

Viewing Specialized Madagascar

by John F. Dunn

On May 20, David Feldman of Switzerland will be conducting an auction of Specialized Madagascar. For most collectors, if they have seen any Madagascar issues from this large island off the coast of southeast Africa, it most likely will be the 1884-86 British Consular Mail issues. Shown here is one example, the 1886 Second Issue 3d with period after “POSTAGE” and “BRITISH CONSULAR MAIL / ANTANANARIVO”, handstamped in red (rare), roulette I, used with blue crayon cross and the often-seen “bite” at upper left and bottom left, as the were gummed only in one corner—in this case the upper left. No more than five stamps with red handstamps are recorded, all used.



(As the auction had not been held as this is being written I cannot provide prices. Should you want this information I refer you to <http://www.davidfeldman.com/1/1/m/14>.)



Back to the beginning of the auction, the first lot I selected was this example of British Missionary Mail, a March 12 1833 stamped folded letter

to London, carried by runner from Antananarivo to Tamatave, with oval “MAURITIUS / POST OFFICE” at left and boxed 2-line “INDIA LETTER / PORTSMOUTH” postmark. This cover predates the inception of regular mail service, which also used native runners.

Next we see a British Missionary Mail folded letter, dated August 1, 1869 from Antananarivo to

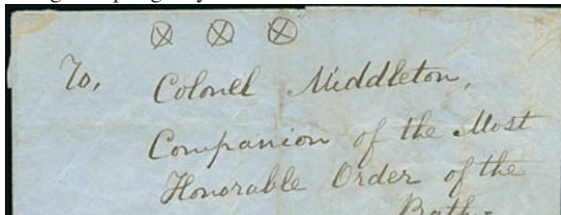


London from Antananarivo (the capital of Madagascar) “by French Mail” via Tamatave (the east coast port and British Consular seat) and Mauritius (the customary transit point, in the Indian Ocean 550 miles off the coast of Madagascar), where 1863-72 1s orange and 4d rose stamps were applied and tied by B53 numerals. The cover also shows a “9d” taxation marking and “LONDON / PAID / 25 OC 69” arrival cds (circular date stamp) and a “1/5” manuscript notation (lower left), which denoted 1d for Madagascar plus 6d to Mauritius plus 10d to the UK.

Along with the British Consular Mail Service, there also was a Royal Mail Service that was introduced in 1790 in the Madagascar

Kingdom of Imerina. Shown here is a folded lettersheet from Rahaniraka, Principal Secretary of State at the Palace of Antananarivo to Colonel Middleton on his way to Tamatave. The three crosses designate delivery as being of top urgency.

And below that we see on Official Passport envelope that was



sent circa 1885 from the Prime Minister in Antananarivo to the Governor of Tamatave with seals of the Queen and the Prime Minister. Ranavalomanjaka, Queen of Madagascar, known as Ranavalona III, ruled as Queen from 1883 to 1896.



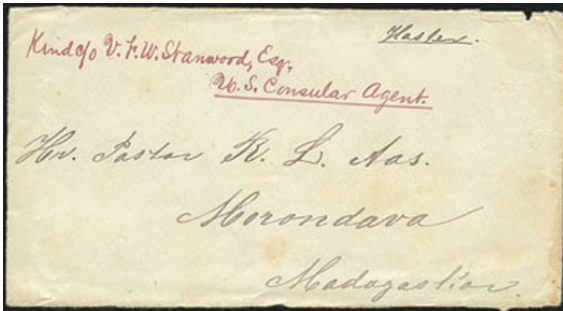
Next we see an example of prepayment of postage from Madagascar without adhesives, which prevailed during the 1887-1895 period. This 1894 Envelope to Wolverhampton, UK bears a violet cachet “BRITISH / VICE CONSULATE / ANTANANARIVO” and was sent through Tamatave, where French Type Sage 15c (three copies) and a 5c were applied, the cover also with an octagonal “LA REUNION A MARSEILLE 28 JUIL 94”. (Reunion, then a French Colony, is about 400 miles off the coast of Madagascar.)

On page 23 we show an 1895 Newspaper fragment to London bearing at the bottom of the piece a Madagascar 1d blue-grey cancelled by large-size “BRITISH / MAIL / 12 JUN 95 / ANTANANARIVO” cds in violet, also with a Natal 1882-89 1/2d dull green tied by “DURBAN JY30 95 cds.”

Following that is an 1895 Pictorial Issue (not listed in Scott) for the British Inland Mail; and a cover to England with the Pictorial Issue 4d rose (lower left) cancelled by small “BRITISH / MAIL / 23 SEP 95 / ANTANANARIVO” cds, also with a Natal 1891 2-1/2d tied by “REGISTERED / DURBAN OC 25 95” cds. This represents a late usage as the post was suppressed on September 30, 1895.



Here we view an 1882 cover to Morondava with manuscript in red "Kind c/o V.F.W



Stanwood, Esq., U.S. Consular Agent", marked "Haster" (urgent) upper right. This is

the only recorded example from the U.S. Government Mail Service, which, according to the lot description "is known to have existed in 1882, with no information available about its lifespan. The service provided that letters were sent once a month by runners from the capital to Majunga on the north coast and to Morondava on the west coast. The minimum postage to Majunga was 33 cents. As the postage for mail to Morondava was the double, it can be assumed that the letters went by ship from Majunga to Morondava and not by runners direct from the capital to the west coast."

The Norwegian Missionary Society also had a mail service during this period and had its own stamps. We show here two covers. The right one shows a single of the N.M.S. Typeset 1/3d black, cancelled



by a manuscript "11/10/94"—the only example with British currency on cover. The lot description tells us, "stamps with local and British currency were used by the same correspondents, leaving open the question why both were printed." The left cover shows a vertical strip

of three of the N.M.D. "5v." black (the v standing for the Madagascar varidimiventy, worth about 1/3 of a British penny in 1885) paying the 1e 5v parcel rate. (See page 34 for more information on the currency.)

Moving on, we come to French involvement in Madagascar,



which not only is more extensive historically but also philatelically. Early on, starting in 1889, we find French Colonies stamps with surcharges. This Registered letter to Reunion shows an array of such 1889

issues (French Offices in Madagascar Sc. 1, 2 and 4) tied by Tamatave "6 Aout 91" double-circle cancels.

The next cover shows a local usage in Tamatave of the 1891 5 centimes Typeset, Sc. 8, with a design that is similar to the Norwegian Missionary Service stamps viewed earlier.



Still more fascinating pieces: here we view a block of 22 of the "Corps d'Occupation de Madagascar / Service Militaire / Postes/ Franchise 2/5" stamps, for use by French troops with one of the stamps magnified for a better 'look-see'. (The French area section of the Feldman catalog was in French, and this block was described as "extremement rare.")



In 1895 stamps of France were overprinted "Poste / Francaise / Madagascar" for use in the colony. Shown here is a single of the 1 franc, Sc. 21.

And on page 24 we see ten values from the 1896-1899 French Colonies "Navigation and Commerce" common design tablet issue with "Madagascar et Dependencies" in the tablet, all cancelled by "Telegraphie 10 mai 98 Poste electrique 6" postmarks, the 1f value, Sc. 46, having been cut out from the large piece.

This is followed by a 1902 Maritime cover to Paris with, right to left, a mix of Madagascar, Nossi-Be (2) and Diego Suarez Navigation and Commerce issues, all tied by Diego Suarez cancels. Upon reaching Paris, it was forwarded to Switzerland, with a 10c French stamp added upper left.

By the stamps, you can track the route this cover followed: Di-



Next we see a cover used without postage, a 1905 usage to Majunga, a coastal

city (aka Mahajanga) in northwest Madagascar. It shows two Ambohibe double circle handstamps and a manuscript surcharge (magnified here).



Here is the "better" zebu image I referred to earlier. It is seen on one of four stamps issued to be used as postal currency and showing an example of the humped cattle.

Transportation topicalists will like this one, so we worked to bring out the image. It is a 1908 essay showing transportation by sedan chair (arrow), used for the 1908-28 issue, Sc. 79-114.



Next we see an example of a French 25c Navigation and Commerce stamp used in Majunga, with a "Majunga 25.02.95" cancel and "0,15" red manuscript, a rare surcharge, Sc. 22A (2010 SCV \$6,500).



Before using Madagascar stamps, Mayotte, an island between Madagascar and Mozambique (on the southeastern coast of Africa), used French stamps, the example here being an 1872-77 Ceres 80c rose with a Mayotte December 4, 1876 cancel.

Finally, the last lot in the auction is this cover below with, left to right, a France 25c Sage issue, a French Colonies 40c Eagle and a France 5c Ceres issue, all tied by a blue



"Mayotte et Dependencies Nossi-Be" January 25, 1879 handstamp (also shown lower left). The cover to Hamburg, Germany also shows a red "Col. Fr. V. Brind.[Brindisi]" handstamp dated February 28, 1879.

ego-Suarez is a town at the northern end of Madagascar and Nossi-Be is an island off the Northwest coast of Madagascar.

And below that we see an example of the Madagascar 1902 issue, Sc. 57, a 10c surcharge on a 192 Diego-Suarez 50 carmine, Diego-Suarez Sc. 35.



Next we come to an essay for the 1903 "Zebu" issue, showing a zebu, traveler's tree and lemur. It's difficult to see in this essay, but a zebu is a humped cattle (we will see a better image later), the traveller's tree is a form of palm tree, and the lemur is a primate, in the same family as monkeys, (looking to me like part dog, part monkey). This essay design was used for the 1903 issue, Sc. 63-77.



Next we see a bisect usage of an 1894 10c Diego-Suarez issue, Sc. 42, used on a cover to Vohimar, a town in northeastern Madagascar. (After Diego-Suarez discontinued issuing stamps of its own, they used the stamps of Madagascar but older Diego-Suarez stamps still could be used, some being surcharged for use in Madagascar. This cover shows Diego-Suarez double-circle cancels as well as a three-line "Affranchissement exceptionnel (faute de timbres)", loosely translated as provisionals produced due to a shortage of stamps).



Yesterday in Mekeel's:

Madagascar Consular Issues

by B. W. H. Poole (From *Mekeel's Weekly*, December 13, 1937, with images added)



Left to right, 1884 1p Scott 1; 4p with 4 oz. corrected to 1, Sc. 4a;
1886 6p with violet seal, Sc. 13; 1886 4p handstamped "British Consular Mail", Sc. 14

While there have been many discussions as to which is the largest of the world's postage stamps there is no room for argument as to which is the longest series of large stamps issued by any one country. The palm can be awarded to the Consular mail stamps of Madagascar without fear of competition. Although these large labels were issued as recently as 1884—when there were plenty of active collectors and numerous vigorous philatelic magazines—it is surprising how little has ever been published regarding them and how unsatisfactory that little information is. The first mention we can find of these labels is a paragraph in the new issue columns of the *Philatelic Record* for November, 1885, viz:—

"A correspondent writes: 'I have friends in Madagascar, and they have just sent me over some postage stamps issued by the British Consulate of that island. The values are 1d, 2d, 3d and 6d. I send you a 1d as a specimen.' The said stamp (and its authenticity seems beyond question) is anything but a thing of beauty and a joy forever. A double-lined rectangular frame, about 6 centimetres high by 3-1/4 wide, is divided into three almost equal parts by two horizontal lines. In the top space are the ornamental capitals B.C.M. (British Consulate, Madagascar), in the central space 1 OZ. POSTAL PACKET, and in the lowest space ONE PENNY, the whole printed in reddish brown. Each stamp is separated from its neighbours (but only at sides) by rouletting upon a dotted line of the same colour. In the center of the stamp is struck in black, with a handstamp, the ordinary seal of the Consulate, consisting of the Royal Arms, within a circle, inscribed BRITISH VICE-CONSULATE ANTANANARIVO. The stamp bears no gum except a very small strip across the left upper corner. Altogether it has the appearance of a luggage label in reduced circumstances."

There were two series of these stamps, one for letters and the other for postal packets, the design being the same for both



1886 1d in full pane of four, no period after "Postage", Sc. 16a

and only varying according to the rate and value. There are four values of the letter series, 6d, 1s, 1s6d, and 2s, which are inscribed respectively 1/2 oz., 1 oz., 1-1/2 oz. and 2 oz. There are also four values inscribed POSTAL PACKET, viz, 1d, 2d, 3d, and 4d, and in these the weights are given as 1 oz., 2 oz., 3 oz., and 4 oz., respectively. The design is enclosed within a



1886 Type I (period after Postage) on Sc. 40a and Type III
(narrow POSTAGE) on Sc. 40

double-lined frame and all show a diagonal line running from the upper left corner to the lower right angle.

In 1880 a new design was introduced though the same large size was preserved. This design has an ornate frame with POSTAGE in fancy letters across the top and the value in words, in rather small letters, at the bottom. In the center are large numerals denoting the value and over this is the consular handstamp as shown on the first issue. This handstamp may be found in violet or black.

There were quite a number of different values in this series, viz.:— 1d, 1-1/2d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 4-1/2d, 6p, 8p, 9p, 1s6d, and 2s. Later in the same year the type of handstamp was changed, the Royal Arms in the center being quite small with CONSULAR above and MAIL below, while between the two rings of the large circle BRITISH appears at the top and ANTANANARIVO at the bottom. This handstamp may also be found in black or violet. All these stamps were printed in horizontal strips of four and they were gummed only over a small portion at one or other of the top corners. They were divided by a roulette in colored lines extending almost from top to bottom of the stamps.

While it has been inferred that these labels were nothing but a private speculation on the part of some one in the Consulate, what few facts are available seem to show that they are quite legitimate and served a useful purpose. Until these stamps were issued in 1884 there were no postal arrangements of any sort in the island of Madagascar. Consequently the British Consul planned a service to the ports where British or French ships called, and issued these stamps so that merchants could prepay their letters (deposited at the consulate) to any part of the world. The stamps were [almost] never cancelled for they were attached to the letters by the small gummed corner and the authorities considered there was little likelihood of anyone attempting to use the same stamp twice. In 1889 stamps for the island were issued by France and the British labels were suppressed. However for many years afterwards—until, in fact, the regular Madagascar and dependencies issue appeared in



2d British Inland Mail picturing Malagasy runners ("Voamena" is the denomination in Malagasy), unlisted in Scott

1891—the consular handstamp, as used on the labels, was applied to letters posted at the consulate was paid in cash, and this served to frank them to their destination as before.



1895 British Inland Mail 1d block of four, local typeset printing with roulettes all four sides, unlisted in Scott



1886 1-1/2p, Sc. 17. These stamps are not usually cancelled, but this bears a crayon cancel.



Rare 1886 3p with Seal omitted, Sc. 48b

50 Years Ago in STAMPS:

British Consular Mail of Madagascar

by James W. Shaver (From STAMPS Magazine, August 12, 1961, with images added)

The Consular Mail Stamps of Madagascar owe their existence to the ingenuity of the Vice Consul at Antananarivo during the last part of the nineteenth century. He was William Clayton Pickersgill, who before his official position, had been a missionary to Madagascar under the London Missionary Society. He was held in high esteem both by the native rulers and by the English residents of the capital city.

The British Consul, John G. Haggard, resided at Tamatave, the principal seaport. It is related that he was of such physical proportions that it would have been impossible for native bearers to transport him to Antananarivo, which was some 200 miles into the interior. Hence, that post was served by the Vice Consul.

There were no means of communications in the 1880s and mail was dispatched by courier. It was the practice for the foreigners residing in the capital to designate one of their members as postmaster, who then assumed the responsibility of transmitting the outgoing mail by courier to a forwarding agent in Tamatave or some other port of call. Vice Consul Pickersgill served as the postmaster during his regime there.

The French had established a number of trading stations on the coast. In fact, the French Post Office in Tamatave had been recognized

by the Berne convention in 1882. It would not have been possible, under such circumstances, for the British to have established an official mail service. It is clear that the Antananarivo-Tamatave arrangement, therefore, was purely a private one, with the participating residents providing the cost.

One of the handicaps facing the Vice Consul was the fact that the cut dollars, forming the coin in use, had to be weighed for each transaction. This would have been most cumbersome, and Mr. Pickersgill set about finding a more effective system. It appears that he had no official sanction for his actions, a fact which is borne out by the summary fashion in which it was stopped (though the philatelic fraternity must really accept the responsibility for this latter action). He devised a series of "postal franks", as he designated them, which could be purchased at the Vice Consulate. A table of charges was developed to include both the charge to the coast and postage beyond that point.

The Vice Consul caused to be published in the *Madagascar Times* of Antananarivo in March, 1884, a notice announcing the use of the franks and establishing the rates. As will be noted later, an issue of eight values appeared at this time. All remaining issues came out at various times in 1886.

In April 1886 a new table of rates appeared for mail to be "transmitted via Reunion through the French Post Office in Tamatave". The rates in this table were as follows: From Antananarivo to England and all Postal Union Countries: Letters— 15, 30, 45, and 60 grammes, respectively: 4-1/2d, 9d, 13-1/2d, 18d. Newspapers, Books, etc.: 50, 100, 150, 200 grammes, respectively, 1-1/2d, 3d, 4-1/2, 6d.

From Antananarivo to Australia and all countries not in the Postal Union: Letters— 15, 30, 45, 60 grammes, respectively: 8d, 16d, 24d, 32d. Newspapers, Books, etc.— 50, 100, 150, 200 grammes, respectively: 2d, 4d, 6d, 8d.

From Antananarivo to Tamatave (British Consulate): Letters— 15, 30, 45, 60 grammes, respectively: 2d, 4d, 6d, 8d. Newspapers, Books, etc.— 50, 100, 150, 200 grammes, respectively: 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d.

The Postal Franks were never intended to be stamps in the true sense of the word. They were a convenience, both for the user and for the Vice Consul's office. Gummed only at one corner, they were obviously intended to be removed before being placed in the regular mails. The Vice Consul himself states in a letter dated November 9, 1887, in referring to a particular example of a letter destined for London through Mauritius, "The postal frank was removed and the letter was forwarded by the consulate to the colonial postmaster at Port Louis."

That they were generally accepted

1886 Second Issue 3d with period after "POSTAGE" and "BRITISH CONSULAR MAIL / ANTANANARIVO", handstamped in red (rare), roulette 1, used with blue crayon cross and the often-seen "bite" at upper left and bottom left, as they were gummed only in one corner—in this case the upper left.

Top, an example of British Missionary Mail, a March 12 1833 stampless folded letter to London, carried by runner from Antananarivo to Tamatave, with oval "MAURITIUS / POST OFFICE" at left and boxed 2-line "INDIA LETTER / PORTSMOUTH" postmark. This cover predates the inception of regular mail service, which also used native runners.



Bottom, a British Missionary Mail folded letter, dated August 1, 1869 from Antananarivo to



London from Antananarivo (the capital of Madagascar) "by French Mail" via Tamatave (the east coast port and British Consular seat) and Mauritius (the customary transit point, in the Indian Ocean 550 miles off the coast of Madagascar), where 1863-72 1s orange and 4d rose stamps were applied and tied by B53 numerals. The cover also shows a "9d" taxation marking and "LONDON / PAID / 25 OC 69" arrival c.d.s. (circular date stamp).



and widely used by the inhabitants is evidenced by the fact that at least six different issues appeared in the slightly more than two and one-half years that their use was permitted.

Stamp collectors caused the downfall of the British Consular Mail franks of Madagascar. When the British Consul at Tamatave, John G. Haggard, discovered that great demands for these stamps were coming from collectors and dealers and that large numbers were being supplied to them, he at once suppressed their use and prohibited any further issue.

Mr. Pickersgill's feelings in the matter are illustrated in a letter which he wrote on May 2, 1891, in a reply to a request for a set of the stamps by Lancashire College. He said in part, "Timbromaniacs are the plague of my life. The ends of the earth seem full of them. They write from the east and they write from the west and the horse-leech's daughter herself cannot beat them for importunity....The maniacs made such a flutter about them, that I was obliged to revert to chopped dollars." The "maniacs" had not left him a complete set, but he sent the college thirteen varieties.

The [Scott] Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue lists fifty-eight varieties, but the description of the various issues is much more meaningful as found in *Postage Stamps of British Africa*, a book long out of print. Since this is not readily available in this country, the writer takes the liberty of quoting at considerable length the listings and descriptions of these interesting stamps.

ISSUE I. MARCH, 1884-Eight values, Typographed in Antananarivo and printed two at a time in horizontal rows of four on thin yellowish white wove paper, rouletted in vertical lines of color between the specimens. Gummed at the left or right; upper corner. Two types of each value.

I. Inscribed "Letter" - reddish lilac, black surcharge, two types: 6d, 1/2oz.; 1 sh., 1 oz.; 1 sh. 6d., 1-1/2 oz.; 2s., 2 oz. Variety: with the hand-stamp in lilac: 6d, 1/2 oz., reddish lilac, lilac surcharge, two types.

II. Inscribed "Postal Packet" reddish lilac, black surcharge, two types: 1d, 1 oz.; 2d, 2 oz.; 3d, 3 oz.; 4d, 1 oz. (?). Varieties: (a) with the handstamp in lilac-4d, 1 oz., reddish lilac, lilac surcharge, two types. (b) the "1" of "1 oz." altered to "4" in pen and black ink- 4d, 4 oz., reddish lilac, black surcharge, two types. (c) without the handstamp- 1d, 1 oz., reddish lilac, two types; 4d, 1 oz., reddish lilac, two types.

Remarks: The stamps first issued have a thin diagonal line ruled across them with pen and red ink, from left upper to the right lower corner, but this red line was afterwards discontinued.

ISSUE II. 1886-Two values. The One Shilling stamp of the preceding issue with the word "SHILLING" erased by pen and red ink and "PENNY" written above it; and the same stamp with the "1

oz." surcharged by hand with pen and red ink "4 1/2d." added, the value of the stamp being obliterated by a pen line in red ink. 1d., red surcharge on 1s., 1 oz. reddish lilac; black surcharge: two types; 4-1/2d., red surcharge on 1s., 1 oz. reddish lilac; black surcharge: two types.

ISSUE III. 1886—One Value. The Six Pence Stamp of Issue I changed in color: 6d., 1/2 oz., rose-red; black surcharge: two types. Remarks: This stamp is also found with and without a red diagonal line.

(Note: The stamps listed to this point are those grouped by the Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue into one issue, that of 1884.)

ISSUE IV. 1886—Seven values. Typographed in Antananarivo and printed in strips of four on thick yellowish white wove paper; gummed at the left or right upper corner. The strip of four stamps of each value first printed with a period after the word "POSTAGE" and the value. Division I of the list (below) was rouletted in vertical lines of color, an arc between the first and second and the third and fourth stamps, and in short lines between the second and third and after the fourth stamp, whereas the strips of four stamps of the second printing of Division I and those of the Divisions II and III of the list are rouletted in short colored lines between every two specimens.

I. With the period after "POSTAGE" and the value-A. Handstamp in black, all stamps rose and black with black surcharge 1d, 1/2d, 2d, 3d, 4-1/2d, 8d, 9d. B. Handstamp in lilac, all stamps rose and black with lilac surcharge: 1d., 1-1/2d., 2d., 3d., 4-1/2d., 9d.

II. Without period after "POSTAGE" and the value. Handstamp in lilac. All stamps rose and black with lilac surcharge: 1d., 3d., 6d.

III. "POSTAGE" measures 24-1/2 mm. in place of 29-1/2 mm., and is without period. There is, however, a period after the value. Handstamp in lilac. All stamps rose and black with lilac surcharge: 4d., 8d.

ISSUE V. 1886—Twelve values. Identical in design with the stamps of the preceding issue except for a change in the design of the handstamp.

I. With period after "Postage" and the value

A. Handstamp in black. All stamps rose and black; black surcharge: 1d., 1 1/2d., 2d., 3d., 4 1/2d., 8d., 9d.

B. Handstamp in lilac. 9d., rose and black; lilac surcharge.

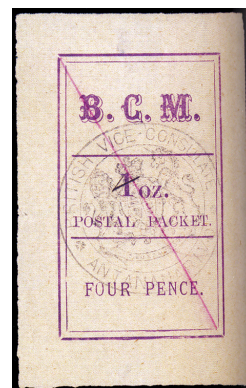
C. Handstamp in red. 3d., rose and black; red surcharge, 4-1/2d., rose and black; red surcharge.

II. Without period after "POSTAGE" and the value-A. Handstamp in black, all stamps rose and black; black surcharge: 1 d., 1 1/2d., 2d., 3d., 4 1/2d., 6d., B. Handstamp in lilac, all stamps rose and black; lilac surcharge. 1d., 1 1/2d., 2d., 3d., 4 1/2 d., 6d.

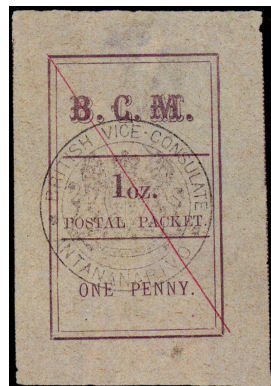
III. "Postage" measures 24-1/2mm. in place of 29-1/2mm., and is without period. There is, however, a period after the value. A. Handstamp in black, all stamps rose and black; black surcharge: 4d., 8d., 1s., 1s.6d., 2s. B. Handstamp in lilac, all stamps rose and black; lilac surcharge; 4d., 8d., 1s., 1s.6d., 2s.

Remarks-As in the first issue the handstamp is found in all kinds of positions. Most of the values are also found without the handstamp.

Issue VI, end of 1886-One value. The Four Pence stamp of Issue I, with error "1 oz.," surcharged with the Consular Mail handstamp of Issue V.-A. Handstamp in black: 4d., 1 oz., reddish lilac; black surcharge : two types. B. Handstamp in lilac: 4d., 1 oz., reddish lilac;



Type II, 4d "1" oz. changed to "4", Sc. 4a



Left, Type I, "Letter", 6d for 1/2 oz., with violet handstamp, Sc. 13; right, Type II, "Postal Packet", 1p for 1 oz., black handstamp, Sc. 1



Left, 1886 Type I (period after Postage) on Sc.40a with "British Consular Mail" seal handstamp; right, Type III (narrow POSTAGE) on Sc. 40

An prepayment of postage from Madagascar without adhesives, which prevailed during the 1887-1895 period, an 1894 cover to Wolverhampton, UK with a violet cachet "BRITISH / VICE CONSULATE / ANTANANARIVO" lower left. It was sent through Tamatave, where three French Type Sage 15c and a 5c were applied, the cover also with an octagonal "LA REUNION A MARSEILLE 28 JUIL 94".

lilac surcharge: two types. (Shown in the *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* with the issue of 1884)

Remarks—After the suppression of the stamps in 1887 the postage on letters transmitted by the Consular Mail were paid for in cash. The letters were then treated in the same way as they were when the stamps were in use; that is to say they were forwarded with an impression of the Consular Mail handstamp struck on the envelopes, and with the requisite French stamps attached when the letters were to be forwarded by the French mail from Tamatave.

References:

Postage Stamps of British Africa, Parts I & II, London Philatelic Soc.
 "British Mails in Madagascar", by Samuel Graveson, in "The Raconteur and Philatelist," p. 7ff., Volume II (1935-1936)

"Madagascar Consular Mail", by Samuel Graveson in 'The Philatelist,' p. 46, Volume 13 (1946-1947)