

A GUIDE

Gold Coast
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TO

CAPE COAST COMPANY EMBLEMS

AND

NOTES AS TO CUSTOMS, ETC.

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African Cases

A GUIDE TO CAPE COAST COMPANY EMBLEMS, AND NOTES AS TO CUSTOMS, ETC.

IN 1859 serious riots occurred between certain of the Cape Coast Companies, and for the past 50 years the internal peace of the Cape Coast community has been constantly threatened, owing mainly to the outcome of these riots which have led to innumerable company disputes.

Cape Coast is divided into seven Companies, and of late years party feeling has run high. Number six Company may perhaps be said to have been the only one which has kept aloof from Company friction. It is unnecessary to enumerate the various riots which have occurred during the period under reference. At no time has there been a total absence of ill-feeling and there has, in consequence, been an over present danger of a breach of the peace.

During the latter months of 1908, and in January 1909, successive meetings were held by the Commissioner of the Province, which were attended by the representatives of Omanhene Kojo Mbra, Chiefs Sackey, Johnson, Ackon, Amoa, Essien, and Tufuhene Coker, and by the Supis, Captains and leading men of the seven Cape Coast Companies.

The object of these meetings was to bring about a better feeling between the Companies by the voluntary surrender of all objectionable and unwarranted flags and emblems, and by obtaining and recording a list of the authorised emblems of each Company.]

It was decided that in the event of any new emblems being adopted by a Company, they should be shown by the Commissioner to all the other Companies who should have an opportunity of raising any valid objection to their assumption, and that such new emblems should be added to the recorded list when approved.

It was further agreed that copies of this document and the attached lists and notes should be held by the following officials and citizens—

- The Secretary for Native Affairs
- The Commissioner of the Central Province
- The District Commissioner of Cape Coast
- The Omanhene of Cape Coast
- The Tufuhene of Cape Coast
- The Supis of each of the seven Companies

That the copies recorded in the Government Offices should be open to general inspection at any time.

That every copy of this document and enclosures should be signed by the Commissioner, the Omanhene, the Tufuhene, the Chiefs of Cape Coast, and by the Supis and principal Captains of each of the seven Companies.

A presentation Flag was made to every Company as a memento of the occasion, in the hope that the ill-feeling which had existed for the past fifty years might be buried, and that the voluntary surrender of all objectionable and unwarranted emblems, and the undertaking hereby given that such emblems should be no more seen, might lead to a more prosperous future for the town of Cape Coast.

On the 23rd of January, 1909, the above memorandum and the following attached lists were read by the Commissioner in the presence of all Cape Coast Chiefs, and company Supis and captains, whose signatures were affixed as a guarantee of good faith. It was further

alleged by the company leaders that they were not aware of any point in dispute between the companies which had not been dealt with in this document, and that the decisions now arrived at should be adhered to, and supercede any previous rulings made.

The following lists are attached.

LIST No. 1.

Flags and emblems voluntarily surrendered.

LIST No. 2.

The principal and secondary colours of each Company.

LIST No. 3.

Emblems exclusively belonging to each Company concerned.

LIST No. 4.

Explanatory notes, Company Customs, etc.

LIST No. I.

A record of Company emblems and privileges voluntarily surrendered for the reason that they either formed a danger to the public peace or that they were found not to belong of right to the Company concerned.

No. 1. Company.

The use of the Blue Peter flag.

The use of the Black flag.

The use of the "Anchor Emblem" on any Company flag.

The use of the "Fan Palm Tree" emblem.

The use of the "Mirror" (except when carried by the Fetish priests.)

No. 2. Company.

The use of the "Mat Flag" (Note :—the use of this flag is prohibited to all Companies.)

No. 3. Company.

The use of three gongs (except with advance guard.)

The use of "Weights" with the "Scales."

The flag with vultures standing by the dead body of a man.

The flag with three dead bodies with their legs tied together.

The use of the "Anchor" (or shrapnel) except as a company emblem on flags. (Note :—An iron anchor without 'cord' or 'chain' may be carried by No. 3 company.)

The use of the Wooden Pickaxe and shovel.

No. 4 Company.

The use of the "Stool" with the emblem of a woman with Twin children, either as an emblem on flags or on the Company Post.

(Note :—The woman with twin children may be used as an emblem, if woman is shown sitting on a keg of gunpowder.)

No. 5 Company.

The use of the "Castle" emblem.

No objection was taken to any Company emblem belonging to either No. 6 or No. 7 Companies.

LIST No. II.

A record of Company colours, primary and secondary.

No. 1. Company.

Primary colour Red.

Secondary colours Black and White check.

No. 2. Company.

Primary colour Light Blue.

Secondary colour Violet.

No. 3. Company.

Primary colour Black.

Secondary colours Dark Green and Purple.

No. 4. Company.

Primary colours Red and White, or Yellow and White, in the form of a cross.

No. 5. Company.

Primary colour Light Green.

No. 6. Company.

English flags only. (Note :—one Black existing presentation flag allowed.)

No. 7 Company.

Primary colour Gold or Yellow.

Secondary colour Claret.

LIST No. III.

The following Company emblems are here recorded as belonging exclusively to each Company concerned.

No. 1. Company.

A man with padlock and keys.

The rising Sun.

Seven Stars.

A Rainbow.

A Hen and Chickens.

A Lantern.

A Torch.

A speaking Trumpet.

A Lead and Line (shrapnel) (to be carried in the hand or thrown on the ground, but not to be exhibited as an emblem on a flag.)

A small Horn.

- A climbing plant which grows on Palm trees.
- An Antelope.
- A Bush Cat. (Abrebia)
- A Clump of Trees.
- A Broom and broken Calabash.
- Pineapple fibre Waist-belt and Cap.
- A Shark with a Man in its mouth.

No. 2 Company.

- Three Gongs.
- A Pistol.
- A Dagger.
- A long-necked Bird.
- A long-eared Animal.
- An Eagle.
- A large shade Tree.
- A Serpent.
- A man holding his hand inside a pot.
- A Man's Heart.
- A Kudoo (up-country antelope.)
- A man on horse-back.
- A portable bier for carrying dead bodies.
- A pair of crossed sticks.
- Lizards and Rats.
- A Raven.
- A company Horn.
- A white company Cap.
- A black and white Necklace.
- A Calabash with beads round it.
- A Woman climbing a Lime tree.
- A Griffin.

No. 3. Company.

- A Man of War with anchor, with sailing vessel in tow.
- A Leopard under a grove of trees.
- A long blue Cap with Anchor on it.
- A man's Heart with revolver on either side on a black background.
- A pair of toy Bells.
- An Anthill with Mushroom on it.

- Animals feeding.
 A Pepper tree with a man standing near.
 A Civet Cat under a Kantu tree.
 A Plum tree.
 A scale (no weights allowed with scale.)
 A headless fish.
 A Bird (Enkwanoma) on a man's head.
 A pack of playing cards.
 A Whistle.
 A Bell.
 A French (side) Drum.
 A Native Drum.
 A Note Book and Pencil.
 A Handcuff for putting man "in log."
 A Leopard with Antelope's hoof in its mouth.
 An Antelope carrying Palm wine with Leopard in front.
 A Cock.
 An ivory Hand holding a pair of swords.
 A long chain of Woman's Beads.
 A Tamarind tree with a Cow tied to it.
 A Pelican swallowing a river Fish.
 Monkeys jumping from tree to tree, one falling.
 A felled Palm tree.
 A pair of human Eyes.
 A Woman carrying a Pouch and Gun.

No. 4. Company.

- Elephant with Castle on its back and Palm tree.
 A Man with a Whip and a Man with a Gun.
 A Man with a Compass.
 Two men carrying Stones and Palm nuts.
 Three Birds drinking from a pot.
 A Whale and a Tortoise.
 A Cat with a sack round its neck with a mouse trying to put its head into the sack.
 A Lion with a "Bone."
 A wooden Flute.
 A Bugle.

A Mirror (Note:—In other companies the Fetish Priests only may carry the Mirror.)

A Telescope.

A face Mask.

A small hand-Clock.

A pair of Brooms.

A Keg of powder.

A Palm tree by itself.

Two small Calabashes with beads round them.

A man standing on a Keg of Powder holding a whip.

A canvas Cap with Union Jack on it.

No. 5. Company.

A Ladder (or any building implement.)

The Moon.

A Rattle.

An Axe.

A Bow and Arrow.

A Pigeon.

Two Cannons.

A Woman Carrying Stones.

Three Executioners with Swords.

A Water vessel.

A Puncheon.

A Spade and Shovel.

A Hare.

A five-headed Dragon.

A Chain and Cannon Balls.

A Man holding up his fist.

A Keg of Powder with a Man standing by with a Brand.

Three men (One with a Gun and one with Stones.)

No. 6 Company.

A piece of Kenke.

A Cup of Water.

A pair of Rifles.

A Crown.

Seven rifle Bullets.

A bunch of evergreen Leaves.

The "Lion and Unicorn."

A Spear on the top of flag pole.

The words "Defence not Defiance" within a wreath.

Two Cannons.

No. 7. Company.

A Whale.

A Porpoise.

Seven Crocodiles.

An Ant hill. Mushrooms and Tortoise.

A Wolf with a sack round its neck and a Dog looking at it.

A Man sitting under a tree with pink leaves.

Two Rams fighting, one with broken horns.

A Man carrying a Scale and Sword.

A Man with his left hand on his back, making a sign of caution with his right hand.

Two feathered men (angels) drawing water.

A Hammer. Drill, and Auger.

A keg of gunpowder and Fuse.

A File, Sand paper, and pot of Polish.

A Kunkuma tree.

A fibre tree.

A monkey skin Cap.

A double Gong carried by a man.

A Snail and Tortoise on top of flag staff.

A keg of gunpowder on top of flag staff.

A Prickly Pear and a Basket.

A Scorpion.

A poisonous Spider.

A Wooden Horn.

A pair of Scythes.

Porcupine and Hedgehog.

A hare on the top of flag staff.

LIST No. IV.

Explanatory Notes.

It was agreed that the "Castle Emblem" should be used by No. 4 Company only, and that it should be shown,

as of old, together with the Elephant and Palm Tree, thereby denoting that No. 4 Company gave the land on which Cape Coast Castle was built.

No. 5 Company agreed to use the "Implements" with which they had assisted to build the Castle, with the following words below "We built this Castle," ("Yen na yesi Aban yi.")

The two soldiers to be retained on the Company Post.

The Blue Peter flag having been the cause of serious friction between Nos. 1 and 3 Companies in the past, was voluntarily given up by both parties.

No. 1 Company agreed to allow the exclusive use of the Black flag to No. 3 Company, and No. 3 Company in return gave up the emblems which were objectionable to No. 1 Company (as enumerated in List 1.)

It was further agreed that No. 2 Company alone had the right to the use of three Gongs at any time.

That No. 3 Company had the right to the use of three Gongs when marching with their "advance guard" (Agiri Akomfudi) only.

That the use of two gongs is common to all Cape Coast Companies on ordinary occasions, but that when on "regular military parade" the use of twelve gongs is prohibited to all Companies.

No. 3 Company agreed to give free passage through their Company quarter, without the imposition of rum-tax, to any Cape Coast Company conveying their dead to the cemetery. Notification to be given in the usual way.

No. 2 Company agreed to give free passage to the beach to No. 3 Company, without the imposition of a rum-tax, on the occasion of any member of No. 3 Company having died, away from Cape Coast; ordinary notification being given.

Note:—It is customary on these occasions for the Company to take a small quantity of sand from the beach at the spot where the deceased is supposed to have last trod before embarking on the journey.

No. 6 Company undertook to raise no further objection to the use of the emblem of a "Lion with a bone" used by No. 4 Company, provided that it was understood that they held the original badge of the lion and unicorn.

It was finally decided that No. 4 Company could use the emblem of the "woman with twin children" on a keg of powder.

No. 2 Company agreed to give up the custom of allowing newly appointed Captains to stand or jump on the coffin of a deceased member of their Company. (Note:—This custom, which is of recent date, was found to be obnoxious to the community at large.)

Signatures of Chiefs.

Chief KOFI SACKY, (for himself and for
the Omanhene of Cape Coast.) ... his × mark.

Chief W. Z. COKER, Tufohene.

„ KOFI AMOAH his × mark.

„ W. C. ACKON.

„ J. J. JOHNSON his × mark.

„ KWAMENA ENIMFA his × mark.

Signatures of Company Leaders.

- KOFI AMOAH his × mark.
(Supi of No I. Company.)
- KWA TAWIAH his × mark.
(Linguist No. I. Company)
- MENSA KUMA his × mark.
(Supi of No. II. Company)
- KOBINA ASAMANKUMA his × mark.
(Asafohene of No. II. Company)
- Jos. C. Biney.
(Asafohene of No. III. Company)
- KOBINA AMISSAH his × mark.
(Asafohene of No. III. Company)
- SAFUHIN BURUPU his × mark.
(Asafohene of No. III. Company)
- ROBERT ASHONG his × mark.
(Asafohene of No. IV. Company)
- T. B. ESSIRIFI.
(Asafohene of No. IV. Company)
- KWEKU AHIM his × mark.
(Supi of No. V. Company)
- KOBINA INKOOM.
(Asafohene of No. V. Company)
- J. P. BROWN.
(Chief Captain of No. VI. Company)
- G. E. HOOPER.
(Asafohene of No. VI. Company)
- J. E. DADZIE.
(Supi of No. VII. Company)
- W. DAVID (KOJO ETAN) his × mark.
(Asafohene Penin No. VII. Company)

Official Signature.

A. B. Josiah, (Jun.), *Interpreter* and witness to marks.

J. Lucas Atterbury, *District Commissioner*, Cape Coast.

E. C. Eliot. *Commissioner*, *Central Province*.

Cape Coast.

23 January, 1909.



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