

LIBERIA: 19TH CENTURY POSTAL STATIONERY

SYNOPSIS

This is an exhibit to show all five types of postal stationery produced by Liberia in the 19TH century (from 1882 to 1898) in sequence: the Postal Cards, including the Reply Card; Letter Card; the Postal Envelopes, including with "SPECIMEN"; the Registered Envelopes; and the Postal Wrappers.

Postal Cards:

- 1882: 3¢ UPU rate (buff card with view of countryside of Liberia)
- 1891: 3¢ UPU rate (portrait of President Hilary Johnson) + **SHIFT VARIETY**
- 1892: 3¢ UPU rate (portrait of Postmaster General James T. Wiles)
- 1892: 3¢+3¢ UPU rate Reply Card (portrait of President Benson Cheeseman)
- 1892: 3¢ inland rate Letter Card (portrait of President I.S. Payne and view of Seal of Liberia)

Postal Envelopes, including the COMPLETE SET of 3 "SPECIMEN" Envelopes:

- 1891: 3¢ inland rate (blue portrait of President Hilary Johnson in red frame)
- 1893: 2¢ inland rate (numeral in yellow star)
- 1893: 3¢ inland rate (portrait of Governor Jehudi Ashmun in brown frame) + **"SPECIMEN"**
- 1893: 5¢ UPU rate (portrait of President Roberts in pink frame) + **"SPECIMEN"**
- 1893: 10¢ (black portrait of President Cheeseman in orange frame) + **"SPECIMEN"** on p 1

Registered Envelopes with coloured 10¢ indicium on back flap for registration rate:

- 1882: blue indicium on back sealing flap at left / + **ALBINO DOUBLE PRINT VARIETY**
- 1887: ultramarine indicium on back sealing flap at right and front "R" without oval
- 1889: large (100x225 mm) with sky blue indicium on back sealing flap at right
- 1892: ultramarine indicium on back sealing flap at right and front "R" in oval
- 1892/98: sage green indicium on back sealing flap
- 1892/98: lilac brown indicium on back sealing flap
- 1892/00: red indicium on back sealing flap

Postal Wrappers:

- 1893 1¢ on white bond paper
- 1893 1¢ on buff manila paper

Scarcity of the three **"SPECIMEN"** Envelopes:

Varisell (Fountain Hills, Arizona, United States) quote, confirms Saleski: "Liberia, von Saleski* M-U4bdB1-O6, 1893 Presidential Series, is the complete set of 3 embossed end opening

envelopes with 40mm x 4½mm SPECIMEN perf punched below indicia, with unsealed flaps, and are **very scarce**".

The CHALLENGE factor:

Some of such off-beat pieces were very difficult to find due to scarcity of availability, maybe due to some lack of demand, causing little dealer interest in acquiring or stocking any supply.

REFERENCES

- *Liberia Specialized Catalogue / Von Saleski, Lothar / 1975*
- A Century of Liberian Philately / Rogers, Henry H. /1971*
- Higgins & Gage Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of The World, Section 11.: Labuan to Luxemburg / Fladung, Edward G. / 1968.*