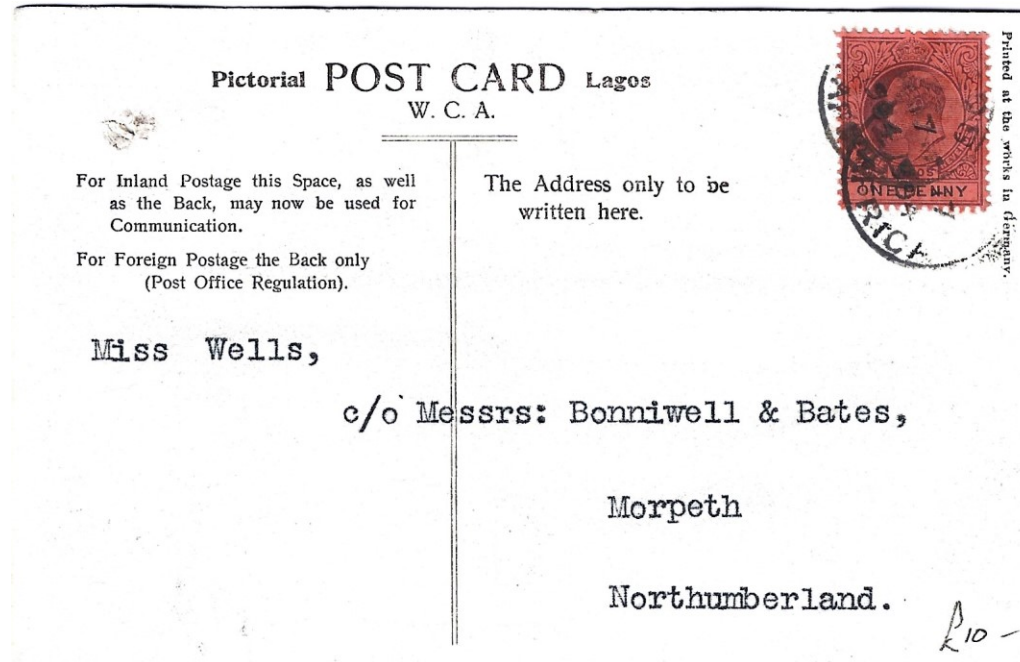
Lokoja?



# A man of few words



# A postcard from Lagos



# How many characters in a tweet?

