



LPS Journal

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A special thanks to
all who contributed
articles this month:
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Did you know?

The complete run of
*LPS Letters/LPS
Journals* are available
to members on our
website under the
Members Only
section.
www.liberiastamps.org

Fake Costa Rica Cancel on Scott #19

by Manfred Beier



Figure 1: 1890s fake town cancel of Liberia, Costa Rica, on Scott Liberia no. 19.

All members of the Liberian Philatelic Society are probably aware that there is another place on Earth called Liberia, a town of the same name as the African country, situated in the Province of Guanacaste, Costa Rica – Thomas Lockard had reported his “discovery” in the July/September 1995 issue of the LPS Journal. The first postmark of this town only stated the town's name, and no date, but it is known to have been in use from about 1865 until the mid 1880s. It can be found on the first issue (figure 2) and on all 1880 issues except the last (1889), and it is the normal cancel on the GUANACASTE overprinted stamps of that time period. However, it is certainly quite unusual to find this cancel on a stamp from Liberia, West Africa (figure 1).

To unravel the mystery behind this stamp I turned to Giana Wayman, member of the SOCORICO (Society for Costa Rica Collectors) and expert for the postal history of this country. She explained to me that the

cancel on Scott #19 is in fact a well known fake, most likely produced by some local collector in the 1890s. The forged postmark is found on the GUANACASTE stamps and usually ones with a fake overprint but also sometimes on genuine that are not normally found used.

Until now, it had not been seen on any non Costa Rican stamp. Since no one would take a Central American postmark on a West African stamp seriously, I assume it was not the forger's intention to deceive anyone, but he was simply intrigued by the country name and produced this special collectible just for the fun of it. ■



Figure 2: Genuine postmarks on Costa Rica no. 1, normal and over-inked impression.

What is the LPS?

The Liberian Philatelic Society (LPS) works to promote collecting Liberian stamps as a hobby and it is dedicated to the study and preservation of the postal history of Liberia. The LPS was founded in 1955, has been publishing a journal since 1966 and became an American Philatelic Society Affiliate in 1988.

We have members throughout the world and welcome anyone, regardless of skillset or knowledge, who has an interest in this fascinating area of philately.



President's Message

Welcome to the new Liberian Philatelic Society Journal! I hope you like this new Journal format.

First off, I would like to thank Henry Chlanda for all his official service to the LPS as President and Editor over many years. Henry decided to retire as an officer and I was asked to step up as President. I welcome this opportunity to help promote Liberian Philately. I would like to introduce our new LPS officers: Manfred Beier as Vice President and in new LPS junction as Webmaster and Travis Searls as our Secretary/Treasurer and *LPS Journal* Editor. Alan Cecilio and Jeff Kelly have graciously accepted to be LPS Directors.

Manfred, Travis, and I are very excited about the future of the LPS! Work has been done by members in the background the last few years, building websites and scanning all the old *LPS Journals*. We have the vision of bringing the Society into the digital age and have an internet presence that can be actively used by all members and used to recruit new members. And not just for downloading past *LPS Journal* copies, but to actively discuss Liberian Philately! Fundamentally, we are a virtual society.

Manfred will moderate a LPS internet Forum just for LPS members, where we can discuss published *LPS Journal* articles, and introduce new topics of discussion. This is a major membership benefit, and will help promote active participation in the society.

Active participation within the LPS has been an issue in the past, particularly with receiving Journal material. I am proposing three types of *LPS Journal* columns to give members more options to contribute: 1) A simple paragraph to describe "Interesting Covers" – whatever you find interesting whether a destination, an addressee, route, cancel, stamp, or whatever! Everyone has a favorite. 2) A brief "Census" column where anyone can ask "How many of these things are out there?", with compiled responses reported back in the Journal. Everyone has questions. 3) The more traditional "Articles" of study, research and new discoveries. I wrote 3 articles in this Journal to illustrate, albeit maybe a bit longer than I anticipated.

I'm excited about our new path forward. Membership dues forms are attached with this Journal. 2018 dues are higher, as we have more fixed costs, but we now have more dues categories, including a paperless email *LPS Journal* delivery. The 2018 dues are based upon estimates, but we hope to keep dues constant for a few years (but our bank balance is starting from zero).

I will be attending Westpex this April and exhibiting the 1892-1905 Waterlow Pictorial Issues. If you are also attending I would love you to visit and walk you through the exhibit!

Bryant E Korn
President



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Submissions

Deadlines for articles and ads: the first day of March, June, September and December. Article submission guidelines are available on our website or email the editor for a copy. Send articles and ads to the editor. Advertising rates per issue: Full page \$50; Half page \$25; Quarter page \$15; Small text want ads free!

Membership

Membership is open to all who are interested.

Hardcopy US: \$20/year
Hardcopy Canada: \$25/year
Hardcopy International: \$30/year
Paperless: \$15/year

Applications are available online or by contacting the Secretary.

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Editor's Notes

I too, as Bryant did, want to give a shout out to Henry Chlanda for all that he has done for the LPS over the years and for all the great articles he has produced. I hope he continues to send us material to be published!

This issue was put together quickly so that we could get it out in the first quarter of 2018. Manfred and Bryant supplied us with some great articles to get things rolling. I am excited to see articles from our other members in future Journals. Issue #2 should be out mid-second quarter. After that, we will be on a regular publishing schedule.

I welcome all correspondence including articles, questions to the group, ideas and critiques. You should also contact me for advertising information including placing want ads. I can be reached at liberiestamps@comcast.net.

Travis Searls
Editor

Society News

Along with this issue of the *LPS Journal*, you will find an application form for membership. One thing new this year is the addition of a Paperless level of membership. While regular members receive a color hardcopy of the *LPS Journal* mailed to them, Paperless level members will have to access the *LPS Journal* through the LPS Website at www.liberiestamps.org. Regular membership levels will have this ability as well.

Please fill out the application, choosing your desired level of membership, and return it along with your dues for 2018. Once I receive them, I will create you an account on the LPS website. You will then have access to the Members Only section which has society information, all past *LPS Journals* and supporting material and you will have access to the forum when it is finalized. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Travis Searls
Secretary/Treasurer

Interesting Cover: 1905 Registered Wrapper to France

by Bryant E Korn

This is an interesting registered cover. It is a large self-made wrapper (215mm x 90mm) sent registered from the Vice Consulate of France in Monrovia to Bordeaux, France franked with a 2c Hippopotamus and a 10c Pres. Gibson Monrovia Registration, cancelled in Monrovia, January 1905. Additionally, there is a circled "R" handstamp with a registration number in the upper left corner. The handstamps were applied poorly. The wrapper was handstamped with an octagonal boxed "VICE-CONSULATE OF FRANCE 7 JAN 1905" before the

registration stamp was applied and cancelled. On reverse, it was sent via "REGISTERED LONDON 30 JA 05". The delivery address is written on both pieces of the wrapper front for assurance of delivery in case the wrapper separated. The 2c Hippopotamus is placed on a front flap of the wrapper edge, holding it in place.

I interpret this as two times 1c rate, or 1oz. It must have contained a single printed pamphlet by the way it is constructed, and half of the postage appears to be for the wrapper itself! ■



Member Profile: Martin Nee



Figure 1: 1892 Waterlow & Sons imperforate die proofs.

LPS members who have been with us for several years may recall that I did a member profile on Manfred Beier back in the Oct-Dec 2013 issue of the LPS Journal. I find it interesting to hear how people became interested in philately and why they collect Liberia. Please give me feedback as to whether or not you like seeing profiles on our members.

About this Journal's profile - many of you may know Martin (Marty) Nee from seeing his auctions and fixed priced items of Liberian philatelic material on eBay. That is how I came to know Marty and we have corresponded now for many years. Marty was gracious enough to share some information about himself and his collecting interests.

Q: What are your current Liberian collecting interests?

A: I originally collected all of Liberia but recently decided to concentrate on #94 and #O43, the 1903 Inland Postage issue. This issue has always been a favorite, I really think the engraving is beautiful. One might think there is not much challenge in specializing in just two stamps but I have several volumes of material.

Q: How did you get started/interested in Liberian Philately?

A: I first got the Liberia bug, as I suspect many others did, from the Canadian dealer Kasimir Bileski. I had been building a nice Canadian revenue collection and started buying from Bileski. He sent me some Liberia as a "bonus" and I was hooked.

Q: How long have you been collecting Liberia?

A: I made my first purchase in 1989 from Bileski.

Q: What is your favorite item in your collection?

A: The Perkins Bacon archive material for #94.

Q: What was your best "find"?

A: I bought a collection sight unseen from an auction house, it had just a small one line description: Early Liberia – All Pre WWII, and I was the only bidder. It was very inexpensive. However, it was a great collection put together by a very discerning collector. There were many great items like #O1-12 MNH, #O15-25 MNH and too many other great items to list. But the best find from this collection were imperforate die proofs from the 1892 Waterlow & Sons issue (figure 1). There was a note from the original collector stating that they came to Robinson Lowe in the 1960's from "a little old lady who walked into their London shop" and that there were no others.

Q: How did you get started in stamp collecting?

A: Like many others I started collecting US stamps off of letters while in elementary school. When I got out of college and had some disposable income I started to collect US seriously.

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A: I am originally from the Boston MA area and come from a large family with five sisters. I am a retired USAF officer having spent most of my time in F-15 units with ten years stationed outside the US. I recently retired from my second career as a VP of a Fortune 500 company. I am now working on expanding my stamp sales business which began as a way to sell duplicates on eBay about ten years ago. My wife is also a retired USAF officer.

Q: Thoughts on the LPS?

A: I enjoy getting my LPS Journal as I always learn something new. I have made many great contacts through the LPS. I have been fortunate to have visited other prominent member like Henry Chlanda, Roy Mackal and Kasimir Bileski at their homes and have met several others at society meetings and stamp shows. They and others have always been very generous with sharing their knowledge and time with me regarding Liberian Philately. It's a small community, but there is a lot of knowledge collectively in the membership, so I encourage members, especially those new to Liberian collecting to reach out to other members for assistance. Even after 25 years of collecting Liberia I am always discovering that there is a lot that I don't know and not a week goes by that I don't email LPS members to ask for their opinions/advice or to share new items I've acquired. ■

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Share your profile! It is always great to hear about our members and what inspired them to collect Liberia. Answer the same questions in this article and send them along with a scan or photo of you and/or your favorite item in your collection to liberiestamps@comcast.net.

A Census: Questions about 5c Postage in 1892-1893

by Bryant E Korn

For the new *LPS Journal*, the board has an idea of having a regular column which poses questions to members to form a census from our collective collections to help answer any puzzling questions. It is also a way to get everyone to participate a bit more in the society.

I would like to pose 2 questions that are not well documented:

- 1) When did Liberia change from an 8c single overseas rate to 5c? and
- 2) When did Liberia issue the 5c on 6c Surcharge stamp?

When did Liberia first accept letters franked with 5c? Looking for UPU rate information, I found that: "From 1st October 1891 a uniform rate of 2½d per ½oz applied except to Transvaal, Orange Free State, British Bechuanaland, and 'other more remote places in the Interior of Africa served by way of the Cape Colony or Natal'. From 1st July 1892 the 2½d rate applied worldwide." (2½ d = 5c)"

Henry Rogers in "A Century of Liberian Philately" states (page 16) that the reduction from 8c to 5c occurred in

September 1892, and September 1892 is coincident with the Waterlow Pictorial issue. But, Liberian postal history at this time (1892-1895) is confusing because 8c franked covers sent overseas are known well into 1895! This baffles me.

Rogers goes on to say that the 5c on 6c Surcharge was issued in November 1893, but we know the 5c Globe and Krumen was completed by Waterlow on 15 Dec 1893 and was issued in Liberia soon after in early 1894. This makes me wonder why the 5c Surcharge issue was delayed 14 months until November 1893 if brand new 5c stamps were only a couple months away! I would suspect this date could be much earlier.

Henry Rogers may be correct with his dates, but we don't know where he got this information, or if it was just by deduction. Maybe we can figure it out. So, email me any early dates from covers franked 5c and/or any early date cancellations on a 5c surcharged stamp/cover and I will compile the results and report back (bryantekorn@gmail.com). ■



5c cover dated 8 Aug 1893 sent from Monrovia to Hamburg.



Waterlow and Sons Liberian Sample Stamps of the 1892-1894 Pictorial Issue

By Bryant E Korn

This article attempts to explain the development of Sample Stamps from Waterlow and Sons using Liberian postage stamps of 1892 and 1894. This story has not been fully documented, even with the Waterlow Study Circle, which disbanded in the 1990's. Liberia's 1892-1894 Pictorial Issue is one of the few uniquely situated in time to illustrate the development of sample stamps at Waterlow and Sons. Waterlow made a sample stamp booklet in 1895/1896 of stamps printed from countries prior to and including 1894, to display their stamp making expertise. This booklet was titled "STAMPS – TIMBRES", and each stamp was given a unique ST number (likely from the S & T of Stamps-Timbres).

The practice of producing Sample Booklets for marketing purposes then later Sample Pages, and assigning unique ST numbers to sample stamps, expanded and continued well into the 20th Century. The colors for the 1892 sample stamps for Liberia are fixed for each value and were made from original plates. This may or may not be unusual, and either Liberia gave permission for Waterlow to use the original plates, or Liberia did not own the plates, or no one really cared in 1894 or 1895! But the important point is that these sample stamps were made post-production. Sometime around the late 1890s or after the turn of the century, it became a practice to make "new mini-sheet plates" for sample stamps. This was a Waterlow practice by 1910, at which time Waterlow & Sons exhibited a collection of die proofs and mini-sheets of sample stamps from a whole host of countries at the 1910 Brussels Philatelic Exhibition.

Following on with the thought that "no one really cared in 1894 or 1895", the sample stamps of the mid-1890s did not have a security hole or overprints like the more mass-produced sample stamps made closer to, and after, the turn of the century. Waterlow likely initially thought that changing the color was enough to prevent fraudulent use of these stamps with unsuspecting postal clerks. But later they added a Waterlow & Sons LTD Specimen overprint, and then even later, a security hole. I have defined six types of sample

stamps (Types I-VI) as they pertain to Liberia based upon whether the sample stamp has an overprint, the overprint variety, and then a punched security hole. But, if categorized according to Marcus Samuel in the Essay-Proof Journal, Types II-VI as I define them here are all a single type of overprint in his larger classification scheme.

The sample stamp booklet pages shown on the following page were made in 1895/1896 and are from one of two documented early Waterlow sample stamp booklets. The other booklet is complete, dated, and endorsed as a gift:

"Fremantle, 19-5-96". The Liberian pages in both booklets are the same but are compiled differently within each book, as both books have page numbers written in the corner of each page. Thus, each booklet was made individually on a case-by-case basis. I assume both books were made generally at the same time.

The sample stamps on these booklet pages are Type I and predominately imperforate. The Type I sample stamps are the only examples that can be dated until the Waterlow Exhibit at the Brussels Philatelic Exhibition in 1910.

**"THIS STORY
HAS NOT BEEN
FULLY
DOCUMENTED,
EVEN WITH THE
WATERLOW
STUDY
CIRCLE..."**





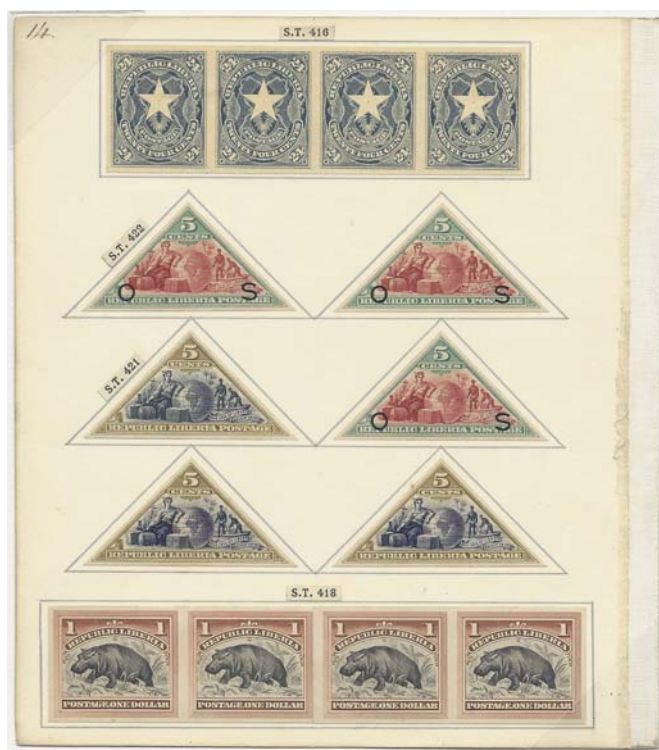
Page 11



Page 12 (the 6c block is perforated)



Page 13



Page 14

On booklet page 11 shown above, there were two Uruguay blocks of four in the middle of the page that separated the 1c and 2c Liberia stamps.

Type I. No overprint. No security hole. Imperforate.



These are without gum. The 5c stamps are the hardest to find and are limiting in collecting a complete set. These are not Plate Proof Color Trials, as they are so often seen marketed.

The Type I sample stamps are also found perforated and usually with gum, but they appear to be much scarcer than imperforate. The 6c Oil Palm in the booklet pages illustrated above is perforated.

Type I. No overprint. No security hole. Perforated.



Type II. Serif lettering, in Blue, on two lines, “WATERLOW & SONS L^{TD} SPECIMEN”, with two dots under the raised TD of L^{TD}. The first row of letters are 2.2mm tall, the second are 1.4mm tall. The lines are spaced 3mm. Either perforated, or imperforate. No security hole.



Type III. Non-Serif lettering, in Blue, on two lines, “WATERLOW & SONS L^{TD} SPECIMEN”, with two dots under the raised TD of L^{TD}. The first row of letters are 2.2mm tall, the second are 1.4mm tall. The lines are spaced 3mm. Either perforated, or imperforate. No security hole.



Type IV. Non-Serif lettering, in Black, on two lines, “WATERLOW & SONS LTD SPECIMEN”. Both lines have letters 1mm tall. The lines are spaced 2mm. No security hole.



This 12c example has a binding attached, so it appears to be part of a later-styled booklet. Waterlow & Sons also made single-page advertising brochures of sample stamps that are undated and consist of stamps from a variety of countries. The 6c and 8c stamps are examples of that, where you can see the LO and L of the word “LONDON”.

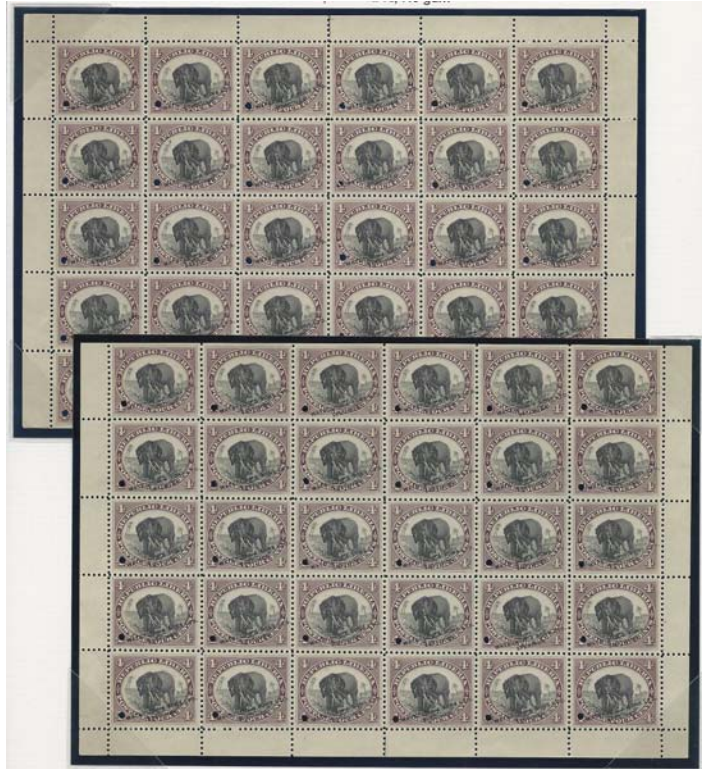
Type V. Non-Serif lettering, in Black, on two lines, “WATERLOW & SONS LTD SPECIMEN”. Both lines have letters 1mm tall. The lines are spaced 1mm. No security hole. There are two settings, the other has the “S” of Specimen under the “L” in Waterlow variety.



Type VI. Non-Serif lettering, in Black, on two lines, "WATERLOW & SONS LTD SPECIMEN.", with a dot after "Specimen". Both lines have letters 1mm high. The lines are spaced 1mm. 2mm security hole. All examples seen have the "S" of Specimen under the "L" in Waterlow setting, except for the 12c.



Type VI Sheets. As mentioned, Waterlow & Sons used original plates to make the sample stamps. But for the larger sheets of the lower values (1c-12c) Waterlow had to cut the sheets prior to overprinting and perforating. Following are examples of the 4c and 12c sheets.



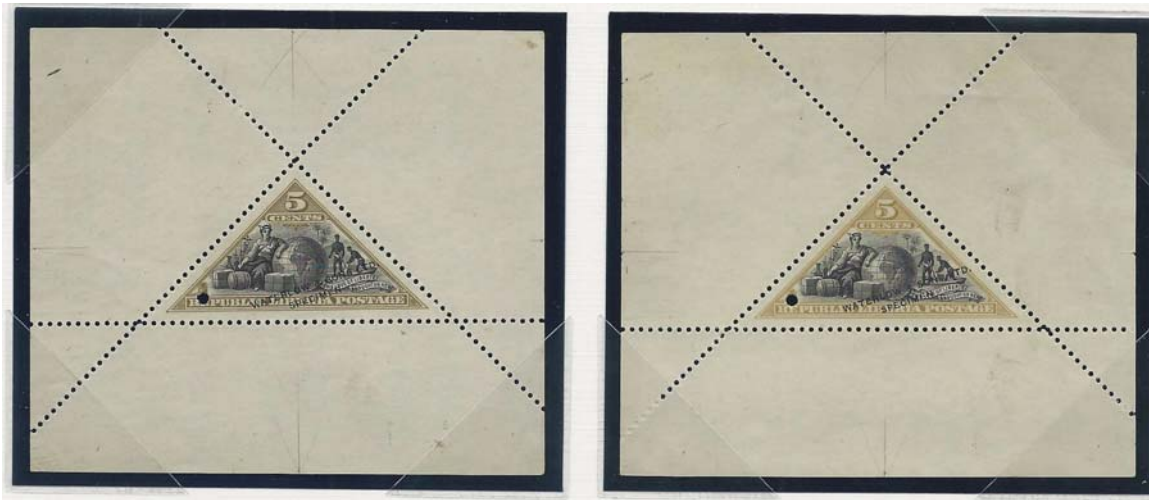
Cockrill states that the 4c sheets do not exist. I have both top/bottom examples of the sheet.



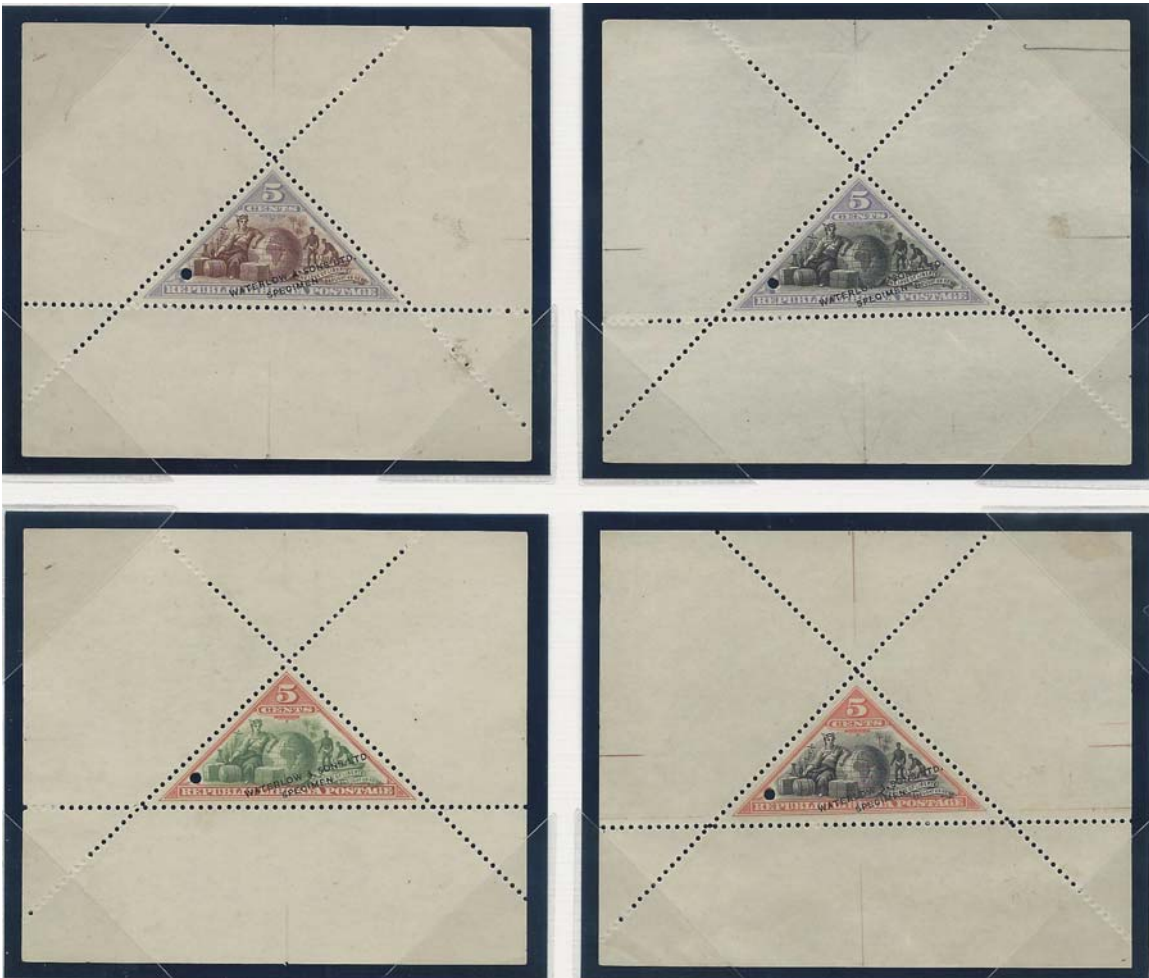
Both sides of the 12c sheet

The Brussels Philatelic Exhibition of 1910.

In 1910 Waterlow and Sons exhibited at the Philatelic Exhibition in Brussels and exhibited a series of new die proofs of the 1894 5c triangle in a variety of colors, as well as making mini-sheets of 8 stamps (4x4 se-tenant). These sample stamps are Type VI Sample Stamps. These die proofs are the only examples that I have seen, so I do not know if they are unique, or just rare. I would suspect a couple copies of each color combination (or even more color combinations) exist locked away somewhere with triangle or Liberia collectors.



Original Sample Stamp Color.





Mini-sheet in original OS Sample Stamp Colors.

Addendum: There is one additional sample stamp Type that I have not included. I refer to it as type VII, and it is a lithographed example of a Type VI sample stamp. These sample stamps have a 4-digit ST number, with a “5” prefix and the following 3 digits being the same as the original. For example, the 1892 8c green sample stamp with an ST number of 413, would have a lithographed equivalent of ST 5413. And, they are in the same sample stamp colors! I have seen an 1897 15c lithographed sample stamp, and it is the only sample stamp example from the 1897 Issue that I have seen. I speculate that the Lithographed Sample Stamps were made around the 1930s to convince governments that lithographed stamps were of inferior quality, even though they were cheaper and easily printed by host countries themselves. ■

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Hoffman, Colin, Waterlow Sample Stamps, Apr 1986, WSCJ 15, pp 10-11

Hubbard, David, S.T. Numbers - A list, Apr 1986, WSCJ 15, pp 12-23

Samuel, Marcus, Waterlow Sample Stamps, The Essay-Proof Journal No. 120, pp 179-180.

Diamond, Derek, 1898 Pictorial Issue of New Zealand, 2014, NZ Soc. of GB. (Re: Waterlow dies and Sample Stamps)

Scott #142b: Conclusion

by Manfred Beier



In the last issue I asked if anyone had Scott #142b in his collection. I received feedback from Henry Chlanda, J. Richard Fleet, Albert Little, Martin Nee, Travis Searls and Greg Sereda: all responses were negative. Given that some of these members have been collecting Liberia for many decades, there can only be one conclusion: the stamp doesn't exist. All copies with blue surcharge are hand stamped #150. ■