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Ghana Guide

In common with some neighbouring territories along the Gulf of Guinea, the Gold Coast took its name from the area's major resource. First among many Europeans to arrive were the Portuguese in 1471. British Gold Coast was formed in 1867 and by 1901, following the Ashanti wars, all of the Gold Coast was a British Colony.

Apart from the capital, Accra, there are hundreds of other postmarks to look out for. Most of the selection of images shown here are by kind permission of John Cooper.



Sekondi

The twin cities of Sekondi-Takoradi, capital of the Western Region, provided Gold Coast with its first deep-water port.

This cover to Florida bears the foreign rate 3d cancelled Sekondi 11 No 35.



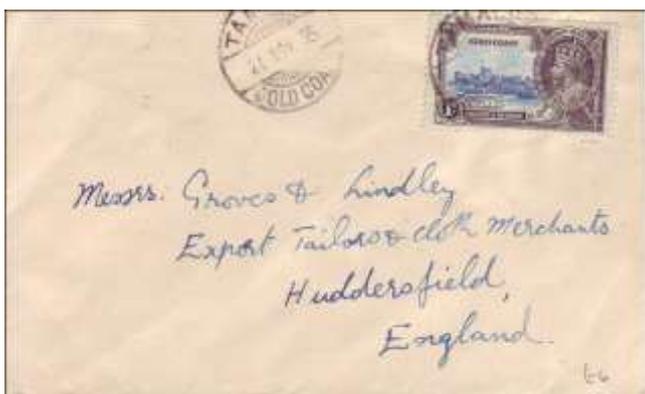
Takoradi Wharf

From the wharf itself comes this postcard to UK with its 1d stamp tied by Takoradi Wharf cancel for 27 No 35 and with further postmarks of both Sekondi and Takoradi of the same date.



Kumasi

From the Ashanti capital comes this roughly opened cover to Egypt, which was included for the empire rate so was carried for 1d. Postmarks include: Kumasi (3 Jun 35 5am), Cairo (partial strike) and Ghuria (23 Ju 35 10a).



Tamale

In the Kingdom of Dagbon is Tamale, capital of the Northern Region. The 1d (showing the flaw Bv8B.9/2) pays the empire rate to UK and is cancelled Tamale for 21 Nov 35. The reverse of the cover shows a Kumasi transit mark for the next day.



Bosuso

1d (underpaying by 2d) on a commercial cover to New York, tied by Bosuso (Abuakwa) cds for 23 No 1935 with US 5c & 3c postage dues, other due marks and pencilled deficit workings – 10/40 (2d short = 4d tax = 40UPUc = 8.26 USc). TPO Eastern backstamp.



Nsuta

A similar underpaid cover, this time from a small town in Sekyere Central – a district of the Ashanti Region. By this time, Encyclopedia Britannica should have been a bit fed up with paying this sender's postage. The Nsuta cancel is for 27 Nov 35.



Obuasi

From the gold mining community of Obuasi in the southern Ashanti Region comes this somewhat torn empire rate cover to Hertfordshire. The date of sending is 9 Dec 35 and there is no backstamp.



Mangoase

With the 3d for registration presumably on the reverse, this 1d serves the 1 oz inland rate (to Accra) and received a Mangoase (in the Northern District) oval registered cancel for 1 Jul 35.



Kade

Bearing the foreign letter rate of 3d is this cover to Florida. It was sent on 20 Oct 35 from Kade, capital of Kwabebirem District of the Eastern Region.

It carries backstamps of Central TPO and Sekondi – both of 21 Oct.



Nsawam

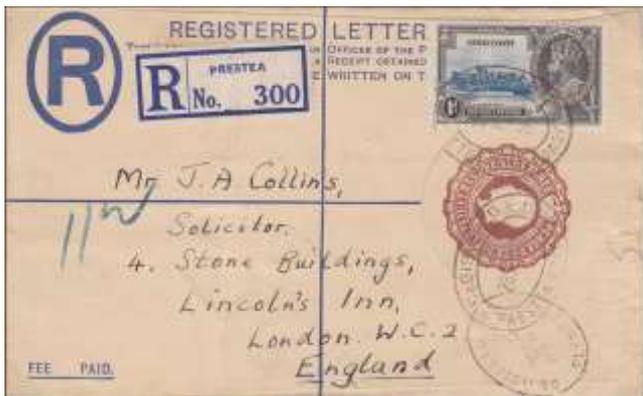
With 3d registration and the empire rate of 1d, perhaps this Nsawam cover was thought to be destined for the UK Manchester. Thence to the intended US destination where it failed to attract any postage due.



Ho

3d (registration) and further three 1d values for the foreign letter rate pay to carry this cover to Switzerland.

The registered oval datestamp for 23 Aug 35 is that of Ho – previously part of German Togo. The reverse carries a receiver of Wallisellen for 23 09 35.



Prestea

This 3d printed stationery registered envelope has been uprated with 1d adhesive for the empire rate to London. The 28 Sep 35 cancel is of Prestea, a gold-mining town on the west bank of the Ankobra river, and the backstamp is that of Plymouth, 11 Oc 35.



Cape Coast

This city and fishing port is the origin for this registered cover to Italy. A 6d stamp covers both registration (3d) and foreign letter rate (3d), and is cancelled Cape Coast 4 Sep 35. Backstamped: Cape Coast, Plymouth & Torino (24.9.35).



Foso

Another registered envelope uprated – this time by 3d to cover the foreign letter rate to the United States. From the capital of Assin North Municipal District, Foso (23 Nov 1935), the cover's front also carries marks of Plymouth & New York, with, to the reverse, those of Sekondi & New York.



Akrokeri

From up in the Ashanti region comes this Akrokeri (3 May 35) cover, conveyed to the USA using the foreign rate 3d and backstamped South Range, Jun 1 1935.



Beyin

A village on the far western coast is where this registered cover to UK started. The four 1d stamps (3d reg, 1d empire rate) are tied Beyin (12 Dec 35) & also Axim reg. (13 Dec) with S. Devon (5 Jan) & Northampton (6 Ja).



Agona Duakwa

Another cover to Egypt but this time with the foreign rate, (two further stamps on the front). The reverse stamp is cancelled Agona Duakwa, (a settlement in Agona West), and also tied Swedru (both dated May 17th). The Cairo arrival is for 6 Jne 1935.



Keta

This further example of an uprated registered envelope is from Keta, a town in the Volta region.

The Keta registered oval date stamps are for 5 Sep 35 with further strike to the reverse.



Nyakrom

1d empire rate and three more pay the registration to Northampton. The cover comes from Nyakrom, another town in Agona West and the back stamp is that of Birmingham Registered (21 Sp 35).

