

# CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



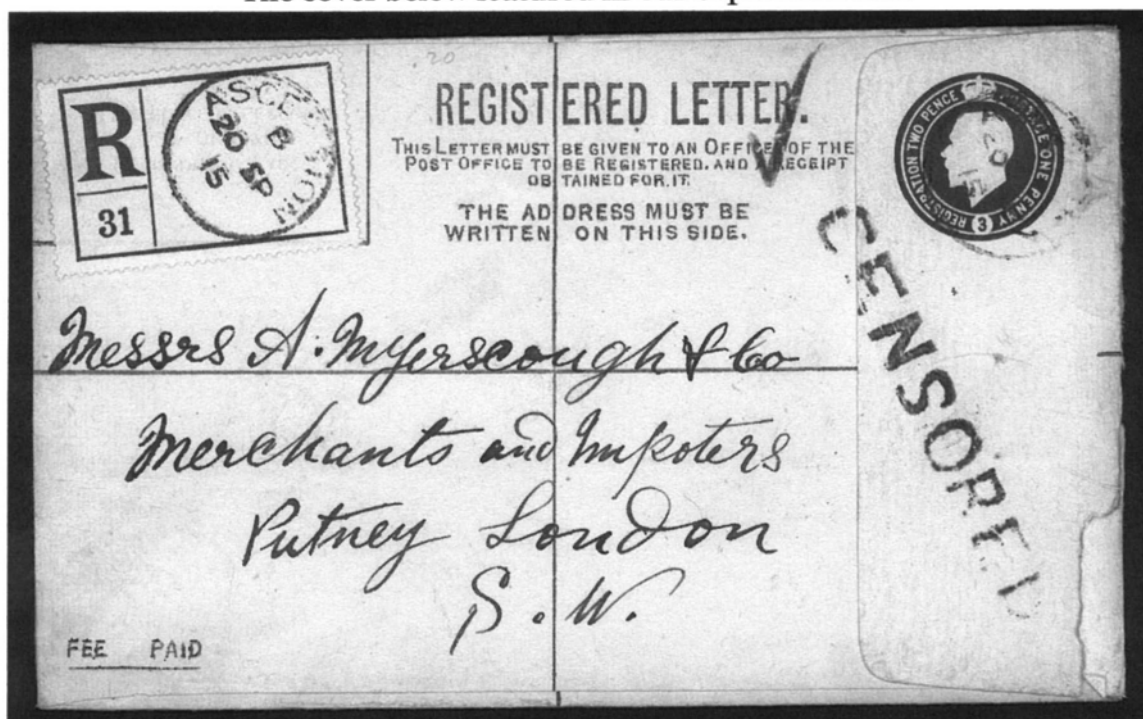
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## Front Cover

1868 St Helena to France  
Cancelled with '2' Accountancy Markings  
See article at page 12 of this issue of Cameo

# Editorial

Welcome to this first issue of the South Atlantic edition of *Cameo*. The decision was taken last year that publication of the *St Helena and Ascension Supplement* would cease after number 39 of January 2003, and that as from Volume 8 *Cameo* will be published three times a year. The October edition will be edited by me and will be devoted chiefly to articles of the South Atlantic, whilst still incorporating letters, book reviews, etc. of a general West Africa interest.

I am aware that many members have little or no interest in the stamps and postal history of St Helena or Ascension, so please accept my apologies if you fall into this group. Whenever possible I will try to include articles of a more general nature, or if the subject matter – whilst of particular reference to one of these Islands – is relevant to other collecting areas. I believe that the articles on pages 14, 24 and 38 fall into these categories. And who knows, some of you may even be tempted to look at the possibility of broadening your horizons! If so, I still have some back numbers of the *Supplement* available... Whatever your views, please let them be known to either Rob or myself, or indeed to any of the Committee.

I thank the many contributors for their submissions, but feel somewhat disappointed with the almost complete absence of Ascension from this edition. There are some enthusiastic collectors of the Island within the Study Circle, so am hoping this may be rectified next time. Otherwise I may have to pen something myself!

Like Rob with the May edition, this issue has been compiled, in haste, with a new computer and I accept full responsibility for any errors within. I hope the quality of the illustrations in particular is satisfactory, as it is difficult to judge the final output from the high quality laser printer used by Sarsen Press. Unfortunately it has not been possible to use colour printing this time. I believe it's inclusion in the last issue added considerably both to the understanding of the illustrations and also the perception of a quality publication. But it must be remembered that the increased cost is not really covered by the current membership subscription. If we want colour, and I for one do, then we will have to consider a rise in fees. Please make your opinions known!

I have to end on a sad note. Neville Jones, a member of the Study Circle for many years and author of several books, died on Monday 8th September. Although I only knew him from my recent visits to the London meetings, I am sure that we can all join in sending our deepest sympathies to his family on their sad loss. A full obituary will appear in the next *Cameo*.

Barry Burns



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**Scope** : The West Africa Study Circle studies the postage stamps and postal history of West Africa, including St Helena, Ascension and the British Postal Agencies in Madeira, Tenerife, St Vincent and Fernando Po. The mainland countries covered in most depth are The Gambia, Gold Coast, The Nigerias, Sierra Leone, Camerouns and Togo.

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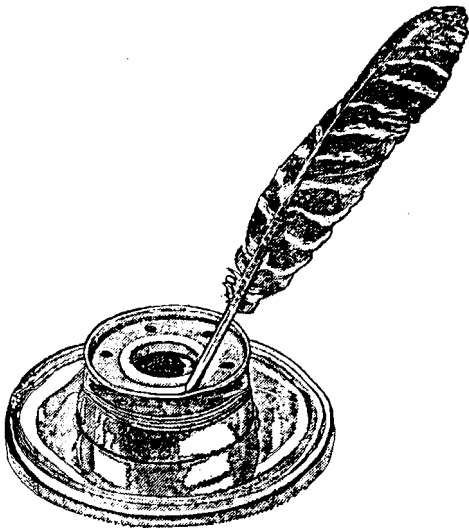
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<http://www.wasc.org.uk>

Webmaster is Ray Harris; contact [harris6@which.net](mailto:harris6@which.net)



## Letters to the Editor

*Should anyone wish to reply to any of these letters, please do so through the Cameo editor in the first instance to enable a consolidated follow-up to be published in conjunction with the study editors as appropriate.*

*Correspondence on any subject is always most appreciated. Any form of contact is welcome, whether by letter, telephone or email.*

*The editor's addresses are listed on the first page of each Cameo issue.*

*Barry Burns*

### **Cameo May 2003 - Errata**

PD4, being used from 5 July 1907 to 31 October 1916.

Dear Barry,

Please publish an apology from me for two errors:  
1. The index is missing a page (Ghana to Nigeria) because one of the other pages was set up twice by the printers. Also, the references in the General section for St Helena are incorrect. The two corrected pages should be included as inserts in this issue.

2. In my article Nigeria - "Insufficiently Prepaid" two of the numbers in figure 1 are wrong:-

IP 01.07 should read IP 01.08

IP 02.03 should read IP 02.04

Sorry to anyone who tried to make sense of the numbering.

Rob May  
Princes Risborough

E W Proud  
Heathfield

Dear Rob/Barry,

Bob Maddocks has written to me to point out that the handstamp that I thought I had found was illustrated in Cameo by him in July 1997 and also appears in Ted Proud's book. I seem to have missed both - sorry.

John Sacher  
London

### **Nigeria 2001 Wildlife Definitives**

Dear Rob/Barry,

Another interesting Cameo.

I have checked my 2001 Nigeria definitives (Cameo p 323) and can advise I have a used pair of the N30 perf 14. In taking the measurements of this value and others the measurements seem to be nearer 13.8 x 13.8 rather than 14 x 14. The perf 13 values do seem to be exactly 13 x 13.

Jeremy Martin  
Salisbury

### **Southern Nigeria handstamp**

Dear Mr May/Mr Burns,

I have just received the latest Cameo. I note there is an article by John Sacher about a newly found Southern Nigeria handstamp (p 291). However, I would point out that this was recorded in my *Postal History of Nigeria* published in 1995 as

### **French Colonies Revenues**

Dear Rob/Barry,

In Cameo May 2003, p290 you mentioned that two additional parts of Donald Duston's French colonies revenues catalogue are planned, including "Black Africa". Sadly Don passed away suddenly on 31 October, 2000.

I've been in contact with Ken Trettin, editor of the *American Revenuer*, as well as revenue dealer Eric Jackson. Neither is aware of any plans to complete the catalogue. Regarding the Cameroun portion of the catalogue, Michael Wright and I expanded and extended Don's revised draft (which he had provided with me late in 1997) for post-independence issues. The product has just been published (in colour) in the *American Revenuer*. I will provide a copy of that issue of the journal for the WASC library, so people can reference it, if they wish.

Again, good job. Keep it up!

Marty Bratzel  
Windsor, Ontario

## Nigeria 1991 Fish Stamps

Dear Barry,

I was reminded by the article by Roger West in *Cameo* June 2003, p312 that, some years ago I was instrumental in getting Stanley Gibbons to put a footnote in their catalogue stating that a postal forgery of the 50k value is known. Members may appreciate an illustration of this item, as below.

Rob May  
Princes Risborough



## Nigerian Local?

Dear Rob/Barry,

Some light can be shed on the possible Nigerian 'local' reported by Michael Wright (*Cameo* May 2003 p306). I understand the 50k label depicted was produced by a courier service that operated daily except on Sundays in each direction between Kano and Kaduna in at least 1982. The labels were produced in booklets of ten, each booklet selling for N5.00; staple marks occur between some pairs of the labels. The courier applied a date mark to the label to ensure a label was used only once, and delivered the letter to the Post Office in the receiving city for final delivery. Prior to handing in at the receiving Post Office a normal Nigerian local rate stamp (10k) was placed right over the label and this passed through a franking machine. The courier service reduced the time of transit between the two cities. It is not clear how the letters reached the courier at the despatching city.

Tony Plumb  
Bingley



## Sierra Leone 2 / WIR Perfin

Dear Rob/Barry,

I was delighted to discover a Queen Victoria 2½d blue from the first keyplate with a 2 / WIR perfin as produced by the West India Regiment. This is unusual in itself - but the perfin was inverted on this example. To my knowledge an inverted perfin has not been recorded anywhere before. The stamp has a Freetown postmark of 22 May 1896.

Frank Walton  
Dronfield

## Earlier Lome Cancel

Dear Rob/Barry,

Recently, amongst a 'general' collection covering the 1880s to 1920s, I came across a copy of Togo SG 49 (Dahomey 64 overprinted TOGO) on piece with full Lome strike (Martin and Walton 008.02) 5 July 1922, four weeks earlier than listed.

John Mayne  
Bridgnorth

## Cameroons Perfins

Dear Rob/Barry

In their article "Perfins on Postage Stamps from the Cameroons" (*Cameo* June 2003, p309) the authors concluded with the assumption that perfins were not favourably received by the authorities for the Independent Republic of Cameroun.

For evidence to support or deny this one would need to check the relevant Cameroun postal regulations. However, so far as the Elders & Fyffes perfins are concerned the question is immaterial.

Following unification, bananas exported from the former British Cameroons ceased to be eligible for Commonwealth Preference Tariff for imports to the UK – its principal market until then. Consequently Elders & Fyffes found banana production at Likomba was no longer economically viable after 1961/62, and transferred management to Compagnedes Bananas, an associate company which catered for the French market.

The shipping line of E&F's business had always been based in the UK – the Cameroons interest having been taken over from its German Laissez Line when WWII broke out.

E&F had extended its interest in the Cameroons by taking a long lease on the Likomba Estate in the mid 1940s; thus King George VI stamps can also be found with the company's perfin.

Bob Maddocks  
Oswestry

**WASC Study Editors are also available for queries and to help edit articles**

- **Airmails – Barbara Priddy**
- **Ascension – Bernard Hughes**
- **Biafra – Dudley Prestedge**
- **Cameroons – Marty Bratzel**
- **Gambia – Oliver Andrew**
- **Ghana – Ian Anderson**
- **Gold Coast – Peter Newroth**
- **Lagos – John Sacher**
- **Maritime – John Knight**
- **Nigerias to 1914 – John Sacher**
- **Nigeria post 1914 – Neville Jones**
- **St. Helena – Bernard Mabbett**
- **Sierra Leone – Philip Beale & Peter Rolfe**
- **Togo – Jeremy Martin**

## **OBITUARY**

### **Lt. Col. W. J. Bailey.**

Bill Bailey of Vancouver, British Columbia died on May 1, 2003. Bill was a member of WASC for many years, but I do not believe he attended any UK meetings. I recall first meeting Bill about 20 years ago, and we kept in contact infrequently until early this year. He recounted most interesting stories about his global adventures, and I was always most keen about his recollections of Ghana during turbulent times. At our last meeting, we discussed our mutual interest in collections of Gold Coast and this is the link connecting us to the West Africa Study Circle.

Bill served with distinction for 30 years as a Canadian army officer. His career began following graduation from UBC and led him with NATO to Germany, with the U.N. to Cyprus, Egypt and Israel, Indochina, Vietnam and with the Canadian Army Training Mission to Ghana. Bill ended his regular military service in Ottawa in 1980, then returned to Vancouver where he was active in the Militia and St. John Ambulance Brigade (Commander, Order of St. John).

Philately was a big part of Bill's life, with a focus on military mail. Bill participated as a National level judge, an exhibitor and as a Director of RPSC. His major contribution as an author, in collaboration with the late Ritch Toop, was a series of books on Canadian Military Post Offices, and most recently an international prize-winning, two-volume listing of Canadian Military Postal Markings. Bill was honoured as a Fellow in the RPSC and RPSL.

Bill was a helpful and charming man and we will miss him. I am indebted to W. G. Robinson and BNAPS for information on Bill's career.

Peter Newroth  
Victoria

## **Articles of Interest Published in Other Journals**

*Members are invited to contact the editor by e-mail, post or phone when they notice any article they feel might be of interest to other members.*

**Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society** Volume 53 No 2, June 2003

“Airmail Cover Bordeaux to Cameroun 1940-41” by Marty Bratzel. Pages 55-58

“Togo in WWI - The French Occupation Issues” by Jeremy Martin and Bill Mitchell. Pages 61-62

*(Continued on Page 6)*

**Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin** July 2003, Vol 30, No 3

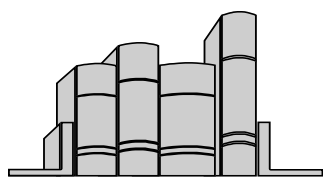
In the feedback section Konrad Morenweiser responds to a previous article on Nigeria WWII Censor 11 to report this censor used on a cover from "Mayer, Cameroons Plantations, Victoria" 27 Oct 1941 to Familie Messer-Aeling at Bern, Switzerland, paid 3d only and routed "via Lisbon", probably written in German. Rob May comments that there is clearly no Red Cross link here, but certainly it supports the Swiss connection, and it is very interesting that the usual Victoria-based Censor 19 has not inspected this letter.

**The Book Collector** December 2002

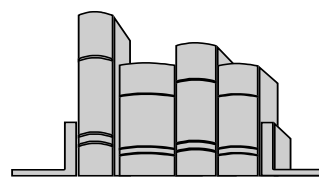
"St Helena, A Survey of Books about the Island" by John T. Price. Pages 94-106

**Gibbons Stamp Monthly** November 2002

"King George VI Varieties Part 66 – The Last Roundup (Section 1)". Richard Lockyer, OBE, updates his article on Ascension, originally published in August 1986. Pages 31-33



## Bookshelf



*Distribution of West Africa Study Circle publications has changed. Please send orders and payments to the Hon. Treasurer (address on page 1). In future, authors will distribute their own publications to members.*

📖 *Air Crash Mail of Imperial Airways & Predecessor Airlines* by Kendall Sanford. Published by the Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund, the book costs UK £27.50 plus £4.00 postage in the UK, or approximately US\$44.00 or €42.00 plus actual postage cost outside the UK and is available from:

(1) Robert Johnson, The Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund, 65 Manor Park, Redland, Bristol BS6 7HW, UK or (2) Vera Trinder Publications, 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London, WC2E 9EU or (3) In the USA - Leonard Hartmann, Philatelic Bibliopole, PO Box 36006, Louisville, Ky - USA 40233, and from the Author (4) Aerophil, 12 Chemin des Tuilots, CH-1293 Bellevue (GE), Switzerland. Reviewed by Oded Eliashar and originally published in *Air Mail News*, edited by Richard Saundry for the British Aerophilatelic Association.

As far as I know this is the very first time that a book, and a hefty one too (225 pages), was published detailing mail of a single airline. The book lists crashes, interrupted and forced landings of Imperial Airways-Britain's international airline between 1924 to 1940- and predecessor airlines, later to evolve to British Overseas Airways Corporation, better known, in short, as BOAC. The book includes a photo or illustration of nearly every Imperial Airways and predecessors' aircraft that crashed or had a forced landing, and shows a cover of every known variety of cachet, label, manuscript marking or post office explanation note where mail has been recorded. It must have taken the author a very long time indeed and a very thorough and well-done in-depth research to bring to light so many different cachets and notes- in all, a total of 187 aircraft photos, 94 covers and no less than 174 cachets plus few reproductions of newspaper clippings about these crashes.

However, the author did not stop there. He listed additional 100 crashes and forced landings as well as 46 additional cachet varieties not previously recorded by philatelic books or publications. The findings are based on the author's extensive collection of Imperial Airways crash mail as well as a thorough research in archives, newspaper libraries, early aviation magazines, and consulting over fifty books, magazines and other publications.

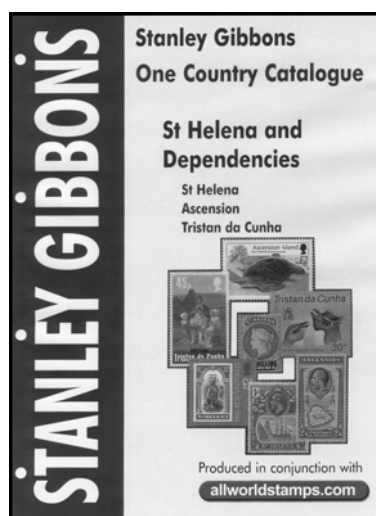
Luckily, the author used that same simple to understand numbering system that was used by H. Nierinck in his "Recovered Mail" (1992 and 1995 edition) books. For additional cachet and label varieties not previously recorded, the letters (identifying each type) not used by Nierinck have been used to avoid confusion between the Nierinck books and this new book. Thus, the numbering system used here is an extension of the Nierinck numbering. All listings are shown chronologically by date.

There are also four appendices: - A- Identification of Covers Without Clear Postmarks; B- Imperial Airways & Predecessors Aircraft that Crashes or were Interrupted; C- Imperial Airways & Predecessors Pilots involved in Crashes or Interruptions and D- an extensive Bibliography.



A Pricing Guide is included as a separate supplement. This is based on the current market for Imperial Airways crash covers, and will be an invaluable reference for collectors, dealers and auction houses that are buying and selling such covers.

This book is a must for the serious crash collector. I am also told that the author plans a CD-ROM version of the book, which may be available in the near future.



📖 *Stanley Gibbons One Country Catalogue – St Helena and Dependencies*, published 2003 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., no ISBN quoted, 37 loose leaf pages 29.8 x 22.0 cm. Price £7.95 black & white, £14.95 colour. Binder & information pages also available £7.95. Reviewed by Barry Burns.

During the last two years Stanley Gibbons have been completely revising their Commonwealth catalogue publications in order to avoid their flagship *Part One* becoming overloaded with the ever increasing flood of new issues. Their 2002 edition published Autumn 2001 was the final *Part 1* in its familiar style, covering all Commonwealth countries from 1840 to the present.

Last year they published the first edition of *Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840 – 1952*, the replacement of *Part 1* containing stamp issues to 1952 only. Collectors interested in the current reign were left with the very basic listing in the *Commonwealth Simplified*. At the same time, they started the publication of a series of ‘One – Country’ catalogues in loose leaf A4 format, covering all issues to the present in the familiar *Part 1* style. Catalogues for the Falkland Islands, India and Canada have already been published, and just released (in July) is this edition covering St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

I opted for the colour version for review purposes, but was surprised that the illustration of the St Helena 1856 Six Pence was in black, despite the fact that this design was issued in virtually every colour during its long reign – except black! Otherwise, the introduction of colour has produced a more attractive publication – at a price.

In their publicity Gibbons state ‘All prices carefully revised in line with the current market’ so I was disappointed to find that *not one* of the listings to 1952 from either Ascension or St Helena has been changed from last year’s 1840 – 1952 catalogue. So if your collecting interests are pre 1952 and you already possess that edition, save your money and buy stamps instead. But what of the listings for the present reign?

Issues are included to the end of 2002, and are to the same detail as the old *Part 1*. Watermark, perforation and some shades are therefore listed, as are booklets etc. Designers and printing details are given, but I was hoping that Gibbons would have gone one step further and listed the information which has not been readily available since the demise of the *Elizabethan*. My 1975 edition of that much lamented catalogue gives valuable information on sheet layout, release dates of later printings, plate numbers and varieties etc. If the latest catalogue is meant to appeal to serious collectors, surely this information is essential?

Prices of Elizabethan issues have, however, been revised since their last detailed listing in the 2002 *Part 1*. Generally, prices for commemoratives of the sixties, seventies and early eighties have been adjusted downwards, particularly mint. Later issues have increased in some cases, and there has generally been upward movement for watermark varieties. The St Helena Tristan Relief set is now up to £4,750 mint, £1,900 used from £4,500 and £1,800 respectively.

Collectors interested in modern issues, particularly if they are buying or selling, will need this catalogue. The rest of us don’t.



# Corrections to *St Helena Postal Markings 1815-2000*

**Bernard Mabbett**

I must apologise to those purchasers of the first edition of my book *St Helena, The Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815-2000* where the print was set higher than intended. This was an error at the printers where part of the top margin was guillotined off instead of the bottom. Also I must thank members and collectors for comments and additional information that will be included in a supplement to the first edition.

There were a few errors in the first edition, so I list corrections below so members can update their volumes.

- Page** iii Line 13 should read In **1988**...
- iii Second line from bottom should read Mr S. **Heijtz**...
- 1 Line 12 should read **right** of the gateway...  
Line 13 should read Cecil **Maggott**...
- 36 Lines 15 and 16 should read **St Pauls 1 and St Pauls 2** had their names changed...
- 37 Line 1 should read Since **1969**...
- 72 Line 4: delete I from **I** Gore Browne  
Lines 6 and 7 should read From the 1st **September 1856**... and from **27th April 1863**...
- 80 Type 5 should read similar to **Type 2 and Type 4** but...
- 82 Type 16 should read A straight line **handstamp**...
- 82 Paquebot Markings. Note that measurements are taken from the outside edge of the 'P' to the outside edge of the 'T'. Roger Hosking has informed me that his measurements are taken from the centre of the upright of the 'P' to the centre of the upright of the 'T'. This would account for the measurement variations.
- 97 Type 5 Censored AA should read Earliest December **1902**, not 1900.
- 109 Type 3, line 4 should read measuring **11 x 8 mm**.
- 114 Type 2A should read oblique and **two** lines. Also, add the wording: Measures 64 x 25 mm from the top of the words to the lower horizontal line.
- 116 Type 2C: delete period between **.C P. 09**
- 150 Line 4 should read *RMS St. Helena Island* **and** in March 1990 a new cachet with...
- 158 Column 1 should read **CNA 11**, not CNC 11
- 163 1898 (1 October) should read **1896** (1 October)
- 164 1916 (1 September): delete 2d rate as this was repealed on 17 July 1916.
- 165 1940 (14 February) should read **3d** for the first oz to the UK...
- 169 Illustration should read Cover to France **dated** 21st December 1874...

# St. Helena: Use of the 1919 War Tax Stamp

Jeremy Martin

This cover was discussed on page 31 of the *St Helena and Ascension Supplement No. 39*. Peter Cottis and Bernard Mabbett have both provided help.



The War Tax stamp was a 1d surcharge so the stamp had a face value of 2d. Use of the stamp as a War Tax only applied to Empire countries, not to France.

The correct rate to France was 2½d so the underpayment was ½d. It should have been taxed at 1d, twice the deficiency, therefore 10 centimes. Perhaps, because France had been an ally during the war, only the deficiency was charged?



## Transport Division / Garage Cachet

Robert Richardson

A new St Helena handstamp for the record!  
On HMS cover to Chief of Police,  
Jamestown

*The photocopy measures  
55 x 36 mm – Ed.*





# Damaged 'A' of 'HELENA'

James Podger

The Harmers sale of 'The Koh-I-Noor Collection of Great Britain & British Commonwealth Specimen Stamps' contained 16 lots of St. Helena Specimen overprints, of which two lots were the Queen Victoria 1890-97 keyplate set. Both of the 10d values were illustrated in colour. The illustration for lot 1170 showed the variety damaged 'A' of 'HELENA'.

I was fortunate enough to buy this lot and thus include the example with the others I have. This proves that the damage occurred prior to the printing of the stamps and therefore occurs once on each sheet printed.

The illustration (200% actual size) shows the 10d overprinted specimen; used with the Mabbett type 03.19 cancel and the mint marginal example that was illustrated in *St Helena and Ascension Supplement No. 32*, page 30.



The block illustrated below (also at 200%), showing the same flaw on the bottom right stamp, was illustrated in *Supplement No. 33*, page 3. As the sheets were printed in two panes each of 6 columns and 10 rows, this proves the position to be in the sixth column of the left hand pane, but could be any row except the top.



# The St Helena Accountancy Markings Of 1868

Stefan Heijtz

The recent appearance of an 1868 unstamped cover to France bearing one of the St Helena '2' handstamps has led to a re-classification of these markings which have previously been listed as dumb cancellations (Mabbett type 02.04, Hibbert type CNA.14). The correct classification is that they are accountancy markings showing St Helena's share of the postage.

A study of the known covers bearing these markings has resulted in interesting conclusions. First of all there are two different markings; the first smaller type is only recorded on three covers all dated 3 October 1868; the second larger type is recorded on two covers dated 12 October 1868 and 10 November 1868. Secondly, it is obvious that the marking was used to indicate St Helena's share of the postage; if it was struck once the share was 2d., if it was struck twice the share was 4d. etc.

Below is a complete analysis of the five recorded covers with these markings:

1.OC.3.1868, Unpaid cover to France without stamps but with the first type '2' (St Helena share) as well as British and French accountancy/charge markings 'GB 1F60C' and '10' decimes. Also FALMOUTH and LONDON SHIP LETTER datestamps. (4d. ship rate to GB divided equal between St Helena and GB) - Figure 1

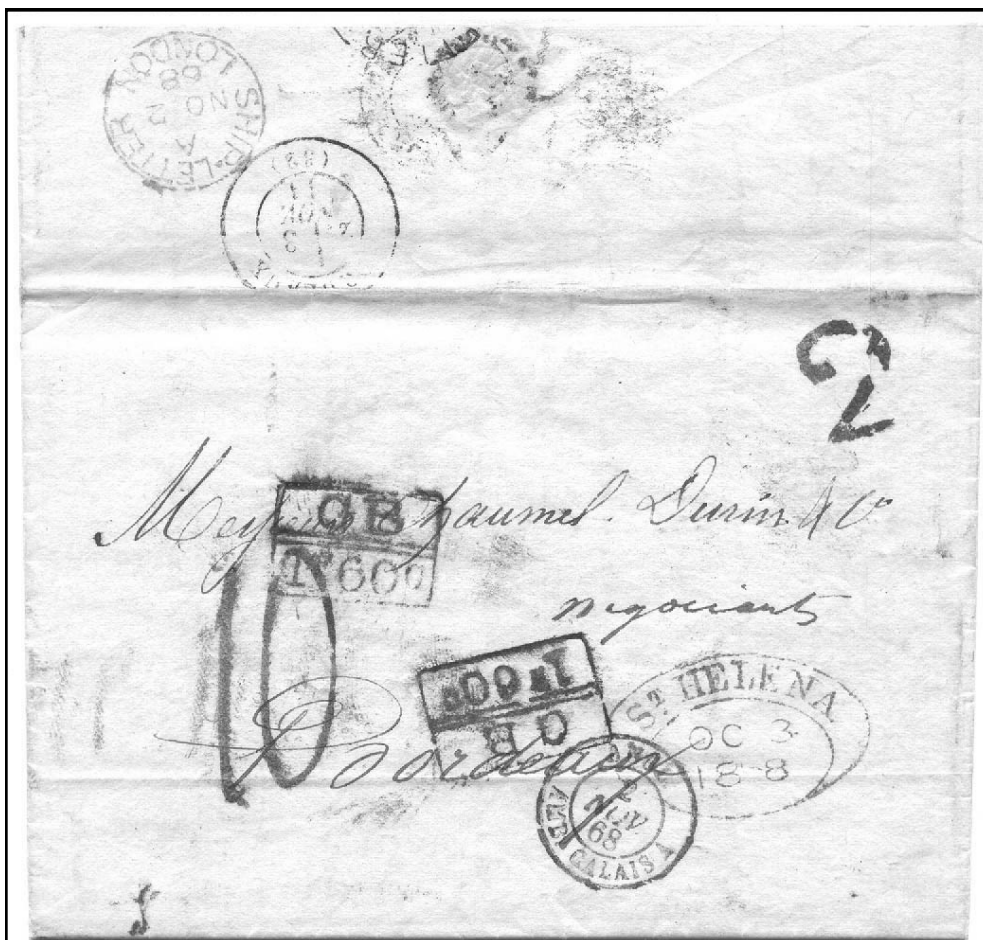


Figure 1

2. OC.3.1868, Ship letter to London with QV 4d. tied by first type '2' (St Helena share) and with m/s '2' in red (GPO share). Marked "4d. mail per 'Asia'". (4d. ship rate to GB divided equal between St Helena and GB) – Figure 2

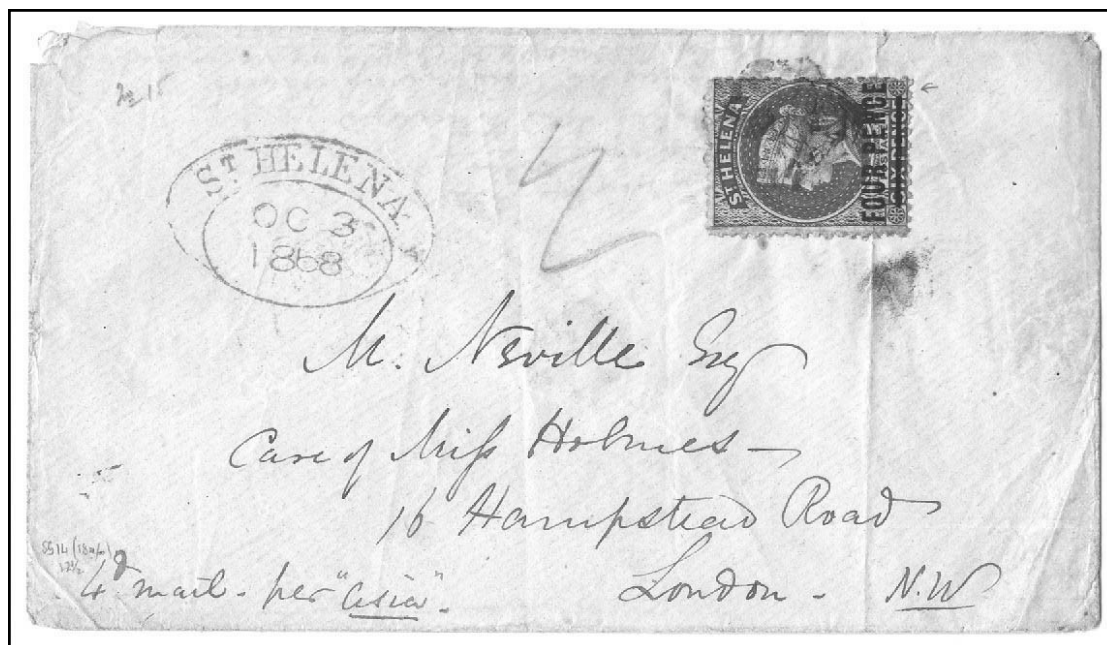


Figure 2

3. OC.3.1868, Double rate Ship letter to London with QV 4d. pair tied by two strikes of first type '2' (St Helena share 4d.) and with m/s '4' in red (GPO share). Marked "p Private S. 'Asia'". (8d. double ship rate to GB divided equal between St Helena and GB) – Figure 3



Figure 3

4. OC.12.1868, Cover to France with QV 6d.+2d. tied by two strikes of second type '2' (St Helena share 4d.) and with m/s '4' in red (GPO share). (8d. rate to France divided equal between St Helena and GB) – Illustrated on front cover

5. NO.10.1868, Ship letter to London with QV 4d. tied by the second type '2' (St Helena share) and with m/s '2' in red (GPO share). Marked 'Per Cape Good Hope Steamer' and with 'SHIP LETTER' handstamp. (4d. ship rate to GB divided equal between St Helena and GB) – Figure 4

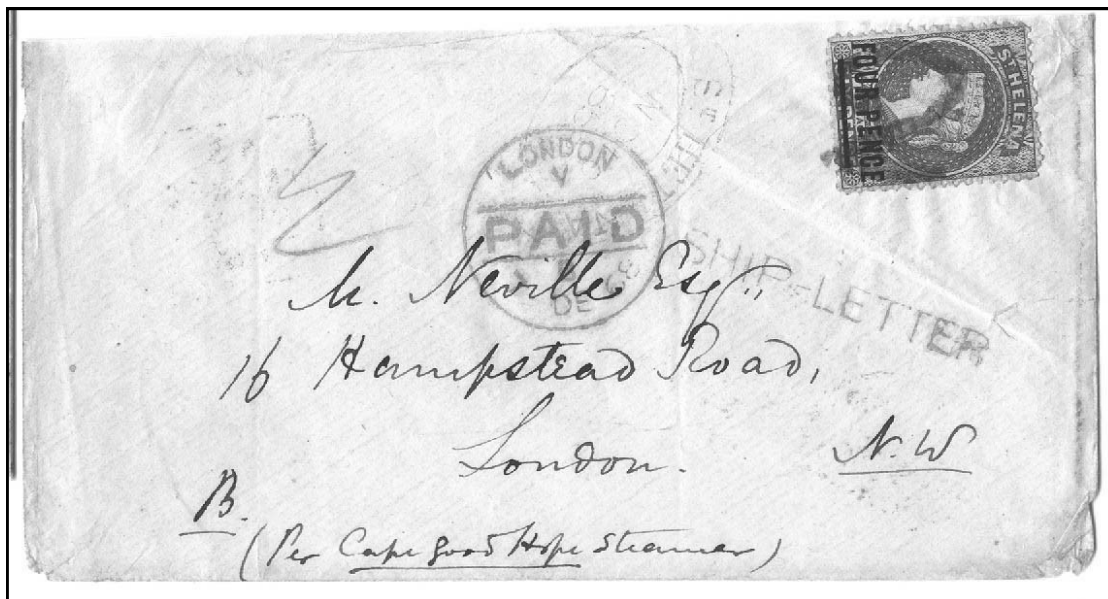


Figure 4

These markings obviously had the dual purpose of obliterators as well but undoubtedly they were initially intended to be used as accountancy markings.

There could be a few more covers around with these markings but I am convinced that they will all show the same pattern. It is not difficult to understand that this system was discontinued fairly quickly; it must have been rather tedious to use correctly.

Bernard Mabbett suggested that it would be interesting to check if the dumb '1' marking (Mabbett type 02.03, Hibbert type CNA.13) could also be proven to be an accountancy marking, but from the two covers recorded (4d. to the Cape 1869 and 1s.4d. registered to England 1871) it has not been possible to confirm that this was the case. Also it seems like the '1' was mostly applied diagonally across the stamps and this would suggest that it is an obliterator of one bar rather than a figure '1'.

Any comments or additions to the above would be most welcome.



## **Caveat Emptor – Let the Buyer Beware (Especially on Ebay)**

**Ralph Stanton**

### **1. Stamp dealers and stamp fairs.**

A prominent London stamp dealer, long since deceased, once remarked to me that a great many dealers were really 'greengrocers' and knew very little about stamps. An equally prominent Manchester dealer, likewise now deceased, made a similar statement to the effect that stamp dealing was one of the few professions where no training whatever was required; he said "Just label yourself a stamp dealer, and that's it".



Probably most readers of *Cameo* have encountered plenty of examples of the ‘greengrocer’ type. But perhaps I can contribute a few anecdotes from personal experiences. The first occurred at the Royal Horticultural Halls some years ago. I was offered a ‘fine used copy’ of one of the St Helena keyplate stamps of the 1890s. The cancel was beautiful (just a shade too large) and the date was April 4 (19)01. Of course, a caution about the date of this forged cancel is given in Gibbons, but here was a case where the dealer apparently did not read Gibbons. A similar instance occurred at a Saturday fair in southern England – 2 nice ‘used’ copies with the April 4 01, cancels were offered me for substantial amounts.

Many of the ‘greengrocers’ proudly quote membership in various philatelic organisations. An American dealer was quite hurt when I pointed out to him that the Fiji stamp that he was offering me at a high price was one of the common and well known Spiro forgeries. He stated the completely irrelevant fact that he ‘had been a member of the American Philatelic Society (APS) for 30 years’. Of course, all that membership in the APS for thirty years means is that you have paid your annual dues for those thirty years.

Now I have never regarded these matters as very serious problems for collectors, since one sees stamps in dealer’s holdings and at week-end fairs. But now a more serious problem has arisen with the advent of the Internet – stamps are offered for auction on ebay (and elsewhere), and one does not have a chance to examine the stamp carefully – one sees only a picture. So a different set of problems arises.

## 2. The Perils of Ebay.

I have observed that many sellers of stamps on ebay are even less trained than inexperienced dealers. Many of them provide no description of the stamps at all – they just say “See the scan”. Now many of the scans show the stamps well. But others have overlapping stamps and provide no detail; other scans are so small that you can hardly see the design; other scans have inaccurate colours. And, while a large scan can tell you about the centring and perfs, it tells you nothing about hinging, thins, hidden tears, etc. So the phrase “See the scan” does not supply an adequate description. I recently returned two stamps that were sent me, both with tears in them. The ebay ‘dealer’ returned the purchase price saying that “he didn’t have time to examine all the stamps he was selling”.

Also, on ebay, the phrase VFU is bandied around frequently. I have just looked at a VFU stamp in which the perforations cut into the left margin, the edge of the next stamp was visible on the right, and there were 4 pulled perfs at the base of the stamp. Yet this was a “VFU” stamp.

In the case of St Helena stamps, forgeries are not much of a problem (on the other hand, forgeries of early Fiji are rampant on ebay). The reason is that most forgeries of Queen Victoria St Helena stamps are so badly done that they are obvious. But one should look carefully. A few months ago, I looked at a lot of “14 used Victorian stamps” from a European seller (I prefer to use the term ‘seller’ rather than ‘dealer’). Of these 14 stamps, 5 were forgeries, 5 carried the purple defacements that were applied to the Victorian remainders, and the remaining 4 stamps looked alright, as far as one can tell from the scans.

And that leads to the question of the purple defacements.

## 3. The Purple Remainder Defacements.

As is well known, and carefully pointed out in the Gibbons catalogue, remainders of the keyplate Victorian stamps, as well as several of the late Perkins Bacon heads, were sold as surplus at the end of the reign of Queen Victoria. They were purchased by a British dealer and were defaced by a diamond shaped defacement. This diamond comes in two forms; it has either 4 interior bars or five interior bars.



4 bars



5 bars

In some collections, I have seen notes to the effect that these remainders were ‘Cancelled in Paris’. This seems to be the usual repetition of a remark made by one collector and copied by others. The stamps were purchased by Edwin Healey & Co of London who, in a letter of 7 September 1905, speak of ‘the stock of St Helena purchased by us from the Crown Agents’

and ‘cancelled by an obliterating stamp’. These defaced stamps can not be called ‘used’ and have very slight value. They can be useful for plating purposes since they are plentiful and should be inexpensive. I would certainly not consider paying more than two pounds for the tenpenny keyplate value, and lesser amounts for the smaller values.

It seems that the stamps with 5 bars in the diamond are somewhat less common than those with 4 bars. And blocks of these ‘diamond defaced’ stamps are quite scarce; blocks should probably be considered worth as much as blocks of the regular stamps. The largest block I have encountered is a block of 12 of the two pence halfpenny – a block of that size is quite a rare item (*but see below! - Ed.*)

Unfortunately, these stamps are frequently presented on ebay as ‘used stamps’. This is due to lack of knowledge on the part of most sellers. However, there are some sellers who clearly know the story of the defacements and simply present the stamps by Gibbons number or as ‘10 penny Victoria head 1892. Catalogue value for used is ...’. This statement is absolutely correct, but it carries the implication that the stamp pictured is a used stamp.

Description of these defaced stamps as ‘used’ is most common from sellers in Europe and North America, but they have also been described as used by several UK sellers. I have sometimes sent messages to sellers pointing out the true nature of these items, and it was clear from the replies that they were presenting them as used, in perfect innocence.

Just a short time ago, a ‘fine lightly used’ copy of the tenpenny stamp was offered on ebay for one-third of the catalogue value of a used stamp (quite a substantial amount). I looked at it, and it had a purple defacement (no attempt had been made to bleach this out) as well as a portion of the forged cancellation of May 6, 1896.

So keep an eye out for these ‘used’ purple defacements. They are easy to miss if they have faded or been bleached. If you encounter the twopenny stamp in a sickly shade of yellow, it has certainly been bleached.



1896 2½d keyplate – block of 15  
4 bars in diamond purple defacement

#### 4. Shipping Costs and Miscellaneous Remarks

It is an excellent idea to check on shipping costs before bidding on ebay auctions, since shipping costs can vary widely. A few days ago, I bought a stamp from a seller in the UK, and the shipping to North America was 70 pence (eminently reasonable). But I have had quotations from some dealers in Europe and Australia that ranged from 3 to 7 US dollars – that is, from 2 pounds upwards. Many sellers give their shipping costs in the item description; if no information is given, one can not assume the amount will necessarily be reasonable, and an enquiry about shipping costs should be made.

Another point about costs is that one should check acceptable methods of payment. One seller from the Netherlands refused to accept a cheque in Euros drawn on a Dutch bank. He claimed that there were heavy bank charges in the Netherlands for cashing cheques. I have no way of knowing if this is correct (it would seem strange that a Dutch bank would charge for cashing a cheque in Euros drawn on itself); however, the fact that the seller believed this to be the case underlines the importance of finding out what methods of payment are accepted.

I have also noted some Australian chat rooms that are upset because there is one ebay seller who sells sheets of stamps from many countries, all described as fine forgeries. The seller is completely honest and accurate; he states that these sheets have no commercial nor postal value and are merely for reference. I have examined one of these sheets (only a couple of sheets of the St Helena badge issue were produced – the seven shillings and six pence and the ten shillings) and I really don't regard them as forgeries. They are merely pictures of the stamps. They are not dangerous, could not confuse anyone, and I see no reason to object to them. The stamp layout is different from the layout of the original sheets; the paper is not stamp paper; there is no watermark in the paper; the sheets are imperforate (and there never were imperforate 'badges'); the colours are quite different from those of the original stamps (much darker green for the ten shilling badge). Most important of all, if you look at the sheet using a magnifying glass, you don't get the same fine definition as with the original stamps. Instead you see a colour picture made up of dots in the same way that a colour picture appears in the Sunday tabloids.

One final remark – always be sceptical. A seller in one North American city offered, in the same auction, two singles of the blue Victorian twopence halfpenny with double overprint. If my memory is correct, there exists only six copies of this rarity. What is the likelihood that a non-specialist dealer would have two copies of this stamp at the same time? Hmmmm.

## 5. Conclusions

To sum up my experience with shopping on ebay, I would say that it is necessary to be vigilant. Many of the sellers are very much amateurs, and are not aware of the usual usage of terms like 'fine used'. But the main problem with St Helena stamps is connected with the fact that there is widespread lack of knowledge of the true history of the purple defacements of a hundred years ago. If these defacements have faded or been bleached, you can always spot them on stamps, but sometimes you have to look carefully.

And, of course, behave as at any other auction. Don't get carried away with bidding fever on ebay. There are certainly cases when you will get really good bargains if there is little competition. And there are other cases where stamps have sold for much more than they were worth because two bidders got stubborn.

*Robert Richardson also discusses several of these topics, starting on page 18 – Ed.*



# Dumb Cancellations

**James Podger & Bob Deakin**

Illustrated are two interesting dumb cancels. The first, acquired by James quite a while ago, shows Mabbett 06.14 'W shape over double arc', previously recorded on the QV 2½d keyplate. This example is on the 10d keyplate.

The second was sent by Bob, and shows a previously unrecorded cancellation on a QV ½d keyplate. It is unlike all the listed cancels and appears to consist of concentric diamonds which have been cut to form a square.

Have any readers seen a similar cancellation?



# Forgeries, Fakes and Fantasies

Robert Richardson

*I have slightly amended the first part of this article by Robert, and added two items from my collection to illustrate his text. I hope that in doing so the integrity of the original has been maintained – Ed.*

Forged stamps are produced for several reasons not the least of which is to fool the postal authorities and avoid paying legitimate postal costs; the famous Penny Black was forged the first year it was issued. The second, no doubt, was to fool the collector of postage stamps, and it was not long before some shady individuals realised that good money was to be made by printing bad stamps. Much of their early successes came because of the lack of information on forgeries, also the lack of expertise on the part of collectors to distinguish the differences between the genuine and the forged stamp.



Figure 1

One of the better known producers of forged stamps during the early days was the lithographic firm of Spiro Brothers in Hamburg. In the beginning they were a reputable company printing everything from beer labels to Sunday School cards; however around 1864 they diversified into a more profitable enterprise, the production of philatelic forgeries. During the next fifteen years they printed more than 500 varieties of stamps, usually in sheets of twenty five (Figure 1). Mostly they were un gummed, but could be imperforate, perforated or rouletted as requested by the buyer.

Their output ran into millions until eventually it reached a point where it threatened to overwhelm the new-born hobby precipitating a counter attack in the form of the ‘Spud Papers’ which first appeared in *The Philatelist* in 1871. They continued in other early stamp publications for more than a decade; 67 in all appeared, giving detailed descriptions and a large number of illustrations, mostly Spiro productions. It was not long before the market for these forgeries declined; Spiro ceasing their production of this material around 1880.

Examples of their St Helena forgeries are illustrated in Figure 2. The inks used in the printing process were not necessarily the same, but similar to, the original colours of the genuine stamps. Interestingly, the surcharge and cancellation were printed in the same operation from a single plate, hence single copies can be ‘plated’.



Figure 2

Other examples of forgeries of the first design are shown in Figure 3. The 2½d surcharged ‘stamps’ were produced by De Benckelaer, and used on the forged Broad Bottom Camp Boer War covers (Figure 4).



Figure 3

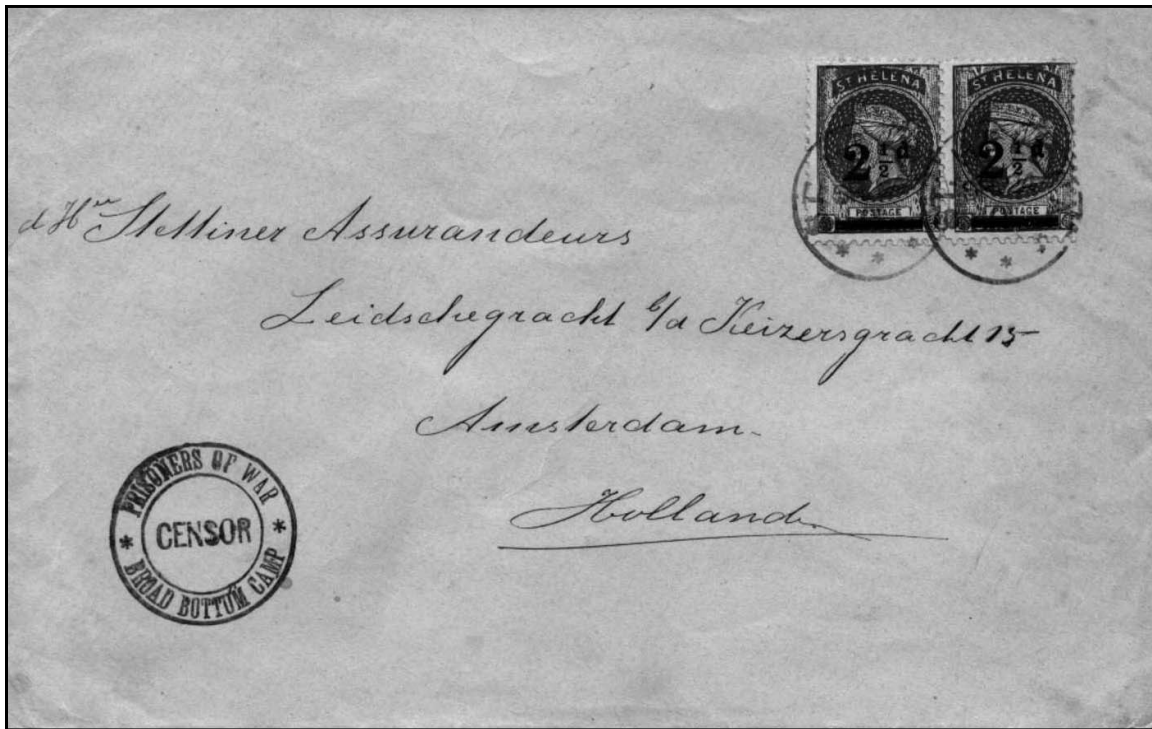


Figure 4 – BROAD BOTTUM CAMP (shown at 85%)

The Rev. W. B. Earee in his book *Album Weeds* covers all values of St Helena in use between 1856 and 1885, and illustrates 101 cancellations considered by him to be forgeries. However, depending on the accuracy of his presentations, many of the dumb cancels appear to closely resemble the genuine ones portrayed by both Hibbert [1] and Mabbett [2]. The grid cancellation shown on the first One Penny stamp in Figure 3 is allocated to India and the Papal States by Earee, with no mention of St Helena.



Figure 5

The five shilling value shown in Figure 5 illustrates another practice from the early twentieth century, the forger having cleaned off the grid remainder cancellation and added a forged cds to the top right corner.

One of the more interesting forgeries found on the Queen Victoria stamps is that on the two and a halfpenny surcharge of 1893, SG 40; Scott 47. Figure 6 shows a strip of three with the genuine double surcharge taken from the 'Ayre' collection auctioned by Harmers of London in 1989. A similar strip is illustrated by Hibbert [1] on page 51, but with no explanation as to how it came to be.

The sheet of 240 stamps was surcharged using a forme consisting of only 60 units arranged in ten horizontal rows of six. This meant that four impressions had to be made, and the difficulties encountered with accuracy in the placement of the forme resulted in the bar obliterating SIX PENCE being found at the top, at top and bottom, and with no bar at all.

The doubling of the surcharge was caused by registration of one row being too high causing the doubling, but left the bottom row with no surcharge. This was remedied by this one row receiving a special impression adjusted to surcharge only this bottom row of six.



Figure 6



Figure 7

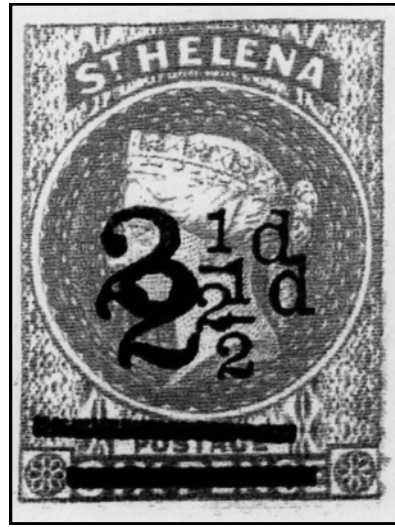


Figure 8

Copies of forged surcharges are shown in Figure 7, the numerals closely resembling those on the original forms as can be seen by the enlargement in Figure 8. The centre stamp in Figure 7 is, ostensibly a genuine used copy of the double surcharge, cancelled by a Mabbett 05.15 dumb cancellation. A close look, however, shows the second surcharge to be on top of the cancel, not under it! The similarity of the numerals in these forgeries would suggest that the three came from the same source, but the variations in their positioning over the genuine one suggest that there was some uncertainty where they should be placed.

Figure 9 shows a cover front bearing a combination of forged, faked and genuine items. Possibly it was once a complete envelope, but the paper is thin and somewhat brittle. It is addressed to Stefan Hellmich, Wolfersdorf, Bohemia when this was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but now known as Volfartice in the present Czech Republic.



Figure 9

The five stamps are genuine, however the two stamps to the left of the sixpence and the two to its right have been trimmed of some of their perfs to make them appear as imperforate. The two pence and both the four pence stamps show perforation traces along the base, and the halfpenny along most of the right side. The six pence blue in the centre appears genuinely imperforate.

The two pence on the left surcharged with the thick bar, type B, could be any of the four so listed in the catalogues. The four pence alongside also has the thick bar with words 18 mm, SG 14, Scott 19. The four pence on the right has the long thin bar, SG 13, Scott 15, and the halfpenny is SG 36, Scott 34.

The cds is dated JY 1/14, a good forgery of Hibbert and Mabbett Type 3, but measuring 23 mm instead of the 22 mm of the genuine cancel. The registration label, first introduced around 1910, is genuine for the period indicated by the forged cancel.

The cover was probably ‘manufactured’ in an attempt to enhance the value of some thinned, ungummed or badly separated stamps. Despite its many faults, it is quite an attractive four colour franking.

Moving forward to recent events, in 2002 sheets of stamps representing many countries were offered for sale by a vendor on Ebay, including two from St Helena, namely the 7/6d and 10/- ‘Badge’ issue. It was clearly stated in the heading of the offering that these were forgeries. Figure 9 illustrates the bottom left ‘blocks’ of these values.

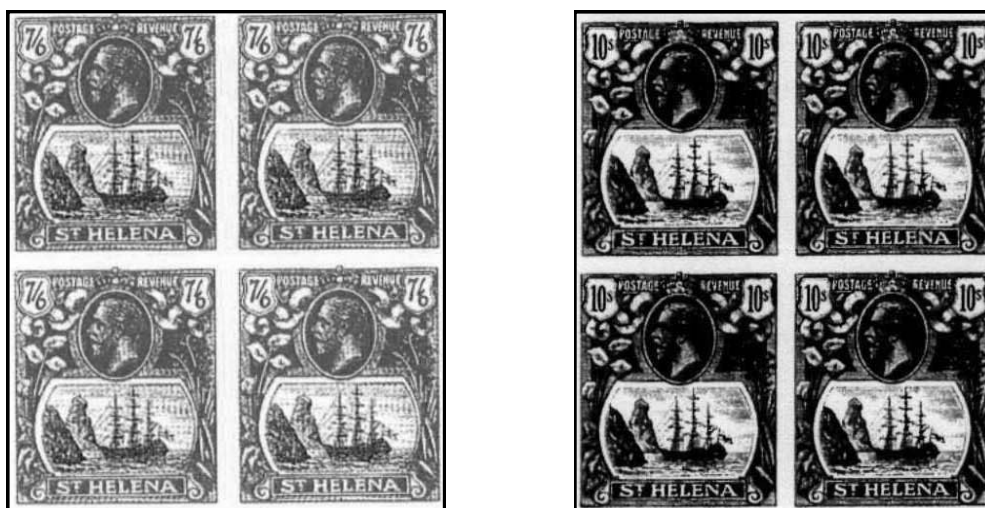


Figure 9

The genuine sheets of these stamps were printed in sheets of sixty in five rows of twelve columns, but these ‘Hialeah’ forgeries are in sheets of 35 in seven rows of five. Both of the sheets are imperforate, coarsely gummed, and the quality of the paper used is much heavier and without watermark. The stamps are printed in bicolour but the shades used are distinct from the originals; the frames for the 7/6d being more orange and for the 10/- a deep olive green. They are clearly photocopies of the original single unit repeated 35 times, and the actual definition of the image itself extremely poor.

They have been discussed at length in various articles on the Internet, far too extensive to go into in this article, but anyone wishing for more information should look up ‘Hialeah Forgeries’ in their favourite search engine. (*I found over 350 ‘hits’ in Google! - Ed.*)

Illustrated in Figures 10 and 11 are stamps from the fantasy world of Gerald King, noted philatelic artist and stamp designer; he invented a whole philatelic history for Lundy as part of the British Empire. He used well known Commonwealth designs as a basis for his ‘issues’; the frames for those shown in Figure 10 being from the 1922 – 37 Badge of the Colony sets of St Helena and Ascension with the badge being replaced with vintage aircraft. Four of the values are bicoloured; only the 1/3d value in monochrome blue somewhat deeper than the genuine 3d value.





Figure 10

His stamps are not 'Official' in any way; they are printed by his own printery 'Phantasmagoria Security Printing'. References to Bradbury Wilkinson, De la Rue, Perkins Bacon and The American Bank Note Company refer only to the source on which a particular stamp is based. Some of his other 'Lundy' issues have it as a German Colony using the Kaiser Yacht issues as the basic design. He has also produced handmade covers including Zeppelins where he creates all the stamps, envelopes and cancellations used.

Figure 11 shows one of his 'Elizatoria' issues, a signed proof of St Helena's first stamp with the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II replacing the sidefaced image of Queen Victoria. It is autographed by him, below which is the name of Perkins Bacon, the producers of the original QV plate.

Gerald King makes all the various proofs by enlarging the original stamp to a workable size, makes the necessary changes by hand, then reduces it back to the original size. They are therefore very limited in number.

From there he takes a good number of colour trials, selects the ones he likes best for the finished item, and retains the remainder as saleable colour trials.

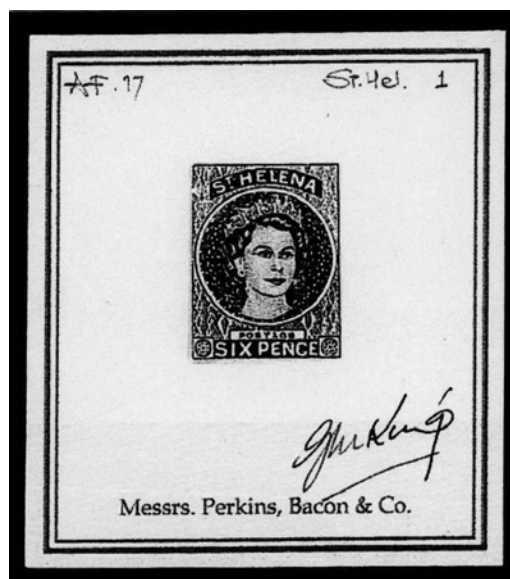


Figure 11

Impressions of the 'approved' colours may then be printed singly or arranged in blocks, and copied using a top quality laser printer. He says he is very fortunate in having a printer who is prepared to take time and care with his small quantities. It is his attempt to marry the wonderful designs of Queen Victoria and the Four Kings with the heads of Queen Elizabeth II.

#### References

- 1 Hibbert E., *St Helena – Postal History and Stamps*, Robson Lowe Ltd, London 1979
  - 2 Mabbett B.J., *St Helena – The Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815 – 2000*, WASC, Dronfield 1st Edition 2002
- Melville F. J., *St Helena*, Melville Stamp Books, London 1912  
 Tyler V.E., *Philatelic Forgers*, Linn's Stamp News 1991  
 Earee Rev. W.B., *Album Weeds*  
 Serrane F., *The Serrane Guide*  
 Relevant pages of these two latter works provided from the APS Library – publisher and dates not included.

# A St Helena – China Connection

**Robert Richardson**

The two cards illustrated and described in this article were sent by Albert Wilhelm Tismer, a resident of Johannesburg but, at the age of 36, a prisoner (number 3399) on St Helena. They were to his brother Fritz, an Oberleutenant in a Pioneer Battalion, part of the German East Asian Expeditionary Force in China during the Boxer Rebellion. Both cards are the first UPU postal stationery card for St Helena, Hibbert CP1 [1], and both are cancelled with the Mabbett Type 2 cds. [2].

Tismer had held the rank of Assistant Commander in the Boer Army serving under Sarel Eloff, grandson of President Kruger. On the night of 11 May 1900, in an attempt to take Mafeking before the arrival of a relief column despatched by Lord Roberts they led a force of some 300 Boers and volunteers past the British outposts into the Bantu section of the town.

On securing it they torched several huts as a signal to General Snyman commanding the Boer force laying siege to launch an all out attack. It failed, due in part to the lassitude of the General and the half hearted efforts of his troops. As a result, Tismer, Eloff and 73 men of the small force were taken prisoner on 12 May, eventually ending up in the POW camps on St Helena.

Tismer was first confined in the Deadwood Camp named ‘Blikjesdorp’ by the prisoners for the corrugated construction of the huts they lived in (Figure 1).

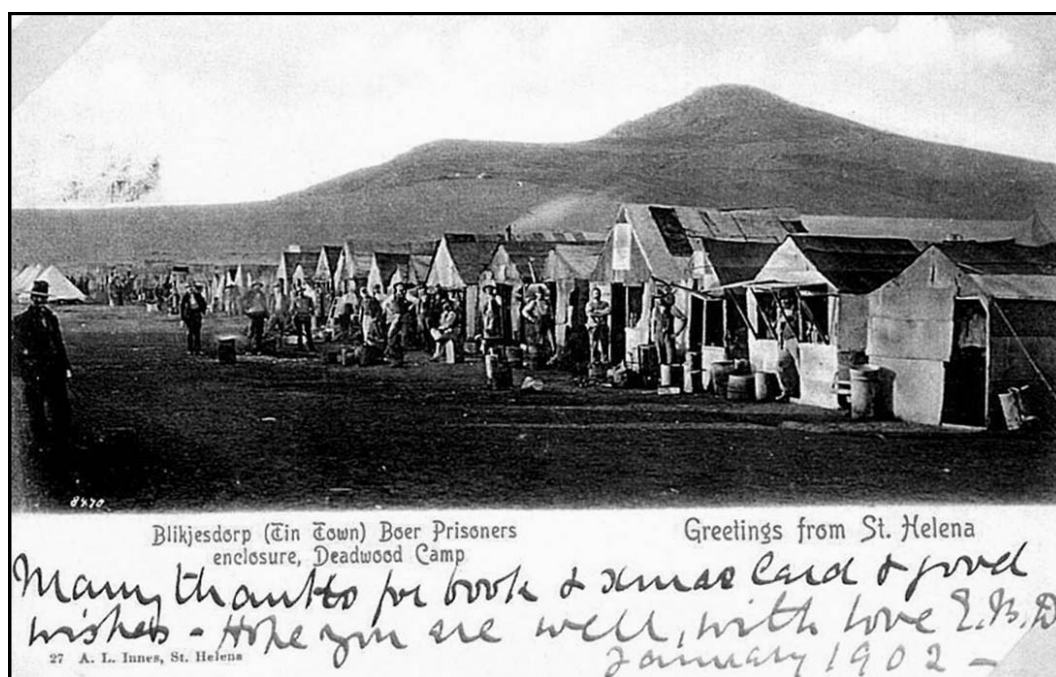


Figure 1 Deadwood Camp ‘Blikjesdorp’

The first card to his brother was written from this camp (Figure 2). The censor cachet is the double ring Mabbett Type 1 in violet and although usually found with just the initials of the censor, here it received his full name ‘E. Walton’. The postmark is not clear, but the message side is dated 29 November 1900.

From St Helena the card travelled across the Indian Ocean route to Singapore via a P & O Mail ship where it received the ‘SINGAPORE TO HONG KONG’ mail sorter cds Type 4 dated JA 28 / 01. From Hong Kong it was forwarded to Tientsin, arriving there on 24 February. This Expeditionary Force cancel with ‘a’ slug was used only in Tientsin between 18 October 1900 and 31 August 1901.



Figure 2

The card was addressed to Tismer's brother at the Southern fort of Taku but was forwarded, presumably because of his transfer, to Peking. No arrival cds was applied. The message on the card reads (in German):-

Dear Fritz,

I have received your postcards of 18/7 and 3/10. I am pleased that your wish has come true for you to go back to China. Here things are still like they used to be. My health is a little better but under these living conditions I can't really expect any meaningful change. 14 days ago the German Chancellor called for a list of us (the Germans). I will be surprised if anything will change as a result. I have recently received postcards from different friends in Stettin amongst others from Gericke, from Krug and Kirre and others whose names were damaged on the cards. I have received a postcard from Edmund, Agnes and Aunt Toni Kirr. You will certainly understand the highlight it was under the present circumstances of my life. With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a joyous New Year which may bring you luck and success. Hearty Greetings from Wilhelm.

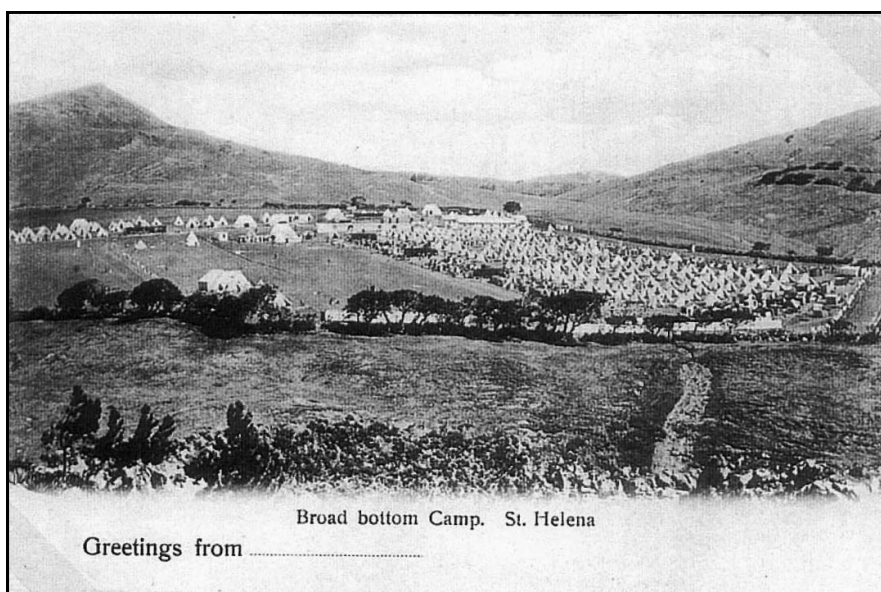


Figure 3 (shown at 85%)

Some time after November 1900 Tismer was transferred to the POW camp at Broadbottom (Figure 3), which had been opened primarily to keep the peace among the Free Staters many of whom had different views and attitudes towards the conflict. The second card to his brother (Figure 4) was posted from there, and is dated 20 May 1901.



Figure 4

It has the Mabbett Type 2 censor cachet for Broad Bottom Camp in violet, with initials AWP in the centre. The transit cds is the same type as on his first card but dated JY 28 / 01. From Hong Kong it travelled via Tientsin to Peking with no additional cancellations until it arrived at the Chinese Peking Post Office, receiving there the oval cancel of AUG 12, and then the German Field Post Office where it received a cds of the same date. This Field Post Office was located at Peking from 11 September 1900 until 31 August 1901.



Figure 5

There is additional interest on the message side of the card. It appears there were many German volunteer prisoners at Broadbottom captured by the British during the course of the hostilities. A group of these had built themselves a small clubhouse for social get-togethers and to exchange news received from the outside. Tismer attached a photograph of the interior to the message side (figure 5) showing a group of prisoners apparently playing cards with himself marked 'X' seated in front of the table. The Imperial German Eagle is displayed on the back wall. The message is somewhat short owing to the photograph and reads:-

*Dear Fritz,*

*I received your letter of Feb 22 with great joy. The above photograph was taken in the clubhouse we built for ourselves. You will probably still recognise several. I am sitting right in the foreground. I will send you another letter in this mail. Good luck and many thanks and greetings. Yours, Wilhelm.*

Figure 6 is a picture post card of the European Allies involved in the Boxer Rebellion. A representative of the German Contingent is shown kneeling on the front row, second left.



Figure 6

*I would like to thank Mrs Diane Boehret, a multiple Gold Medal winner at Vapex 2000 for her exhibits of 'German Post in China During the Boxer Rebellion' for the relevant information on the German posts. Also Mr Bernard DuPlessis of South Africa who recently was awarded two Gold Medals at the recent Port Elizabeth Show for his exhibits on Boer War philately. His computerised information on this and the actual participants is staggering.*

#### References

- 1 Hibbert E., *St Helena – Postal History and Stamps*, Robson Lowe Ltd, London 1979
  - 2 Mabbett B.J., *St Helena – The Philately of the Camps for Boer Prisoners of War April 1900 to August 1902*, Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, Burnham – on – Sea 1985
- Farwell B. *The Great Anglo Boer War* 1976
- Kirk R. *The P & O Lines to the Far East*
- Relevant pages of the latter work provided from the APS Library – publisher and dates not included.



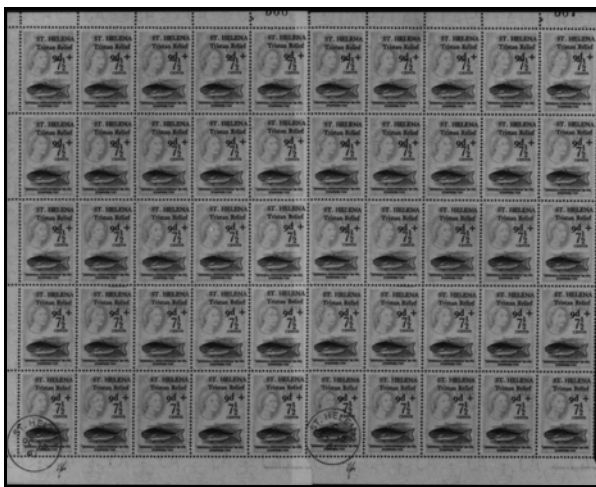
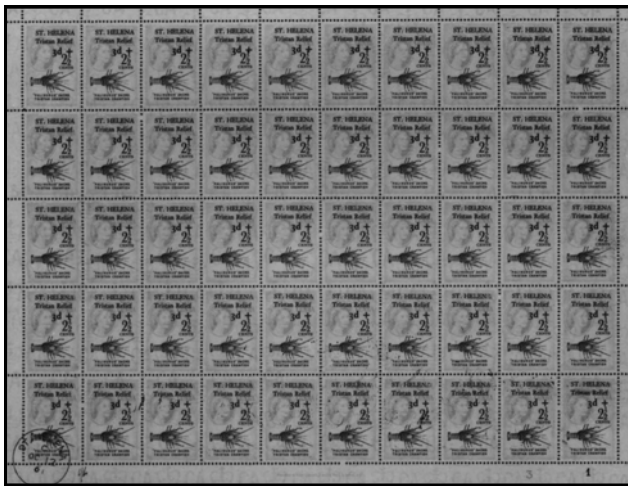
# 1961 Tristan Relief Fund

Allan Leverton

Most readers will know of the events leading up to the issue on 12 October 1961 of the Tristan Relief overprints, as the details have been well documented by Hibbert [1].

I was fortunate in being able to purchase full sheets of these stamps at £75 per set and supply new issue clients of Bridger and Kay Ltd. Many dealers were unable to obtain supplies and their customers forced to look elsewhere if they were to acquire one of the scarcest issues of the reign with only 434 complete sets sold.

The full sheets of 5 rows in 10 columns are illustrated at approximately 30% below. Of interest are the sheet numbers, usually above stamp 10 in the top right corner. The 9d + 7½c value is in two half sheets, so the numbers are above stamp 5. Unfortunately they appear to have been guillotined off the 3d + 2½c sheet; the 6d + 5c is sheet number 115; 9d + 7½c appear to be 566 and 567, and 1/- + 10c is 126. Plate numbers are 3 - 1 for all values.



What is not well recorded is the existence of a proof set of the four values. This was first mentioned in the *Commonwealth Review* published by Bridger & Kay, probably about 1966.

This set came from St Helena some time after the main supply had been purchased, and the overprint differed slightly in the relative position of the letters – most noticeably the ‘i’ of Tristan coming directly below the stop after ‘ST.’, instead of to the left as in the issued stamps.

#### Reference

- 1 Hibbert E., *St Helena – Postal History and Stamps*, Robson Lowe Ltd, London 1979



## 1947 U.P.U. Presentation Folders

**Anthony Cole**

*The red folder for St Helena and Ascension is illustrated on pages 30-31*

The 1947 Universal Postal Union (UPU) presentation folders were prepared in London by the Crown Agents and were presented to delegates at the UPU Congress at Paris in May 1947.

All Colonies and Protectorates participated, including St Helena & Ascension and the four West African Colonies - Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast & Nigeria. The folders were printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co and were 8 inches x 6½ inches in size. On the cover was printed 'CONGRES POSTAL UNIVERSEL / PARIS – 1947 / TIMBRES – POSTE', followed by the name of the colony (in French). They contained the current definitives to 10/- or equivalent, plus the 1946 Peace set. Bermuda, KUT, Newfoundland and Southern Rhodesia opted to prepare their own folders locally in the respective colony. They also included a similar range of KGVI stamps in their folders.

St Helena & Ascension, along with Falklands & Dependencies, and Aden & States produced combined folders containing all the relevant sets partially stuck down inside the folders. St Helena/Ascension, Gambia, Sierra Leone & Gold Coast were among 31 of the colonies whose folders were produced in the first printing batch of 250 red folders per colony. The Crown Agents realised that they would need 300 folders per colony, but the suppliers had apparently run out of red folders. As a consequence, the rest of the 300 were produced using blue coloured folders. This resulted in the folders for Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast & St Helena/Ascension coming in both red (250) and blue (50). In the second printing batch, for all the other colonies - including Nigeria, the 300 folders were produced using blue folders.

These folders form an integral part of any specialist collection of any of the colonies. On the philatelic market, the prices of the folders for St Helena/Ascension and the four West African colonies varies depending on the popularity of the colony and the rarity of the folder. They range between about 30 pounds for the blue only Nigerian folder to 150 pounds for the scarce St Helena/Ascension blue folder where only 50 were produced. The St Helena/Ascension red folder with 250 produced is more common and likely to be the one a collector may encounter on the market.

#### References

- Cole A., 'Bermuda 1947 UPU Folder', *Sixth Sense*, Issue No 39 p 7, Murray Payne Ltd, Axbridge June 2002  
Cole A., 'Update on the Bermuda UPU Folder', *Sixth Sense*, Issue No 44 p 2, Murray Payne Ltd, Axbridge Dec 2002  
*Newfoundland Study Group Newsletter*, BNAPS, 1999  
Vousden R., 'UPU Paris Congress 1947', *The London Philatelist*, RPSL, Dec 2001  
Vousden R., 'UPU Paris Congress 1947 (cont.)', *The London Philatelist*, RPSL, Jan/Feb 2002



AVEC LES COMPLIMENTS  
DE  
M. LE SECRETAIRE D'ETAT  
POUR LES COLONIES  
A L'OCCASION DU  
XIII<sup>E</sup> CONGRES POSTAL UNIVERSEL  
PARIS 1947







# 1934 High Values on Cover

Bob Deakin

The 1934 Centenary of British Colonisation set of St Helena is one of the most attractive of the many Commonwealth issues of the 1930's which commemorate various centenaries, and which are characterised by their high face value. Although mint stamps are fairly plentiful and readily available, the higher values are scarce on cover, and decidedly rare when used commercially.

I can illustrate two such usage's which have been seen by me. The first (at 90% - Figure 1) is a cover addressed to Dartmouth and bears a block of four of the 2/6d stamp, together with a 1/2d value. It is stated to contain a pathological specimen and is registered. The stamps are postmarked 17 January 1935, and there is a Dartmouth arrival of 5 February 1935.



Figure 1

Dr White Cooper was presumably a pathologist – it is interesting to speculate what was in the envelope!

The second item (Figure 2) is also registered, but by Parcel Post to the same address in South Devon, and bears a 10/- and a block of four of the 1½d value. The stamps are also cancelled with the C/ JA 17 /35 cds but there is a difference of 44 in the numbers of the labels. There appears to be no arrival datestamp on this section of the wrapping.

Although the 10/- is sometimes seen on philatelic covers, this is the first time I have seen it used on what appears to be a commercial item. The difference in numbers of the registration labels is also of interest.

Can any readers recall other commercial use of these high values?

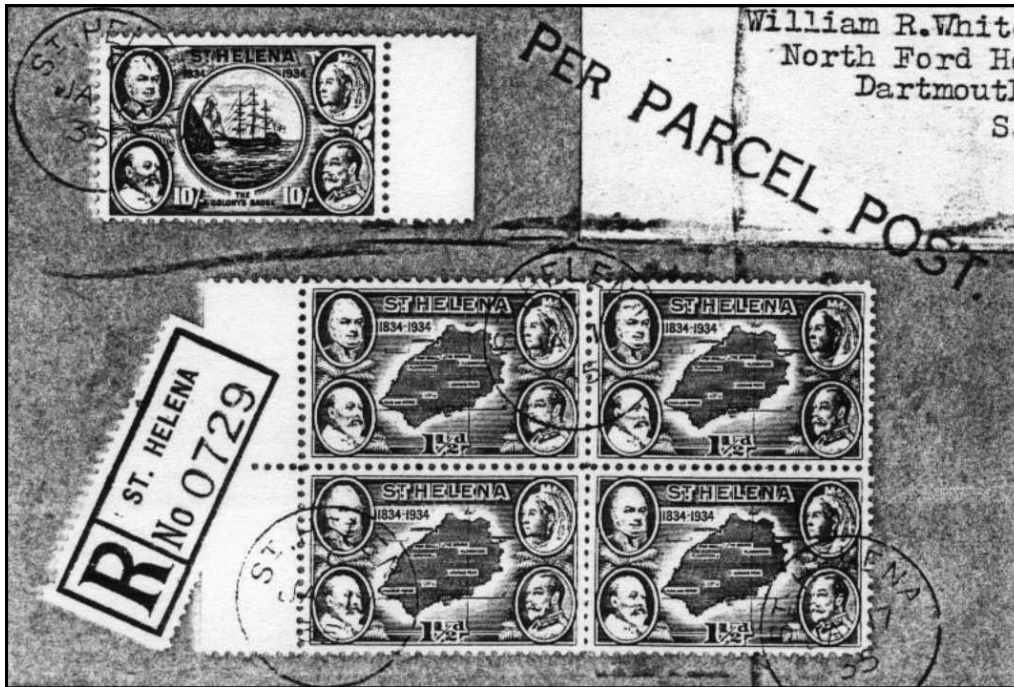


Figure 2

*I can illustrate (at 90% - Figure 3) a cover to South Africa which, although most probably philatelic, is also to a doctor. It bears the three high values cancelled with the cds for 25 March 1935.*

*Regarding the comment by Bob on the numbers of the registration labels, I believe this may be because the two items were taken to the Post Office just prior to the Mail ship's departure (the usual practice even today), and as the office would be very busy, dealt with by different clerks – particularly so as one was letter post and the other parcel post. This could explain both the non-sequential numbering and also the ten shilling 'rate' formed by different values – unless Dr White Cooper had requested this! - Ed.*



Figure 3

# Early Use of 'UNCLAIMED' Handstamp

Stefan Heijtz

A recent find is this cover from the USA showing only the fourth recorded use of the POST OFFICE / UNCLAIMED / ST. HELENA marking, Mabbett Type 4 [1]. Also, more importantly, it is six years earlier than previously recorded! Posted in Boston, Mass, on 17 April 1896, it bears a St Helena cds of JU 7 /96 and Mabbett Type 4 Unclaimed handstamp in violet. It was returned to Boston by 18 September 1896.



## Reference

- 1 Mabbett B.J., *St Helena – The Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815 – 2000*, WASC, Dronfield 1st Edition 2002

# 1953 Coronation Issue

Barry Burns

On 2 June this year Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the 50th Anniversary of her Coronation, so I thought it appropriate to look at the stamps issued by Ascension and St Helena to mark this event. Much of the detail that follows has been obtained from the Philatelic Collections at the British Library, which at the time of my visits in March 2001 and November 2002 were under the care of David Beech and Rod Vousden. I thank them for their assistance and acknowledge this excellent source for the information presented here.

Both Ascension and St Helena issued single values of 3d in the standard 'Omnibus' issue for the Colonies, designed and engraved by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. The printing was in recess by De La Rue & Co. in sheets of 60 (10 x 6) on paper with Multiple Script CA watermark. The printer's imprint was central, bottom margin. Issued sheet size measured  $11\frac{1}{8} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$  inches and were comb perforated  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ . The stamps were issued in both colonies on 2 June 1953 – Coronation Day (Figure 1).



Figure 1

Requisition Book Number 9 tells us that this Omnibus issue came under Requisition G389/2, with the entry for Ascension on Folio (page) 11 and St Helena on Folio 14. I will detail each colony in turn.

## Ascension

Requisition G389/2/15 called for 8,500 sheets, or 510,000 stamps of 3d duty in sheets of 60. I found no reference to this requisition in the Plate Issue Books, although it is known that duty plate 1 and head plate 1 were used (Figure 2). The Paper Issue Books under the same requisition number confirmed the order for 8,500 sheets of '60 set'. Paper Required was given as 9,776 sheets (including 1,276 for waste), size  $11\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ , and 9,776 sheets were duly issued 13.1.53. Under 'Remarks' is the entry 'PR 243/53'.

Under the same requisition a second entry on a new line has been made, with the word 'Excess' under the heading 'Printed Sheets'. This details 1,125 under each of the headings 'Waste', 'Total Printed Sheets', and 'Mill Sheets'. The size is given as  $22\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ . 1,125 sheets issued 25.2.53. Presumably this was to replace an excess wastage from the initial print run. Interestingly, this was after the despatch date (see below).

Returning to the Requisition Books, 8,650 sheets (519,000 stamps) were despatched on 18.2.53. Sheets were numbered 1 up and parcelled in 500's. (Crown Agents ) Bureau 420,000 including 1,000 sheet 30 set (i.e. half sheets). This implies some of the sheets were unsuitable for use, and may be the reason for the further paper issue on 25.2.53. I could find no mention in the records of distribution of 'Specimens'.

According to the *Elizabethan* catalogue [1], the stamps (black and grey-black) were withdrawn 31.12.53 and invalidated 1.6.60. 297,375 were sold.



Figure 2 Ascension Plate 1 – 1, showing part De La Rue Imprint

## St Helena

Requisition G389/2/51 called for 8,500 sheets, or 510,000 stamps of 3d duty in sheets of 60. The Plate Issue Book shows that Plate No. 1, the 'Duty' plate of 60 impressions was issued to 'Graham' 19.1.53, and Plate No. 4, the 'Head' plate, also of 60 impressions, to 'Graham' 9.12.52. This book also gives details of 'Specimens' as follows:

HM	4	HM The Queen (Block of 4)
CI	1	Chief Inspector
GPO	378	For transmission to UPU
CA	1	Crown Agents
DLR	1	Printers – De La Rue
CO	2	Commonwealth Office?
BM	1	British Museum

The Paper Issue Books under the same requisition number confirmed the order for 8,500 sheets of '60 set'. Paper Required was given as 9,776 sheets (including 1,276 for waste), size 11¼ x 10½, and 9,776 sheets were duly issued 15.12.52. Under 'Remarks' is the entry 'PR 210/53'.

Under the same requisition a second entry on a new line has been made, with the word 'Excess Waste' under the heading 'Printed Sheets'. This details 3,000 under each of the headings 'Waste', 'Total Printed Sheets', and 'Mill Sheets'. The size is given as 22½ x 10½. 3,000 sheets issued 25.2.53. My comments under 'Ascension' apply here also.

Returning again to the Requisition Books, 6,800 sheets (408,000 stamps) were despatched on 18.2.53. Sheets were numbered 1 up and parcelled in 500's. (Crown Agents ) Bureau 309,000 including 1,500 sheet 30 set (i.e. half sheets).

Figure 3  
St Helena Plate 1 – 4

According to the *Elizabethan* catalogue [1], the stamps (black and deep reddish violet) were withdrawn 31.12.53 and invalidated 1.6.60. 309,579 were sold, including 46,355 locally [2]



References

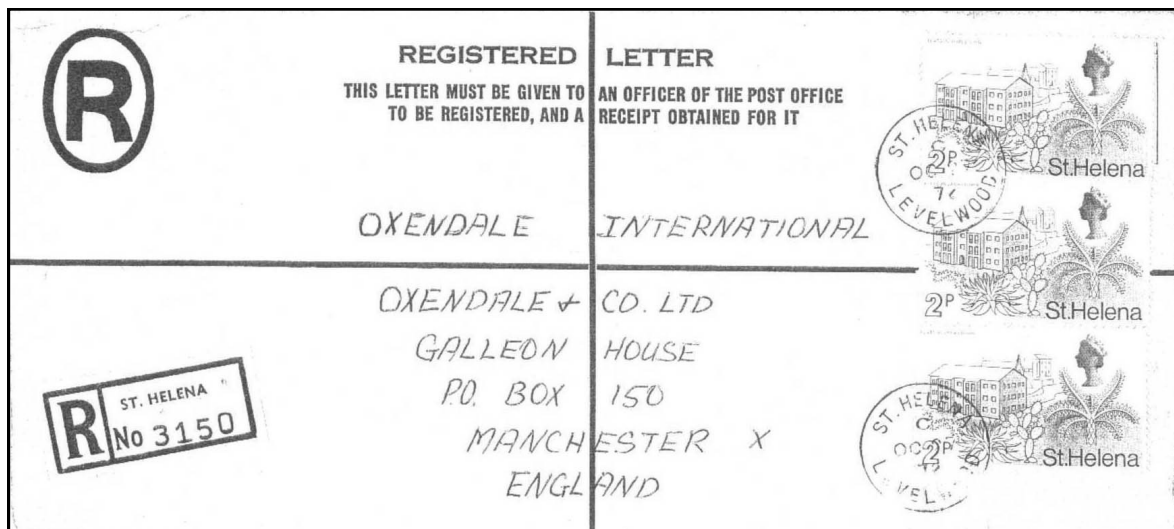
- 1 *Stanley Gibbons Elizabethan Specialised Catalogue of Modern British Commonwealth Stamps*, Stanley Gibbons Ltd, London Eleventh Edition 1975
- 2 *Stamp Collecting Weekly*, 9 July 1954 p565  
Studd D. Personal correspondence



## Registered Cover from Levelwood

Richard Moss

I have a large number of covers of the early 1970s from the South Atlantic Islands, including many that were registered, and many from the Sub Post Offices on St Helena. However, the illustrated example (at 70%) is the only one which appears to have been sent registered from any of these local offices, in this case Levelwood. As there were no servicing facilities present, can any reader offer a likely explanation of how this came about. The cover is non-philatelic, having been sent to a Manchester company.



# The Post Office of St Helena in 1888

Robert Johnson

This article results directly from the visit made to St Helena in May 2002 [1]. Quite some time was spent in the Government Archives at The Castle in Jamestown. I found a cardboard box in a back room with the help of the Archivist Mrs Maureen Stevens (now retired), containing the postbook that the Postmaster on St Helena maintained for 1888. Mrs Stevens paid a visit to the Post Office in the course of her appointment and found nothing more left. This may in part be explained by the papers that were taken away in the past with official permission and (some of) which appeared at the Cavendish sale of 11 April 2003, lots 1013 to 1018 inclusive.

It contained about 420 letters and other communications concerning the business of and the running of the Post Office in Jamestown in the period 1888 to 1894. All had the St Helena cds applied to show the date of receipt, and in several cases the oval stamp of The Castle or of the relevant government department as well. A new government oval mark so discovered appears later in this article. The letters refer from time to time to postal arrangements concerning Ascension and Tristan d'Acunha.

The Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund paid for the letter book to be copied and a decision will be made in due course as to whether all pages will be transcribed or whether the photocopies will be bound and deposited at the British Library for reference. *(Please let Robert or myself know your views on this – Ed.)*

However it seemed right to me to give readers a flavour of the contents. The value lies in seeing how all the business was conducted at high and low levels and the relative importance to the Island Community of the letter post arrangements with the Cape of Good Hope, the money order system and the parcel post.

One of the difficulties in using this resource was that the Postmaster's outgoing correspondence was not kept in the same file and so we cannot match up questions and answers entirely although in many cases the position is or becomes obvious. I have chosen only one year, 1888, as keeping the letters selected closer together in time gives a better picture of what was happening or of concern.

In many cases the paper used is dark in colour and photocopying has been difficult, and for this reason I have decided to transcribe the letters; it is also more economical on editorial space. However one letter is illustrated in the course of the article just to show the sort of thing that was found to exist. All the communications were in handwriting, or on a printed form completed by handwriting or mimeographed (especially from the Parcel Department of the GPO in London). I have selected a few letters up to page 101 (all the pages in the book were numbered).

*Editor's Note: I include illustrations of three covers sent from the Island during 1888. Although not directly related to the text, they portray letters passing through the Post Office at this time.*

## Letter No. 1

'General Post Office Cape Town Cape of Good Hope 6<sup>th</sup> January 1888 to the Postmaster St Helena (received 16<sup>th</sup> January 1888)

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No P69/87 dated 21<sup>st</sup> ultimo enclosing £76:18:10 in payment of the Postage Account for the half year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 1887, and to return, herewith, vouchers duly completed.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant etc,

*Signature, pro PMG'*



## Letter No. 2

'General Post Office Cape Town Cape of Good Hope 9<sup>th</sup> January 1888 to the Postmaster St Helena (received 16<sup>th</sup> January 1888)

### Detour of Ocean Mails

Sir,

I beg to transmit herewith a statement of the amounts which will become due to this Department by the St Helena Post Office in respect of the detour of the Ocean Mail Steamers which will touch at St Helena during the first three quarters of the year 1888 viz:-

Quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> March £410:0:3

30<sup>th</sup> June £446:13:8

30<sup>th</sup> September £510:0:3

And to request that the Crown Agents for the Colonies may be instructed to pay the amounts as they become due to the Agent General for this Colony.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

*Signature, PMG*

## Letter No. 11

'Post Office St Helena January 16<sup>th</sup> to The Postmaster Ascension

Sir,

Herewith I enclose No 1 sheet of Parcel Bill No 14 of 29<sup>th</sup> ult. from London which was evidently placed in the Parcel Box for St Helena by mistake.

The Parcel Bill for St Helena has not been received, and it has probably been put with the box for your Island, if so I have to request you to be so good as to forward it to this office as early as possible.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

P.P. Young, Acting Postmaster'

*(and on the back from Ascension is this message:)*

'I regret the St Helena Parcel Bill has not been received here

*Signature, Deputy Postmaster 19.1.88*

St Helena cds receipt for 17<sup>th</sup> February 1888.



Figure 1  
Cover front to Italy, 7½d rate  
Type 1 cds for JA 18(?) 88, m/s 1½ in orange crayon  
(Bob Deakin)

## Letter No. 12

'Post Office St Helena 24<sup>th</sup> February 1888 to Captain Theobald RN HMS *Orontes*

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency The Governor to ask if you will be so good as to receive on board HMS *Orontes* the mails for Ascension, Madeira and England including parcel mail, and if so at what time you will be prepared to receive them.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

P.P. Young, Acting Postmaster'

(followed by)

'*Orontes* St Helena 24<sup>th</sup> February 1888

Mails for England including Parcel mails will be received on board HMS *Orontes* for conveyance, observing that freight at the rate of 1¼ % will be charged on total values conveyed. Time to be on board not later than 3pm

Charles B Theobald Captain.'

(followed by)

'The value of the mails from St Helena is about £20 at 6d per ½ ounce. Will it be correct if we send 5/- in payment?

P.P. Young, Acting Postmaster'

(followed by)

'*Orontes* St Helena 24<sup>th</sup> February 1888

The freight mentioned in my minute only referred to specie. There will be no charge for mails simply containing letters'

Charles B Theobald Captain.'

## Letter No. 18

'General Post Office London 17<sup>th</sup> February 1888 to The Postmaster St Helena (received 10<sup>th</sup> March 1888)

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> ultimo, P.3/88, in which you state that it would be for your convenience if one copy of the Parcel Bill could be sent by letter and the other included in one of the parcel boxes, I beg to refer you to my letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> of December last in which I informed you that the continuance of this course was impracticable.

I may explain that the despatching office for Foreign and Colonial parcels has been removed to a site more than a mile from the General Post Office. In consequence of this it would be extremely difficult to ensure that a copy of the parcel bill of each parcel mail should be sent to the General Post Office in time for despatch by the letter mail, which leaves that office almost at the same time as the parcel mail leaves the parcel depot.

Inasmuch as the letter and parcel mails reach St Helena at the same time it was not thought that any serious inconvenience could be caused to you by the change.

The missing sheet No. 1 of Parcel Bill No 14 is herewith.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant, F.E. Baines.'

## Letter No. 21

'General Post Office Natal 6<sup>th</sup> March 1888 to The Colonial Postmaster St Helena (received 20<sup>th</sup> March 1888)

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the mails of the 12<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> March 1887 (sic) from Durban to St Helena have not been acknowledged. I forward you a duplicate of the letter bills of the mails and shall be glad if you will cause the acknowledgement portions of the bills to be duly signed and returned to this office as early as possible.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

A. Chadwick Postmaster General.'

### Letter No. 28

‘General Post Office London to The Postmaster St Helena 9<sup>th</sup> April 1888 (received 7<sup>th</sup> May 1888)

Sir,

For some time past it has been observed that large numbers of newspapers for certain British Colonies have been posted insufficiently prepaid; and, as there were generally no means of returning them to the senders, and no authority or arrangement for collecting the deficient postage on delivery, they would, according to strict rule, have been destroyed. As a temporary act of grace, however, all such newspapers when prepaid a single rate of postage, have been forwarded to destination, as it was felt that great disappointment to addressees in remote settlements would thus often be spared; but it is now time to terminate this practice.

The plan which it is proposed to adopt, as soon as it can be arranged and authorised, is to charge such newspapers, according to the Postal Union rule, with double the amount of the deficiency. This postage, to be paid by the addressees, would be collected and retained by the office of destination.

The arrangement would apply only to newspapers which are prepaid at least the single rate of newspaper postage, and all newspapers posted wholly unpaid, or prepaid at less than the single rate payable on papers for the particular destination concerned, would continue to be stopped and, as far as possible, returned to the senders.

In proposing this arrangement for your acceptance, I have to stipulate that it should be reciprocal, the same regulations being adopted as regards transmission and surcharge of newspapers posted in the Colony and addressed to the United Kingdom.

I shall be glad to hear at your early convenience that your office concurs in this proposal; and I will then apprise you in good time of the date fixed for bringing the arrangements into operation.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
Edw. B. Rea.’

### Letter No. 37

‘General Post Office London to The Postmaster of St Helena 7<sup>th</sup> May 1888 (received 9<sup>th</sup> June 1888)

Sir,

I regret to inform you that the parcel post service between the United Kingdom and the Bahamas (West Indies) is temporarily suspended, owing to the discontinuance of the line of steamers by which the parcel mails have hitherto been conveyed, and that no parcels should therefore be accepted for transmission to that Colony via the United Kingdom until further notice.

This Office is taking steps for the early establishment of a more frequent and regular service to the Bahamas via New York, as to which a further communication shall in due course be addressed to you.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
F.E. Sifton for Secretary.’

### Letter No. 41

*(Sent in German with an English translation)*

‘Berlin 4<sup>th</sup> March 1888 to The Postmaster St Helena (received 13<sup>th</sup> April 1888)

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, here enclosed, a copy of the catalogue, recently issued, of the collection of postage stamps in the possession of the postal museum of this town [sic].

The collection comprises besides the various postal stamps (postage-postage due-card letters-parcel post-newspaper-official-postcards-cards used for the pneumatic post-envelopes-stamped wrappers) and the telegraph stamps, the forms used in the different branches of insured correspondence (money orders-value payable objects-postal paper money-postal orders-postal notes-bons de poste-savings bank docketts etc.). The museum contains in addition a collection of essays of postage stamps and another of stamps used in the post office savings bank service which collections, however, have not been embodied in the catalogue.

The postal administration of this country takes much care both in completing issues of stamps out of use and in acquiring new editions. Nevertheless the collection is deficient in several stamps previously issued, the acquisition of which is an object of the constant efforts of this Office. But also with respect to the new editions of postage stamps etc. it is difficult to maintain the collection complete because several postal administrations do not inform regularly this Office about new editions of postage stamps issued by them.

Considering the general importance which the collection has acquired for philatelic (sic) purposes it would be of great value for the postal museum to receive directly as soon as a new set of stamps has been issued several specimens of them. The receiving of a greater number of postage stamps etc., moreover, is of consequence to the postal museum for the maintenance of the collection from the motive that its stores of stamps on account of their public exhibition are subject to injurious external influences particularly through the decomposing agencies of light and the penetration of dust into the cases where the stamps etc. are exhibited.

In transmitting for your acceptance the catalogue I beg therefore to request of you, kindly to cause

1. the catalogue to be closely examined with respect to the postage stamps etc. issued by your office and of all such stamps and forms etc. which are not mentioned in the catalogue several specimens to be forwarded to this office;
2. of every new issue of stamps etc., five specimens, or if possible, a greater number of them to be furnished to this office.

I beg leave to observe, that it would be very agreeable to this office, if the specimens kindly sent to it, would be of absolutely the same appearance of which are those, destined for public use and consequently without the impression of such stamps as f. i. 'pattern' or 'specimen'.

Besides I should be much obliged to you for kindly providing the postal museum also with patterns of essays of postal stamps extant in your department and, eventually, complete sets of all issues of stamps in use for the post office savings banks.

I have the honour to be etc

Post Office Department of the German Empire, Third Division.

Signed Fischer.'

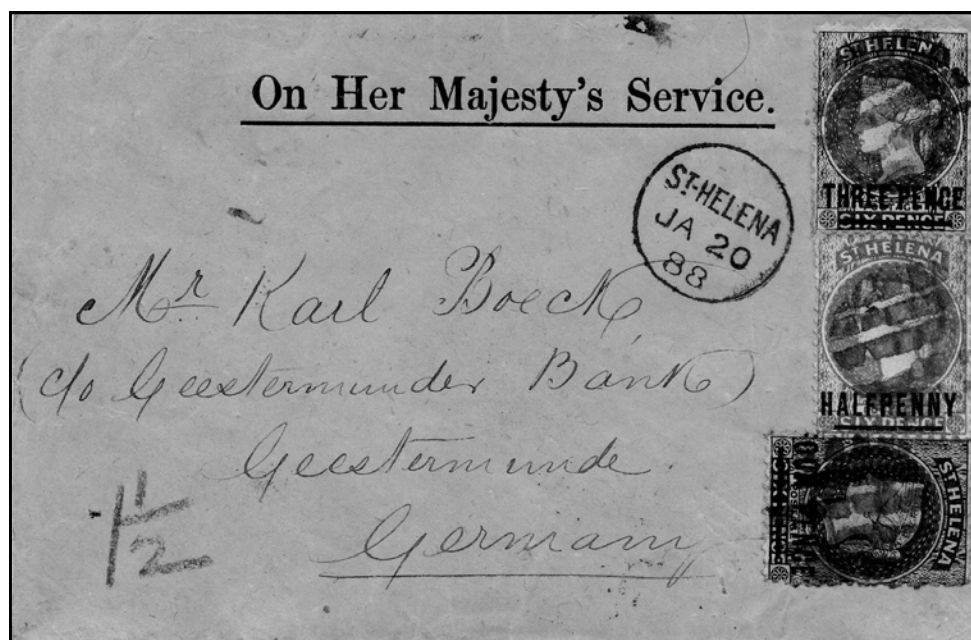


Figure 2  
OHMS cover to Germany, 7½d rate  
Type 1 cds for JA 20 88, m/s 1½ in red crayon  
(Phoenix International)

### **Letter No. 57**

‘Administracion General de Comunicaciones de la Isla de Cuba Internacional to the Postmaster General St Helena 12<sup>th</sup> June 1888 (no receipt cds)

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose within three specimens of each kind of postage stamp in circulation in this country.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1886 I kindly requested of your Department five collections of the stamps used by your Department, and in communication dated December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1887, I forwarded to your Office, specimens of the latest stamp issued by this Department, asking for the second time to be furnished with those used in your country.

Not having received any answer to both of my communications I would be greatly obliged to receive in exchange for those forwarded to you three specimens of each kind of postal and telegraph stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards and newspaper bands as well as the ancient issues of same.

I am, Sir, Yours respectfully,

*signature.*’

### **Letter No. 65**

‘HMS *Royalist* at Simon’s Bay to The Postmaster, Post Office, St Helena 4<sup>th</sup> August 1888 (received 28<sup>th</sup> August 1888)

Sir,

I have the honour to request that you will kindly forward all letters, parcels, packages etc; there may be at St Helena for HMS *Royalist* to Australia via Cape of Good Hope.

I have the honour to be Sir, Your obedient servant,

*signature*, Captain’

### **Letter No. 68**

(Probably from the Post Office at Durban, Natal to the Postmaster St Helena 21<sup>st</sup> August 1888 (received 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1888)

‘Sir,

Referring to your letter P22/88 of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. I have the honour to inform you that I find on enquiry the mail to St Helena conveyed by the steamer arriving on the 30<sup>th</sup> July is believed to have been forwarded in a correctly marked bag. It appears there was no properly marked bag for Madeira in the Durban office on the day of despatch, and that the despatch clerk made use of a bag marked for St Helena. He seems to have altered the marking on one side but to have allowed the old marking to stand on the other. I very much regret that in consequence of this oversight such an unfortunate occurrence to which you allude should have taken place and I have not failed to take proper notice of the matter.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant

A Chadwick Postmaster General.’

### **Letter No. 70**

‘General Post Office London to the Postmaster St Helena 14<sup>th</sup> August 1888 (received 24<sup>th</sup> August 1888)

Sir,

As you are probably aware, on the commencement of the new Cape of Good Hope Mail Contract in October next, the Mail Steamers will no longer call at Ascension, but the letter mails for that place will be left at St Helena to be forwarded as opportunity may offer.

I trust that you will raise no objection to any parcels for Ascension being treated in a similar manner, that is to say included in the parcel mail for St Helena and entered on the parcel bill for your office, which will thus

receive credit for such parcels at the rate of 2d per lb. This amount you will probably find sufficient to cover any expenses in which your office may be involved for the onward transmission of such parcels which, when the naval station is removed from Ascension is likely to be very few in number.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
F.E. Baines.'

### Letter No. 75

'General Post Office, Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope to The Postmaster St Helena 24<sup>th</sup> September 1888 (received 1<sup>st</sup> October 1888)

I beg leave to inform you that arrangements have been made, with the concurrence of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, under the new mail contract which comes into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> October next for the steamers of the Union Steamship and Castle Line Packets Companies to call at St Helena every third and fifty week on both the outward and homeward voyages. The first call on the outward voyage will be made by the '*Grantilly Castle*' which leave Dartmouth on the 12<sup>th</sup> October and which is due to arrive at St Helena about the 26<sup>th</sup> proximo.

The first call on the homeward voyage will be made by the '*Athenian*' leaving Table Bay on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.

The dates of sailing have been fixed so as to enable you to send an additional mail to London via Cape Town by each of the Castle Steamers touching at St Helena and, similarly, the London Post Office will despatch a mail to your office via Cape Town every second week after the sailing of the direct Castle Packet for St Helena. The outward bound Union vessels will touch at Lisbon and Madeira while those of the Castle Line which call at your Island will touch at Lisbon and Las Palmas.

On the homeward course, the Union steamers will touch at Madeira and Lisbon only after leaving St Helena. As you are no doubt aware, the Imperial Government have decided that it will not be necessary for the steamers to call at Ascension after the termination of the present contract. I have accordingly given instructions for such correspondence as may be addressed to that Island to be sent to your office for disposal. A printed Time Table of the new service will be sent to your office by the mail of the 17<sup>th</sup> prox.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
G.N. Aitchison PMG.'

*(Draft answer endorsed by the St Helena Postmaster reads)*

'Sir,

I have the honour to ack. the rec. of your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> ultimo with reference to the new mail service for the island. I would ask to be supplied with a copy of the Agreement entered into between yourself and the Postmaster Gen. in England showing the times the steamers may be detained here etc. I would also ask to be furnished with 3 copies of each of the ? contracts between the Cape and the two mail cos.'

*(Note: see letter 86)*

### Letter No. 76

'Shipping Master's Office, St Helena to His Excellency The Governor 1<sup>st</sup> October 1888 (received at The Castle 1<sup>st</sup> October 1888) (Approved W/W)

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to request you to permit me to withdraw a letter from the Post Office posted by me on the 27<sup>th</sup> Sep addressed to the Finance Secy. B of Trade

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,  
Robert M. Pritchard.'

Figure 3  
'SHIPPING MASTER' handstamp  
(previously unrecorded)  
1 OCT inserted in manuscript





72

Office of the Director-General of the Post Office

Foreign Post Department,

Simla The 24<sup>th</sup> August 1888.

No. 3610

In any further correspondence on this subject, the above number should be quoted.

Sir,

I beg that you will be good enough to furnish this office with four complete sets of all postage stamps, postcards and embossed envelopes now actually in use by your administration.

2. If you desire it I shall have pleasure in supplying you in return with similar sets of British Indian stamps, cards and envelopes.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

your most obed<sup>t</sup> servant,

Appt Director General G.P.O.

ask for set of Indian stamps - post cards etc

WJW

To The Postmaster  
St. Helena



Figure 4

Letter (70%) from India showing St Helena cds as Official Mail receipt stamp  
From period before UPU made themselves responsible for collecting and distributing Specimen stamps

### Letter No. 84

‘General Post Office London to the Postmaster St Helena 29<sup>th</sup> September 1888 (received 27<sup>th</sup> October 1888)

Sir,

According to information furnished to this Department by the Admiralty, HMS *Curacoa* will leave St Helena for Tristan d’Acunha on the arrival at St Helena, about the 1<sup>st</sup> of December next, of the Union Steam Ship Company’s packet ‘*Spartan*’ appointed to leave Southampton on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November.

Advantage will be taken of this opportunity to make up a mail for Tristan d’Acunha which will be sent enclosed in that for St Helena to be forwarded from this country by the ‘*Spartan*’ on the 16<sup>th</sup> November.

I request that you will be good enough to see that the mail for Tristan d’Acunha is duly embarked on board HMS *Curacoa* and that you will also communicate with the Commissariat Officer at St Helena on the subject, as he may probably have some letters for Tristan d’Acunha addressed to his care which should also be sent by the *Curacoa*.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant

Edw. B. Rea.’

### Letter No. 85

‘General Post Office London to the Postmaster St Helena 4<sup>th</sup> October 1888 (received 27<sup>th</sup> October 1888)

Sir,

I beg leave to send to you herewith copies of a public notice, just issued by this Department, from which you will see that the postage on letters from St Helena sent by the long sea route has been reduced to 4d the half ounce, and that supplementary mails will be despatched henceforth to overtake the Packets at Lisbon.

For letters sent in these supplementary mails the postage will be 6d the half ounce, the special rates for other articles being those specified in the notice.

The changes have been made at very short notice in consequence of the action of the Cape Post Office in requiring its contractors to call at Lisbon for the purpose of embarking mails, and also in reducing the postage in the Colony before coming to an understanding with this Department.

If any change is made in the postage collections at St Helena perhaps you would be so good as to inform me.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

Edw. B. Rea.’

*(Note: the Notice so sent was No 56 dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 1888 which is reproduced in West African GPO Postal Notices by Beale and Walton at page 197)*

### Letter No 86

‘General Post Office, Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope to The Postmaster St Helena 6<sup>th</sup> November 1888 (received 18<sup>th</sup> November 1888)

Sir,

In compliance with your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> ultimo I have the honour to forward herewith three copies of the new mail contract.

There is no other agreement affecting the time the mail steamers may be detained at St Helena, nor has as yet the formal concurrence of the Imperial Government in the proposals made by this Department in regard to the detour payments been notified to me.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

G. N. Aitchison PMG.’

### Letter No. 87

‘General Post Office London to The Postmaster St Helena 19<sup>th</sup> October 1888 (received 26<sup>th</sup> November 1888)

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, No P28/88, I have to inform you that the rate of postage from



India to St Helena is 9 annas per ½ oz. The letter addressed to ‘The Right Rev. The Bishop of St Helena, St Helena’ of which you enclosed the cover (herewith returned) (*not with the file of papers!*) with although endorsed ‘Paid nine annas’, bore stamps to the value of 8½ annas only; and it was therefore properly charged in this office as wholly unpaid- the partial prepayment of letters sent in transit though the United Kingdom not being recognised.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
*signature*, for the Secretary.’

**Letter No 91**

‘General Post Office, Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope to The Postmaster St Helena 20<sup>th</sup> November 1888 (received 26<sup>th</sup> November 1888)

Sir,  
I beg leave to inform you that the following discrepancies were observed in checking the mail from St Helena for Cape Town of the 27<sup>th</sup> October last:-

Number	Statement of St Helena Office	Statement of Cape Town Office
1	8 lbs 13 ozs	10 lbs 3 ozs
4	10 lbs 10 ozs	11 lbs 12 ozs
6	d1	d1

An acknowledgement of ? ? of the mail is enclosed.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant  
*signature Secy*’

**Letter No 97**

‘General Post Office London to The Postmaster St Helena 14<sup>th</sup> November 1888 (received 1<sup>st</sup> December 1888)

Sir,  
With reference to your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> ultimo P30/88 I beg leave to inform you that, in connection with the contract recently entered into between the Cape Government and the Castle Mail Packets and Union Steamship Companies for the conveyance of mails between the United Kingdom and the Cape Colony, arrangements have been made for the Mail Packets both on the outward and homeward voyages to call at St Helena twice every 8 weeks, at alternating intervals of 3 and 5 weeks. The accompanying statement shows the dates on which mails will be despatched from this office for St Helena up to the end of the year 1889, and these dates will serve as examples of those on which it is intended to despatch mails from London during the currency of the present contract, supplementary mails being made up, in each instance, on the following morning for transmission via Lisbon.

As to the times during which the Packets may be detained at St Helena no communication has reached this Department from the Cape Post Office.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
Edw. B. Rea.’

**Letter No. 99**

‘General Post Office London to The Postmaster St Helena 15<sup>th</sup> November 1888 (received 1<sup>st</sup> December 1888)

Sir,  
I have to inform you that, commencing with the ‘S.S. *Mexican*’ leaving Cape Town on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December

next, the Packets of the Union Steamship Company to and from the Cape will cease to call at Plymouth, and will land the mails for this country at Southampton.

In these circumstances, I request that, commencing with the voyage in question, your office will enclose all correspondence for this country in a single mail addressed to London, instead of making up separate mails for London and Plymouth as at present.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, Edw. B. Rea.'

#### Letter No. 101

'General Post Office, Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope to The Postmaster St Helena 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1888 (received 17<sup>th</sup> December 1888)

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> October, I beg to inform you that the mail service to the Island of Ascension has been resumed at the request of the Imperial Government, it being the intention to continue to maintain a naval station there.

The steamers of the Colonial Packet Companies appointed to call at St Helena will accordingly touch at Ascension on the homeward voyage every third and fifth week.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
G.N. Aitchison PMG.'

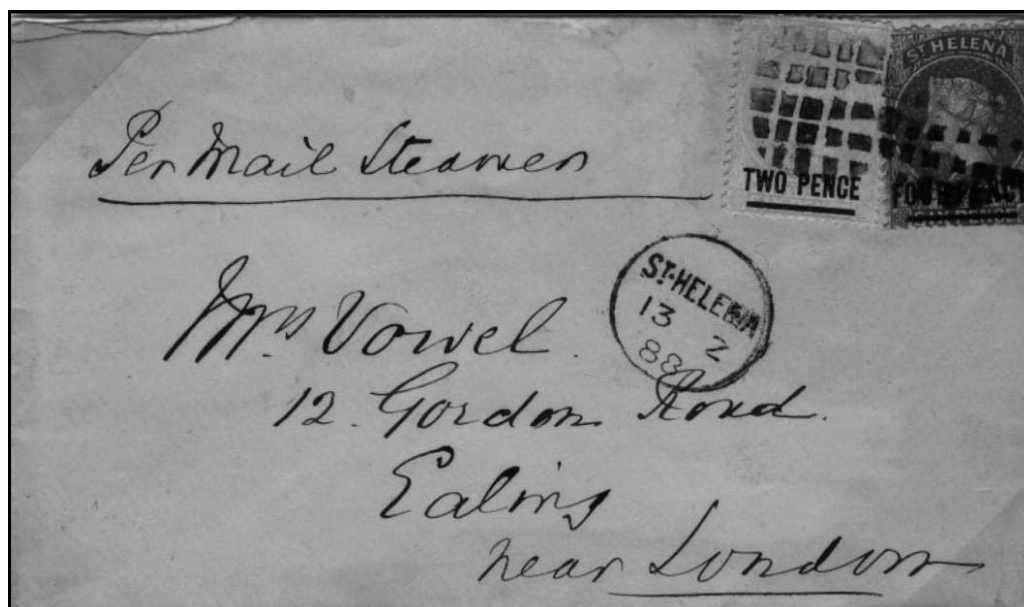


Figure 5  
Cover 'Per Mail Steamer' to UK, 6d rate  
Type 1 cds for 13 Feb 88 , with '2' for 'FE'  
(Barry Burns)

Reference

- 1 Burns B. "Notes from Two Small Islands", *St Helena and Ascension Supplement*, Number 39 p4, WASC, January 2003



Access to the internet? Then please try visiting the re-launched  
West Africa Study Circle Web Site at :

<http://www.wasc.org.uk>

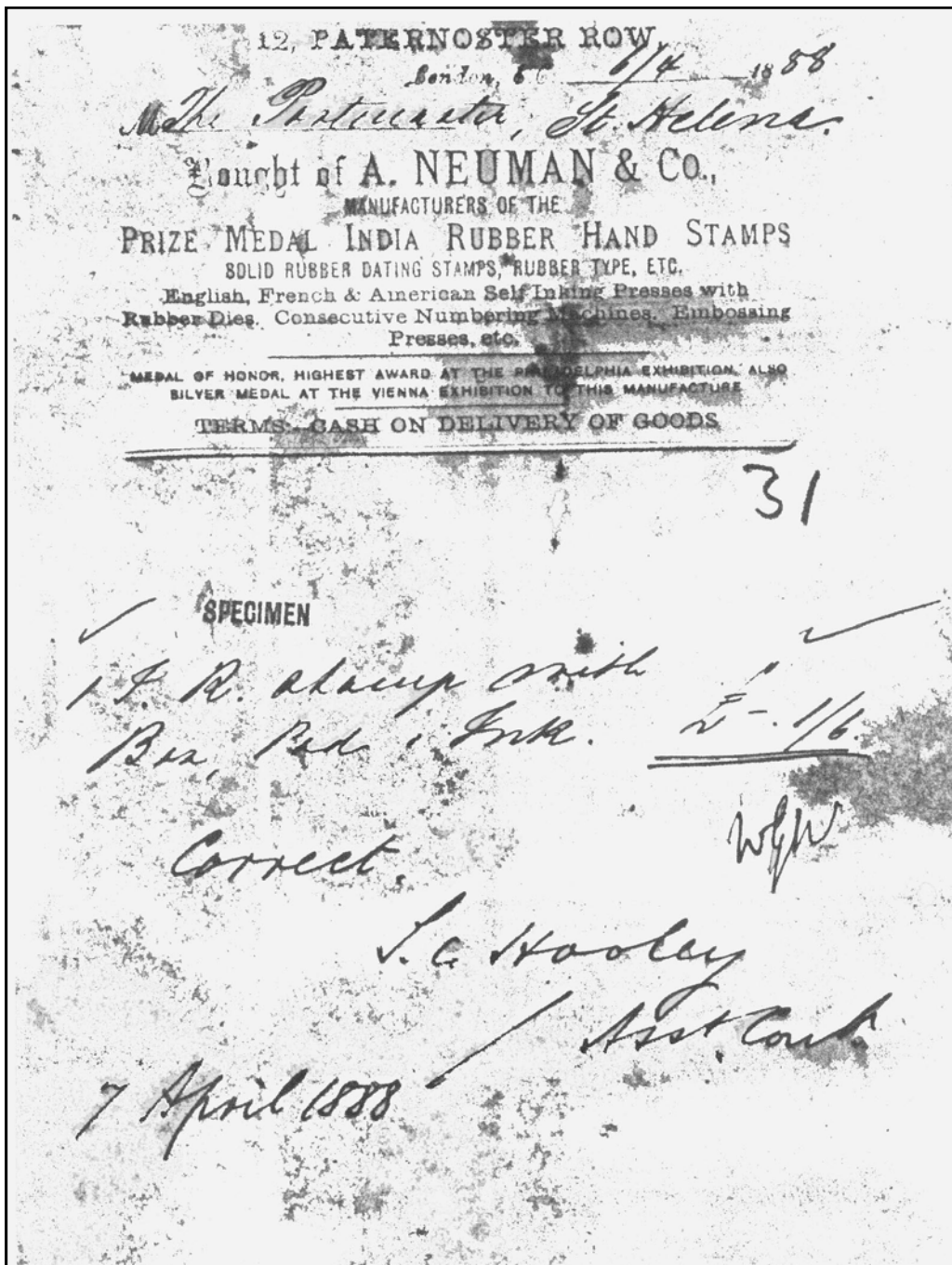
Webmaster is Ray Harris; contact [harris6@which.net](mailto:harris6@which.net)

# Invoice for 'SPECIMEN' Handstamp

Robert Johnson

In the 1888 correspondence from the Jamestown Archives (page 38) was an invoice for the supply of a 'SPECIMEN' handstamp. This was no doubt needed because of the increasing requests from foreign postal administrations for sets of stamps for official records which preceded the function to this purpose of the UPU in Berne.

Unfortunately this invoice was on very dark blue paper and did not photocopy very clearly. Both your editor and I have tried to improve the scanned image (*without much success!* - Ed.), and it is reproduced below.



In the event of the reproduction not being very clear, the invoice is of A. Neuman & Co. of 12 Paternoster Row, London to The Postmaster, St Helena, for the supply of 1 I.R. (*India Rubber*) stamp with Bin, Pad & Ink for the sum of £- 1/6. It is signed by J.C. (?) Hooley, Asst. Cont. and dated 7 April 1888.

Of particular interest is the application of the handstamp above the manuscript 'I.R. stamp'. This appears to be of Samuel SH2 [1], an enlargement of which is shown here:



This handstamp has been seen on a number of issues from St Helena up until the early 1970s, but could not be found when a search of the Jamestown Post Office was made in 2002 [2]. An interesting article by Roger Morgan is recommended for those interested in the use of the handstamp [3].

References

- 1 Samuel, M., *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857 – 1948*, p204, RPSL, London 1976
- 2 Scrine A., "Discussion with the St Helena Postmistress", *St Helena and Ascension Supplement*, No. 38 p12, WASC, July 2002
- 3 Morgan R., "Handstamped 'SPECIMEN'", *St Helena and Ascension Supplement*, No. 37 p28, WASC, January 2002



## Mails for St Helena and Ascension 1898 – 99

**Jeremy Martin**

The following from File No 118/1914 is reproduced by courtesy of P.O. Archives:

'The working of the Mail service to and from the Islands of St Helena and Ascension during the next few months will be as follows:-

OUTWARD		HOMEWARD		
Leave London	Arrive at St Helena about	Leave St Helena about	Arrive at Ascension (leaving same day) about	Arrive in London about
		25 November	28 November	12 December <i>1899</i>
	<i>1899</i>	23 December <i>1899</i>	26 December <i>1899</i>	9 January
Morning 24 December <i>1899</i>	9 January	20 January	23 January	6 February
Morning 21 January	6 February	17 February	20 February	6 March
Morning 18 February	6 March	17 March	20 March	3 April

Mails from this country for Ascension are left on the outward voyage at St Helena, where they are transferred to the next homeward bound Packet for conveyance to Ascension. Thus, Mails despatched from London on the dates shown above in the first column should arrive at Ascension on or about the dates shown in the fourth column.

In the homeward direction the actual dates of sailing and arrival cannot be absolutely guaranteed, but the dates given in the foregoing table will be adhered to as closely as possible.'

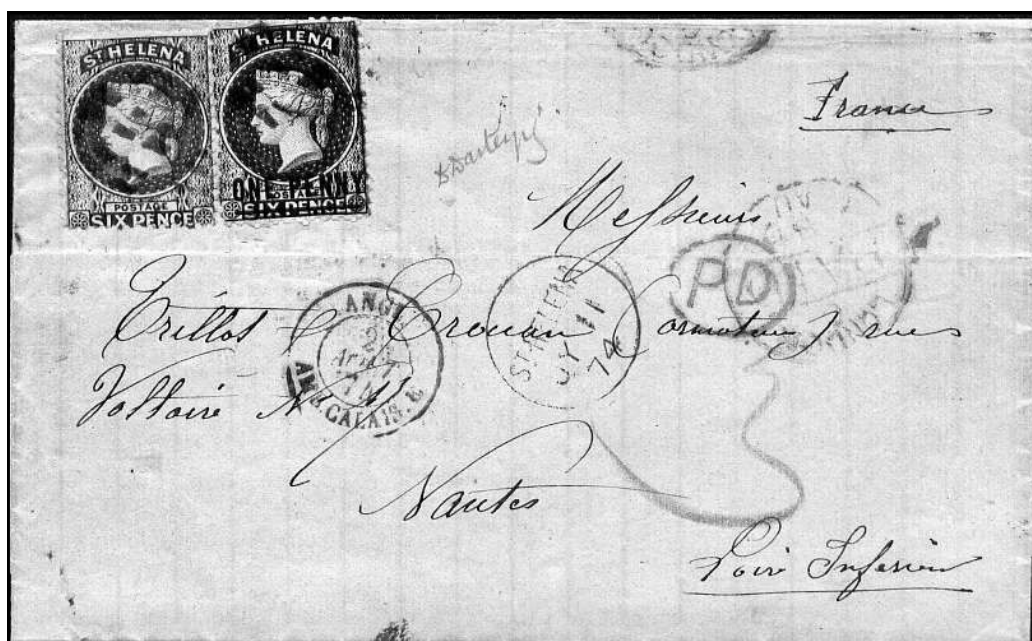
# The Captain Roger Morgan Collection of St Helena

## Sold by Phoenix International on 6th September 2003

### Roger B West

Captain Morgan had been collecting St Helena for most of his life, during which time he built up a fine collection of both stamps and covers. He was an active member of the West Africa Study Circle and made frequent contributions to the *St Helena and Ascension Supplement* (the WASC Bi-annual magazine). His collection was broken down to 350 lots with a pre-sale estimate of £31,000 and offered in the Phoenix International Postal Auction of 6th September. 59 bidders contested the lots having made a total of 714 bids with a combined value of just under £99,000. 81% sold for a total of £32,170 (plus 10% buyers premium). Notable lots being:

- Lot 1** - 1810 part entire from Dr Lamb of HCS *Penang* to surgeon Dr Robert Wilson of HCS *Earl Howe*, both ships being at anchor off St Helena Est £150 Realised £260  
**Lot 3** - 1874 entire letter to France bearing 6d & 1d with cork cancels, St H cds of JY 11 in black, with London Paid & French arrival marks Est £500 Realised £1275



- Lot 4** 1888 OHMS tri-colour franked cover to Germany bearing 1868 perf 12½ 4d thick bar (words 19mm plus 1884 ½d & 3d with cork cancel with fine St H cds of JA 20 alongside, red crayon 1½ accountancy mark, most attractive with 1989 BPA cert (*Illustration p 42*) Est £500 Realised £560  
**Lot 10** 190? Jamestown PPC locally used with POW censor signed by EW (Walton), reverse shows signature of P A Cronje Est £30 Realised £115  
**Lot 31** 1915c 'Jamestown' PPC to UK bearing GB 1d crossed through in pencil, with green 'Passed by Ships Censor' h/s, stamp cancelled on arrival in England, unusual Maritime item Est £40 Realised £135  
**Lot 33** 1918 PPC (Main Street) to UK bearing One Penny War Tax with boxed Passed by/Censor (a rare mark) Est £75 Realised £210  
**Lot 51** 1941 cover to USA bearing Coronation 1d & 2d cancelled OC 18 cds, with octagonal Crown Passed By Censor 2496 civilian h/stamp in black Est £40 Realised £68  
**Lot 66** 1856 PB 6d blue imperf horiz marginal pair 4 clear margins fine and fresh, SG 1 cat £1,000++  
Est £600 Realised £610  
**Lot 86** 1863 4d carmine imperf 4 margins very fine mint, SG 5 cat £500 Est £100 Realised £210  
**Lot 87** 1863 4d carmine imperf fine mint SW strip of 3 showing weak printing at left, clear margins all round and a rare multiple, (1973 BPA cert) SG 5 cat £1,500++ Est £900 Realised £960



Lot 66



Lot 87

- Lot 91** 1864 1d lake (short bar) fine mint imperf single with 4 good even margins, SG7b cat £2,250  
Est £500 *Realised* £920
- Lot 94** 1864 1d lake (long bar) fine used with blue-black surcharge, with the very rare 'small first N of Penny' with 1996 Brandon cert, one of only 3 known examples, SG 8a var  
Est £750 *Realised* £810
- Lot 96** 1864 3d dull purple (short bar) fine part og imperf single with 4 good even margins, SG11b cat £800  
Est £150 *Realised* £260
- Lot 98** 1864 3d dull purple (thin bar) fine mint opt'd SPECIMEN with Samuel type SH1, a very rare item, SG 12S  
Est £150 *Realised* £180
- Lot 100** 1864 4d carmine (thin bar) used with 'H' cancel showing TRIPLE BAR with 1967 RPS cert, SG 13var  
Est £200 *Realised* £225



Lot 91



Lot 94



Lot 98



Lot 100

- Lot 103** 1864 4d carmine (short bar) fine mint opt'd SPECIMEN with Samuel type SH1, a very rare item, SG 14S (this stamp is particularly wide)  
Est £150 *Realised* £210
- Lot 104** 1864 4d carmine (short bar) lightly cancelled with DOUBLE SURCHARGE, recent Brandon cert states 'slight thin' SG 14a cat £4,500  
Est £950 *Realised* £975
- Lot 115** 1876 2d yellow marginal mint block of 6, fresh colour SG22 cat £510 (ex Jamestown/Ayre coll)  
Est £100 *Realised* £225
- Lot 128** 1884 QV CA ½d emerald fair mint with DOUBLE SURCHARGE, the NY being spaced a little further apart than normal, but not the catalogued variety, with 1989 RPS cert, SG 34b cat £1,200+  
Est £350 *Realised* £275
- Lot 129** 1884 QV CA ½d emerald fine used with DOUBLE SURCHARGE, with 1935 BPA cert. This stamp has a most unusual violet cancellation, plated as R1/7, SG 34b cat £1,300  
Est £400 *Realised* £620



Lot 104



t 129

- Lot 146** 1884 ½d green (words 14½ mm) a complete mint sheet of 240, several split perfs and part of margin missing, includes 'Malformed Y', bar to right, and 'capped Y'.  
Est £150 *Realised* £230
- Lot 152** 1884 2½d ult fine mint block of 24 (6x4) with INVERTED WATERMARK plated as 13/1-16/6 with 4 stamps showing 'split 2' variety, SG 40 var  
Est £60 *Realised* £105

- Lot 158** 1884 4d sepia (words 17 mm) the spectacular block of 42 being R2/7-R8/12 with a full list of varieties and characteristics which include 'Blurred A', 'Line through P', 'Spot on Nose' & Re-entry. Post Office fresh with most stamps being unmounted, SG 43c  
Est £400 *Realised* £450
- Lot 169** 1894 photographic proof of DLR essay of alternative to the Key Plate, denominated 3d endorsed 'A' (referred to on pages 55-56 of St Helena Postal History & Stamps by Edward Hibbert)  
Est £100 *Realised* £165
- Lot 170** 1894 photographic proof of DLR essay of alternative to the Key Plate, denominated 2d endorsed 'B' (referred to on pages 55-56 of St Helena Postal History & Stamps by Edward Hibbert)  
Est £100 *Realised* £165
- Lot 182** 1903 KEVII Pictorial 2/- die proof of frame only in black on glazed card dated 9 Jan 03 and endorsed 'Before Hardening'  
Est £ 125 *Realised* £205
- Lot 186** 1908 KEVII key plate set of 4 to 10/- handstamped SPECIMEN, a very scarce set, SG 64-71S  
Est £125 *Realised* £145
- Lot 188** 1911 KEVII the 'all red One Penny' error handstamped SPECIMEN, a few tones but probably less than a dozen examples known  
Est £100 *Realised* £125
- Lot 192** 1912 KGV pictorial set complete ½d to 3/- handstamped SPECIMEN, a very scarce set, SG 72-81S  
Est £150 *Realised* £170
- Lot 194** 1912 KGV Pictorial 1d die proof of frame only in black on glazed card dated 25 Jun 12 and endorsed 'Before Hardening'  
Est £125 *Realised* £205
- Lot 205** 1916 KGV War Tax One Penny handstamped SPECIMEN, very scarce thus, SG87S  
Est £50 *Realised* £105
- Lot 207** 1919 KGV War Tax 1d handstamped SPECIMEN (without gum), very scarce thus, SG88S  
Est £45 *Realised* £105
- Lot 215** 1922 Badge Issue MCA set of 5 to £1 handstamped SPECIMEN (stamps appear u/m) a very rare group, SG92-96S  
Est £400 *Realised* £425
- Lot 225** 1922 Badge Issue 1/6 mint single opt'd SPECIMEN showing Torn Flag variety (stamp 42) only 7 can exist SG93bS  
Est £200 *Realised* £225
- Lot 229** 1922 Badge Issue MCA £1 superb mint (possibly u/m) with the TORN FLAG variety (stamp 42) only 98 can exist, SG96b cat £1,800  
Est £750 *Realised* £920
- Lot 230** 1922 Badge Issue MCA £1 very lightly mounted mint opt'd SPECIMEN with the TORN FLAG variety (stamp 42) only 7 can exist, SG96bS  
Est £900 *Realised* £750

Lot 229



Lot 230



- Lot 233** 1922 Badge Issue 10 vals to 15/- handstamped SPECIMEN, an extremely difficult assembly (½d to 3d, 6d, 1/-, 7/6d, 10/- & 15/-) the 1/- & 10/- being from position 48, SG 97-113S  
Est £350 *Realised* £325
- Lot 238** 1922 Badge Issue ½d handstamped SPECIMEN showing the Broken Mast variety (stamp 13) possibly unique as such, SG 97aS  
Est £100 *Realised* £125
- Lot 242** 1922 Badge Issue ½d opt'd SPECIMEN showing the Torn Flag variety (stamp 42) very scarce as only 7 can exist, SG97bS  
Est £50 *Realised* £105
- Lot 249** 1922 Badge Issue ½d marginal mint block of 4 with inverted watermark (from positions 43, 44, 55 & 56), SG97w cat £900 (only 2 sheets believed to exist so blocks are rare)  
Est £350 *Realised* £460
- Lot 250** 1922 Badge Issue imperf printer's sample of 1d in brown & green opt'd Specimen on ungummed unwmk'd paper (struck from a specially made plate of 6)  
Est £125 *Realised* £160
- Lot 251** 1922 Badge Issue imperf printer's sample of 1d in green & purple opt'd Specimen on gummed unwmk'd paper (struck from a specially made plate of 6)  
Est £125 *Realised* £160
- Lot 252** 1922 1d Badge in complete mint sheet of 60 from a later printing showing Cleft Rock, Broken Mast but with the Repaired Flag, sl foxing, SG 98  
Est £80 *Realised* £155

- Lot 277** 1922 2d Badge in complete mint sheet of 60 from a later printing showing Cleft Rock, Broken Mast but with the Repaired Flag, sl foxing, SG 100 Est £100 *Realised* £150
- Lot 290** 1922 Badge Issue 5d opt'd SPECIMEN showing the Broken Mast variety (stamp 13) very scarce as only 7 can exist, SG103aS Est £50 *Realised* £125
- Lot 293** 1922 Badge Issue DIE PROOF of 6d frame only in black on glazed card dated, signed and endorsed 'After Hardening' Est £150 *Realised* £220
- Lot 301** 1922 Badge Issue 8d handstamped SPECIMEN showing the Broken Mast variety (stamp 13) possibly unique, SG 105aS Est £100 *Realised* £175
- Lot 312** 1922 Badge Issue 1/6d opt'd SPECIMEN showing the Cleft Rock variety (stamp 49) very scarce as only 7 can exist, SG107cS Est £100 *Realised* £175
- Lot 342** 1938-40 KGVI def set of 14 perf'd SPECIMEN, scarce with less than 400 sets produced, SG 131-40S Est £150 *Realised* £175
- Lot 349** 1971 Napoleon set of 2 handstamped SPECIMEN and mounted on display card offering the set at 34p as displayed in St Helena Post Office, most unusual Est £50 *Realised* £82

### And Finally



Acknowledgements for information and help go to:- D. Beech, A. Cole, R. Deakin, T. Hearl, S. Heijtz, R. Johnson, A. Leverton, B. Mabbett, R. May, R. Moss, R. Richardson, D. Studd, R. Vousden, R. West, British Library Philatelic Collections, Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, P.O. Archives, Sarsen Press, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., Phoenix International, all the authors and advertisers, and to anyone else I may have inadvertently forgotten.

### OFFERS FROM STOCK

- CAMEROONS** A 1913 2m booklet of stamps, a few clipped perfs, otherwise fine and fresh. £275
- GAMBIA 1886-93** Set of 8 stamps, 1/2d to 1s, handstamped with the very uncommon local "SPECIMEN", type GA2, mainly fine and fresh. £1,500
- GAMBIA 1922** The 4d, 7 1/2d, 1s & 5s, watermark multiple crown CA, (SG 118-121) overprinted or handstamped (5s) SPECIMEN, all fine, fresh and full gum. £95
- GOLD COAST 1875** Spiro Brothers forgeries of the 1875 4d magenta in a complete "used" sheet of 25. £65
- LAGOS 1877** A cover to London franked 6d green tied by "L" in diamond of horizontal bars, Lagos cds on front, and red "PAID / LIVERPOOL / BR. PACKET" arrival cds. Endorsed "Per S.S. Ethiopia", with red crayon 5. £750
- LIBERIA 1895** Reply paid portion of a postal stationery lettercard sent back to Monrovia from Hamburg. £350
- NIGER COAST 1895** A registered cover from old Calabar to London, franked 1894 1d pair, 2d and 1/2d on 2 1/2d blue (SG 52, 53, 65) tied by squared circle d.s. (23 April), large handstruck R & registered datestamps of Old Calabar, Liverpool and London. £900
- SENEGAL 1857** Entire letter from Goree, Senegal, to Bordeaux, with handstruck "6" charge and "COL FR. ANG / AMB.CALAIS.M" cds. £250
- ST. HELENA 1949** A copy of the St. Helena journal, Aug. 1949, hand addressed on cover, sent through post to UK, franked 1/2d x 2. £75
- NORTHERN NIGERIA 1910-11** 1/2d to 10s - 3 sets of 11 value overprinted SPECIMEN, affixed to large ledger pages, tied by large red double circle h/s of "POSTES ET TELEGRAPHES / MADAGASCAR / COLLECTION DE BERNE", signed by director of Madagascar Post office. (33 stamps) £650

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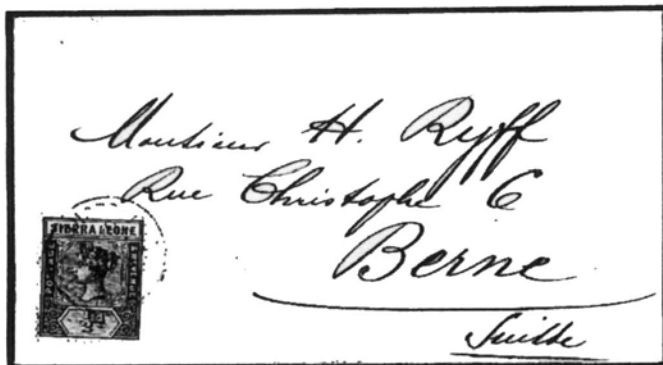
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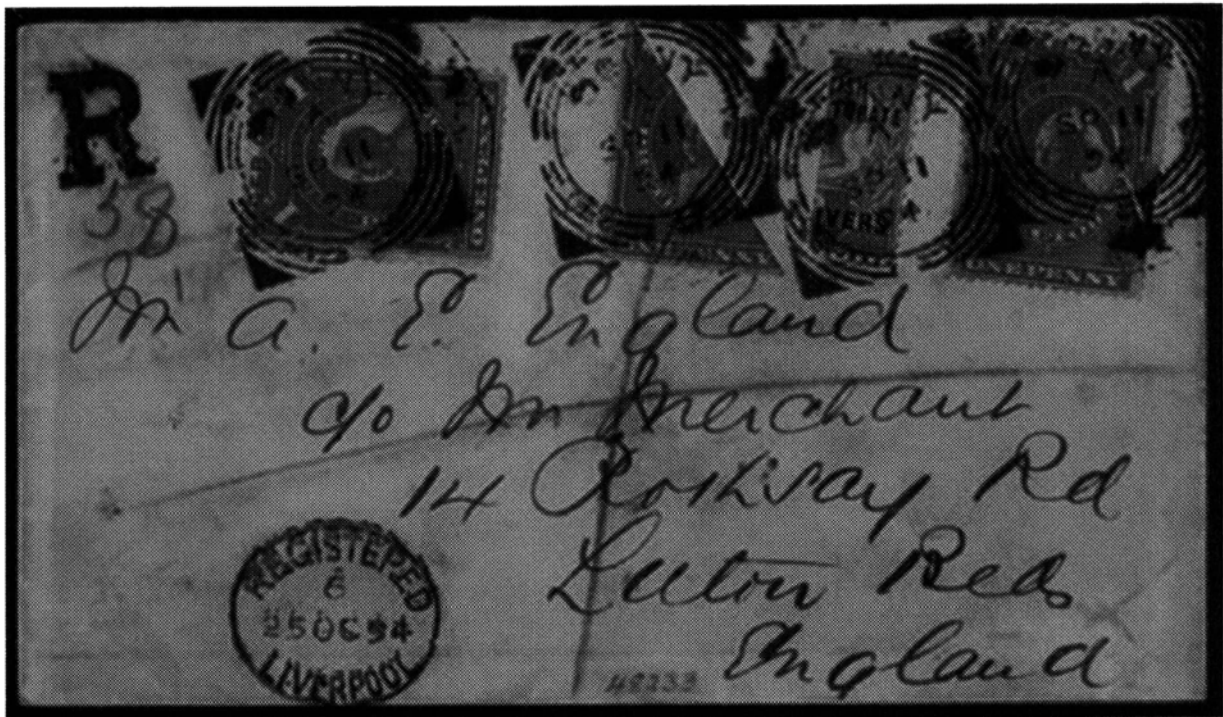
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