

GOLD COAST COLONYGB Registered Postal Stationery optd "GOLD COAST COLONY" - by Francis Kiddle

In 1975 I wrote an article on the GB registered envelopes used in the Gold Coast ad described in the Robson Lowe Encyclopedia Vol.2 and in the Higgins and Gage catalogue. Through the kind offices of the British West Africa Study Circle, the list has been circulated to 28 'Gold Coast' members of which 17 contributed a listing of their collections. We are very grateful for the collation work done by Mr.K.J. Macrae of the BWA Study Circle who has enabled us to publish a list of postal stationery held by these members. To this list I have also added items from my own small collection.

For convenience I have reproduced the original listing below as given in the Overprinter 4/75. On pages 2 and 4 however, a summary has been made of the items held in 18 collections.

What conclusions can we draw from this summary?

- (a) Dates of use. According to the handbooks these items were used from 1888 to 1904. Examples found range from 1889 to 1908.
- (b) Rarity. The rarity scale I first proposed is obviously misleading. By doing a small statistical exercise on the evidence I have come up with a new rarity listing which is given on page GOC 4.
- (c) Size of overprints. Unless one person has actually made all the measurements there is bound to be large scatter in the results and indeed we would be lucky if individual accuracies are within + 0.5 mm of the true measurements. Measurements taken do show that the broadband quoted in the handbooks for GBOS Nos. 8-15 and 17-24 is correct, i.e. 60.5 mm to 65.5 mm. However there are obviously more than four different lengths of overprints.

This listing has been compiled from Higgins & Gage Cat., and Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia Vol. 2., shown as "HG" and "RL" below. Identification is by their respective numbers and also from the standard work on G.B. Postal Stationery, "British Postal Stationery", by A.K. Huggins, ref. "A.K.H." Rarity Factors are added, based on the catalogues, graded from 1 (commonest), to 25 (scarcest). The sizes of the envelopes are listed according to the Post Office Code Letters:

F 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". G 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 6". H 5" x 8". H2 4" x 9".
J 4 & 1/eighth" x 10".

<u>GBOS.</u>	<u>A.K.H.</u>	<u>R.L.</u>	<u>H.G.</u>	<u>Description & Size</u>	<u>Rarity</u>	<u>Fig.No.</u>
1	RP14F	RP1	1	1888. QV 2d Ultramarine with Black Opt. in form of semi-circular tablet above Stamp with wording Gold Coast Colony. Date Plugs on Stamp replaced by Rosette consisting of 5 Dots. Size F.	3	
2	RP14F	RP1	1a	Same, but Rosette consisting of 9 Dots. Size F.	1	1,2
3	RP14G	RP1	1b	Same as 1, but Size G.	2	

<u>GBOS No.</u>	<u>Ref. H.G.</u>					
4	1c	1 mint. (Specimen) 3 mint.	4 used.	25. 7.88 21. 1.90 28. 3.90 5. 7.90		
5	1d	2 mint.	1 used.	1. 8.93		
6	2	1 mint. Opt. 53.5 m.m.	5 used.	10.12.92 25. 5.93 16.11.94 11. 4.95 5. 8.95	Opt. 53mm. 53mm. 53mm. 53mm. 53mm.	
7	2a	---	2 used.	28.10.92 29. 5.93	5 dots (?)	
8-11	3	7 mint. Opts. from 62.5mm to 65.5mm.	4 used.	14. 7.92 5. 7.95 16.11.94 6. 5.97	Opt. 60.5mm Opt. 63mm.	
12-15	3a	1 mint. Opt. 65mm.	4 used.	3.10.92 27. 7.93 25. 4.96 7. 8.96	Opt. 63mm.	
16	4	None known.		-----		
17-20	5	3 mint. Opt. 63.5mm. 65.5mm. -----	7 used.	8. 5.95 23.11.96 15. 1.97 29. 8.99 13. 8.01 21. 5.03 --.11.04	Opt. 62mm. 61.5mm. 60mm. 61mm.	
21-24	5a	4 mint. Opt. all 63mm.	18 used.	15. 8.94 9. 7.95 --. 5.96 2. 1.97 26. 1.98 19. 9.98 18.12.99 6. 9.00 7. 2.01 25. 2.01 27. 7.01 --. 3.02 2. 5.02 2. 6.02 --. 2.04 11. 3.05 13. 5.08	Opt. 63mm. 65mm. 66mm. 61mm. 64mm. 60mm. 63mm. 63mm. 63mm. 63mm.	
25	6	None known.		-----		
26	6a.			-----		
27	6b.)			-----		

<u>GBOS No.</u>	<u>Ref. H.G.</u>				
28	7	5 mint. all SPECIMEN Opts. 65.5, 66, & 66.5mm.	3 used	19. 6.06 7. 1.07 14.10.07	Opt: 65.5mm. Opt: 65mm.
29	7a.	1 mint Specimen Opt: 66mm.		
30.	7b.	3 mint. 2 SPECIMEN 1 normal all Opt: 65.5mm.		

<u>GBOS No.</u>	<u>No. in survey</u>		<u>Rarity factor</u>
	<u>mint</u>	<u>used</u>	
1	2	3	2
2	3	3	2
3	0	4	3
4	4	4	1
5	2	1	4
6	1	5	2
7	0	2	5
8			
9			
10	7	4	1
11			
12			
13			
14	1	4	2
15			
16	0	0	25
17			
18			
19	3	7	1
20			
21			
22	4	18	1
23			
24			
25	0	0	25
26	0	0	25
27	0	0	25
28	5	3	1
29	1	0	10
30	3	0	4



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

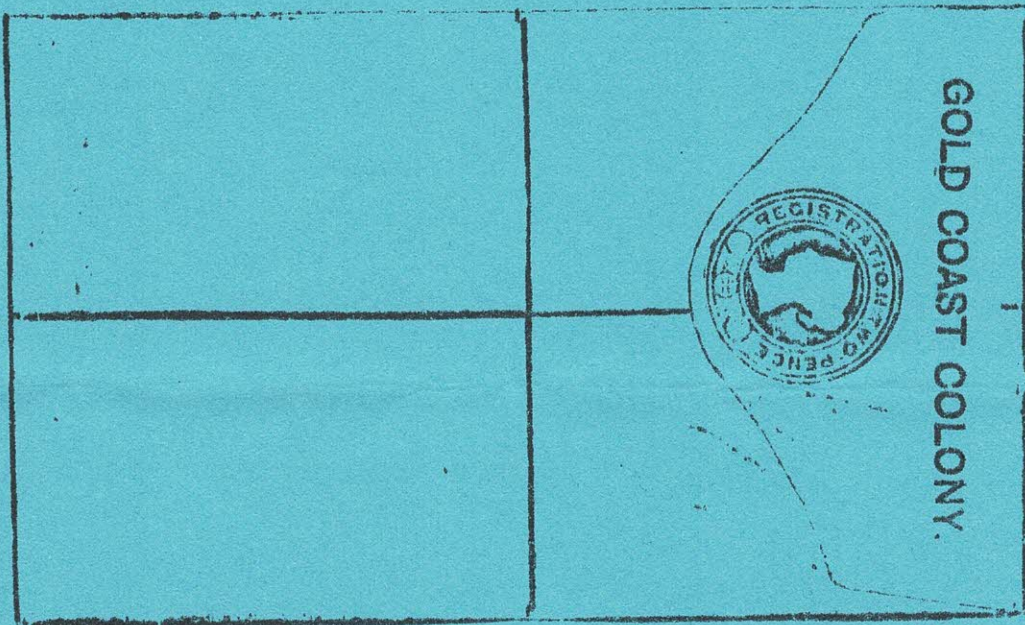


FIG. 3

60.5 mm



GOLD COAST COLONY.

64 mm

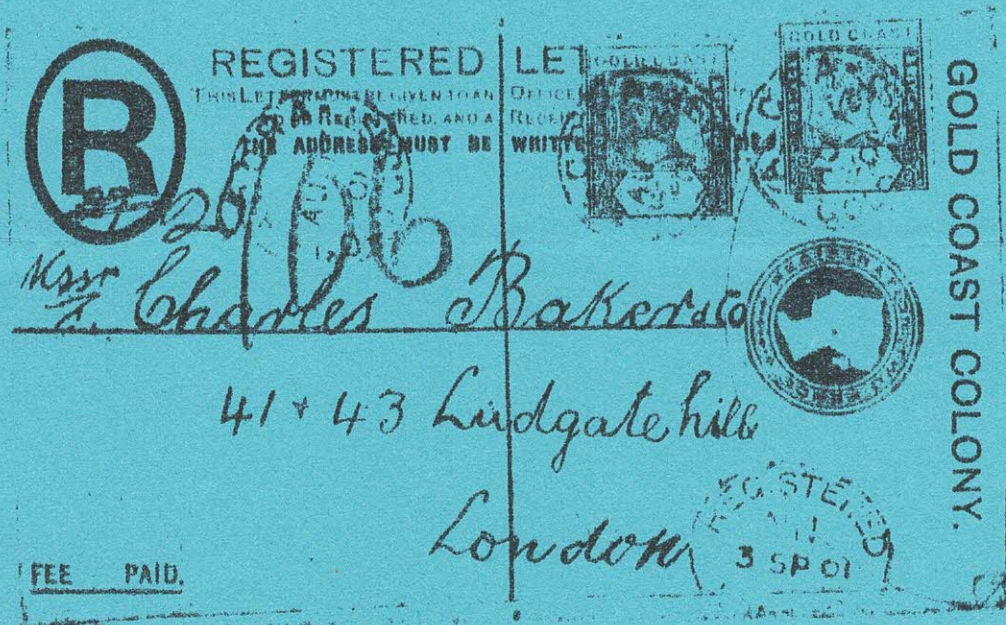


FIG. 4

61 mm

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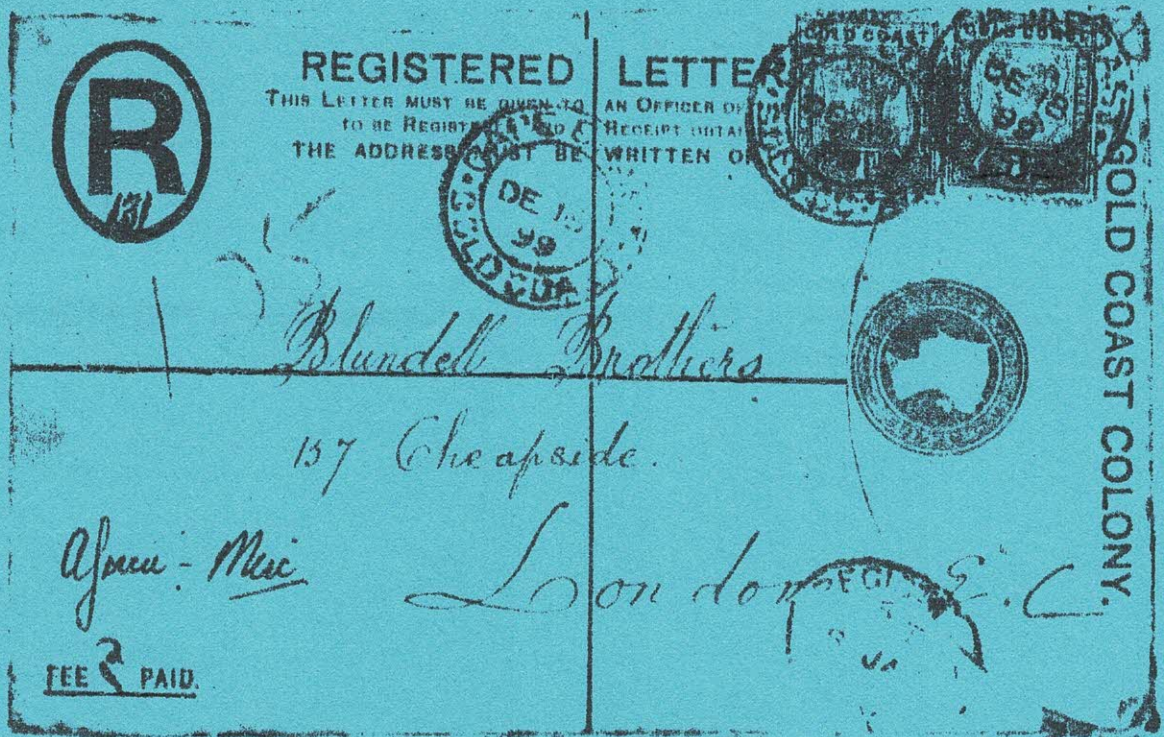


FIG. 5

61mm

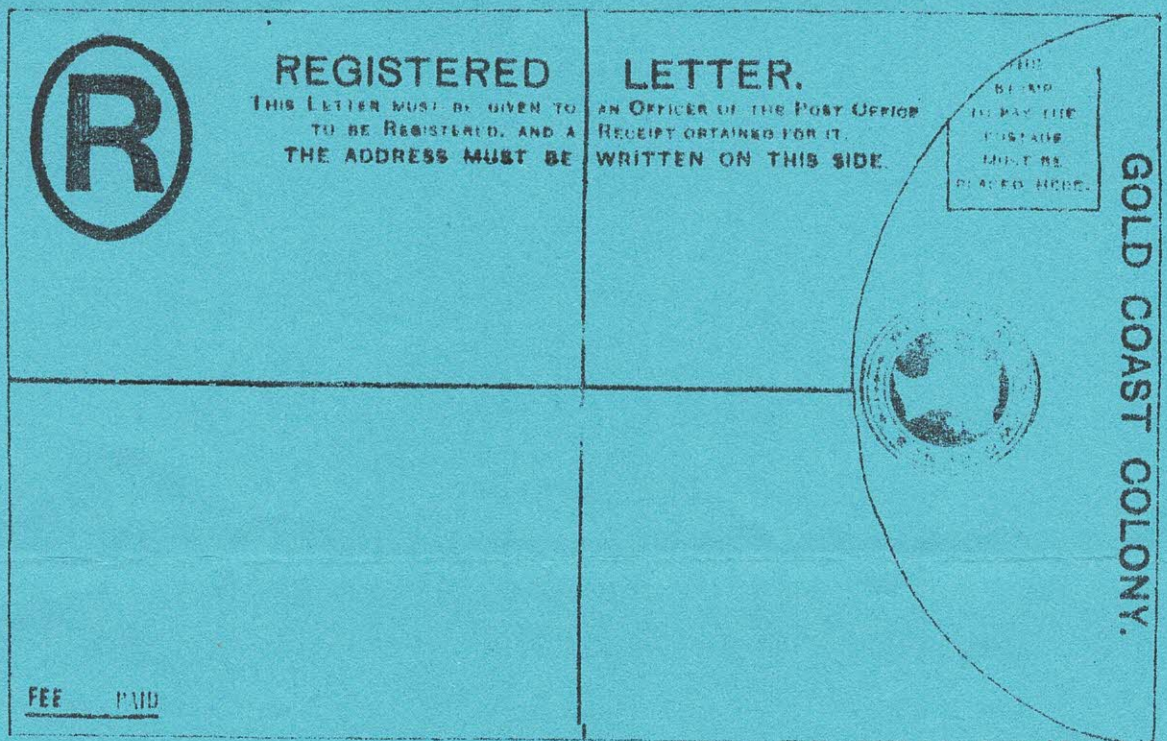


FIG. 6

63mm

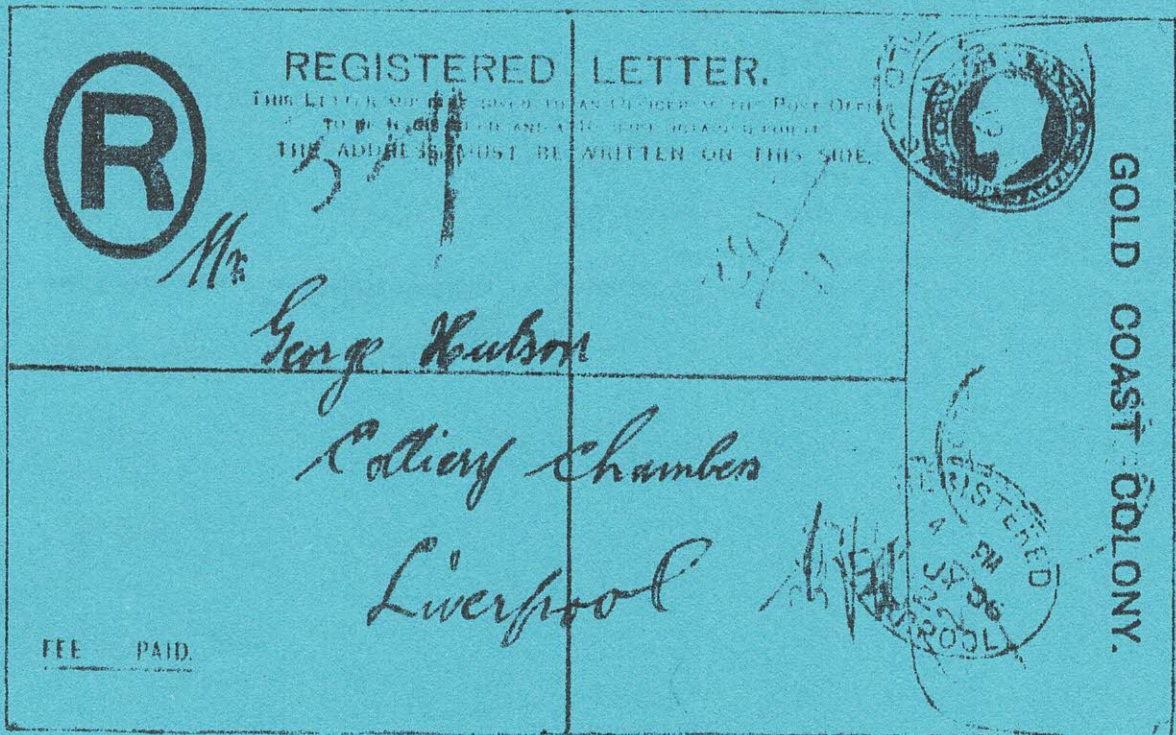


FIG. 7

65.5 mm.

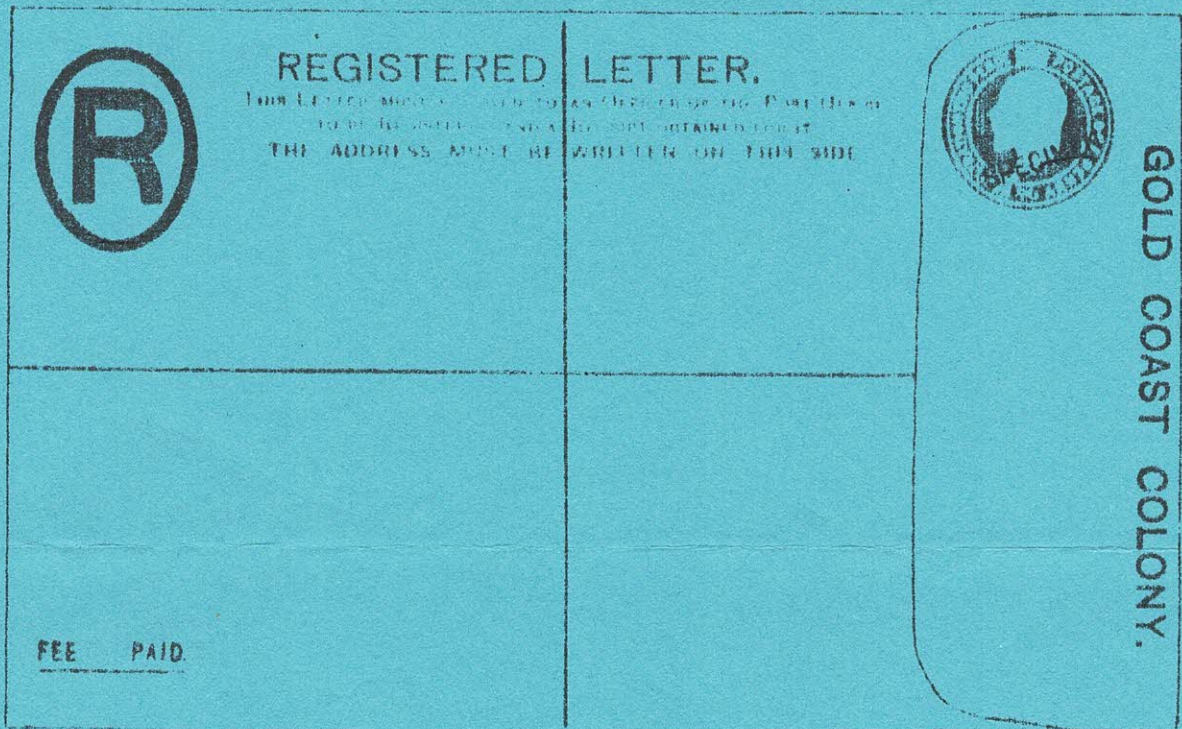


FIG. 8

66 mm

66 mm

Specimen →

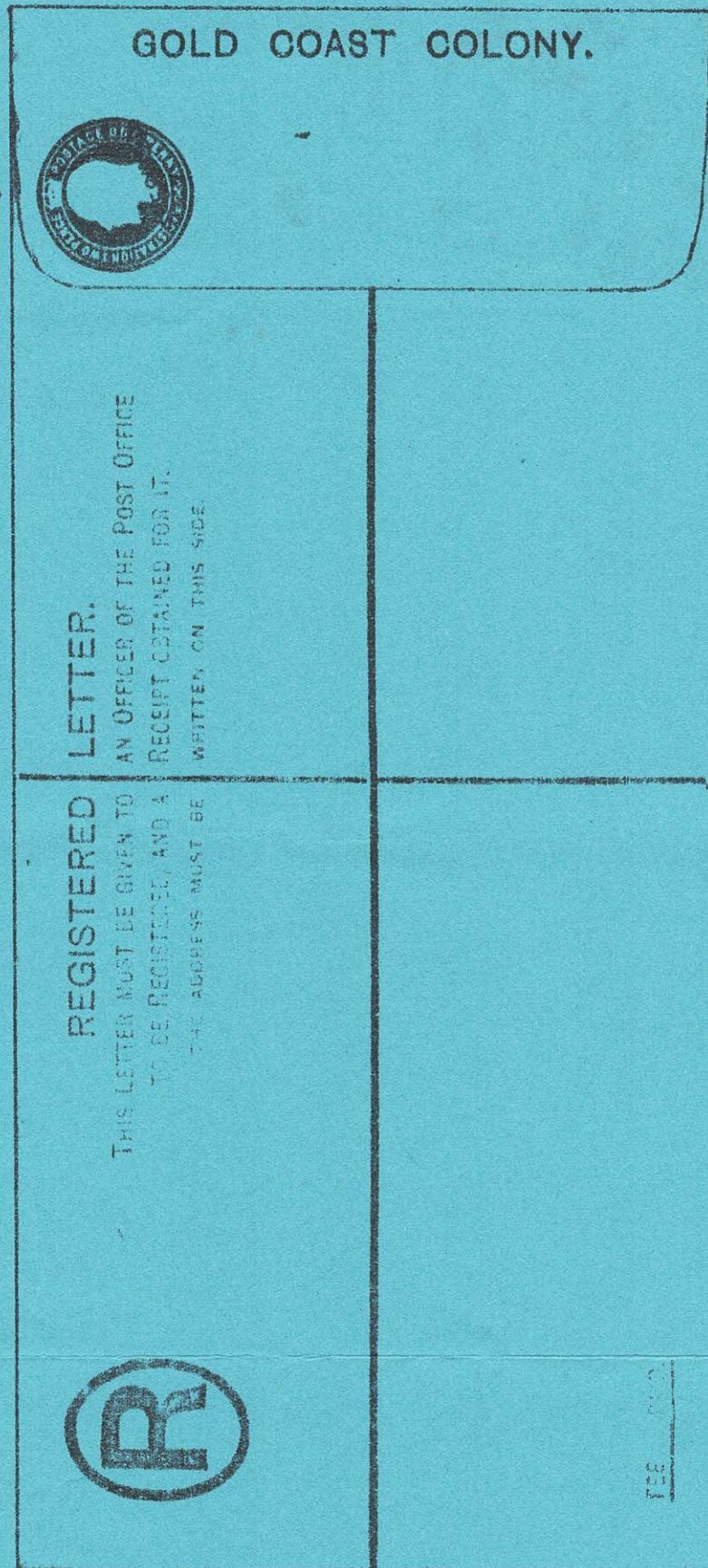


FIG. 9.