

BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

Some notes on the "Handstruck" stamps of the Gold Coast.

These were in use prior to the introduction of adhesives, being applied to the cover to indicate pre-payment of postage, office of origin etc.

1. (Robson Lowe H.S.1) 25th September 1855. Large unframed circular date-stamp, diameter 29 mm. in red, "Cape.Coast.Castle/Paid" above date in centre.

Examples recorded dated 22nd March 1858 and 12th September 1861.

2. (R.L. H.S.2) As (1) but "Accra/Paid". (This is shown by Robson Lowe as "Acora (sic)" but Jaffe states that the London G.P.O. Proof Book shows it as "Accra", as indeed do the recorded examples).

Examples recorded dated 12th June 1862, 12th May 1864, 2nd March and 16th November 1871 and 25th September 1872.

3. (R.L. H.S.11 PL) Diameter 25 mm. "Cape.Coast.Castle" in black.

Example recorded dated 15th May 1856.

4. (R.L. H.S.12 PL) As (3) but "Accra". I have not seen this marking but it is stated to have been in use in 1855.

5. - Circular date-stamp, diameter 22 mm.
"Gold Coast/Paid" in red.

Example recorded dated 28th November 1869.

6. (R.L. H.S. 3 & 4) Large concentric circles diameter 35 mm. and 26 mm. "Cape.Coast.Castle" at top and ornament at bottom between circles: 'Paid' in centre above date. Robson Lowe states found both in black (1865-75) and red but the examples quoted are both in red.

Recorded dated April 1864 and March 1865 both on covers to U.K.

7. (R.L. H.S.13) 8 Feb. 1869. Circular dated type, diameter 23 mm. in black "Cape.Coast.Castle" Code letter 'A'.

Examples recorded dated 18th October 1869 and others on various dates between 1869 and 1874 (28th Jan.)

(For use as cancellations on adhesives see note on type 2a in relative circular).

8 - 9 Octr. 1871. Concentric circles diameter 24 mm. in black or red. "Paid.at.Cape.Coast.Castle" between circles two line date in centre.

This is the commonest hand-struck Paid Stamp found on pre-stamp covers and is normally in red from 1872 to 75. (The Head Post Office in the Colony was situated at Cape Coast from circa 1851 - 1877).

It is also recorded in red on stampless covers in 1884 (March and April) during the "stamp famine", the postage paid 3d being shown in M/S also in red.

After the introduction of adhesives it appears in red, or occasionally in black, on the cover, the adhesives being cancelled by the '556' Killer (latest date seen 1883). It also appears, more rarely, in black as an additional cancellation on the adhesives (e.g. 9 Jun. 1878).

9. (R.L. H.S.5) 7th July 1873. Circular dated type 24 mm. diameter in red or black. "Paid.at.Cape.Coast/Inland". Code letter 'A' or 'B'.

I have no record of this marking on pre-stamp covers but examples are recorded, in red Code letter 'A', dated 20 Decr. 1883: adhesive (bisected 2d green) cancelled by killer on cover addressed to Elmina: and in black, also code letter 'A' dated 2 Feb. 1889 on a stampless cover addressed to the U.K. Both of these covers fall within the "stamp famine" period and the use of the mark seems somewhat haphazard.

10. (R.L. H.S.6) 16th Sept. 1873. Rectangular frame in black "Elmina Paid".

I have no record of this marking on pre-stamp cover. (For use as cancellation on adhesives and further details see type 3 in relevant circular).

11. (R.L. H.S.7) 1872. Single circle diameter 22 mm. in red; "Accra/date", "Paid" in centre between parallel lines, code letter 'B'.

Examples recorded dated 25 Sep., 1872 and 2 March, 1873.

12. - "Accra Unpaid" in black.

Example recorded 19 June 1877 - arrival marking on stampless G.B. cover to Accra.

13. (R.L. Type L) 15th April, 1874. Circular dated type diameter 20 mm. in black "Accra" Code letter A.

No record of this marking on pre-stamp cover.
(For use as cancellation on adhesives see type 2 in relevant circular).

14. (R.L. H.S.8) 4th Jan. 1875. Circular date stamp diameter 30 mm. in black "Quittah/Paid/Gold Coast".

No record of this marking on pre-stamp cover but it is recorded on cover with adhesives, the latter cancelled by B27 Killer, dated May 1881 and as a cancellation on adhesives (date indistinct).

15. As No. 14 but "Quittah/Unpaid/Gold Coast".

No record of the use of this marking but presumably it may have been used as an arrival mark cf. No. 12.

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