

Uganda Typeset Stamps

by George T. Krieger

Authors Note: This article was conceived and inspired by Peter Chantry who accomplished most of the research. Roy Dunstan's research notes, now in the EASC Library, provided a foundation for us to build upon.

The Typeset Printing Process

By the middle of the 15th century movable type had been invented in Europe. The German printer, Johann Gutenberg, first demonstrated his invention in 1448. By 1462 Gutenberg's invention became accepted and the use of it spread throughout Europe. Movable type is also called foundry type or hot type. In foundry type, each piece of type was cast into a precise size from metal which was an alloy of lead, tin, and antimony. Each piece contained a raised image of a single letter, number, or other character. The block of metal that carried the raised image was called the body. The raised image that was inked for printing was called the face -- from this we get the term "typeface".



A distribution box was made up of many compartments. The box had enough compartments so that each letter, number, and character was assigned a specific compartment of their own. In setting type, letters were selected one at a time and lined up in what was called a composing stick until it was almost full. Then, by using pieces of type with no face on them, spaces between words were adjusted to bring the line to the required length. Each line was placed by hand in a larger box made especially for housing the type. The individual lines were laid out exactly like the page was going to be -- except the type was backwards as if looking at it in a mirror.

In the beginning, printing from hand-set type, the type was inked and copies made directly from the type. When printing was finished, the type was taken apart, cleaned and returned to the distribution box for use another time. When the type exhibited damage or too much wear it was discarded and new type was ordered from foundries that specialized in the type making process.

Gutenberg's basic process was that a punch made of steel, with a mirror image of the letter, is struck into a piece of softer metal. Molten metal is poured into this, and you get type. The process remained basically unchanged until the invention of line-casting machines, first Ottmar Mergenthaler's Linotype (1889), and then the Monotype machine. Essentially, line-casting allowed type be chosen, used, then recirculate back into the machine automatically. This not only introduced a huge labor savings in typesetting, (on the order of a 85% reduction in printing time), but also rendered obsolete the huge masses of metal type created by the previously existing type foundries.

Also around this time, the "point" measurement system finally reached ascendancy. This was adopted in Britain in 1898. In the earlier days of printing, different sizes of type had simply been called by different names. Thus, "Brevier" was simply the British name for 8-point type of any style. Such a naming system also

allowed wonderful confusion, such as "English" referring both to blackletter type, and a 14-point size; "English English" was thus a 14-point blackletter!

Named Type Sizes in the English-speaking World

American name	English name	1683 ¹	1755 ²	3 London foundries, 1841 ³		
				A	B	C
Diamond	same	—		4.2	4.2	4.1
Pearl	same	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.7
Agate	Ruby	—	—	5.2	5.2	5.3
Nonpareil	same	5.8	6.0	6	6	6
Minionette	Emerald				6.8	—
Minion	same	—	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.1
Brevier	same	7.7	7.7	7.9	9.1	7.7
Bourgeois	same	—		8.5	8.5	8.4
Long Primer	same	9.4	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.4
Small Pica	same	* —	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.5
Pica	same	11.5	12.1	12	11.9	12
English	same	13.1	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.4
Great Primer	same	17.3		16.9	16.9	16.6
Paragon	same	—	19.4	19.4	19.4	—
Double Small Pica	Double Pica [†]	22.7	20.8	20.8	20.8	21.1
Double Pica	2-line Pica [†]	—	24.2	24	24	24
Double English	2-line English	26.2	27	27	27	26.8
Double Great Primer	2-line Great Primer	—	33.9	33.9	33.9	33.2
Meridian	2-line Double Pica	—	41.6	41.6	41.6	42.1

†In most type size names “2-line” and “double” are synonymous, so that 2-line English is the same size as double English. But the introduction from Holland of small pica around 1700 led English foundries to treat “double pica” and “2-line pica” as distinct sizes, the former twice as large as small pica, and the latter twice as large as pica.

As can be seen from the table, if type from different foundries was mixed it could result in very visible differences on the printed page. This is especially true with Brevier and Long Primer, two of the more popular types.

¹ Joseph Moxon, *Mechanick Exercises*, London 1683, pages 13 and 14

² Smith, *Printer's Grammar*, 1755.

³ William Savage, *Dictionary of Printing*, 1842, page 802. “A” is Caslon; “B,” Figgins; and “C,” Thorowgood & Besley.

Type was ordered by the pound from a foundry. The mix of letters was set by the average ratio in written English. If a different 'mix' was desired specific instruction to the foundry were required. The following order from the missionaries in Freretown, British East Africa, for Large Primer, Roman (most likely what is currently known as Scotch Roman) is probably typical of orders emanating from Uganda but in this case adjusted for the local language herein called Kiswahili. A typical full printed page required about 7 pounds of type.

Recd Feb 11/89
 40
 Here Town, Mombasa
 Jan. 16, 1889 ✓
 Dear Rev. Sir
 The following is a list of materials which are required in the Printing Office:-
 120 lbs of Lg. Primer (Roman only, face as enclosed) 7.10.0
 4 lbs of Thick Spaces
 " " Thin & Middling
 1 lb. of Cap. Y's L.P. (as above)
 14 lbs of Glue
 Pair of bases for above L.P. 7.6
 Two pieces of Dark cloth 1.16.0
 1/2 but of Stiffeners 9.0
 Hand Roll Perforator 10.0
 One Ream of Dble brown Cover Paper 7.6
 about 26 lbs
 Yours sincerely
 Alf. J. Pratley
 Rev. W. S. Price
 Sec. C. M. S. Here Town.

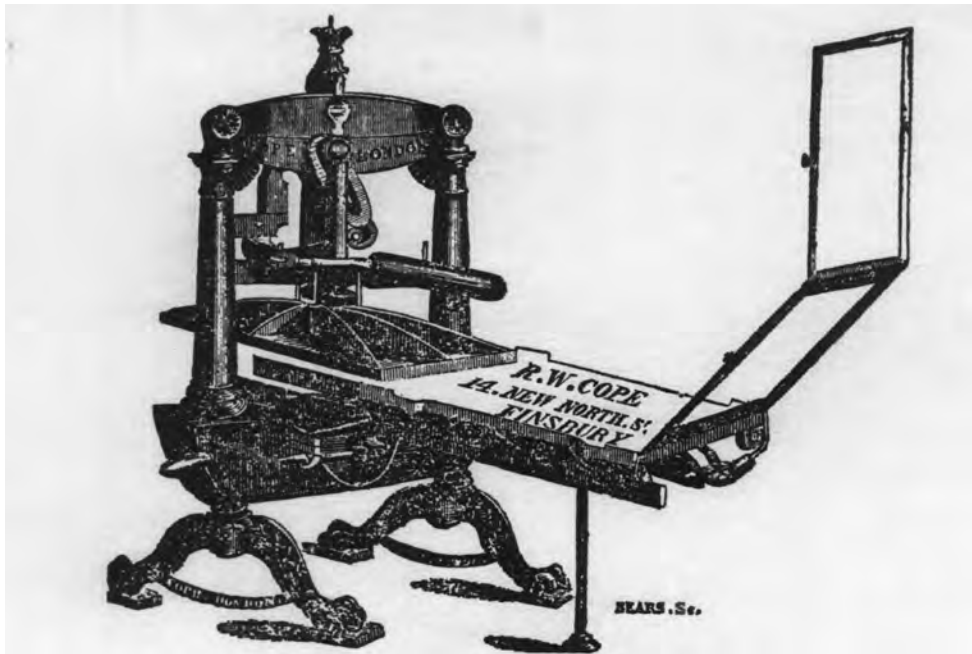
Note to Type Founder— In making up the font of Long Primer please to send no 'q's or 'x's & only half the usual proportion of 'c's. Instead of 'c's being in the greatest proportion in the font, we, for Kiswahili, want 'a's— the same proportion of 'a's as 'e's in English & vice versa. What you send less of 'c's send extra 'k's & instead of 'x's & 'q's send extra 'y's & 'z's. Also about half as many again 'm's & twice as many 'w's as for English sending less 'h's & 'r's.

Please pay particular attention to this.

Albion Press

Albion Press is a generic description of a type of printing press invented by R.A. Cope in England during the early 19th century. The impression mechanism uses the toggle principal with a compression spring rather than a system of levers used previously. The 'bed' of the press, with inked forme (holding the individual pieces of type) and closed 'tympan' holding the sheet of paper to be printed, is run on rails beneath the 'platen'. The printer pulls the handle of the press that transmits the horizontal movement through a linkage to the 'knuckles' in the upper part of the press. This action causes the 'chill' (a wedged shaped piece of steel) to become perpendicular, forcing the platen downwards with a steady, powerful movement with sufficient pressure to give a clean impression of the type being printed. Releasing the handle raises the platen under the influence of a strong, coiled spring housed within the brass cap at the top of the press.





R. W. COPE,
Engineer, &c.

RESPECTFULLY INFORMS HIS FRIENDS AND THE PUBLIC, THAT HE HAS REMOVED HIS BUSINESS FROM

No. 3, Bowling-alley, Lower White Cross-street,

TO MORE EXTENSIVE PREMISES,

SITUATE IN NEW NORTH-STREET, PAUL-ST

FINSBURY-SQUARE;

AND HOLYWELL ROW, WORSHIP-STREET.

Where he hopes to merit a continuance of that patronage so liberally hitherto bestowed; and assures those who may oblige him with their favours, no exertion shall be wanting to give that satisfaction which he deems will be universally acknowledged. The desideratum of

THE

ALBION PRINTING PRESS,

INVENTED BY COPE, LONDON,

Consists in being more simple in construction than any yet submitted to their notice, consequently not liable to be out of order; offered to the trade free from all expence of repairs, taking up in width of room two feet less than those now generally used, and in weight upwards of six cwt. lighter, which, to Printers, must prove an advantage worthy of consideration, in consequence of Offices being generally on the second or third floor; and to Merchants, on account of their lightness and the small compass they are packed in.

Any Printer purchasing a small PRESS may, at a distant period, change the same, by paying the advance price, as per size.

Hydraulic Presses, for Book Pressing, to any Dimensions.

CAST IRON IMPOSING TABLES TO ANY DIMENSIONS, AND PERFECTLY TRUE.

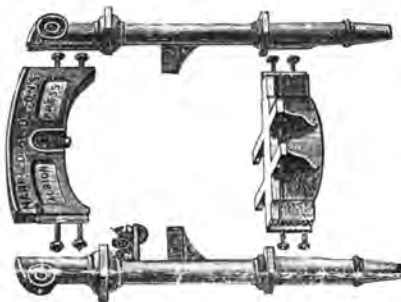
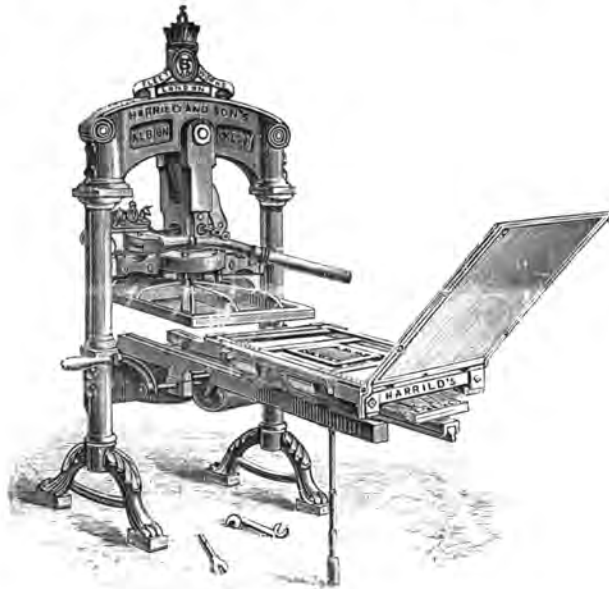
INKING MACHINES, and STEREOTYPE LATHES, on an improved principle.

Throughout the remainder of the 19th century each manufacturer of Albion Presses made their own improvements to the design, often patenting these improvements to prevent competition from copying them.

Since Albion Press is a generic term one must know the specific manufacturer and model to know the platen size and thus the maximum page size that could be printed.

Albion Presses were often the first printing presses in many countries and cities of the British Empire and are often on display in museums. There were competing designs from other countries such as the Columbian from the United States of America.

PORTABLE OVERLAND ALBION PRESS.



The Staple of these Presses is made in six pieces, for ease in transport to up-country districts abroad, no portion making a package of greater weight and bulk than can be conveniently carried.

			£	s.	d.
Crown,	platen	21in. x 16in. . .	38	0	0
Demy,	"	24in. x 18in. . .	48	0	0
Super Royal,	"	29in. x 21in. . .	60	0	0

PRESS TYMPAN-FRAMES, FRISKETS, AND SPRINGS.

	Tympan, the set complete, with Point Screws.		Friskets, each.		Springs, each.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Half-Sheet Foolscap	2	4 0	0	4 9	0	3 0
" Crown or Post	2	7 0	0	4 9	0	3 6
Foolscap Broadside	3	0 0	0	6 0	0	4 6
Crown or Post "	3	3 0	0	6 0	0	4 6
Demy	3	11 0	0	7 0	0	5 6
Royal	3	17 0	0	8 0	0	6 0
Super Royal	4	4 0	0	8 6	0	6 6
Double Crown	4	16 0	0	8 6	0	7 0
" Demy	5	10 0	0	10 6	0	8 0
" Royal	6	0 0	0	12 0	0	9 0

HARRILD & SONS LONDON

Harrild & Sons advertisement; 1903

The typical Albion Press is a floor standing model capable of creating a print of 7 ½ x 11 inches on a larger piece of paper. During the second half of the 19th century small 'parlour' presses were introduced as printing became a hobby or ancillary process within firms. These could be placed upon a table and occupied much less room than their industrial brethren. They weighed less than 200 pounds and thus could be moved relatively easily. Interestingly they could often print page sizes similar to the floor standing models.



Fredrick Ullmer produced both types of Albion presses. The small unit illustrated weighs 154 pounds and is in inches 29 ½ (H) x 26 ½ (L) x 16 ¾ (W).

Printing Presses in Uganda prior to 1900

Alexander Mackay, at an age of 28 years, led a party of missionaries from the Church Missionary Society into Buganda in 1878. One of the items he had intended on bringing was an Albion Press supplied by Frederick Ullmer, Ltd., London. Because of a shortage of porters Mackay left the press in Kagei. When Mackay bought the press into Uganda in April 1884 aboard the *Eleanor* “many essential parts were entirely wanting having been lost or stolen, but by dint of hard work at forge, lathe and vice I had it in working order”.⁴

In July 1887 Mackay had to withdraw to Usambiro, south of Lake Victoria owing to Christian persecution. He took with him “the printing press, heavy boxes of type, ink and paper”. By early 1893 we learn from A.B. Fisher’s diary that his first job in Mengo was “to sort out the press & dirty type just brought back from Usambiro” (Mackay had died of fever 8 Feb 1890).

From W.A. Crabtree’s diaries we learn that on 22 April 1895 “Rowling left Luba’s for Mengo to collect damaged press”. By 30 June 1895 Crabtree was working on repairing the press now located at Luba’s; “There appears to be no news of the iron we ordered four months ago to repair the press.” Further pertinent entire are:

- | | | |
|------|----|--|
| July | 6 | <i>The smith begins work</i> |
| | 8 | <i>Very little progress with the iron: the Smith has been mounting the anvil</i> |
| | 10 | <i>the work has gone very well, spent all day with the Smith</i> |
| | 17 | <i>Left Mengo with 23 loads for the press (a load was 65 lbs.)</i> |
| | 18 | <i>am Luba’s</i> |
| | 20 | <i>Rowling shrunk the iron most successfully & we had some proofs off in the afternoon</i> |
| Aug | 2 | <i>found we were very short of ‘a’, also of ‘k’ and ‘b’</i> |

14 Oct 1895 “Rowling is getting on nicely with the printing – praise the Lord for this.”

The Ullmer Albion was at some point shipped back to the Church Missionary Society in England; presumably London where it was photographed as shown in illustration at left. The press was eventually refurbished and returned to Uganda where it was installed in the Kampala Museum. During Roy Dunstan’s trip to Uganda in 1970 his son Malcolm photographed the press on display; illustrated on the right.. (It was during this trip that Roy Dunstan and Peter Chantry met for the first time. Coincidentally Roy Dunstan’s house in Warminster is called The Chantry.)



⁴ Letter from Mackay dated July 8, 1888

In 1894 Rev. Robert P. Ashe proposes⁵ "that a printing press & type be purchased, the cost of which will be defrayed from money in the hands of Rev. H.E. Fox." This second Albion Press, manufactured by Harrild & Sons, London, arrived in Luba's on March 25, 1896. The Harrild & Sons invoice for the press and ancillary equipment is dated October 18, 1894 (see illustration); shipping took 17 months.

Copy of Invoice from Harrild & Sons, Oct. 18th 1894

		<u>L. s. d.</u>
<p><i>* Harrild & Sons' improved <u>Special Portable Overland</u> <u>'Albion' Printing Press</u> <u>Footstep</u> <u>Broadsheet</u> size, lightly but strongly built; - complete with <u>Lymph</u> <u>Frame</u> and <u>Tricketts</u>; Pair each <u>Paints</u> and <u>Paint</u> <u>Balls</u>; <u>Spare Spring</u>; <u>Spare Girthing</u>; <u>Spare Bolts</u> <u>Spanners</u>, <u>Oil feeder</u>, &c.; - <u>Iron</u> <u>Frame</u> instead of <u>Wood</u>. No. 4, 792.</i></p>	}	35 0 0
<i>* Rock Locking-up brass, with Adjusting Bars for do</i>		5 6
<i>1 Pair each <u>Parchments</u> and <u>Thin Napier</u> <u>Blankets</u> - -</i>		12 6
<i>7 lbs. <u>110ys Long Primer</u> No. 16 "Certs"; as per printed list</i>	4/6	11 6
<i>2 lbs 4 oys <u>Long Primer</u> <u>Quads</u></i>	1/8	1 6
<i>3 Pairs (<u>Upper & Lower Case</u>) <u>Model</u> <u>Teakwood</u> <u>Type Cases</u></i>	4/6	19 6
<i>2 8" x 5" <u>India Rubber Rollers</u> @ 12/6; with 1 <u>Chrome</u>, &c. for do</i>		1 8 0
		39 1 6
<i>To packing in 44 stout hooped & battened Cases to suit 24 country transport; Weight of single Loads, 65 lbs Double Loads, 130 lbs.</i>		7 10 0
		47 11 6
<i># 1/11</i>	<i>per "Galconda" R.C.</i>	<i>Sub. 10% + or 5% Cash Dis.</i>
<i>SECRETARY, C.M.S. UGANDA, VIA MOMBASA.</i>	<i>Consigned to Bousfield, Ridley & Co., Mombasa With Harrild and Sons Compliments</i>	

Harrild & Sons invoice dated October 18, 1894

⁵ CMS Financial Committee records

Rowling wrote to Rev. E. Baylis in London about the press on March 27, 1896; the letter was received 3 months later on June 15, 1896. It reads as follows:

*Luba's, Busoga
27 / 3 / 96*

The Rev. F. Baylis, M.A.

London, E.C.

Dear Mr. Baylis,

The new press arrived here from Uganda 2 days ago, & I have now unpacked it & examined the condition, etc.

I am sorry to say that it is not at all satisfactory; the iron work seems not to have been painted at all, and all the bearing faces, bolts, screws, printing face plate, etc, are in a disgraceful state of rust, simply because of neglect & carelessness in packing.

The 2 parchments sent are rotted to pieces, & the blankets all mouldy & spoiled, not having had even a bit of waterproof paper over them!!

I certainly think these two ought to be replaced free by the firm who sent them. It will take us many days to make a parchment from sheep-skin, & it is impossible to make it smooth & good even then.

Strangest of all, there seem to have been no chases sent (for holding the type while printing), & of course the press is no more use than the old one till these arrive, as we have no means of fixing our type; it is a most incomprehensible blunder.

Again, there are no wood packings of any sort, & we have none here except short pieces, which requires a good deal of contrivance even to make do with our present gear.

It is useless to wait for the sake of consulting the F.C., so I have made out an order for the things we urgently need, & shall be very much obliged if you will kindly get the sanction necessary for it, & forward as early as possible to the firm for immediate shipping.

If, however, the Committee decline to sanction it without a formal order from the F.C., will you please send the order on, & instruct Messrs. Dickeson & Stewart to charge it to my private account with them?

If you think this well, you might send Messrs. Harrild & Sons an account of the state of the press on arrival; it might be a lesson to them to improve their style of packing for abroad. I have seen several bad examples, but never one so badly & carelessly done as this.

I send you herewith a sample of the Gospel of S. Mark, which I forgot to send last mail. We were depending on this new press for printing S. Matthew, hoping to do 8 pp. at once, as we were told we should be able to: now, however, owing to these missing articles, we are no better off than before.

There is nothing else special to report. Trusting that these goods will be sent off promptly, & arrive in good time, I remain

Faithfully yours

F. Rowling

Rowling's original letter is shown on the following pages.

Recd - June 15/96

176

Church Missionary Society

Luba's. Busoga

27 / 5 / 96

The Rev. F. Baylis. M.A.

LONDON. E.C.

Dear Mr. Baylis

The new press arrived here from
London 2 days ago, & I have now unpacked it
& examined the condition, etc.

I am sorry to say that it is not at all
satisfactory; the iron work seems not to have
been painted at all, & all the bearing faces,
bolts, screws, printing face plate, etc. are
in a disgraceful state of rust, simply because
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Again, there are no wood packings of any
sort, & we have none here except short pieces,
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to make do with our present gear.

It is useless to wait for another mail for the sake of consulting the F.C., so I have made out an order for the things we urgently need, & shall be very much obliged if you will kindly get the sanction necessary for it, & forward as early as possible to the firm for immediate shipping.

If, however, the Committee decline to sanction it without a formal order from the F.C., will you please send the order on, & instruct Messrs. Dickeson & Stewart to charge it to my private account with them?

~~It would be of immense advantage to us, in the event of the Committee sanctioning the order, if they would also kindly agree~~

If you think it well, you might send Messrs. Harrild & Sons an account of the state of the press on arrival: it might be a lesson to them to improve their style of packing for abroad: I have seen several bad samples, but never one so badly & carelessly done as this.

I send you a sample of the Gospel of S. Mark, which I forgot to send last mail. We were depending on this new press for printing S. Matthew, hoping to do 8 pp. at once, as we were told we should be able to: now, however, owing to these missing articles, we are no better off than before.

There is nothing else special to report. Trusting that these goods will be sent off

promptly, & arrive in good time, I remain

Faithfully yours

Messrs. H. J.

Fleet Work

Jarrington St. E.C.

J. Rowling.

The order referred to in Rowling's letter to Baylis is a letter addressed to Harrild & Sons also dated 27 March 1896. To impress Baylis that he was not acting unilaterally Rowling had this letter countersigned by a senior CMS official in Uganda, Archdeacon R.H. Walker.

The body of the letter reads as follows:

27/3/96

Dear Sirs,

Please supply the following goods:

2 Wrought Iron Book Chases, with moveable crosses

No. 80 F'cap, 18"x 14 1/2 " (NB. If you can supply them 20" x 14 1/2" it would be an advantage, as our pages are cross size with small margin.)

Wood Furniture:

Narrow 3ems- 1 doz

Broad 4ems- 1 doz

Dble Narrow 6 ems- 1 doz

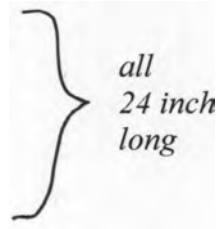
Dble Broad 8 ems- 1 doz

Reglet. No. 7 Pica 2 doz

No. 8 Small t. 2 doz

No. 4 Dble P. 1 doz

Side sticks 24" 2 doz



(NB. If you have to cut the furniture & reglet, please send the pieces cut off as well.)

2 Parchments for "Albion" Portable Press. The two sent out were rotted to pieces on arrival not being waterproof packed.

2 Blankets

Brass rule:

2 doz plain 8 to pica 16 in.

1/2 doz waved 8 " "

1/2 doz fine dotted 8 " "

4 No. 310 4 " "

Advt. Rules:

1/2 doz Pearl. Shouldered Dart No 17

1/2 doz Nonpareil. French " "

Leads

4 lb. 8 to Pica

4 " 4 " "

Packing instructions & address herewith.

Your prompt attention will oblige.

Rowling's frustration is evident and his commitment to providing printing services in Uganda demonstrated by his willingness to pay for the required supplies out of his own monies. Yet this seems to have been to no avail since by January 1897 he had still not yet received the supplies for the new press. In a three page letter, again addressed to Baylis, on January 27, 1897, Rowling writes:

Dear Mr. Baylis,

I am in receipt of your favor of Oct. 6th, enclosing invoice of goods from Messrs. Harrild & Sons.

It would be impossible for me to express my disappointment at the delay there has been in sending them. I have just written you one letter, but tore it up, as I considered it would be certain to annoy you if you read what I thought on the subject. I would rather have had the whole of my private loads for the year stopped, than those two, which, it appears to me, are the two most important loads in the whole caravan, seeing that upon those we depended for supplying the Basoga with books in their own language.

I specially marked the order as 'Urgent' and fully expected they would have been sent in time for the caravan leaving the coast in Aug. last, which would not have interfered in any way with the caravan now coming up, and which would have bought the goods ere this.

Might I be allowed to note that the new press is no more use to us than the old one, till we get those loads & consequently that all the money spent in it on carriage of same which I suppose is at least £250, may be considered as lying absolutely idle meanwhile. Also, that my

time spent in the printing is almost exactly double till we can use it, & that this amount to at least £30 per annum lost in addition.

These are items from a business point of view which do not appear in any book, yet all the same are so much money, time & energy needlessly expended. I know, of course that it is too late to alter it now, but perhaps in future some such consideration beforehand may save some other missionary much trouble & annoyance. Had I known beforehand I would have ordered & paid for them privately.

Although Rowling was very upset and venting in his letter to Baylis, I think we can take his word that the “*new press.....(is) lying absolutely idle*”. This would mean that it, the Harrild & Sons press, was not used to print the typeset stamps that were issued in November 1896.



Rev. F. Rowling, born Leeds 1868. Initially trained as an engineer he was accepted by the Church Missionary Society in 1891 and received First Class Honours Oxford & Cambridge Theological Exam 1893. He sailed for Uganda in 1893 after being made a Deacon by the Bishop of London Trinity. He was made a priest by Bishop A. Tucker at Mengo in 1895. In 1898 he married fellow missionary Eleanor Browne. He resigned in 1923 and died in 1949.

In June 1900 Rev. Martin Hall writes⁶ of the Industrial Mission, Bulange, Mengo that was set-up in 1899: “*There is also a printing office in the building, containing four hand presses,Here a good deal of printing is done for the Government,....*”

Four hand presses! These are probably the following:

- 1) Mackay’s ‘toy press’. “*Mackay press supplied reading sheets (in Luganda). It is clear that these are from his ‘toy press’*”⁷. “*we are able to keep this little printing press going*”⁸ “*Mackay with his toy press and imperfect letters, has managed amazingly to print beautifully 300 alphabet sheets*”⁹
- 2) Mackay’s Albion press manufactured by Fredrick Ullmer. Made operational in Luba’s by Rowling in July 1895.
- 3) ‘copying’ press bought out by Vicar Apostolic of the Upper Nile, Bishop Henry Hanlon Bishop of Teso in 1895.
- 4) Harrild & Sons ‘Portable Overland Albion Press’ delivered in March 1896.

⁶ Mengo Notes, Vol.1 No.2, page 7; Mengo 1900

⁷ June 1879, Roy Dunstan C.M.S. research papers, EASC Library

⁸ November 1, 1879, Roy Dunstan C.M.S. research papers, EASC Library

⁹ CMS No X1 1884 p2

Throughout the diaries, Financial Committee records, etc there are numerous reports of a shortage of type. Thus we can be certain that no type (font) castings were being made in Uganda. The printing process, whether using a floor standing Albion or ‘toy presses’, was identical. The difference in printing with the full size Albion and the ‘toy presses’ was the speed of operation and the pressure that could be applied by the platen.

Uganda Typeset Stamps

7 November 1896 saw the first set of the new typeset stamps released for use. They were produced by Rowling and the C.M.S. for the Government of Uganda. The first printing comprised 29,000 stamps. A second printing was done in July 1897 for all values except the 5 rupees; there were 30,000 stamps in the second printing.

Value	First Printing			Second Printing		
	Sheet layout	Paper		Sheet layout	Paper	
1 anna	2 panes 16, vertically tete-beche	white thick wove 222 x 96 mm	Thin 1	2 panes 16, horizontally tete-beche	white thick wove 115 x 202 mm	Thick 1
2 annas						
3 annas						
4 annas						
8 annas	2 panes of 16	yellowish lined thin wove			yellowish lined thin wove	
1 rupee						
5 rupees						
	Constant Varieties common to all values ¹⁰			Constant Varieties common to all values		
	Position			Position		
	1	Raised ‘U’ in UGANDA		1	Raised ‘U’ in UGANDA	
	3	Broken top of O in POSTAGE		3	Broken top of O in POSTAGE	
	4	‘ATE’ of PROTECTORATE bent		4	‘ATE’ of PROTECTORATE bent plus small final ‘A’ in UGANDA	
	5	Raised ‘P’ in PROTECTORATE		5	Raised ‘P’ in PROTECTORATE	
	9	Small ‘O’ in POSTAGE		9	Small ‘O’ in POSTAGE	
	12	‘ATE’ of PROTECTORATE bent		12	‘ATE’ of PROTECTORATE bent	
				14 ¹¹	Broken second ‘O’ in PROTECTORATE	
	16	Broken top of E in POSTAGE		16	Broken top of E in POSTAGE	

The high values were thought to have been printed one pane per sheet but Peter Chantry’s discovery of a 1 rupee tete-beche pair confirms they were printed similar to the low values; 2 panes of 16 per sheet. See Peter Chantry’s article in the January 2006 edition of the *Bulletin*.

The individual panes do not have borders but drawing of imaginary lines along the exterior of the printed image yields 102 mm for the top row in the first printing and 101 mm for the second printing¹².

One setting, with the obvious modification for the stamps value and the symbols, or references as they were then called, was used to print all the panes of stamps. The second printing used the same setting with the aforementioned slight difference in measurements probably caused by the affect of humidity on the ‘wood furniture’.

Three different type sizes were used to print the stamps¹³. These are: **Brevier**: UGANDA PROTECTORATE; **Long Primer**: POSTAGE, ANNAS, RUPEE and numerals; and **Great Primer**: V, R and symbols.

¹⁰ there are other constant varieties that are specific to some values such as a short ‘dagger’ in position 1 of the 1, 2 and 3 annas; incomplete serifs on U of rupee(s) in position 15

¹¹ the breaking of the O occurred during the second printing and not all sheets show the defect

¹² Rossiter and Chantry notes

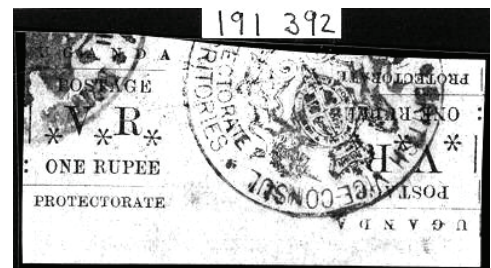
¹³ Oliver Cumming, FRPSL

First Printing



16	15	14	13
12	11	10	9
8	7	6	5
4	3	2	1

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16



1 Rupee tete-beche pair

Second Printing



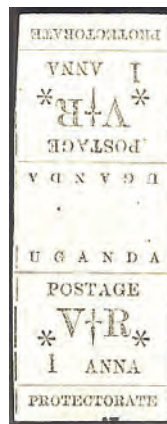
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

16	15	14	13
12	11	10	9
8	7	6	5
4	3	2	1

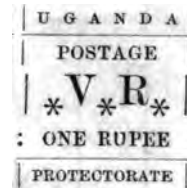
Constant Varieties



Thick 1


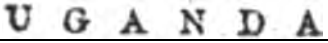


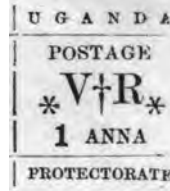
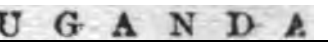




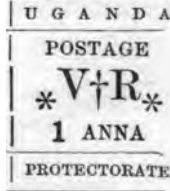



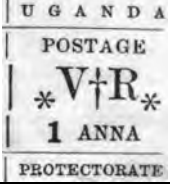



Thin 1



Incomplete serifs on U of rupee

RUPEE

Position			
1	Raised 'U' in UGANDA and short dagger		
3	Broken top of O in POSTAGE		
4	'ATE' of PROTECTORATE bent plus small final 'A' in UGANDA		
5	Raised 'P' in PROTECTORATE		
9	Small 'O' in POSTAGE		
12	'ATE' of PROTECTORATE bent		
14 ¹⁴	Broken second 'O' in PROTECTORATE		
16	Broken top of E in POSTAGE		

¹⁴ the breaking of the O occurred during the second printing and not all sheets show the defect

Printing of the Stamps

Several questions quickly come to mind about the printing of the Uganda Typeset Stamps:

- why were they printed two panes per sheet in a multiple operation?
- what press was used?
- why were two different papers used?

Most of these questions are answered by Rowling's account of his activities¹⁵:

To save time and make forgery less easy, I tried setting some (stamps) in type while near Luba's Busoga, in 1896. A sample was approved in Kampala, so I set a block of 16. That was as many as my type could supply and even then two letters were short: one a small, cap, "O" and the other a thick "I" so each was put on from another 'fount' to make up the 16.

For each value the stars, daggers, asterisks, etc., were varied, so that the values could be known even if the numbers were missing; but the main idea was to make forgery less easy.

All were printed in lots of 16; paper then turned round, and another 16 printed 'top to top'. This was merely because the paper was of that size, ordinary printing paper slips, cut from large sheets when the 4 pp. sheets for Gospels, Hymn books, etc., had been cut out. These were for all values up to 4 annas.

Values of 8 annas and over were printed on India paper (my own writing paper) from A. and N. Stores. Also making forgery not easy.

The press used was that used by Mackay, which I had to repair (broken main column) on arrival in Uganda, early 1894¹⁶.

Rowling's comment that the press used was that used by Mackay, along with the comment about a repaired main column, confirm that the Fredrick Ullmer Albion Press in the Kampala museum is correctly identified as the press used to print the Typeset Stamps. Although this press is capable of printing at least four panes of stamps on a sheet in one operation a single pane was printed per operation because of the type limitations, a consistent problem documented earlier in this article. Use of scrap paper, for the low values, would also have limited the printing to two panes per sheet had the type been available. From Rowling's explanation, the use of a different paper for the high values was driven by his concern about forgeries.

Postage Rates

With the introduction of the Typeset Stamps on November 7, 1896 the following notice appeared:

UGANDA PROTECTORATE

Notice is hereby given that from and after 1st May, 1897, the following scale of charges will be made for the conveyance of Postal Matter by Government mail:

Between Stations in any two districts in the Protectorate:

<i>Letters</i>	<i>3 annas each per oz.</i>
<i>Newspapers</i>	<i>1 anna per 6 oz.</i>
<i>Books and parcels</i>	<i>8 annas per lb.</i>

¹⁵ The Stamps of Uganda by F.H. Rogers, pub Uganda Journal, 1937, pages 141-159

¹⁶ this date does not agree with that documented in Crabtree's dairies quoted previously. Since Rowling is writing from his recollections we assume Crabtree's dates are correct.

Uganda District Local Mail (to include Luba's):
Letters *2 annas each per oz.*
Newspapers *1 anna per 8 oz.*
Books and parcels *3 annas per lb.*

COAST MAIL

From Stations in Uganda, Unyoro, Toro, Usoga, and Kavirondo to Kikuyu:
Letters *4 annas each per oz.*
Newspapers *1 anna per 4 oz.*
Books and parcels *1 rupee per lb.*

From Stations in the Mau District to Kikuyu:
Letters *3 annas each per oz.*
Newspapers *1 anna per 6 oz.*
Books and parcels *8 annas per lb.*

*In all the above cases similar rates will be charged for the Up mails.
 No parcel will be taken that exceeds 11 lbs. in weight.*

(Signed) *TREVOR TERNAN*
H.M. Acting Commissioner and Consul General

The Uganda currency of the Cowrie remained in concurrent use for several years at an exchange rate of 200 Cowries per rupee. The exchange rate was reduced to 1,000 per rupee around 1900 and later 1,200.

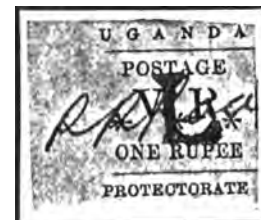
The postage rates announced simultaneously with the introduction of the Typeset Stamps shows the need for each of the values through the 1 rupee. The 5 rupee stamp only had postal usage on parcels of 5 pounds or more depending upon destination and point of origin. The low need for this value is confirmed by the lack of a second printing.

The L Overprint

In a letter, to his brother Bob in California dated 12 April 1946, R.R. Racey writes:

Sometime after they (Typeset Stamps) were adopted by the Uganda administration, Somerset House London asked for differentiation for audit purposes between locals and foreign used stamps¹⁷ so I whittled down an ink eraser (being the official in charge of the postage stamps) making an 'L', after which all of these Indian Currency Stamps superimposed 'Ls' could only be used locally but the others anywhere at all.

R.R. Racey was originally from Lennoxville, Quebec, Canada and was appointed 3rd class Assistant to Uganda on 27 July 1896¹⁸. L overprinted stamps are known with his initials, one of these is on a piece on which "Officer in Charge" is printed. It is quite probable that he was called a Collector¹⁹ as noted in an article by Peter Steernberg: *The 'Collector at Kampala' Exposed*²⁰ that quotes the same letter by Racey.



¹⁷ this could only mean to Kikuyu since Uganda Typeset Stamps were not valid for postage to UPU member countries

¹⁸ Public Record Office documents FO 2 676 and FO 2 461.

¹⁹ Stuart Rossiter wrote: "*Collector or (more fully) District Collector was the normal designation for a District Officer or District Commissioner*"

²⁰ published in *The Stamp Collector*, July 30, 1977, pp32-3

The differentiation soon proved impractical and the overprinting ceased. Six covers to England and one to Germany are known with 'L' overprinted stamps.

Since the 'L' overprinted one anna stamps are only found with a thin 1, the overprint was probably confined to the first issue of all values.

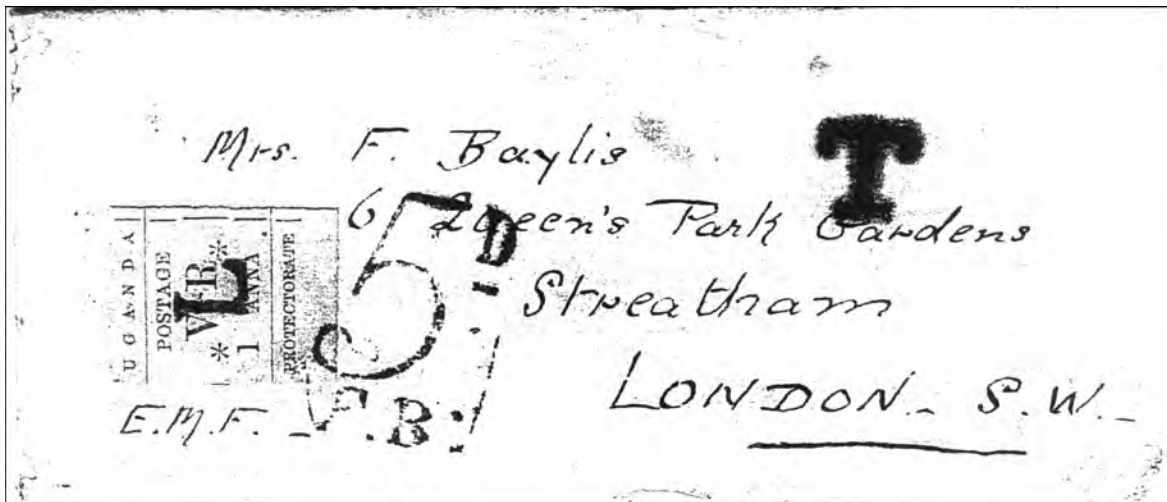


An "Overprint Double" was first reported in 1977²¹. Stuart Rossiter wrote "One 'L' is rather faint. So necessitating a second, firmer application – the classic reason for a handstamp double." The "Overprint Double" has not obtained catalog status.

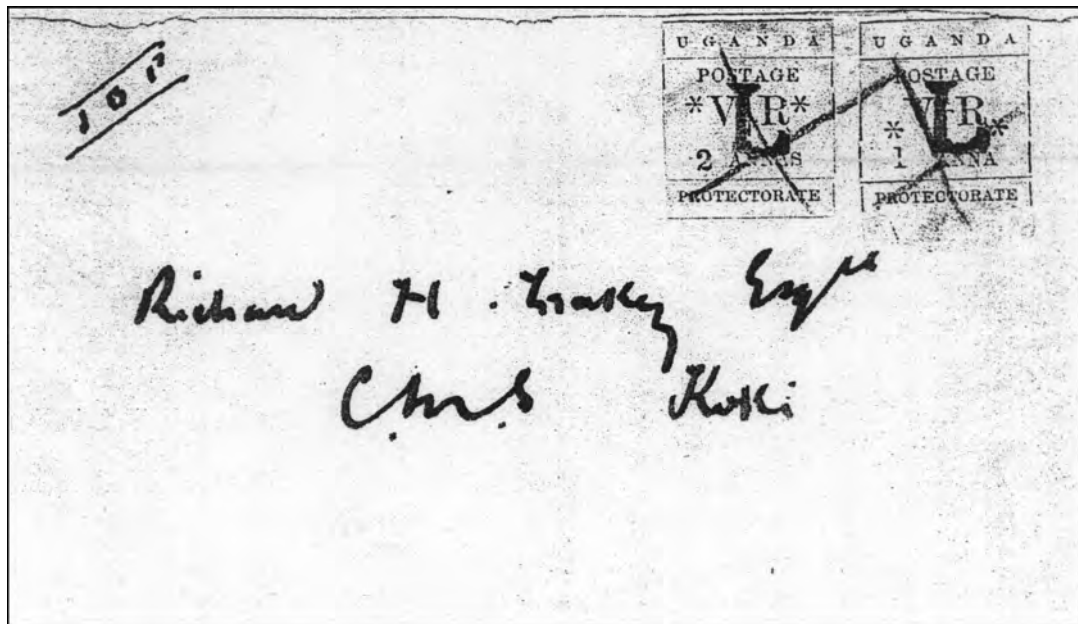


Cover from Rev. Martin Hall to Rev. Frank Rowling while he was on leave. The Uganda stamp has a Kampala cancel, dated 26 NO 98, that also ties the BEA 2½ annas stamp that is cancelled Mombasa 3 JA 99.

²¹ Stuart Rossiter, *The London Philatelist*, vol 86, No 1019-20, p168



*Cover from Miss Edith Furley to Mrs. F. Baylis, London, Late 1897.
Postage due of 5p was assessed since the cover did not have franking for external mail.*



*Correct usage of the 'L' overprints on a cover from J.B. Purvis, then in Gayaza,
to Richard H. Leakey at Koki.*

Forgeries

As one should expect, the Uganda Typeset issue attracted the attention of the forgers Fournier and Sperati amongst others. While most of the forgeries are easily identified, with the exception of those by Sperati, and should cause no great concern to the dedicated collector of the Uganda Typeset issue there is little written about them to bring them to the attention of novice or casual collectors of the issue.

Sperati

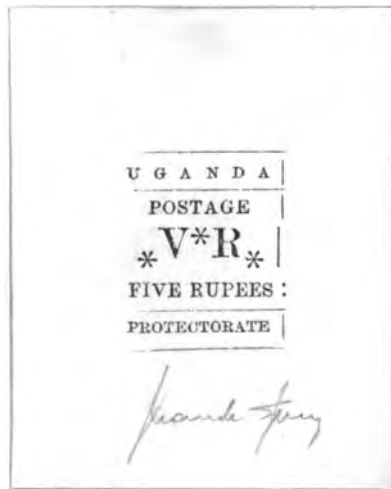
For over 40 years Jean de Sperati produced excellent forgeries. He was charged by French Customs authorities with illegally exporting eighteen rare stamps to a Lisbon stamp dealer in February 1942. To avoid

conviction Sperati claimed the stamps were his own forgeries. However, authorities insisted they were genuine until Sperati produced four sets of the eighteen stamps. Sperati was charged with fraud by the Paris Public Prosecutor in 1946 and convicted in 1948 but appealed. His conviction was upheld by the Appeals Court in 1952. Sperati sold his stock and reference collection to the British Philatelic Association which published a volume in 1955 describing and illustrating all of Sperati's work as then known. Additional examples have surfaced since then.

In March 1972 Robson Lowe, Ltd. And Urs Peter Kaufmann auctioned a reference collection of Sperati's work. The catalog preamble stated:

Jean de Sperati was a menace to the hobby of philately, but the study of his work and methods of identifying it with certainty, greatly stimulated philatelic research. Over a period of 20 years, much of his work was known to a select few, and as this knowledge was not revealed, both collectors and dealers continued to suffer substantial losses.

There was one lot for Uganda and it contained only a Five Rupee Typeset proof in black signed by Sperati with a purple handstamp on the reverse reading SPERATI REPRODUCTION. This lot became part of the Roy Dunstan collection and was sold at auction by Sotheby's on 26 March 1985 as lot 94.



Fournier

Illustrated are several 1 anna Typeset forgeries attributed to François Fournier. There are spurious marks between the V and the dagger and to the right of the lower point of the dagger. Vertical separation lines are also missing. The paper used is similar to that of the genuine stamps but of a different texture. The unused stamp is heavily gummed while the issued stamps were without gum. The first used example has what appears to be an English barred numeral cancel while the second has a hatched circle cancellation reading MOMBAZE UGANDA 31 MY 97 PM. The last stamp has the same cancellation and a crude forgery of the L overprint (overly wide).



Others

Illustrated are four crude forgeries that were most likely hand drawn. All are on a thin white paper that has no resemblance to that of the genuine stamps. The first has a forged registration handstamp, the second a forged single circle Mombasa A cancel in red dated MR 16 97. The last two also have forged L overprints.



Genuine Stamps with Forged L Overprints

A number of genuine stamps have been recorded with forged L overprints. They also have a known manuscript or single circle cancellation.

Recorded examples with manuscript cancellations of Lubwa's and Kampala are illustrated. The Lubwa's is dated 4-7-97 while the Kampala are dated 22/7/97 and Aug 23/97 respectively. All appear to have been overprinted with the same appliance. The top serifs on the forged L are missing and the bottom stroke is not as long as that on the genuine L.



Four examples, illustrated below, of another type of forged L are on stamps with Port Alice single circle cancellations dated JA 11 99. The forged L differs significantly for the genuine; the serifs at the top is a rectangular shaped rather than triangular shaped, and the vertical and horizontal strokes are not as wide (thick) as the genuine.



LOCAL

Two genuine 1 anna stamps with the Word LOCAL overprinted in violet or purple are recorded. Both examples appear to have been created with the same appliance. The L is 4 mm high while the remaining

characters are 3 mm high; the overall length is 15 mm. The example overprinted vertically was submitted to the BPA Expertising Committee which wrote:

The committee declines to issue any certificate. It is not prepared to give an opinion on the violet local handstamp of presently unknown status.



This stamp is reported to have been sent by Archdeacon Walker to a family member without any information apart from a suggestion that it might have been used for the second printing of the typeset stamps. The fact that Archdeacon Walker is mentioned as the original owner of the vertical overprint stamp gives it a certain provenance. Dr. D. Trapnell, a relative of Archdeacon Walker, wrote:

It has been assumed that the 'L' indicated 'LOCAL' and Racey's letter helpfully confirms this 'traditional' view. There is absolutely no doubt as to the significance of the then only known example of a rubber handstamp overprint on the second printing of Rowling's typeset stamps – 'LOCAL'. A second copy (also a loose stamp) was found later.