

THE GOLD COAST PRESS: 1822-c 1930, AND THE
ANGLO-AFRICAN PRESS: 1825-c 1930 - THE CHRONOLOGIES

by K.A.B. Jones-Quartey*

The history of the West African Press goes back to the very beginning of the 19th Century; the history of what we must call the Anglo-African Press - and in which, for convenience here, we include a number of American anti-slavery journals - started not much later. In English-speaking West Africa journalism began, under official auspices, in 1801 in Freetown, Sierra Leone, with the then Gold Coast Settlements, Lagos Colony, and Gambia following progressively later.¹ Meanwhile, in Britain, as far as the records show, periodicals directly concerned with West African affairs began publication in or about 1825.

The present writer has been engaged for some years in compiling comprehensive chronologies of the press in and of West Africa, that is, both the one established and managed in the various countries of the Guinea Coast itself, and the one established abroad but dealing with this area.² One of these chronologies is here published for the first time: that of the Gold Coast Press from 1822 to circa 1931; a second, the one including the early English and American periodicals concerned with Africa and with the Anti-Slavery movement, is being reproduced for the second time (on this occasion), as amended and augmented from its first public appearance in 1959.³

The object of the present publication is two-fold: first, to present to students

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1. See: Christopher Fyfe, "The Sierra Leone Press in the Nineteenth Century", in Sierra Leone Studies, June 1957; K.A.B. Jones-Quartey, articles in Sierra Leone Studies for June 1958, Dec. 1959, and Dec. 1960.
2. Jones-Quartey, "Anglo-African Journals and Journalists. . . .", in Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana, Vol. IV, Pt. 1, 1959 (which is hereby superceded). Other items of information on the early West African Press not indicated in the above article can be found in the article listed in these footnotes.
3. Jones-Quartey, op.cit., pp. 55-6.

and researchers in the field of West African political, economic, and social developments from the beginning of the 19th to the first third of the 20th Century, a vital source of information not hitherto sufficiently exploited; and secondly, to invite a response from those with knowledge of this field, a response in the form of possible further correction as well as augmentation of the material.

The chronologies here presented have been worked out separately. The Anglo-African Press list has been compiled from Cardinall's Bibliography of the Gold Coast (1931) and records at the library of the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Royal African Society, Northumberland Avenue, London, checked with the British Union-Catalogue of Periodicals,⁴ and further checked with other scattered sources both private and public.

Secondly, the chronology of the Gold Coast Press has in turn been compiled from the following: J. Magnus Sampson's pamphlet sketch, A Brief History of Gold Coast Journalism (1934, out of print, and extremely rare)⁵, the Colonial Office Blue Books covering the period, J.B. Anaman's almanacs and handbooks, records and collections⁶ at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, and the British Museum Newspaper Library at Colindale, north London; the Ghana National Archives, Accra, and its sub-branch at Cape Coast; the private collection of old newspapers and books at the Methodist Book Depot headquarters office, Cape Coast; the Balme Library and the library of the Institute of African Studies, of the University of Ghana, Legon; and the National Archives of Sierra Leone, the bulk of which is lodged at the University College of Sierra Leone in Freetown. Scattered references and odd collections of these papers may also be found in Copenhagen, The Hague, Basle, Bern, and the U.S.; also at the headquarters of the missionary societies in Britain and on the European Continent.

Chronologies of the Sierra Leone Press (the earliest of the West African English-language journals), and of Nigeria and the others, will be published, it is intended, at a later date. The Anglo-African and Gold Coast lists now follow:

4. Mr. R.J. Hoy, Deputy Librarian (1960) of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, first called the author's attention to the Union-Catalogue.
5. Also inadequate, and not to be used as reference for the earliest Gold Coast newspapers, whose names, chronology, etc., are wrongly given by Sampson. A copy of this pamphlet is to be found at the Ghana National Archives, Cape Coast branch.
6. See: Jones-Quartey, "Press-Archives Research as an Approach to West African History", Research Review, Vol.2, No.1, Michaelmas 1965; pp. 52-6.

Anglo-African Journals: 1825-c 1930

<u>First known Date of Issue</u>	<u>Name and Serialization</u>	<u>Last known Date of Issue</u>
1825	Anti-Slavery Monthly Reporter Vols. 1-3 ²⁴ (i.e. nos. 1-72) <u>continued in</u>	1830
1831 <u>as</u>	Anti-Slavery Reporter 4-6 ⁸ (i.e. nos. 73-113); <u>later, in</u>	1836, July
1837 "	The British Emancipator, 1-61, <u>then in</u>	1840, Jan. 10
1840 "	British & Foreign Anti-Slavery Reporter, 1-6158, <u>in</u>	1845, Dec.
1846 "	Anti-Slavery Reporter, N.S., 1-7 3Ser. 1-22, 4Ser. 1-29; <u>in</u>	1909
1910 "	Anti-Slavery Reporter & Aborigines' Friend, 5Ser. 1-34, 6Ser. 1	?
1832	Anti-Slavery Record Vol. 1, nos. 1-15	1833, June 6
1835	Anti-Slavery Record (American Anti- Slavery Society, New York), Vols. 1-3	1837, Dec.
1836	Anti-Slavery Examiner (American Anti-Slavery Society) Vols. 1-14	1845
1838	Colonial Gazette, Nos. 1-424	1905, Nov. 18
1840	Colonial Magazine, Vols. 1-8 N.S. Vol. 1, <u>Continued in</u>	1842, Dec.
1843 <u>as</u>	Fisher's Colonial Magazine (N.S.) Vols. 2-4; N.(3) S. Vols. 1-2	1845

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<u>First known Date of Issue</u>	<u>Name and Serialization</u>	<u>Last known Date of Issue</u>
1840	African Colonizer	1841
1840	Colonial Magazine & Commercial Maritime Journal	?
1841	Friend of Africa	1846
1842	The Friend of Africa (Journal of the Society for the Extinction of the Slave Trade)	1843
1844	The Friend of the African	1845
1847	The Colonial Intelligencer or Friend, later Aborigines' Friend & Colonial Intelligencer	1866
1850	Church Missionary Gleaner	1856
1852	Anti-Slavery Advocate	1861
1853	The Anti-Slavery Watchman	1854
1859	Church Missionary Intelligencer	1906
1862	African Times Vols. 1-43 (Nos. 1-495)	1902, Dec.
1865	Sierra Leone Journal	1866
1869	Anglo-Colonial, 1-2	?
1880	Africa	1884
1891	West African Gazette	?

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<u>First known Date of Issue</u>	<u>Name and Serialization</u>	<u>Last known Date of Issue</u>
1892	West African Review of Mining, Finance & Commerce, Vol.1-41 No.1-632), <u>later merged into</u> African World & Cape-Cairo Express	?
1895	African Critic, <u>later</u> The Critic	1914
1899	British Empire Review	1939
1900	West Africa	1906, Dec.
1900	West African Traders Review, 1-8	1904
1900	African Journal of Commerce	1913, Dec.
1901	West African Gazette, Vol.1	?
1901	West African News, <u>later</u> African News	1902
1901	Gold Coast Globe & Ashanti Argus, <u>later</u> Anglo-African Argus & Gold Coast Globe	1904
1901	African Affairs - Journal of the African Society; <u>Contd.</u> <u>in</u>	?
1935 <u>as</u>	Journal of the Royal African Society	1944
1902	Bournville Works Magazine	<u>Current</u>
1902	African World	?
1903	West African Mail (Liverpool) <u>later</u> , <u>in</u>	1907, Oct.
1907 "	African Mail, 1-6	1913

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<u>First known Date of Issue</u>	<u>Name and Serialization</u>	<u>Last known Date of Issue</u>
1903	African World Annual	<u>Current</u>
1905	Africa	<u>Current</u>
1905	African Engineering	1914
1905	Tropical Life (& Stock Farming) Vols. 1-33 (Nos. 1-376)	1937/June/July
1906	Church Missionary Review	1927
1907	Colonial Office Journal, 1-3 <u>Contd.</u> as Colonial Journal, 4-13 (iv)	1910 1920
1912	African Times & Orient. Review 1-2; N.S. 1 ¹ -22, Jan. 1917 - Oct. 1918	1914, Aug.
1912	Bank of West Africa Ltd., Staff Bulletin, No. 1-10	1921, Dec.
1913	African Journal of Commerce	?
1914	African Telegraph & Gold Coast Mirror* (discont'd between Feb. 1915 & Dec. 1918)	1919, Dec.
1917	West Africa	<u>Current</u>
1920	Africa & Orient. Review 1-12	1920, Dec.
1921	Journal of the Gold Coast Agricultural & Commercial Society	?
1921	African Industries 1-2110	1930, Mar.

* The African Telegraph and Gold Coast Mirror was, apparently more so than most of the above, a child of both worlds. It was printed in London in technical perfection, but was sponsored in Accra, and was lavishly illustrated with pictures from the then Gold Coast while at the same time carrying a wide coverage of West African affairs. Samples can be found at the Cape Coast Archives.

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<u>First known Date of Issue</u>	<u>Name and Serialization</u>	<u>Last known Date of Issue</u>
1922	Elder Dempster Magazine, <u>later</u> Elder's Review, <u>later</u> West African Review	1960
1924	Empire Cotton Growing Review	1939, Oct.
1924	The Golden Shore	?
1925	Gold Coast Review 1-5 ²	1931
1927	West African Medical Journal 1-10 ¹	1938, Oct.
1928	Church Overseas	1934
1928	Africa - Journal of International Institute of African Languages & Cultures	<u>Current</u>
1931	Books for Africa: Quarterly Bulletin of International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa	<u>Current</u>

APPENDIX 1
NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN GHANA: 1857-1957

A. NINETEENTH CENTURY

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES	FOUNDERS/PROPRIETORS/ EDITORS/ OR OTHER
Royal Gold Coast Gazette	Monthly	Cape Coast	April 1822- 1823	(Semi-Official) Governor Sir Chas. Mac- Carthy (founder) Captain Gordon Laing (one of many editors. Others unknown)
Accra Herald - <u>later</u>	Fortnightly	Accra	Sept. 1857- ? 1859	Chas Bannerman (Edmund Bannerman) (Robert Hansen)
West African Herald	Weekly	Freetown <u>later</u> Cape Coast	? 1859- ? 1873	Chas. Bannerman (Edmund Bannerman) Edmund Bannerman
Gold Coast Times	Fortnightly	Cape Coast	March 1874-Nov. 1885	James Hutton Brew

NOTE: Names in brackets are those of editors, sub-editors, and/or other subordinates, where principals are known and named.

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES	FOUNDERS/PROPRIETORS/ETC.
Government Gazette	Monthly	Accra	February 1876-Current	Gold Coast Government
Gold Coast Assize	Monthly	Cape Coast	Nov. 1883-Feb. 1884	W.C. Niblett (?) (English lawyer)
Gold Coast News	Monthly	Cape Coast	March ? - Aug. 1885	W.C. Niblett
Western Echo	Fortnightly	Cape Coast	Nov. 1885-Dec. 1887	James Hutton Brew (J.E. Casely Hayford) (Timothy Laing)

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES	FOUNDERS, ETC.
Gold Coast Methodist - <u>later</u> Gold Coast Methodist Times	Fortnightly	Cape Coast	? 1886-Jan. 1898	Methodist Mission (W.T. Coppin) English Metho- (W.M. Cannell) dist Missionaries (S.R.B. Attah Ahuma)
Gold Coast Echo	Weekly	Cape Coast	Jan. 1888- ? 1889	J.E. Casely Hayford
? Gold Coast Chronicle	Irregular	Accra	Sept. 1890-Jan. 1896	Timothy Laing J.E. Casely Hayford ?
Gold Coast People	Weekly	Cape Coast	Oct. 1891- ? ? Aug. 1894-Oct. 1898	J. Mensah Sarbah
Gold Coast Independent	Weekly	Accra	Mar. 1895-Jan. 1898	Dr. Chas. Easmon A. Cole J. Bright-Davies (editor) (All of Sierra Leonean origin)

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES	FOUNDERS, ETC.
West African Gazette & Gold Coast Chronicle	Weekly	Accra	Feb. 8-March 1896	W.C. Niblett (John Vanderpuije ?)
Gold Coast Chronicle	Irregular	Accra	June 1896- ? 1901 (+)	? ?
Gold Coast Observer	Daily	Accra	June 1896 (One issue)	? ?
Gold Coast Herald	Fortnightly	Probably Accra	Jan. 1896 (One issue)	Leslie Mayne (Englishman)

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES	FOUNDERS, ETC.
Gold Coast Express	Daily (Irregular)	Accra	Mar. 1897-Mar. 1900 (?)	Timothy Laing (First attempt at daily newspaper publication)
Gold Coast Aborigines	Weekly	Cape Coast	Jan. 1898-June 1909 (?)	Attoh Ahuma, K. Egyir Azaam
Gold Coast Free Press	Occasionally	Accra	Aug. ? - Oct. 1899	? ?
B. <u>TWENTIETH CENTURY</u>				
Gold Coast Leader	Weekly	Cape Coast	Dec. 1902- ? 1929	J.E. Casely Hayford, Herbert Brown, Attoh Ahuma, John Buckman G. Acquah. (Roles and exact functions undeterminable).

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES	FOUNDERS, ETC.
Gold Coast Advocate	Weekly	Accra	Mar. 1904-Jan. 1914	A. Boi Quartey-Papafio
Gold Coast Courier	Weekly	Christiansborg, Accra	Aug. 1905-Jan. 1907	Timothy Laing
Gold Coast Nation & Aborigines	Weekly	Cape Coast	April 1912- ? ?	Attoh Ahuma
Gold Coast Youth Magazine	Monthly	Cape Coast	June 1912- (Once)	K. Egyir-Asaam

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES	FOUNDERS, ETC.
Young Man's Adviser	Fortnightly	?	July 1912 - Feb. 1913	? ?
Eastern Star & Akwapim Chronicle	Weekly	Accra	Aug. 1913 - Mar. 1925 (+)	Timothy Laing
Voice of The People later Vox Populi	Fortnightly	Accra	Nov. 1917 - 1939 then until - 1948 (?)	T. Kwesi Orgle (Clement Quartey-Papafio) (Timothy Laing)

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES	FOUNDERS, ETC.
Gold Coast Independent	Weekly	Accra	July 1918- ? 1955	? ? J.J. Akrong; D.G. Tackie ? ?
Literary & Social Guide	Monthly	Probably Accra	May 1919- ? 1922	? ?
Voice of Africa (?)	?	?	?	? ?
Gold Coast Pioneer	Monthly	?	Feb. 1921- (Once)	? ?

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES	FOUNDERS, ETC.
Gold Coast Times	Weekly	Cape Coast	April 1923- ? ?	K. Sekyama
Sunlight	Occasionally	Aburi	? 1926 ?	K. Sekyi Djan
Gold Coast Catholic Voice	Monthly	?	Jan. 1926- ? 1927	Catholic Mission (?)
Gold Coast Spectator	Weekly	Accra	Aug. 1927- ? 1955	R.W. Dupigny (?) Alfred J. Ocansey (R.B. Wuta-Ofei)

NAME	FREQUENCY	TOWN	DATES			FOUNDERS, ETC.	
Gold Coast Truth	Weekly	?	July 1928-	?	?	?	?
Gold Coast Daily Telegraph	Daily	?	Aug. 1928-	?	?	?	?
Gold Coast Guardian	Daily (?)	Saltpond	?	?	?	?	?
Gold Coast Daily News	Daily	?	?	?	?	?	?



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