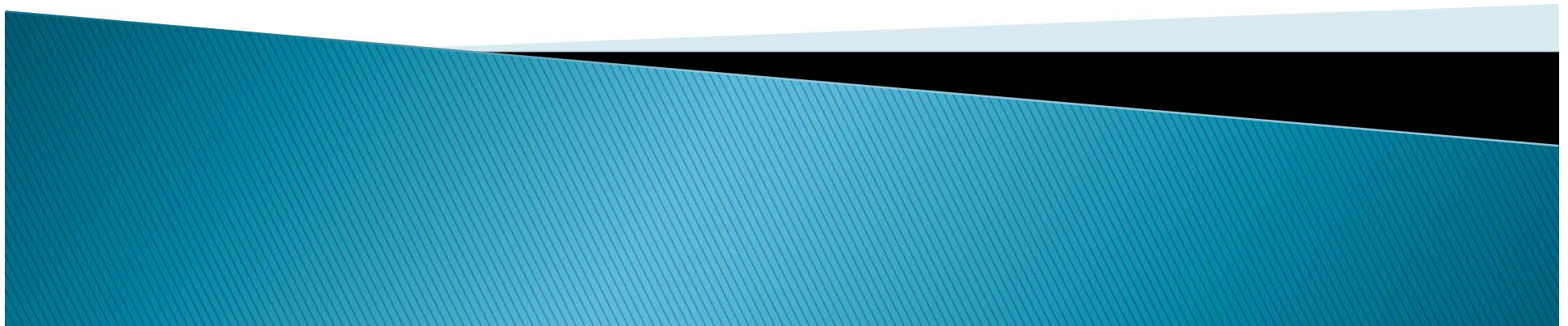




Treatment in Traditional Philately

Frank Walton FRPSL



Treatment of What?

- ▶ The title of the exhibit is crucial
- ▶ Judges should mark against the scope as given on the first page
- ▶ Two choices to consider:
 - Sierra Leone 1859–1931
 - Sierra Leone: The De La Rue Stamps 1859–1931
- ▶ The second one implies much more about what the exhibit covers – and thus provides a framework for the treatment.



Title Page

- ▶ Just says what the exhibit is all about
- ▶ Uses short words
- ▶ Defines Chapters
- ▶ Key phrase: *“This exhibit provides a study of the postage and revenue stamps...”*

Sierra Leone

The De La Rue Stamps 1859 to 1931

The De La Rue printing company was awarded the contract for the production of the first postage stamps for Sierra Leone in 1859. They retained this business for over 70 years until they lost a tender for a new series of pictorial definitive issues to a combination of Waterlow & Sons Ltd and Bradbury Wilkinson & Co Ltd in 1932. This exhibit provides a study of the Postage & Revenue adhesives printed by De La Rue up to 1931. All of the issues produced by De La Rue were printed by typography in London, England.

The Sixpence Stamp (1859 to 1895). When the first adhesives were issued, the half-ounce letter rate to the United Kingdom was 6d. As the vast majority of mail was to the UK, no other values were required. Examples of the scarce ‘Dot after Six’ variety are shown, including the only recorded examples from the first and second printings.

The First Victorian Keyplate (1872 to 1896). Sierra Leone was one of the first countries to use the keyplate method of printing. They were printed on papers with different watermarks and perforations. Proofs and items from the De La Rue archives are shown. Also displayed are examples of the elusive inverted watermark varieties.

Fiscal Stamps and their Postal Overprints (1894 to 1897). The 2½d overprints on the revenue stamps were produced in low numbers, the smallest quantity being just eight panes of the 2s value. The ONE PENNY overprint was intended only for local use; an internal cover used in the short period they were available is shown. Doubled impressions of the overprints are amongst the rarest stamps from the British Commonwealth; an example of the 1d POSTAGE AND REVENUE stamp is included.

The Postage & Revenue Keyplate (1896 to 1931). Sierra Leone adopted the De La Rue Postage & Revenue keyplate system, using it from 1896 to 1931 with Victoria, Edward VII and George V heads. Essays and proofs from the printer’s records are displayed.

The Large Format George V Keyplate (1912 to 1931). This elegant design was deliberately elaborate to deter forgers from reproducing the high value stamps.

Where information is included beneath stamps, this relates to the date of the first despatch to the colony and the total number of stamps printed.

Sources:

Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone: Its History, Stamps & Stationery until 1961*, RPSL, London 1988
Beale P.O., “Sierra Leone Double Overprint on 1893 Provisional”, *London Philatelist*, RPSL, January 2003
Easton J., *The De La Rue History of British & Foreign Postage Stamps 1855 to 1901*, RPSL, London 1958
Fernbank P.E., *King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage & Revenue Design*, WASC, Banbury 1997
Samuel M., *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*, RPSL, London 1976
Walton F.L., “Sierra Leone Specimen Stamps of 1884”, *London Philatelist*, RPSL, January 2004.



Sierra Leone – Exhibit History

	Stampex International 2003	Washington 2006	Vienna 2008	London 2010
Treatment & Philatelic Importance	24	26	27	29
Knowledge , Study & Research	31	31	33	33
Condition & Rarity	26	27	27	28
Presentation	4	5	5	5
Total	85	89	92	95

- ▶ Treatment matters! It is cheap extra marks.



The Starting Point

- ▶ Start with the *Stanley Gibbons Catalogue* – the judges will!
- ▶ But only start there...
- ▶ The catalogue suggests some very clear ‘chapters’ within the exhibit
- ▶ Is the number of sheets dedicated to each of the chapters appropriate?
 - Pro-rate by stamps issued?
 - Weighted by importance?



Sierra Leone *SG Part 1* Listing

Reign	Stamps Issued	%
Queen Victoria	72	49
Edward VII	39	26
George V	37	25

- ▶ What balance should the exhibit include on the above?



Sierra Leone – Exhibit Balance

Reign	Stamps Issued	% Issued	Pages Shown	% Exhibited
Queen Victoria	72	49	75	60
Edward VII	39	26	18	14
George V	37	25	32	26

- ▶ Recognise that the earlier issues are important
- ▶ ...and that the Edward VII key plates are rather boring!
- ▶ Don't consider what you have when designing the perfect exhibit. Compromise later.



Chapters

- ▶ Three isn't enough
- ▶ Breakdown into finite sections that the judges can instantly recognise
- ▶ Make navigation obvious by consistent page headings



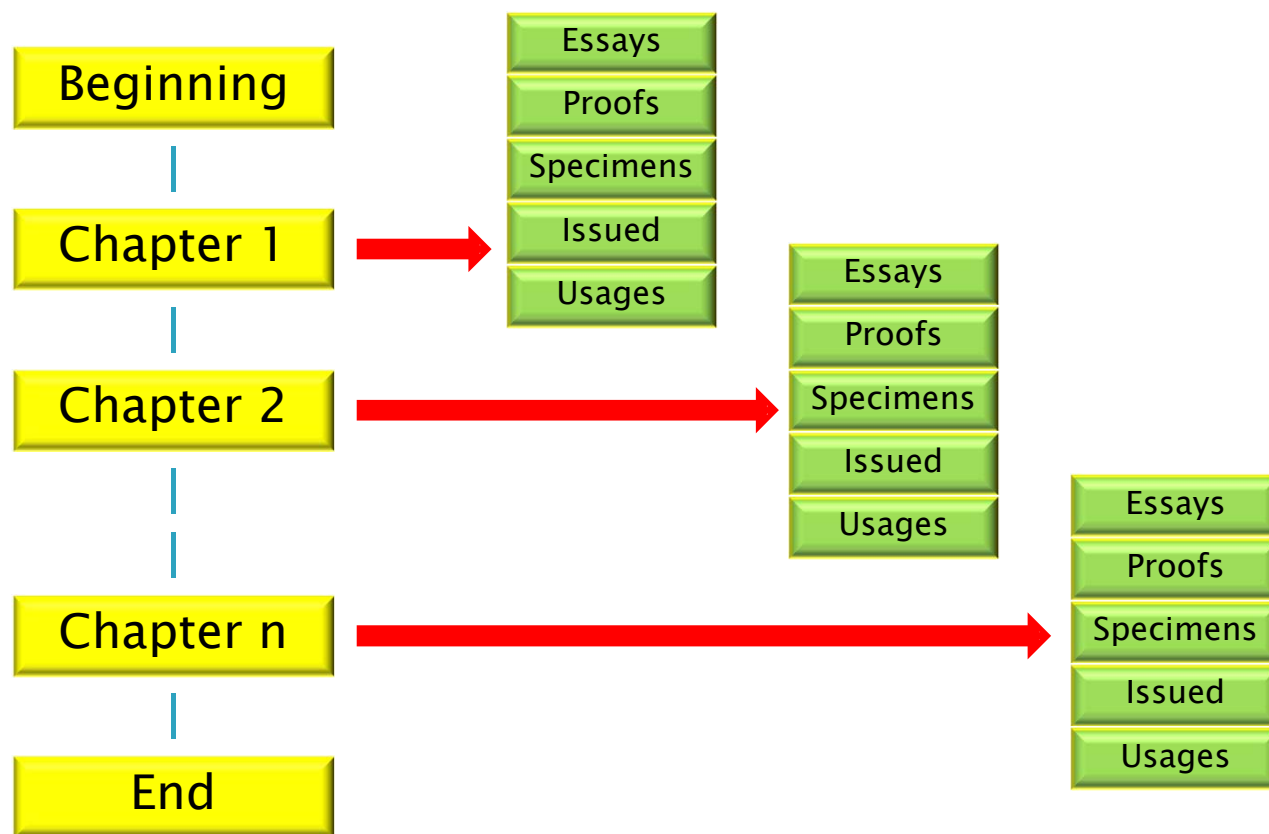
Sierra Leone Chapters

Chapter	No. Sheets
Introduction	1
Queen Victoria: First Sixpence	23
Queen Victoria: First Keyplate	24
Queen Victoria: Fiscal stamps and postal use	16
Small Format Keyplate: Queen Victoria	12
Small Format Keyplate: Edward VII	18
Small Format Keyplate: George V	22
Large Format Keyplate: George V	10
The End	2

- ▶ The chapters don't break into units of 16.



Structure of Traditional Exhibits



Storyline

Essays

Proofs

Specimens

Issued

Usages

- ▶ Within each chapter, try to tell the ‘cradle to grave’ story of the issue
- ▶ Wherever possible, show material that isn’t in the standard catalogues – or in other people’s exhibits
- ▶ These are essential to achieving good marks



Storyline – Essays

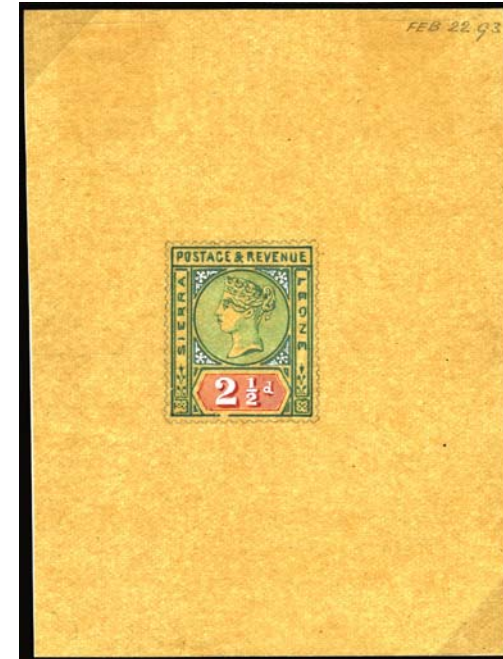
Essays

Proofs

Specimens

Issued

Usages



- ▶ Handpainted items, ex De La Rue Archive
- ▶ Can't have too many!



Storyline – Something Different


Essays

Proofs

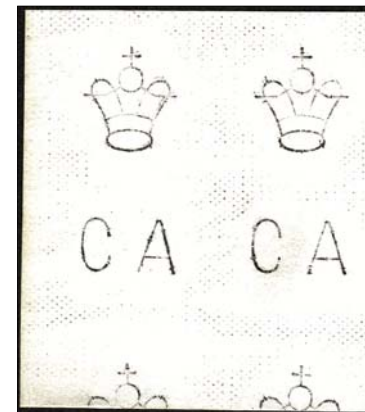
Specimens

Issued

Usages

Date.....18	lbs. oz.	No. 771	Colour <i>Phosphine Yellow.</i>
		<i>"Sierra Leone 3^d Postage."</i>	
1 "		<i>Phosphine Yellow.</i>	
8 "		<i>Long Silvine Varnish.</i>	
6 "		<i>Middle " "</i>	
1 1/2 "		<i>Thin</i>	
<i>Sample as received from Laboratory. never afterwards used.</i>			

- ▶ Unusual items always attract judges' attention



Storyline – Proofs

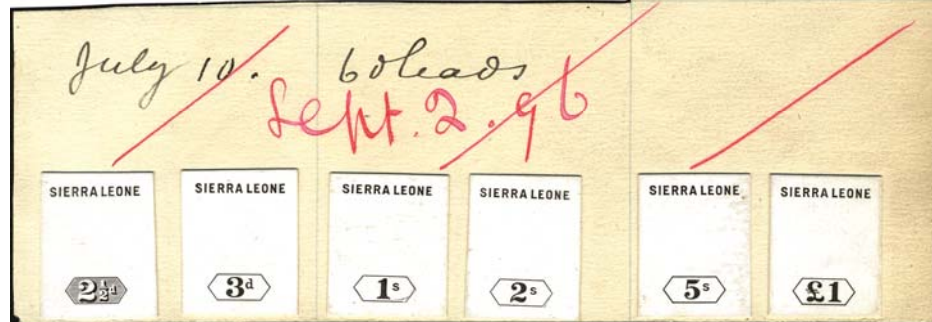
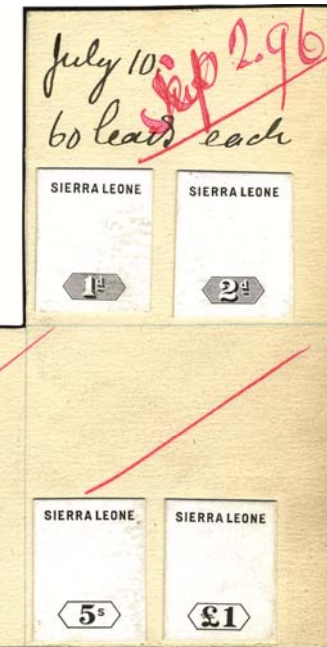
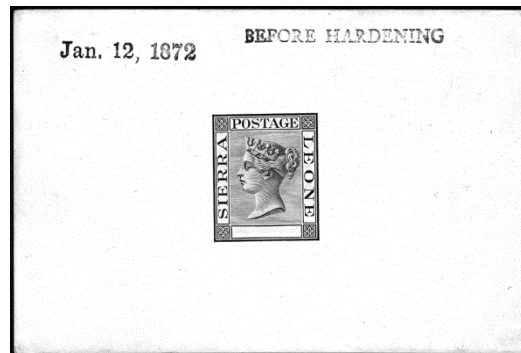
Essays

Proofs

Specimens

Issued

Usages



► ex De La Rue Archive



Storyline – Specimens

Essays

Proofs

Specimens

Issued

Usages



- ▶ Pre-UPU Printer's Specimens
- ▶ ex De La Rue Archive



Storyline – Specimens

Essays

Proofs

Specimens

Issued

Usages



- ▶ UPU Specimens in strips
- ▶ Varieties



Storyline – Issued Stamps

Essays

Proofs

Specimens

Issued

Usages



- ▶ Single stamps ideally mint
- ▶ Chose well-centred items with good perfs
- ▶ Only show used stamps by exception



Storyline – Issued Stamps

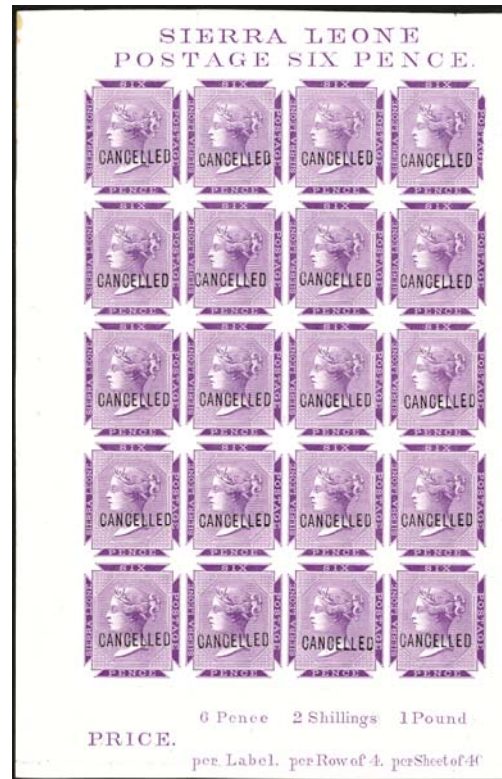
Essays

Proofs

Specimens

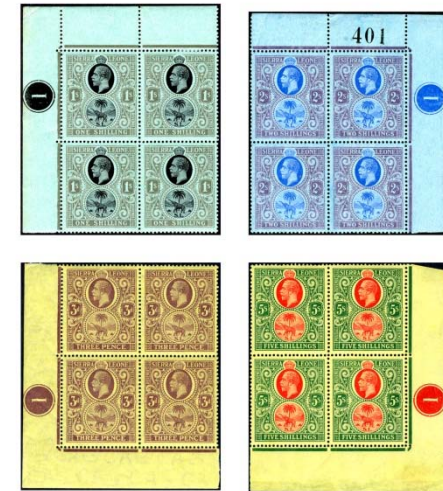
Issued

Usages



The George V Large Format Issues 1912 to 1931

Sheet Format



The key plate, featuring the central King's head and Sierra Leone arms, was common to all eight values for this issue. There was only one key plate made, which had the number 1 in a circle in all four corners of the sheet. Each duty plate had a single jubilee line that surrounded the pane of 60 stamps.

► Positional blocks always have impact



Storyline – Issued Stamps

- Essays
- Proofs
- Specimens
- Issued
- Usages



- ▶ To achieve high marks most catalogued varieties should be exhibited
- ▶ Show knowledge by including others



Storyline – Issued Stamps

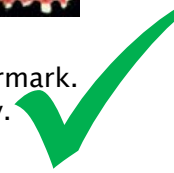
- Essays
- Proofs
- Specimens
- Issued
- Usages



Inverted watermark.
One of three known.



Reversed watermark.
Only copy.



- ▶ Less than perfect copies
- ▶ Would you include them?



Storyline – Usages

Essays

Proofs

Specimens

Issued

Usages

The First Victorian Keyplate 1872 to 1896

1872 Introduction of Keyplate Issues. Crown CC Watermark, Sideways. Perf 12½ Ragged.

Although these stamps were printed from separate keyplate and duty plates, each value was produced in a single colour. Printings of all values were made on both 21 February and 13 June 1872.

The stamps were put on sale in Freetown on 4 April 1872.



65,820



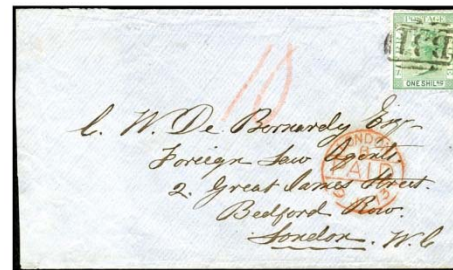
23,220



37,989



12,240



22 June 1873 - First keyplate issue on letter from Freetown to London. Is watermark Crown CC sideways, perf 12½. Rare was 6d per half ounce. The manuscript 10d indicates 10d due to the United Kingdom.

- ▶ Aim is to show one cover with a single usage of a key value



Storyline – Usages

Essays

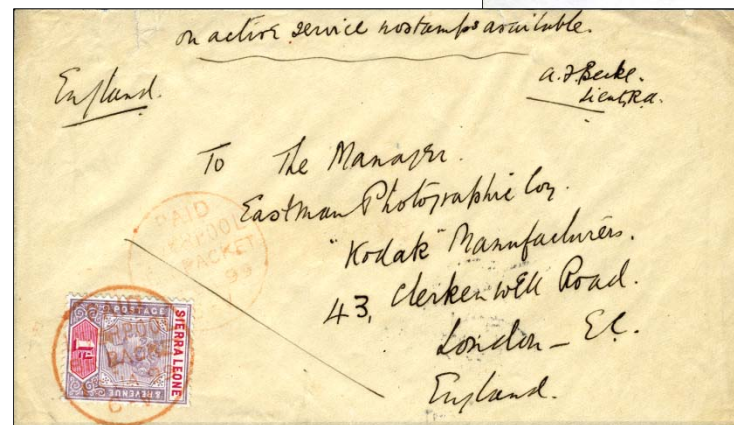
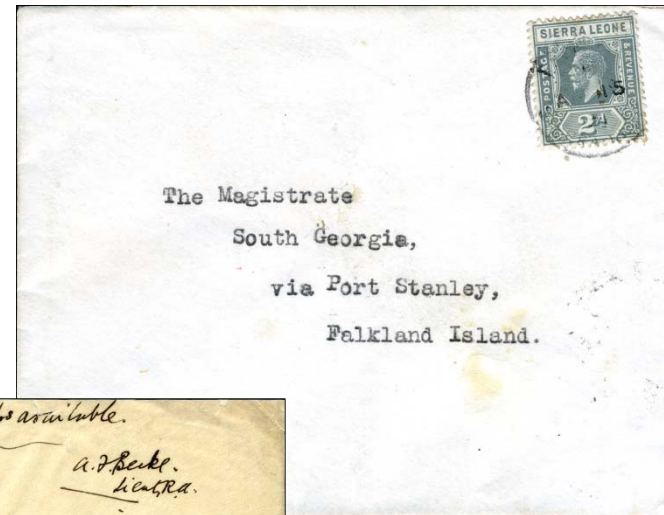
Proofs

Specimens

Issued

Usages

Unusual
destination



Officer's
letter

- ▶ Choose unusual items wherever possible



Storyline – Usages

Caption Competition

- Essays
- Proofs
- Specimens
- Issued
- Usages



- ▶ Show knowledge?
- ▶ Traditional or Postal History?

16 September 1925 – Die I 1d used from Sumbuyah. Taxed '1d' in Freetown; however, minimum postage due 1½d applied.

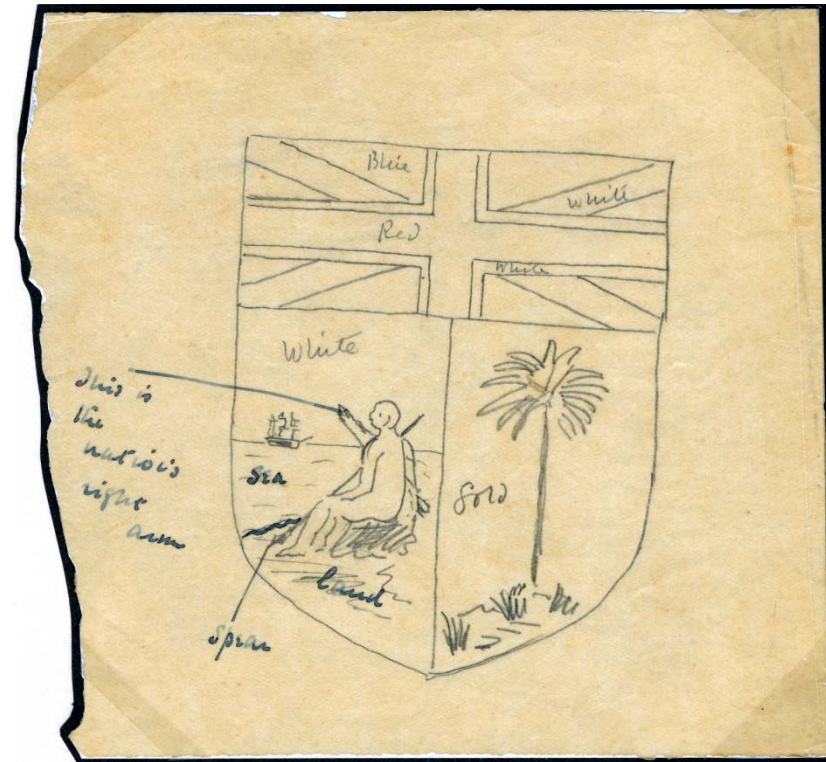
16 September 1925 – Die I 1d used from Sumbuyah.

16 September 1925 – Die I 1d used from Sumbuyah. Taxed '1d' in Freetown despite the agreement at the Madrid UPU Conference to apply a minimum postage due fee of 1½d to any underpaid mail. This error was corrected by the more experienced staff in the Foreign Branch office in London.

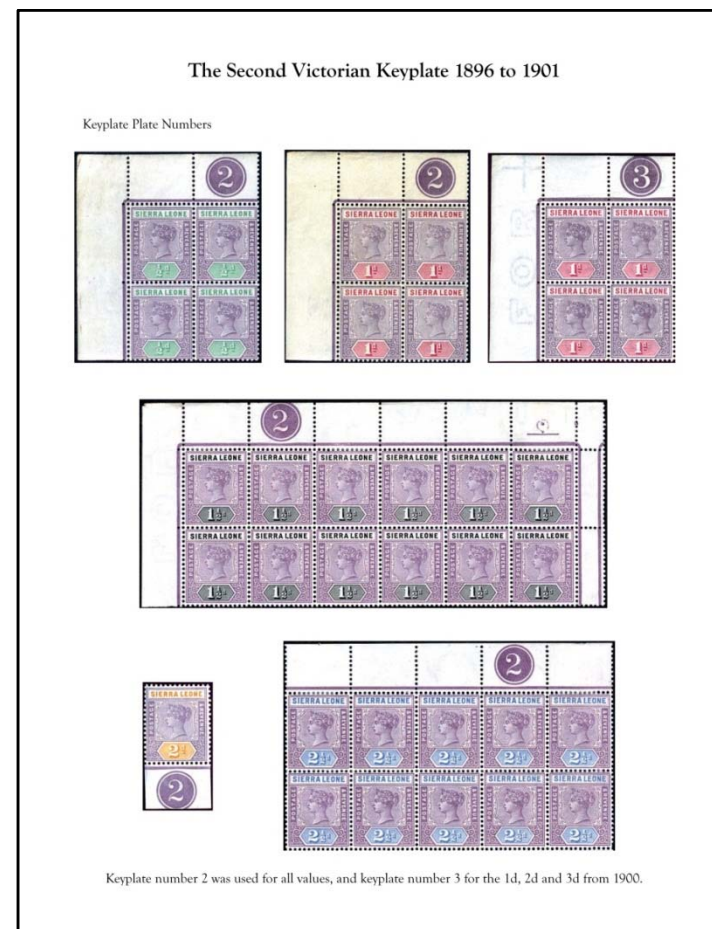
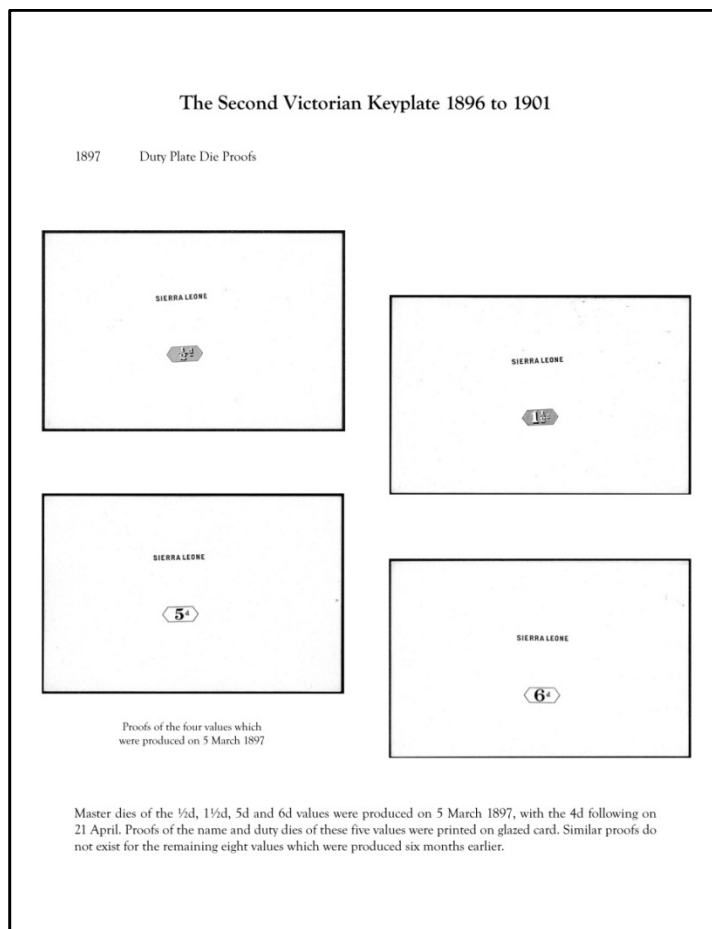


The End

- ▶ Have a powerful ending
 - A natural conclusion to the story is better than a very expensive item
- ▶ In this exhibit the end comes with the loss of the contract to other printers



Treatment of Keyplate Series



► Initial chosen approach



Treatment of Keyplate Series

The Second Victorian Keyplate 1896 to 1901

One Penny Value

For the period that this stamp was in everyday use, the half ounce internal letter rate was 1d. After 25 December 1898, the rate to many British Empire countries was reduced to 1d. Printed from both Keyplates 2 and 3.



Plate 2: Five printings from 1896 to 1898
Total 6,566 sheets



Plate 3: Three printings from 1899 to 1901
Total 14,104 sheets

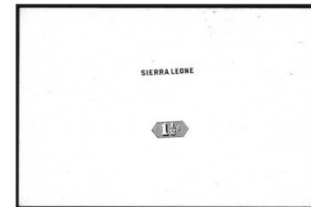


1898 - Officer's letter to London, endorsed 'On active service no stamps available'.
A Sierra Leone 1d stamp was applied en route and was cancelled at Liverpool on 15 January 1899.

The Second Victorian Keyplate 1896 to 1901

One and a Half Pence Value

This stamp was used as a make up value only as there were no 1½d rates in Victorian times. Printed only from Keyplate 2.



Proof of duty plate



Plate 2: Three printings during 1897
Total 2,200 sheets



20 May 1899 - Registered letter from Freetown to Leeds, United Kingdom.
The 1d postage plus 2d registration fee is paid by a pair of 1½d adhesives.

► Final chosen approach

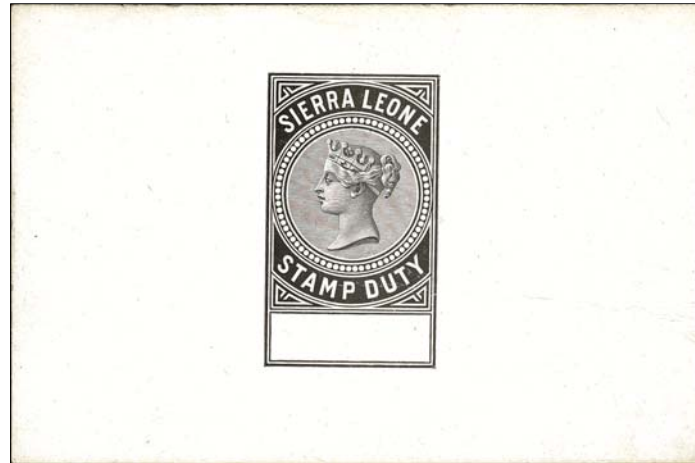


Can Revenues be Traditional?

- ▶ Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Traditional Philately (SREV) gives guidance:
 - Article 2, Para 2: Exhibits that do not principally follow the special rules of other philatelic classes shall be considered and judged as traditional philately exhibits
 - Article 3, Para 3.1.9: Postally used fiscal stamps and unused fiscals valid for postal use are allowed



Can Revenues be Traditional?



- ▶ I specifically wanted to include some revenues as they help tell the complete story of the colony's relationship with De La Rue
- ▶ This is carefully mentioned in the introduction
- ▶ BUT don't include too many...



Any Questions?

