

PETER HOLCOMBE

PHILATELIC EXPERT

LUZERN, SWITZERLAND.

Certificate No. 7689/93

May, 10th 1993

LIBERIA. A lettersheet inscribed "Care of English Mail", originally bearing a first issue stamp (the impression of a cancellation is still apparent), the stamp was removed and "Paid 8d." in red ink was written instead and the space cancelled by an undated "Harper Liberia" in blue, sent via London, where it received the London, Ju.11.1860 and a manuscript rate "1N1"? (single letter charge) was over stamped PD both in red. It was forwarded via Calais the same day to Paris, France, where it arrived on the 12. June 1860 without further charge. It is in my opinion genuine.

One can only assume that the original stamp was removed because they could not make-up the rate in stamps or as it was sent by an english ship, it was paid in cash in Sterling, foreign currencies were accepted in Liberia at this time for postage payments (see Cockrill, no. 25, page 68).

This cover is one of the earliest known from Liberia and probably the earliest usage of the Harper date stamp.

A very rare and unusual lettersheet.

This is PD  
crossed out  
(wrongly!)  
27.3.1994  
B.

any sterling  
✓

2nd  
earliest  
—