

BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

Postage Rates from Great Britain to West Africa in 1855 taken from The South Australian Government Gazette of May 31st 1855.

Extracts from a schedule of Postage Rates.

A table showing the rates of postage to be accounted for to the General Post Office, London, upon letters posted in South Australia and forwarded, via the United Kingdom, to the undermentioned foreign countries and colonies. Payment must be in advance, as also the rate of postage from S. A. to the United Kingdom.

Countries.	to $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	to $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.	to 1oz.	to $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	to $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	to $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz.	to 2 oz.	Every oz. after 1st.
Accra	6d	6d	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
Africa. West Coast of	5d	5d	10d	10d	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10d
Gambia	ditto								
Gold Coast	ditto								
Liberia	ditto								
Sierra Leone	ditto								
Badagry	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0
Bonny	ditto								
Fernando Po	ditto								
Goree	ditto								
Lagos	ditto								
Old Calabar	ditto								
Wydah	ditto								

Newspaper rate to all these destinations was 3d if sent via Marseilles and 1d if sent via Southampton or direct ship.

For a fee of 6d it was possible to register letters to Gold Coast and Sierra Leone. There was an additional 6d registration fee for the journey from S. A. to the U. K.

There was a concessionary rate for packets of newspapers to many destinations but not to West Africa.

To West Africa all printed papers (except newspapers) were treated as letters.

Soldiers' and Sailors' letters went at the rate of 1d.

A book packet rate is quoted for various colonies including Gambia, Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast (Nigeria is not mentioned).

Not exceeding 4 ozs	7d
4 to 8 ozs	1.2d
8 to 1 lb	2.4d
1 lb to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs	3.6d
$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs to 2 lbs	4.8d

and so on at the rate of 1.2d per half pound or part.

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Footnote: Wydah was later spelled OUIDAH.