

Air letters were first used in Nigeria by the armed forces in World War 2 but these did not include any text or indicium that were specific to Nigeria and are outside the scope of this display. In 1943 these generic air letters were made available for civilian use and there are many versions of them that were printed in West Africa (see *West African Forces Air Mail Letter Cards, Air Letters & Honour Envelopes 1942-1945* by Nigel Lutwyche). This display starts with the first air letters (latterly called aerogrammes) specifically for Nigeria which were issued in December 1948 and immediately gained popular acceptance on overseas mail because the postal rate of 6d was half the first step letter rate of 1/- to British Empire destinations at that time. The rules for use of aerogrammes precluded any enclosures; if the sender was found to have done so it was diverted to surface mail unless stamps were added to bring it up to the normal air letter rate, of which I have a few examples. Air letters could be registered or sent by express mail, but such uses are unusual.

Until about 1970 all Nigerian air letters were printed in the UK. From about 1970 all printing of post-ready aerogrammes was carried out by Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Ltd (NSP&M Ltd) but an unknown number of Nigerian commercial printers also printed formula aerogrammes (without a printed Nigerian "stamp"). There was also a delivery of temporary formula aerogrammes to Nigeria in 1952 when the KGV1 aerogrammes ran out and the QE2 ones were not yet ready. All such formula aerogrammes are excluded from this display.

The postal rates and stamp designs evolved in parallel with the adhesive stamps of each period, both before and after independence, but the amount of use of aerogrammes by Nigerians declined steeply in the 1980s, for no reason I know, with the result that some out of date remainder stocks were uprated by adding adhesive stamps whilst others were redenominated with handstamps as postal rates increased sharply during periods of high inflation. These uprated aerogrammes are scarce and there are probably new discoveries still to be made.

In 1947 West African Airways Corporation was set up with the express purpose of moving as much possible of the internal surface mails by air between the major cities. From October 1949 there were 1d internal air letters, later 1½d then 2d, which were usually a little cheaper than the basic surface letter rate to encourage use of this lighter, space-saving stationery. However, commercially used examples are not easy to find. There was also an official post-free air letter during the 1950s which is also scarce in non-philatelic use.

I have made extensive use of the two excellent published books on this topic: *Aerogrammes of Nigeria 1948 to 2000*, by Ray Harris (whose numbering system I have adopted) and *The Postal stationery of Nigeria*, by Peter Horlyck.

Rob May FRPSL

March 2025

1948. Airmail letter for external use. H&G1 and Harris WANG.A.01.01

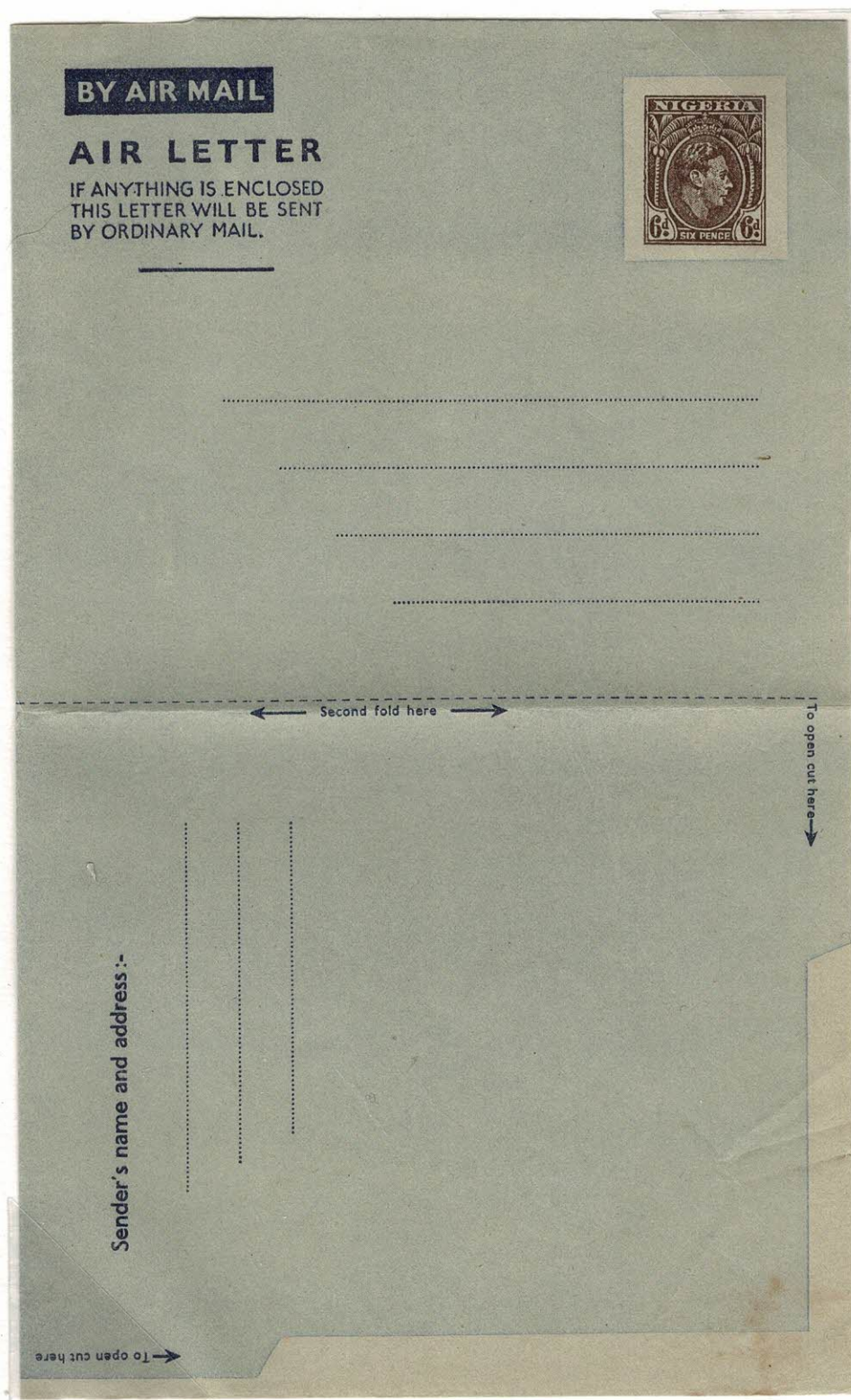
Date of issue: 15 December 1948

Earliest known used date: 26 December 1948

Printing was on two plates with 8 aerogrammes to a sheet. Aerogrammes from the second plate (requisition 1172/1 despatched 8 Jun 1950) can be identified by the imprint "To open cut here" at the right being 1.3mm from the dotted fold line, instead of 1mm on the earlier printings.

The colour of the indicium varies, appearing purple-brown to chocolate when underlain by the olive-bistre paper.

The mint copy here is from the second plate, one requisition of 2 million.



1948. Airmail letter for external use. H&G1 and Harris WANG.A.01.01

Date of issue: 15 December 1948

Earliest known used date: 26 December 1948

This used example from plate 1 was sent on 26 December 1948 to the air mail specialist dealers, Francis J. Field Ltd.

The writer, C. Stewart Palmer has said that he did not see the announcement that these went on sale on 15 December 1948, so was not in time to send out any FDCs.

Mr Palmer also said that he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Lands on 24th December.

Lands Office,
Enugu,
Nigeria,
B. West Africa.

26th December, 1948

Gentlemen,

Very many thanks for your kind greetings for Christmas, which I heartily reciprocate. This is one of the new Air Letter forms with imprinted 6^d stamp. They were first placed on sale at the main P. O.'s on the 15th December, but I did not see the official notification until two days later, so I was not able to send off any first day covers. I am sending you a number of mint specimens under separate cover.

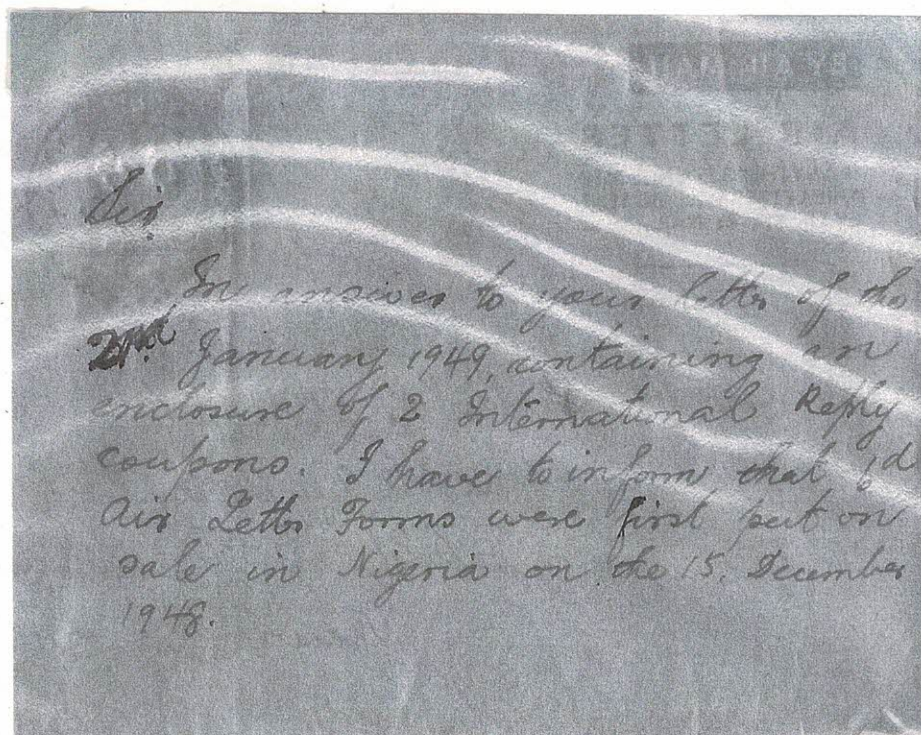
I shall be glad if you will renew my subscription to your excellent "Aero

1948. Airmail letter for external use. H&G1 and Harris WANG.A.01.01

Date of issue: 15 December 1948

Earliest known used date: 26 December 1948

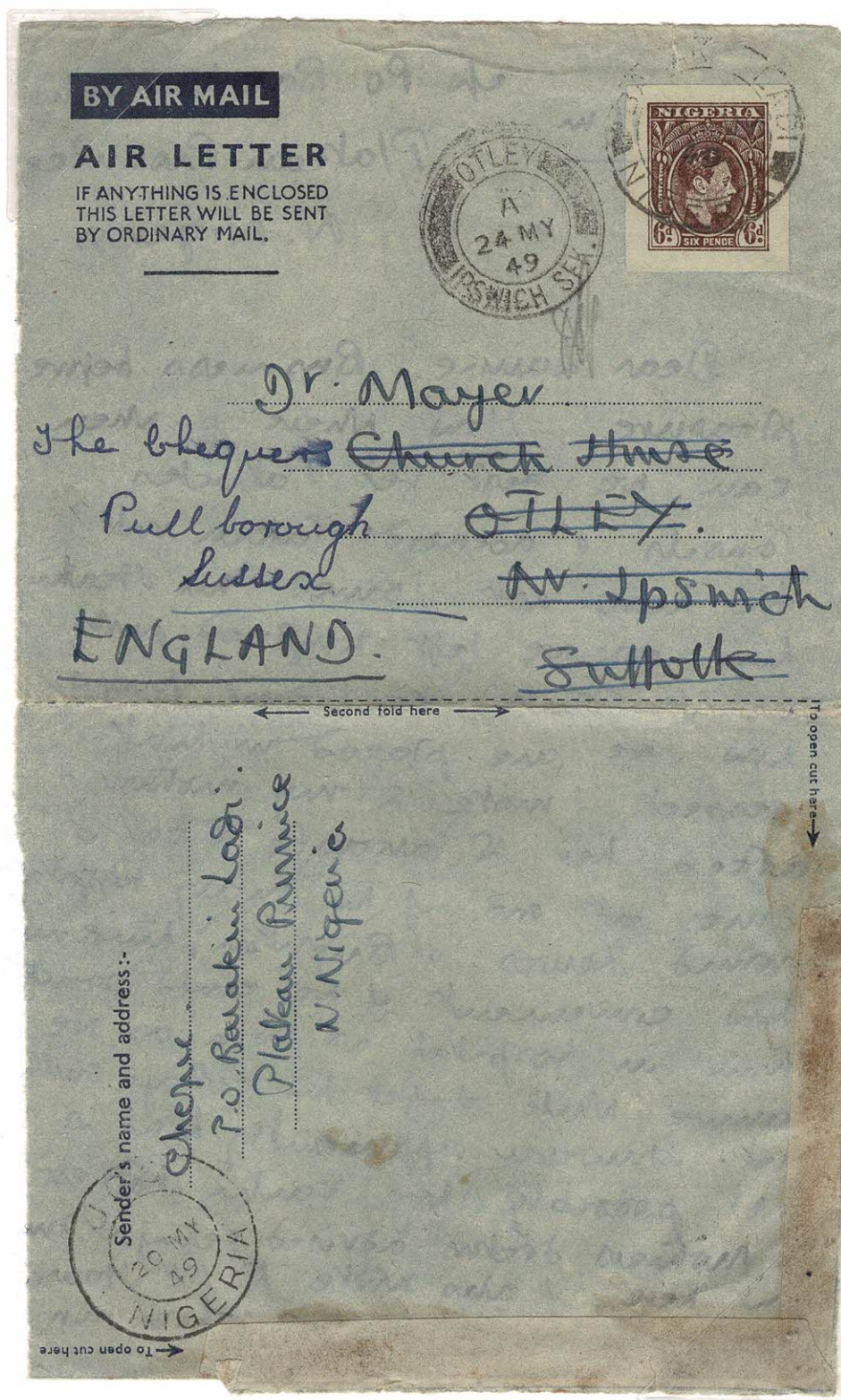
This used example from plate 1 was sent on 19 February 1949 and its message refers to the launch of this aerogramme on 15 December 1948.



1948. Airmail letter for external use. H&G1 and Harris WANG.A.01.01

Date of issue: 15 December 1948

This used copy in purple-brown with light shading on the King's face, is from the first plate and was sent from Barakin Ladi on 16 May 1949 via Jos on 20 May, flown from there to Otley UK, arriving 4 days later where it was redirected to Pulborough.

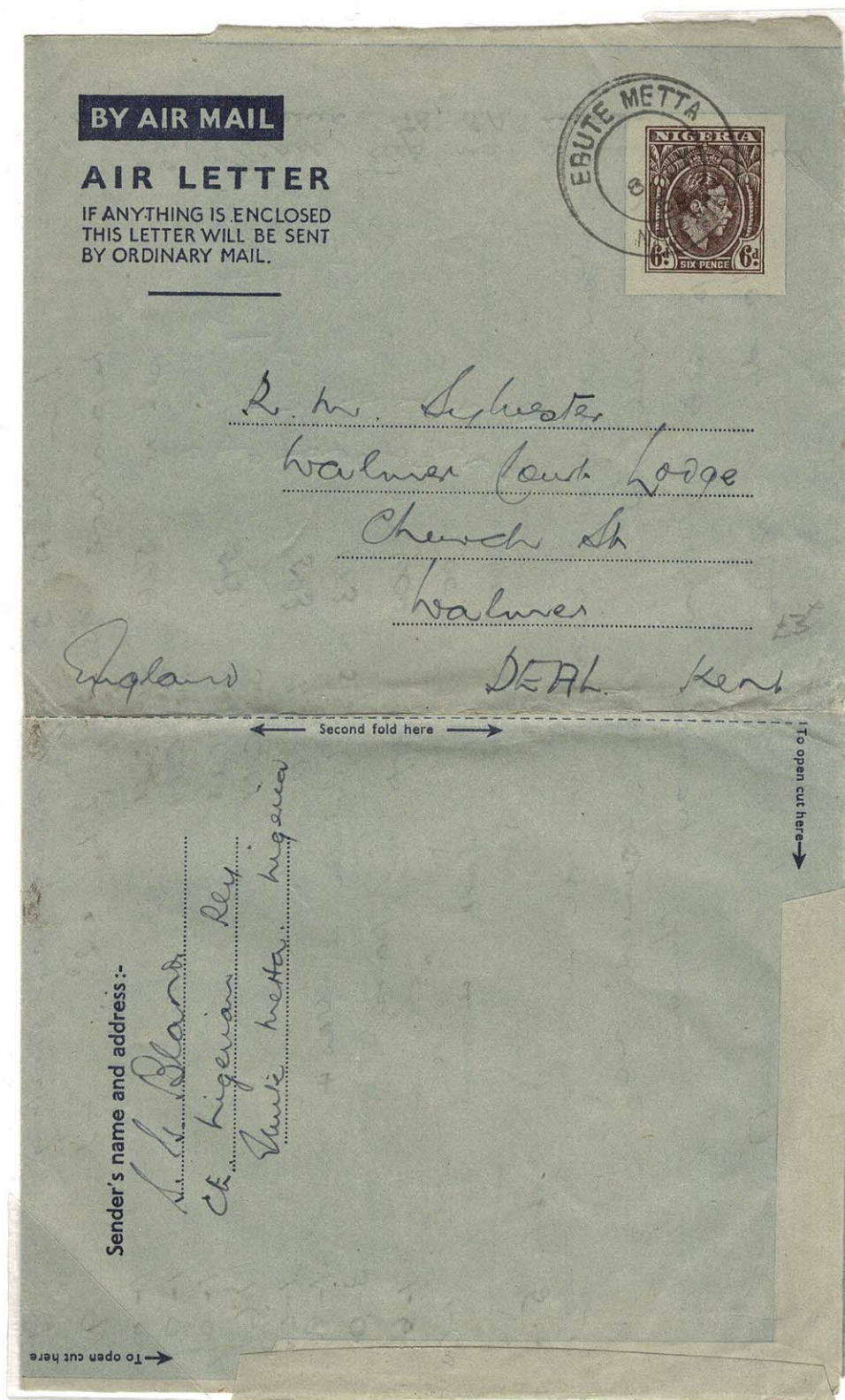


1948. Airmail letter for external use. H&G1 and Harris WANG.A.01.01

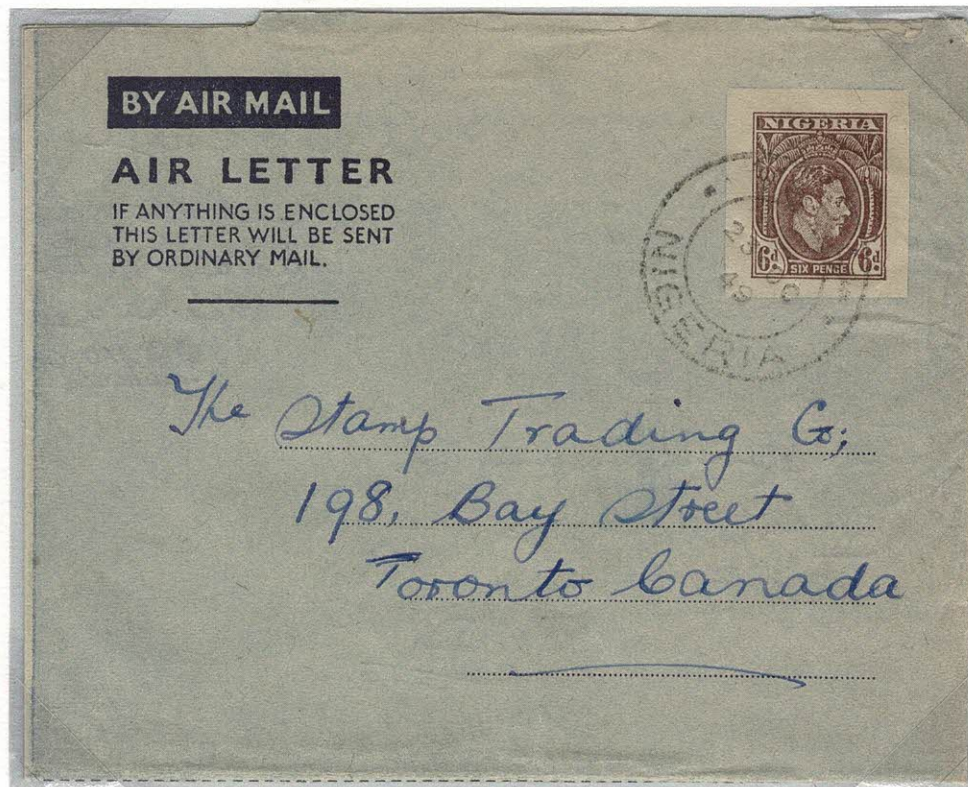
Date of issue: 15 December 1948

This used copy in chocolate with heavier shading on the King's face, is from the second plate with a wider space between the right-hand text and the fold line. This despatch left the UK on 8 June 1950. This is an early use of an aerogramme from the second plate, as it was sent from the Nigerian Railway HQ at Ebute Metta on 8 July 1950, flown from there to the UK with no arrival datestamp.

The text relates to orders for stamps by a collector, S.G. Bland.

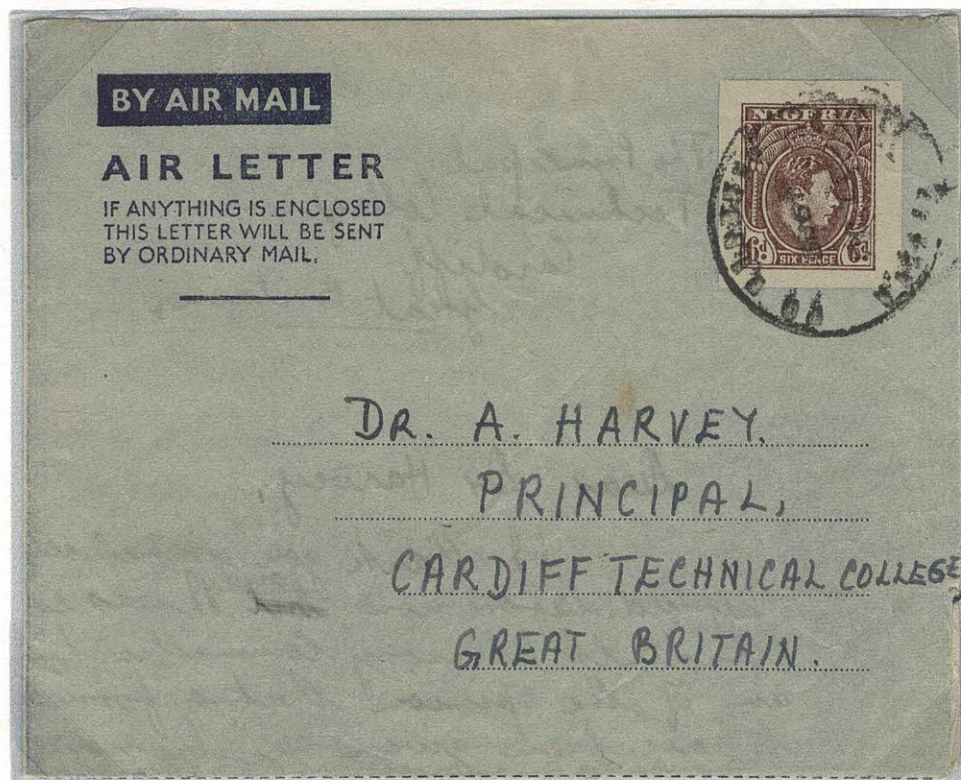


1948. King George VI 6d aerogramme purple brown on grey.



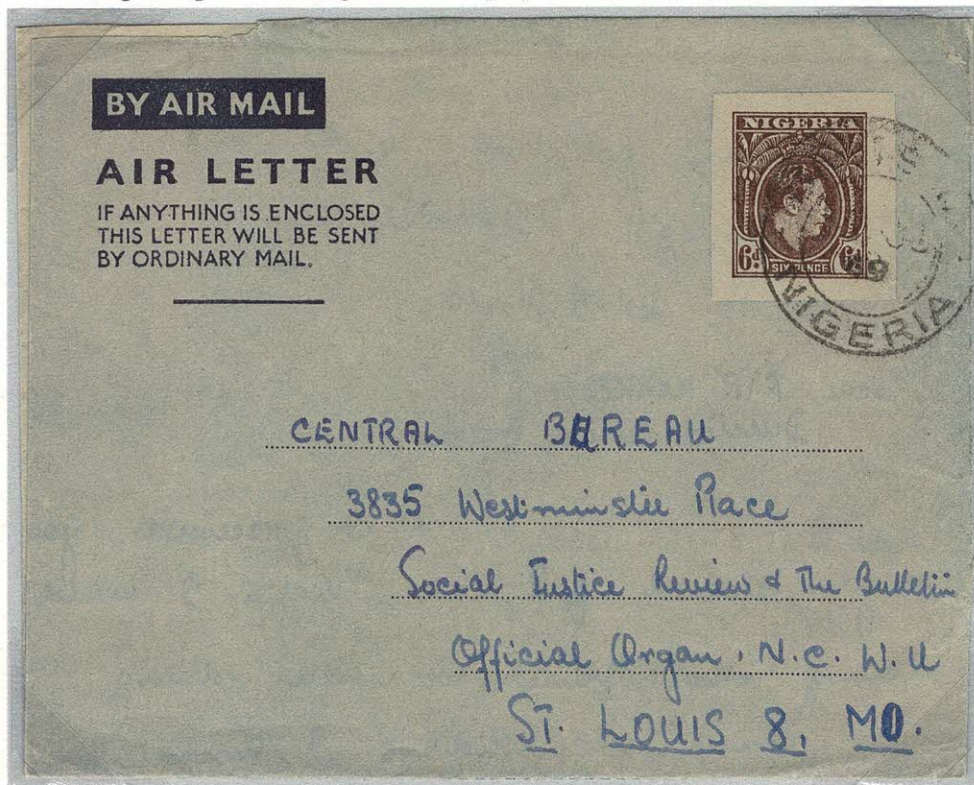
Sent from Yaba 23 OC 49 to Toronto, Canada.

1948. King George VI 6d aerogramme purple brown on grey. Lighter shading on head.



Sent from Ebute Metta 29 JU 49 to Cardiff, Great Britain.

1948. King George VI 6d aerogramme dark purple brown on grey. Light shading on head.



Sent from Onitsha 13 JU 49 to St. Louis, U.S.A.

1948. King George VI 6d aerogramme dark purple brown on grey. Heavy shading on head.



Sent from Jos 15 AU 52 to Liverpool, England.

1950. King George VI 1d aerogramme. Inscribed "For use within Nigeria only".



1949. Airmail letter for internal use. H&G2 and Harris WANG.A.02.01

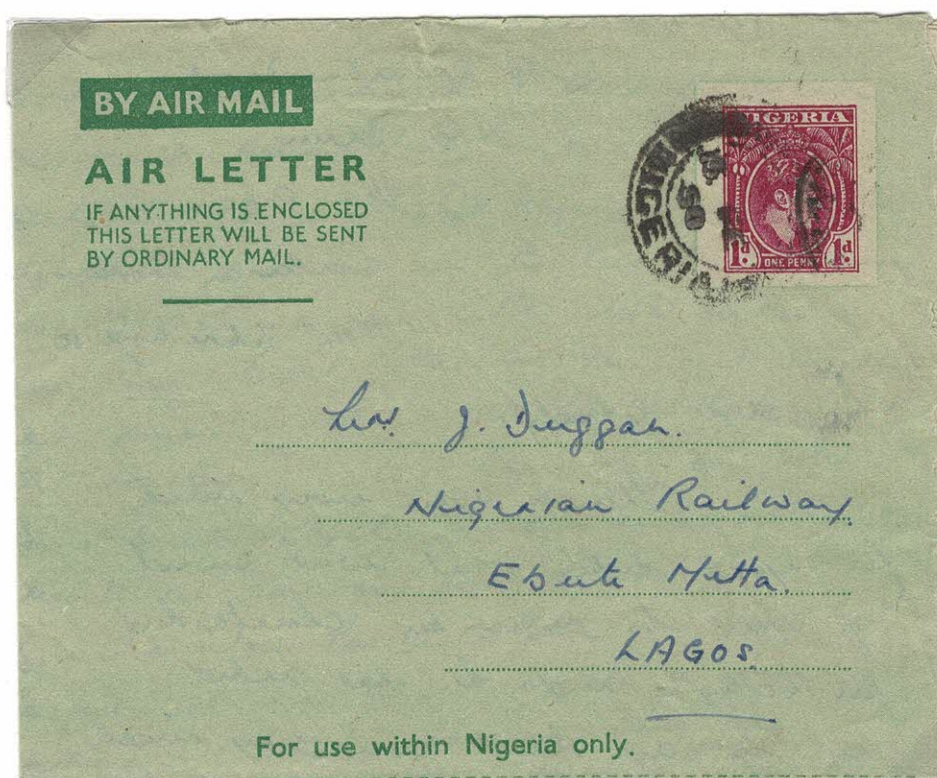
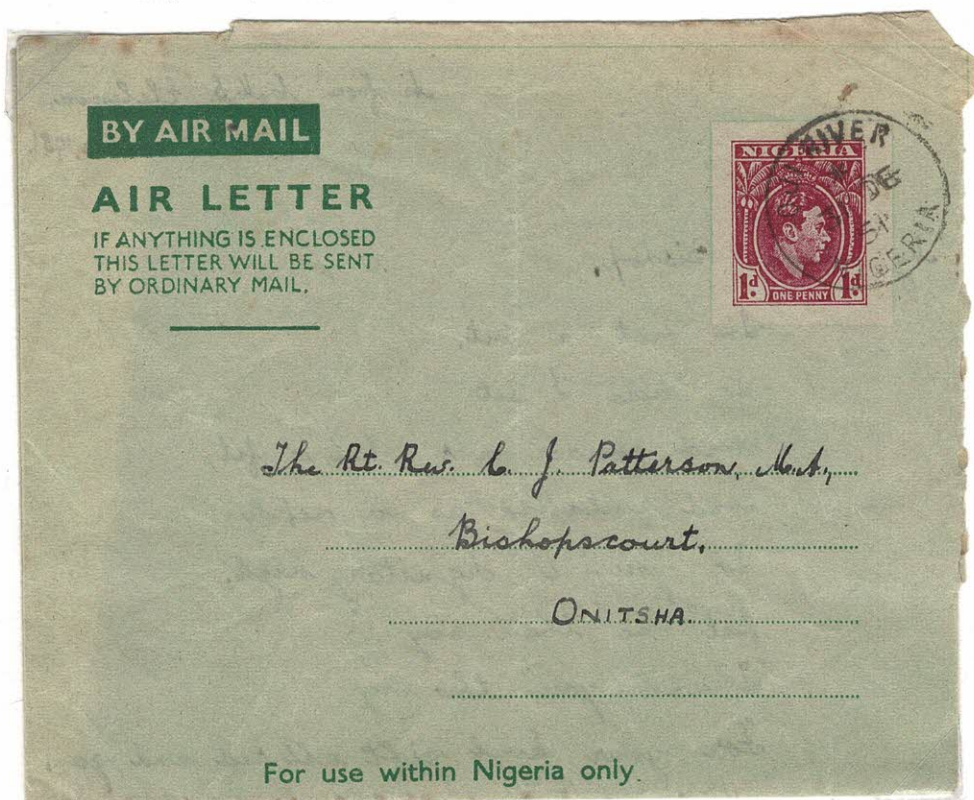
Date of issue: assumed to be 1 October 1949

Earliest known used date: 5 October 1949

Became redundant when the rate was increased to 1½d on 8 April 1952

Printing was on three plates with 8 aerogrammes to a sheet, but the plates are indistinguishable in practice. The colour of the indicium varies, appearing deep magenta or bright purple. The text varies from deep green to yellow green and the green overlay also varies from dull green to pale bright green. There were two requisitions but Harris does not give a date for the second one.

These are scarce when commercially used internally and two examples are shown here. They also shown the variation of the colour of the text from deep green to yellow green and the overlay from dull green to pale bright green.



1949. Airmail letter for internal use. H&G2 and Harris WANG.A.02.01

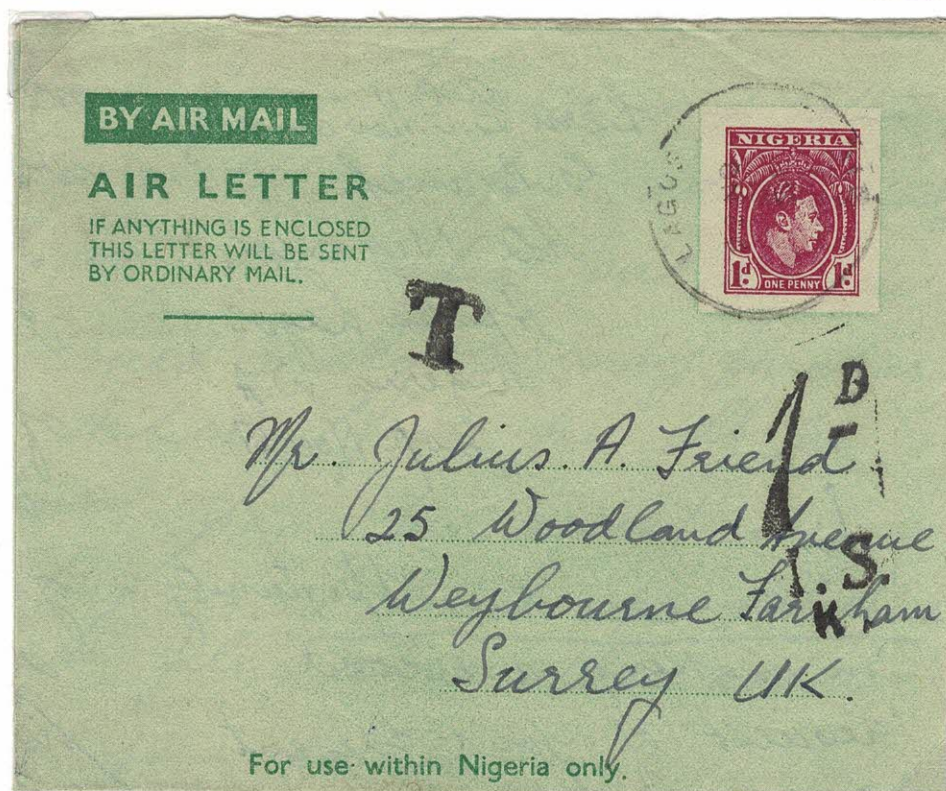
Date of issue: assumed to be 1 October 1949

Earliest known used date: 5 October 1949

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Printing was on three plates with 8 aerogrammes to a sheet, but the plates are indistinguishable in practice. The colour of the indicium varies, appearing deep magenta or bright purple. The text varies from deep green to yellow green and the green overlay also varies from dull green to pale bright green. There were two requisitions but Harris does not give a date for the second one.

These internal aerogrammes were also used externally, uprated. The example shown here was sent from Iwo Town on 8 September 1953, very soon after the first QE2 aerogramme was issued on 1 September 1953. The airmail rate to the UK was 6d but only an extra 1½d adhesive has been used (but another could be missing). It should have gone by surface mail but there is no backstamp to show when it arrived.



1949. Airmail letter for internal use. H&G2 and Harris WANG.A.02.01

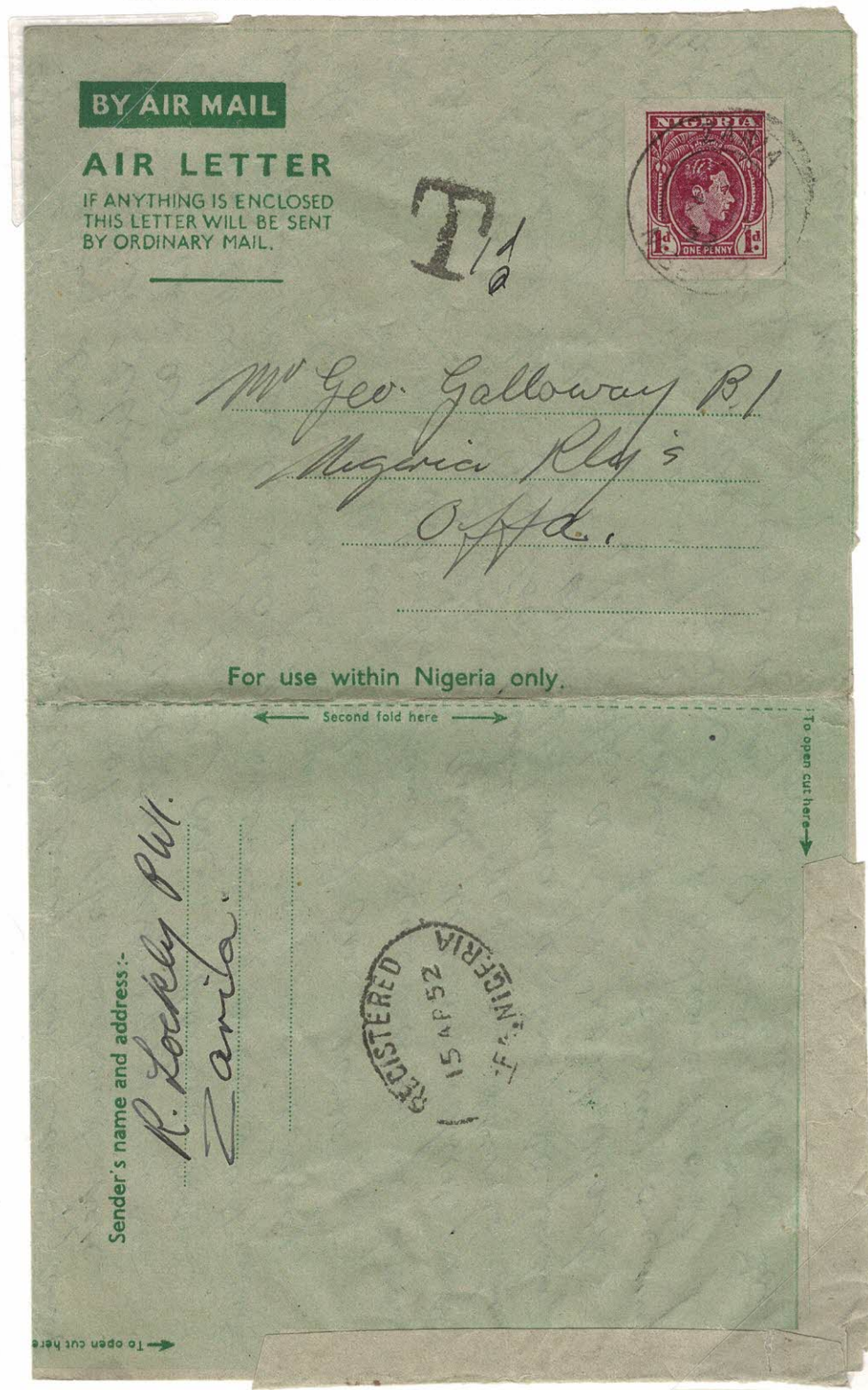
Date of issue: assumed to be 1 October 1949

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The air letter shown here was posted at Zaria on 7 April 1952, reaching Offa on 15 April 1952. The internal air letter increased to 1½d on 8 April 1952, whilst this air letter was in transit. With its exact date of posting this air letter should not have been taxed, but the Zaria postmark date is very unclear and Offa post office may have been the one that added the tax mark. There was also no obvious reason for this to be flown as both places were connected by the Kano to Lagos rail service.



1949. Airmail letter post-free for official internal use. Harris WANG.A.03.01

Date of issue: the British Library has one with manuscript "new issue 15/xi/49" which is the same date as the previous two.
BUT earliest known used date: 15 August 1951.

Printed on both sides, the inside being pre-printed for official use. Probably only one plate was used for only one requisition of 2 million.
The colours are bistre paper with Indian red overlay and printed with Indian red text. The colour of the overlay does vary as shown here.



1949. Airmail letter post-free for official internal use. Harris WANG.A.03.01

Date of issue: the British Library has one with manuscript "new issue 15/xi/49" which is the same date as the previous two.

BUT earliest known used date: 15 August 1951.

These aerogrammes are scarce used post-free for their intended purpose of official internal communications. To be allowed post free they must have the cachet and counter-signature of a head of department. The one dated 26 JA 53 is about Midwives examinations and the one dated 19 MY 58 is about a consignment of camel worms (see text on next sheet)!

BY AIR MAIL **O.H.M.S.** **Official**

AIR LETTER
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Medical Superintendent,
i/c D.R.C.M. Hospital,
Mkar, via Gboko.

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES
DATE 23/1/53
NORTHERN REGION KADUNA

For use within Nigeria only.

BY AIR MAIL **O.H.M.S.** **Official Paid**

AIR LETTER
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL.

N

Dr. W.D. Lindqvist
Dept. of Veterinary Research
Vom
via Bukuru
N. Nigeria

1/5/53

For use within Nigeria only.

AIRGRAM

Ref. _____

Date _____

19 _____

From _____

To _____

Kano, 19th May.

Dear Dr. Lindquist,

I have just had your letter, and find that apparently Dennis Walker did not pass on your request for camel worms. However, they are slaughtering one or two camels almost every day here, & I have asked Jones-Daniel, the V.O. City, to take specimens from as many as he can in the next few weeks, so I hope to have a reasonable collection for you.

I shall be delighted to see you when you pass through Kano. Would you be kind enough to give me a ring (369 at the office or 63 x at the house) when you arrive & we can arrange a meeting?

Yours sincerely,

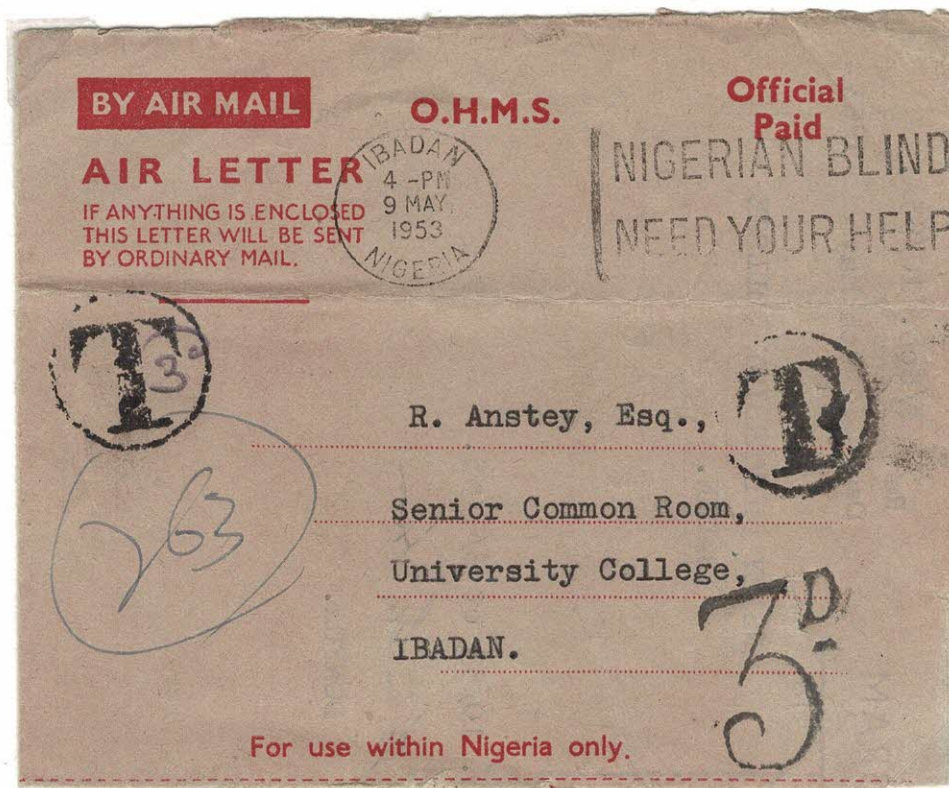
J. E. Macgregor

1949. Airmail letter post-free for official internal use. Harris WANG.A.03.01

Date of issue: the British Library has one with manuscript "new issue 15/xi/49" which is the same date as the previous two.

BUT earliest known used date: 15 August 1951.

These aerogrammes are scarce used post-free for their intended purpose of official internal communications. To be allowed post free they must have the cachet and counter-signature of a head of department. Two examples that lack these were sent from Ibadan on 9 May 53 and from Kaduna on 27 November 1953, both taxed 3d (double the internal air letter rate of 1½d for the public) even though the content of the November one was official business: the dates for medical exams.



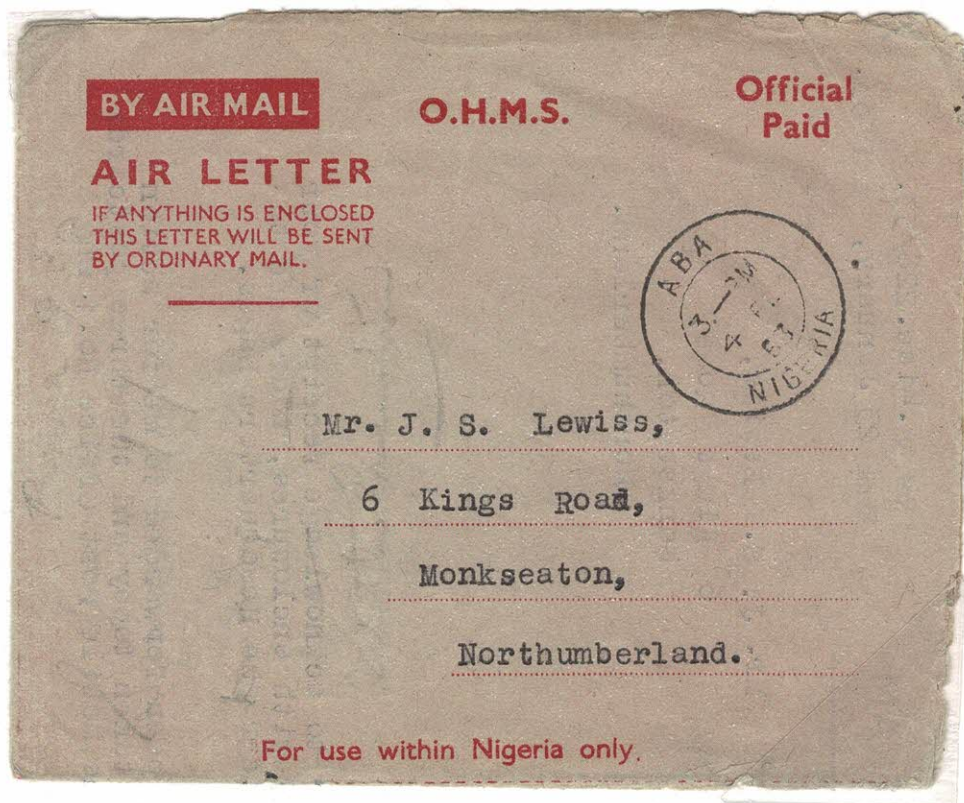
1949. Airmail letter post-free for official internal use. Harris WANG.A.03.01

Date of issue: the British Library has one with manuscript "new issue 15/xi/49" which is the same date as the previous two.

BUT earliest known used date: 15 August 1951.

These aerogrammes were also used for official business overseas, without taxation.

These two are from the Student's Advisory Committee, Lagos on 13 January 1953, to the registrar at Loughborough College
franked with the London Official Paid machine on 21 January, and from the P&T Department at Aba with a message to a stamp collector
saying that three postcards date-stamped by Mobile PO No 1 would be sent by ordinary post.

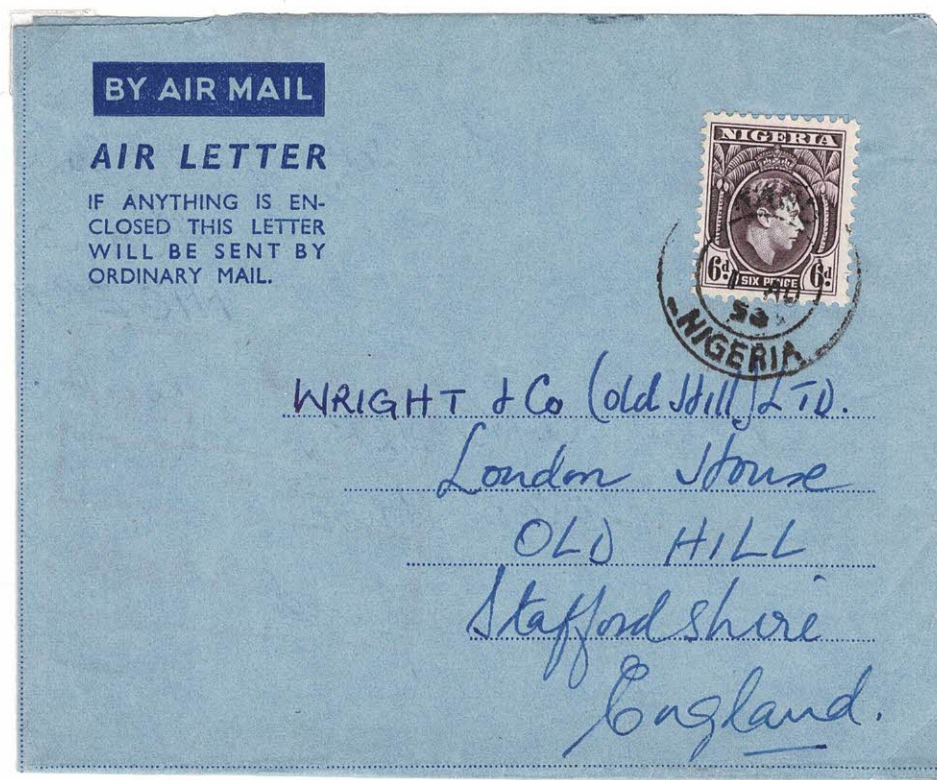


1952. Formula airletter requisitioned for Nigeria as a stop-gap until the QE2 air letters were available.
Harris WANG.AF.01.01 and WANG. AF. 01.02.

Date of issue: November 1952, exact date unknown

Earliest known used date: 28 November 1952.

Requisition 4245/3 was an order for 5 million from McCorquodales with no duty (ie no indicium) specifically for Nigeria, even though there is no reference to Nigeria on these airletters. The order presumably followed the death of the King, coinciding with the stock of the KGVI aerogrammes for Nigeria running out. The design of the six-line etiquette is the same as concurrent British and Commonwealth air letters which did have indicia. Harris identified two versions, with and without a dotted line around "Stamp to be affixed here". It is impossible to tell which version has been used when stamps are affixed in that place. The used example shown here is a first day cover for the Coronation stamps on 2 June 1953.



1952. Formula airletter requisitioned for use within Nigeria as a stop-gap until the QE2 air letters were available.

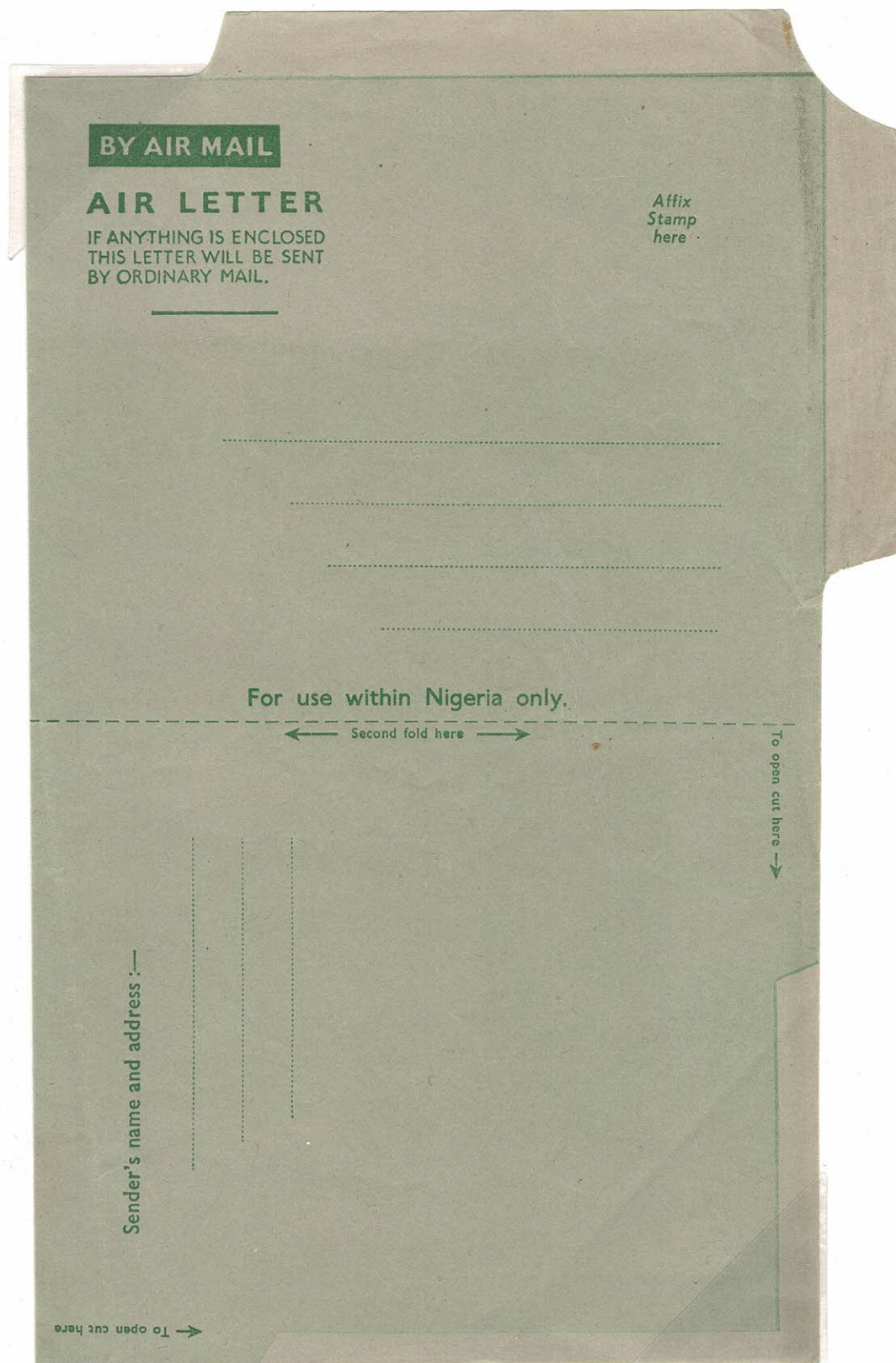
Harris WANG.AF.02.01

Date of issue: 1952, exact date unknown

Earliest known used date: 21 June 1952.

Like the blue formula airletter this was also requisitioned as a stop-gap pending the arrival of QE2 internal air letters when the stock of the KGVI 1d airletters were exhausted. It is also relevant that the price increased to 1½d on 8 April 1952 but it was not worth printing a KGVI stock with the new rate indicia. One million were ordered. The layout of the etiquette is the same as the stamped version (WANG.A.02.01).

These are scarce mint and used internally; they are most often found used externally with a 6d adhesive. A mint example is shown here



1952. Formula airletter requisitioned for use within Nigeria as a stop-gap until the QE2 air letters were available.

Harris WANG.AF.02.01

Date of issue: 1952, exact date unknown

Earliest known used date: 21 June 1952.

Like the blue formula airletter this was also requisitioned as a stop-gap pending the arrival of QE2 internal air letters when the stock of the KGVI 1d airletters were exhausted. It is also relevant that the price increased to 1½d on 8 April 1952 but it was not worth printing a KGVI stock with the new rate indicia. One million were ordered. The layout of the etiquette is the same as the stamped version (WANG.A.02.01).

The earliest known used date is 21 June 1952. Used examples at 6d to Germany on 1 July 1952 (a very early date) and registered at 9d to Holland on 24 MR 53 are shown here. Both are commercial correspondence from Nigerian traders. The registered one has transit postmark of Lagos on 26 March and a backstamp of Groningen on 30 March.



1952. Formula airletter requisitioned for use within Nigeria as a stop-gap until the QE2 air letters were available.

Harris WANG.AF.02.01

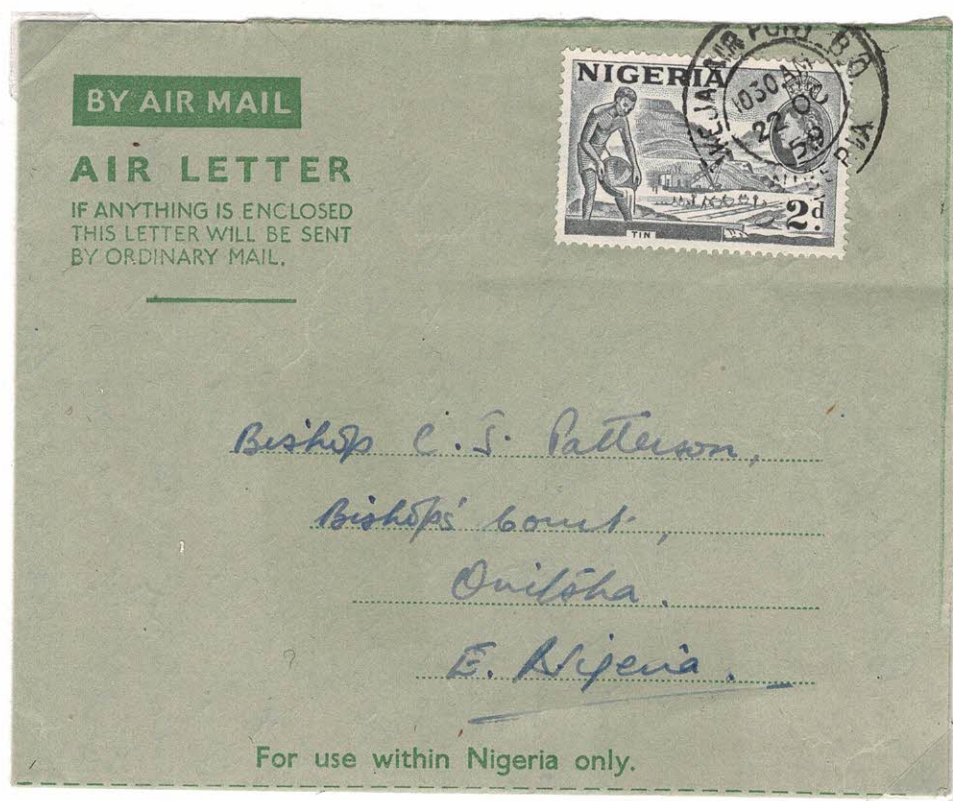
Date of issue: 1952, exact date unknown

Earliest known used date: 21 June 1952.

Like the blue formula airletter this was also requisitioned as a stop-gap pending the arrival of QE2 internal air letters when the stock of the KGVI 1d airletters were exhausted. It is also relevant that the price increased to 1½d on 8 April 1952 but it was not worth printing a KGVI stock with the new rate indicia. One million were ordered. The layout of the etiquette is the same as the stamped version (WANG.A.02.01).

Here is a very late use of this formula airletter during the period after the internal aerogramme rate increased to 2d on 1 October 1957.

It is from Ikeja Airport Branch Office to Bishop Patterson at Onitsha on 22 October 1959, correctly franked 2d.



1953. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE airletter.
Harris WANG.A.04.01

Date of issue: 1 September 1953, requisition 8078/1, 3 million ordered
Earliest known used date: 1 September 1953.

For the first time these aerogrammes were printed on IMPERIAL AIR MAIL watermarked paper. In the watermark there is a code letter above the words AIR MAIL and this first printing has code "reversed F". This first printing is also identifiable by blue outline around the "perforations".

As with the equivalent adhesive the "6d stamp" is in grey-black and orange-brown but this requisition seems to have been fulfilled in batches because the mask is recorded as initially orange-brown, then yellow-brown during November 1953 to October 1954 and finally light orange-brown in November & December 1954.

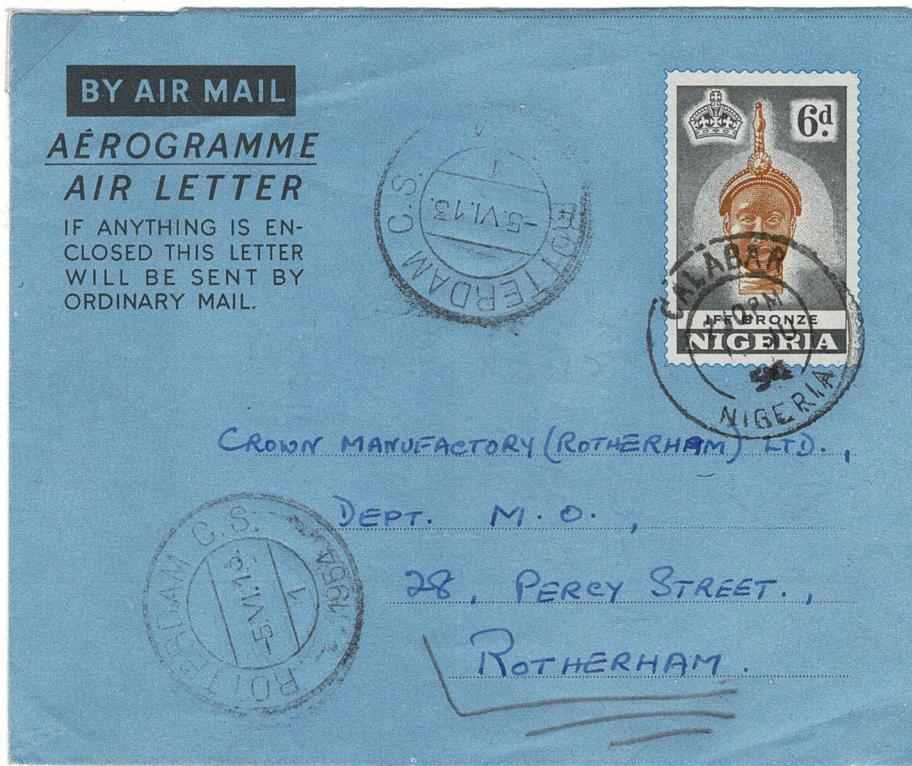


1953. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE airletter.
Harris WANG.A.04.01

Date of issue: 1 September 1953, requisition 8078/1, 3 million ordered
Earliest known used date: 1 September 1953.

For the first time these aerogrammes were printed on IMPERIAL AIR MAIL watermarked paper. In the watermark there is a code letter above the words AIR MAIL and this first printing has code "reversed F". This first printing is also identifiable by blue outline around the "perforations".

Used examples shown here are dated 1 JU 54 and 3 DE 54, showing different shades of the blue overlay and, for the December 1954 example, the light orange-brown shade of the mask.



MISSENT TO ROTTERDAM

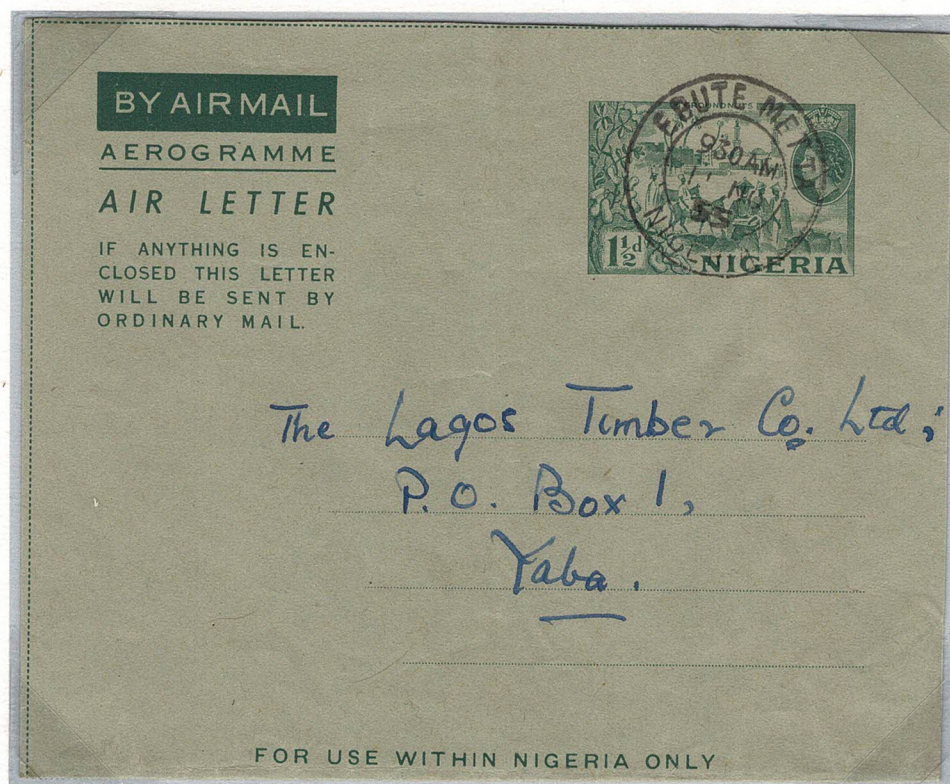


1953. Ife bronze 6d aerogramme. Dark line of simulated perfs around the stamp imprint. Watermark "IMPERIAL AIR MAIL" with reversed "F".



Sent from Usoro 10 SP 54 to Scotland. Cancelled with an Usoro P A skeleton postmark.

1954. Groundnuts 1½d aerogramme with seven lines of text in upper left corner. Inscribed "For use within Nigeria only".



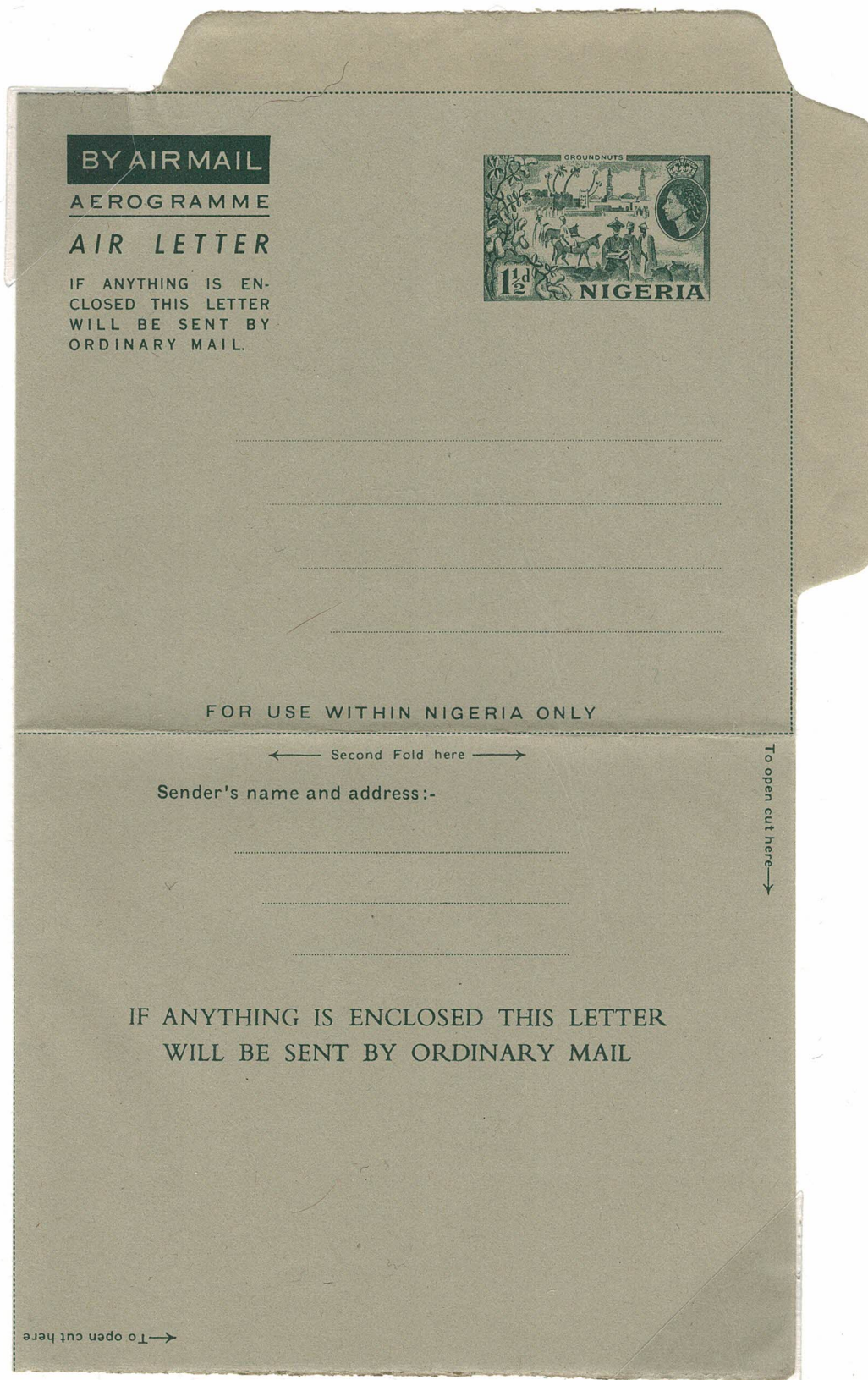
Sent from Ebute Metta 11 NO 55 to Yaba.

1954. QE2 1½d GROUNDNUTS internal airletter.
H&G4, Harris WANG.A.05.01

Date of issue: circa 30 September 1954, requisition 9190/1, 20 million ordered

Earliest known used date: 28 October 1954.

These aerogrammes were not printed on watermarked paper. The etiquette has the same wording as the 6d aerogramme but all parts of the typeface are different. It is also the first design with text on the back to say "If anything is enclosed this letter will be sent by ordinary mail". As long as air letter and enclosure did not exceed one ounce this did not mean the letter would be taxed because the letter rate was also 1½d. It would also not delay the post because by this date WAAC was flying the internal mails between the major cities!



1954. QE2 1½d GROUNDNUTS internal airletter.
H&G4, Harris WANG.A.05.01

Date of issue: circa 30 September 1954, requisition 9190/1, 20 million ordered

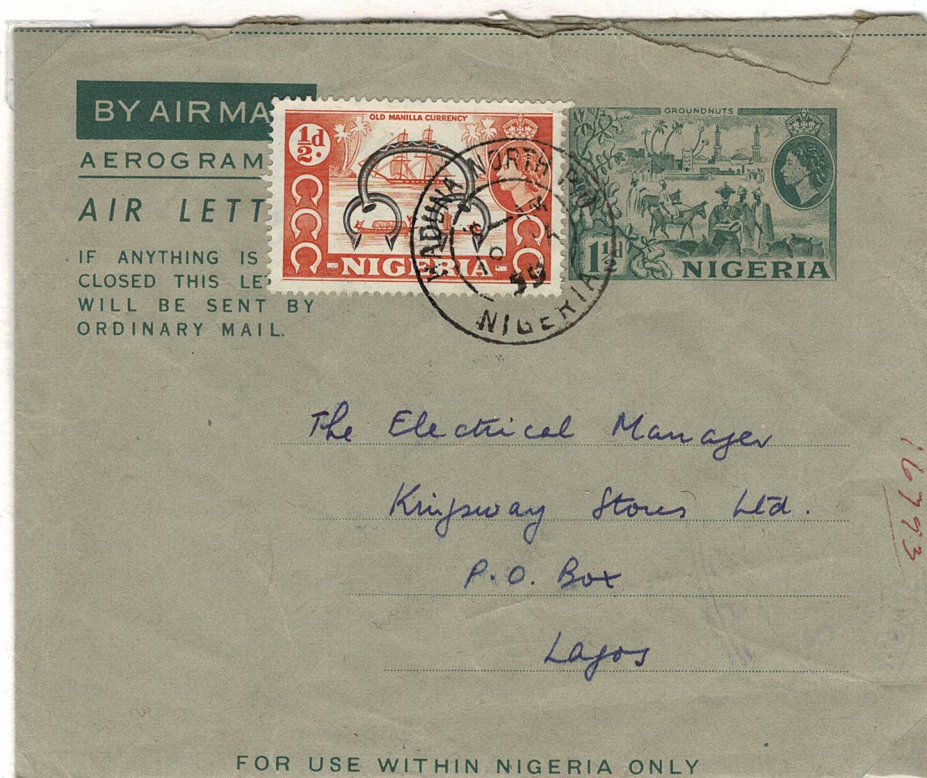
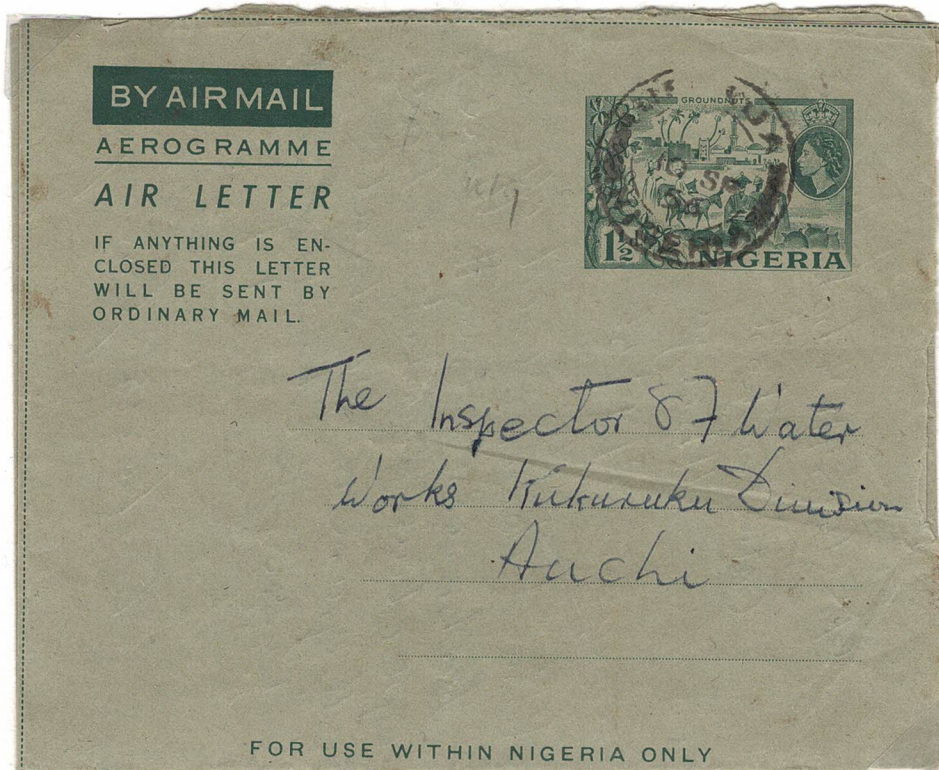
Earliest known used date: 28 October 1954.

Two examples of internal aerogrammes correctly used for commercial mail within Nigeria.

The first was sent on 10 September 1956 from Ubiaja to Auchi.

The second is a surprisingly late use of type 05 on 19 JA 59, long after 1½d type 09 was released in 1956 and 2d type 10 in 1958.

It was sent from Kaduna North to Kingsway Stores, Lagos, correctly uprated to 2d, when Dudley Prestedge was the manager, so he will have captured such an interesting usage.

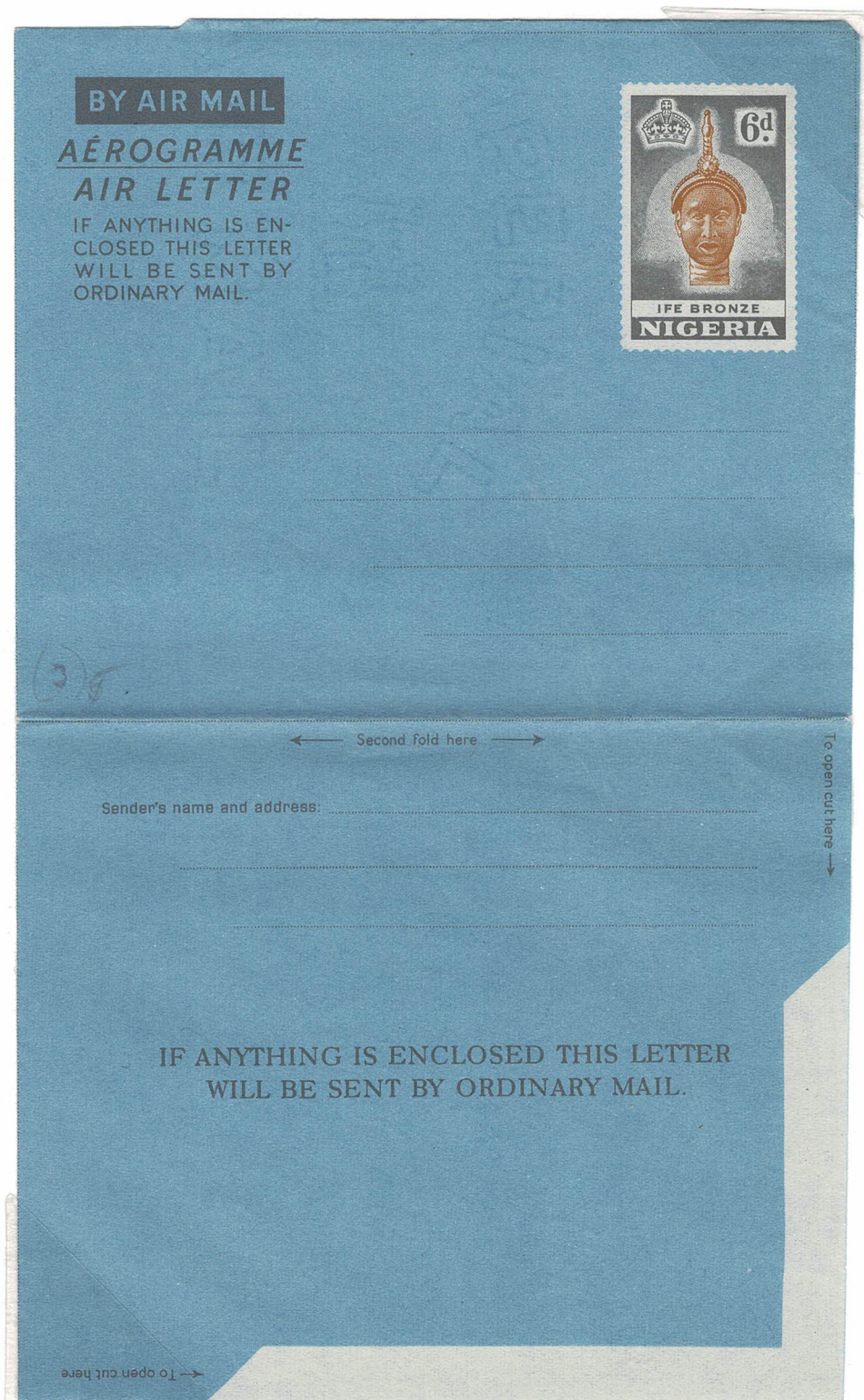


1954. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE internal airletter, second type.
H&G5, Harris WANG.A.06.01 and 06.02

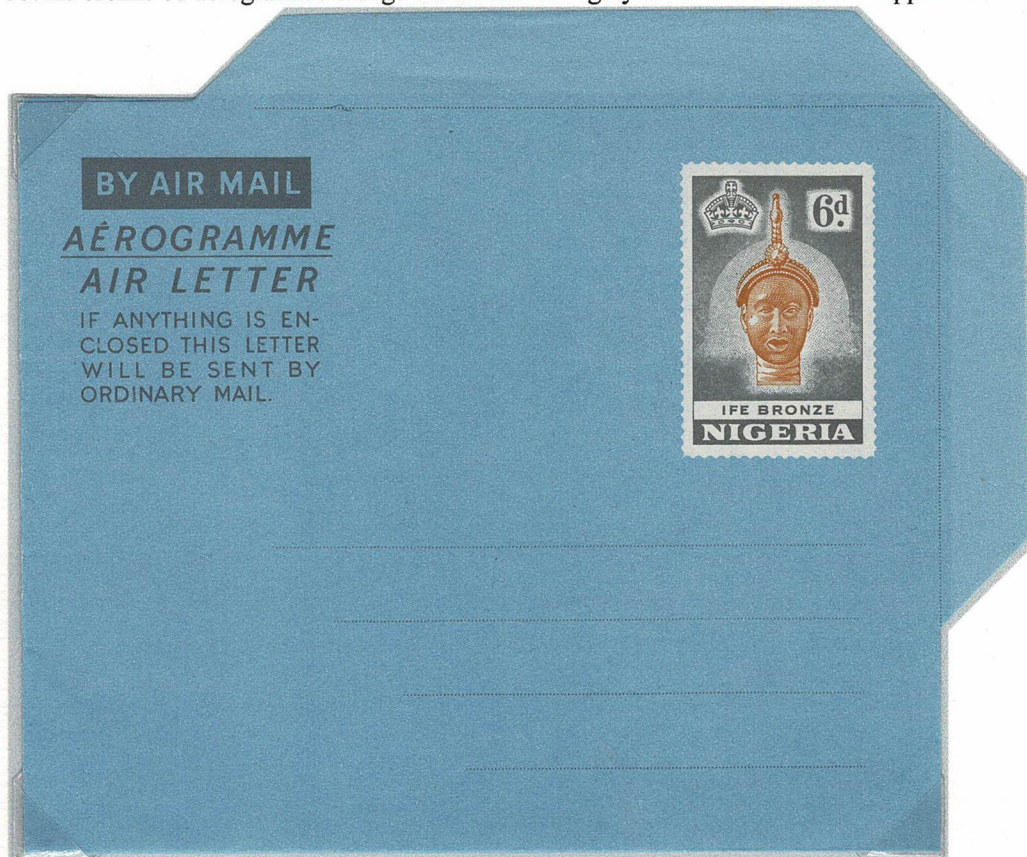
Date of issue: circa 30 September 1954, requisition 1169/541, order quantity not found

Earliest known used date: .01 22 December 1954 and .02 3 December 1954.

A small part of this requisition was printed on watermark "reversed F" paper, whilst the great majority was watermark G.
The identifying features of both WANG.A.06 types are removal of the blue edge to the perforations and addition of the text
"If anything is enclosed this letter will be sent by ordinary mail" and space for the sender's name and address on the reverse.
An unused example of watermark G is shown. I am not aware of any unused example of watermark F in existence.



1955. Ife bronze 6d aerogramme orange brown and dark grey. Seven lines of text in upper left corner.



Brown and dark grey



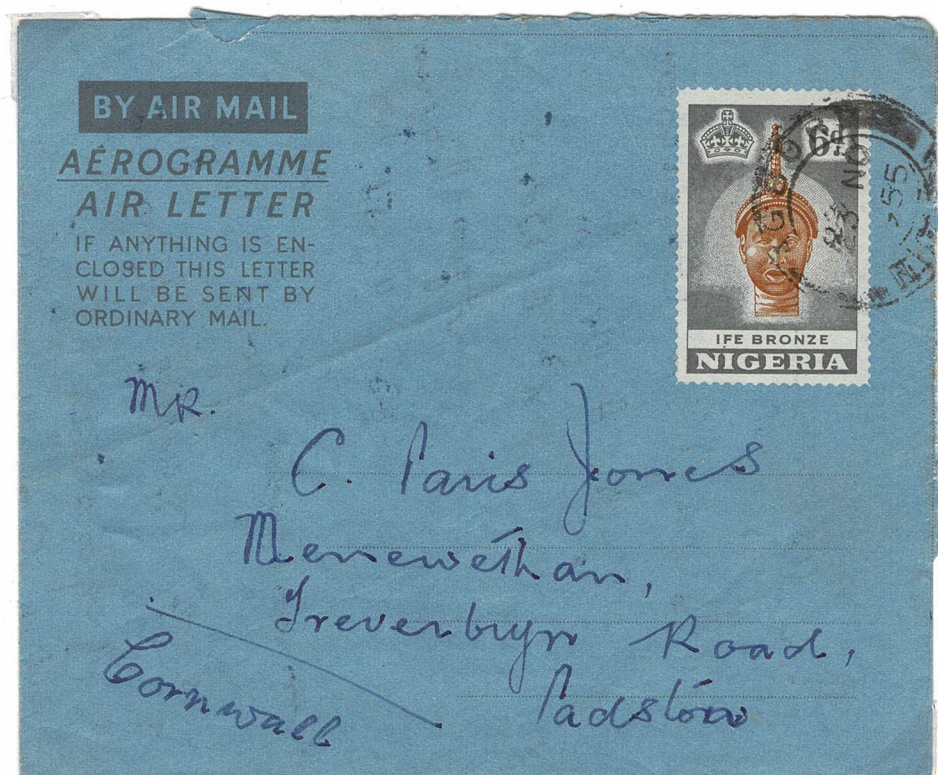
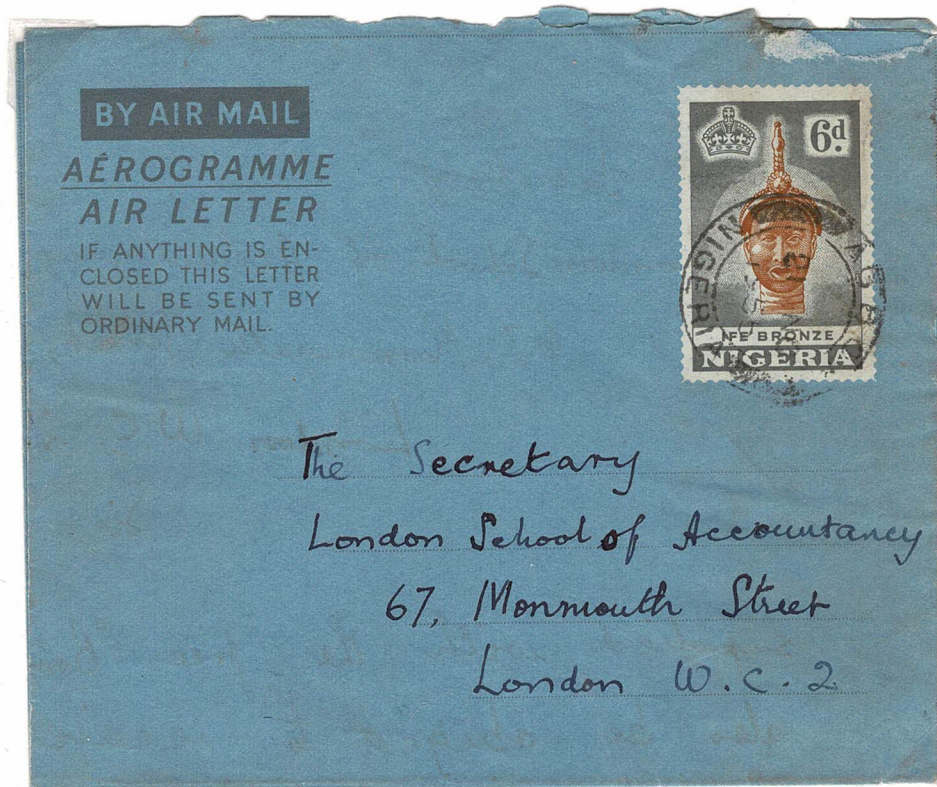
1954. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE internal airletter, second type.

H&G5, Harris WANG.A.06.01 and 06.02

Date of issue: circa 30 September 1954, requisition 1169/541, order quantity not found

Earliest known used date: .01 22 December 1954 and .02 3 December 1954.

Two used examples of type 06.02 (watermark reversed F) are shown from Agbor to the UK dated 21 and 23 NO 1955.



1954. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE internal airletter, second type.

H&G5, Harris WANG.A.06.01

Date of issue: circa 30 September 1954, requisition 1169/541, order quantity not found.

Earliest known used date: 22 December 1954.

Normal colours are grey-black and orange-brown.

The first example of a used watermark G is from the same correspondence as the second copy of watermark F, from Agbor to Cornwall, UK dated 25 DE 1954 (Christmas Day!). So, Agbor Post Office had a batch of 06.01, before receiving a batch of 06.02.

The second example, from Kano on 5 October 1955 has its stamp in darker grey and ochre.



1955. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE external airletter, third type.
H&G6, Harris WANG.A.07.01

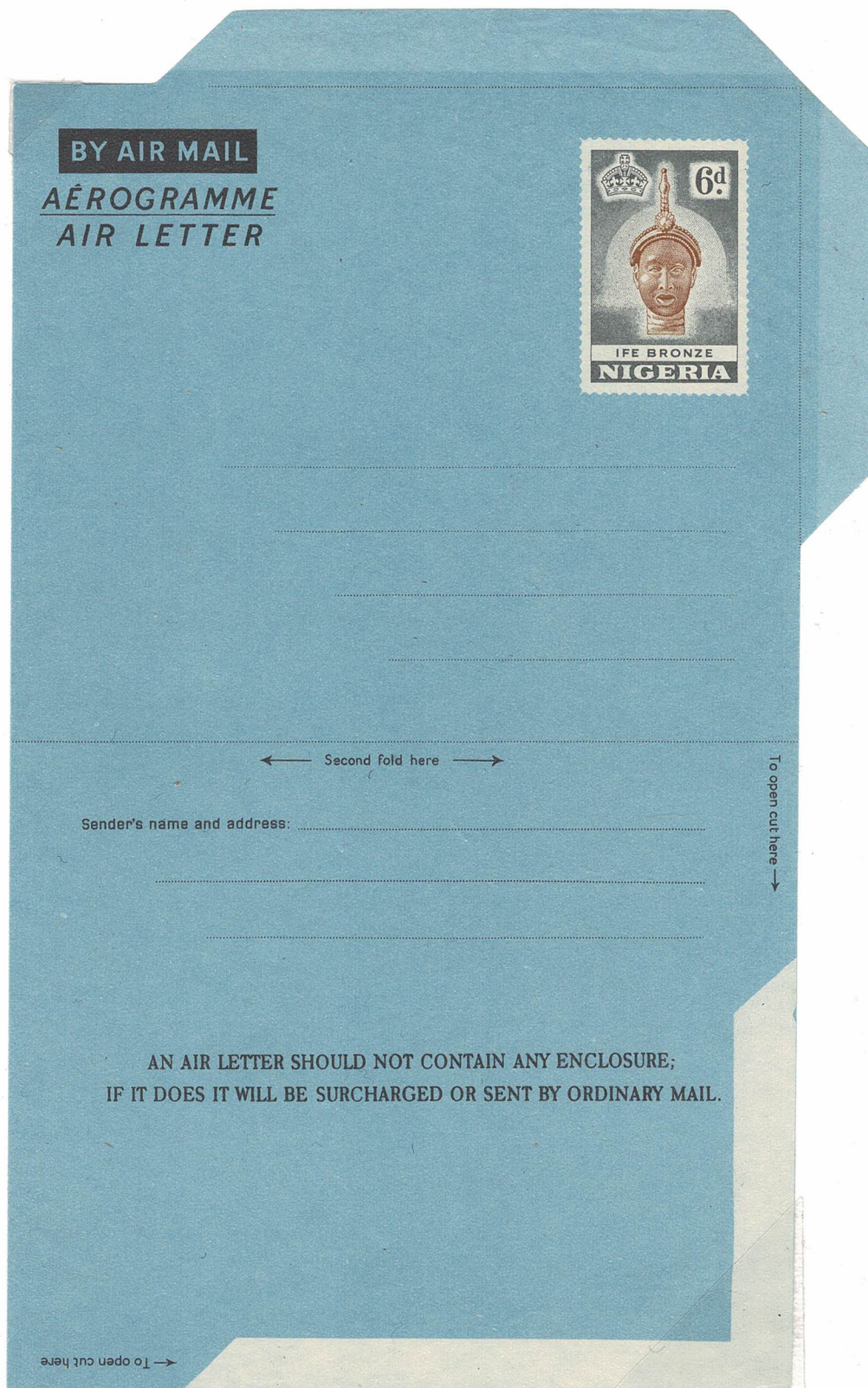
Date of issue: 1955, requisition 5272/1, order quantity 3 million.

Earliest known used date: 19 January 1956.

The text has been completely revised so that there is no warning message at the top left and the warning message on the back allows for two options to treat enclosures; either to be surcharged or conveyed by "ordinary mail"

Azure blue overlay inside and out, apart from white tabs. No watermark.

Normal stamp colours are olive-grey and ochre, with little variation. Text is in black.



1955. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE external airletter, third type.

H&G6, Harris WANG.A.07.01

Date of issue: 1955, requisition 5272/1, order quantity 3 million.

Earliest known used date: 19 January 1956.

Used examples – none at present!

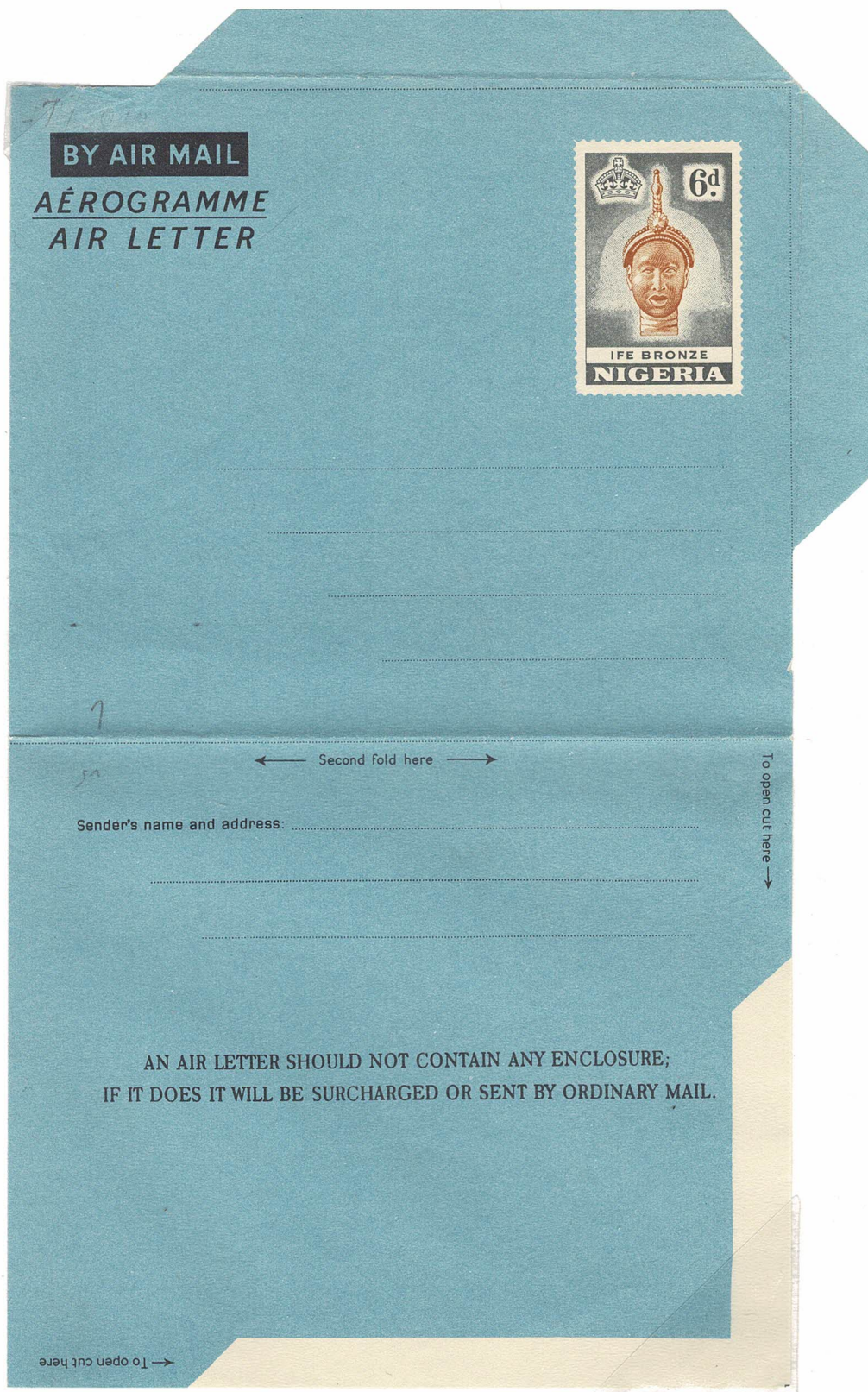
1956. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE external airletter, fourth type.

H&G7, Harris WANG.A.08.01, with un-gummed tabs.

Text layout is the same as WANG.A.07.01 but there is no overlay on the inside.

Date of issue: 1956, requisition 9641/1, order quantity 4 million.

Earliest known used date: 18 May 1956.



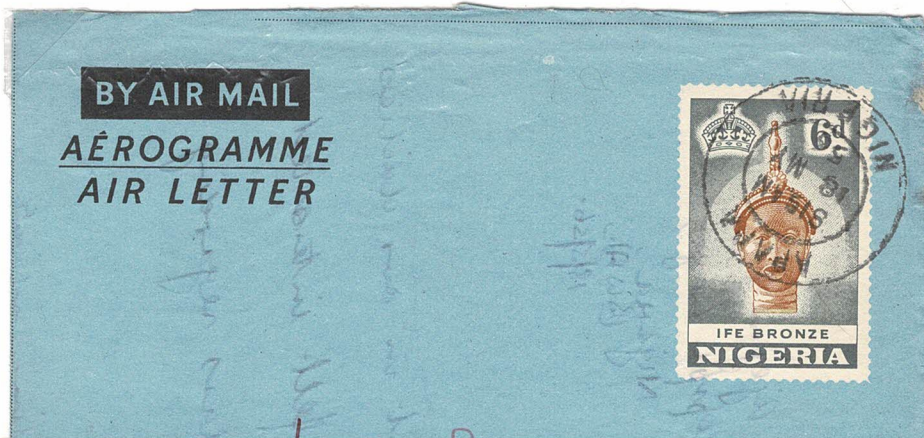
1956. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE external airletter, fourth type.

H&G7, Harris WANG.A.08.01, with un-gummed tabs.

Text layout is the same as WANG.A.07.01 but there is no overlay on the inside.

Used examples are identifiable by the use of the sender's own gum which usually strays beyond the extent of the tabs.

There is considerable variation of the blue shades of the overlay as shown by three examples shown here dated 18 My 56, 12 JA 57 and 4 MR 1957.



1956. Ife bronze 6d aerogramme, blue overlay on white, inside is white.



1957. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE external airletter, fourth type.

H&G7, Harris WANG.A.08.02, with gummed tabs.

Requisitions: 295/1 in about May 1957 for 3.6 million, 1148/1 in 1959 for 3 million and 1705/1 in early 1960 for 3.6 million.

Again, the text layout is the same as WANG.A.07.01 and with no overlay on the inside.

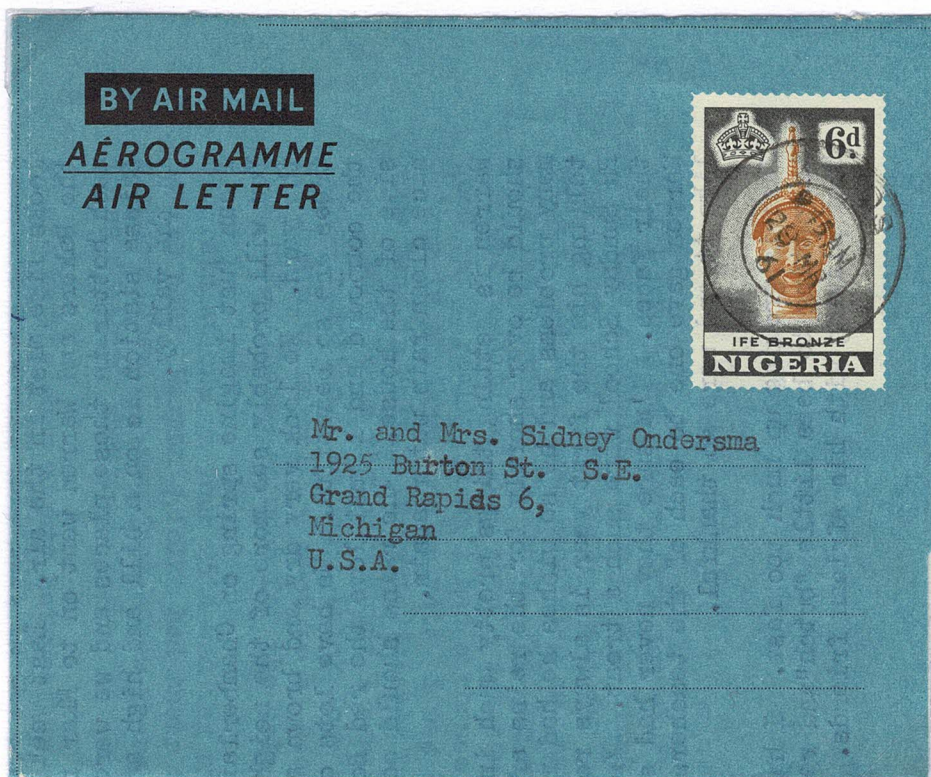
1959 and 1960 requisitions are in a darker blue shade of overlay than WANG.A.08.01, and the unused pair also vary slightly.



1957. QE2 6d IFE BRONZE external airletter, fourth type.

H&G7, Harris WANG.A.08.02, with gummed tabs.

Requisitions: 295/1 in about May 1957 for 3.6 million, 1148/1 in 1959 for 3 million and 1705/1 in early 1960 for 3.6 million. Used examples dated 2 August 1960 and 28 March 1961 show slight variation of shade of the overlay but a greater variation of shade of the stamp; the first in ochre and the second in orange.



1956. QE2 1½d GROUNDNUTS internal airletter, amended design.

H&G8, Harris WANG.A.09.01.

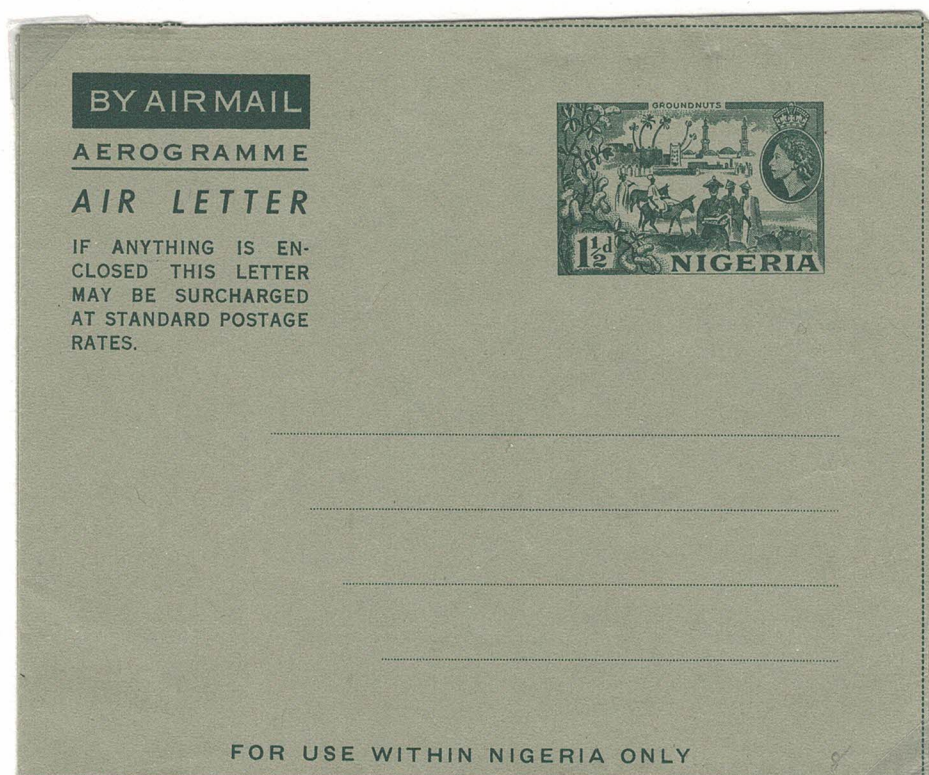
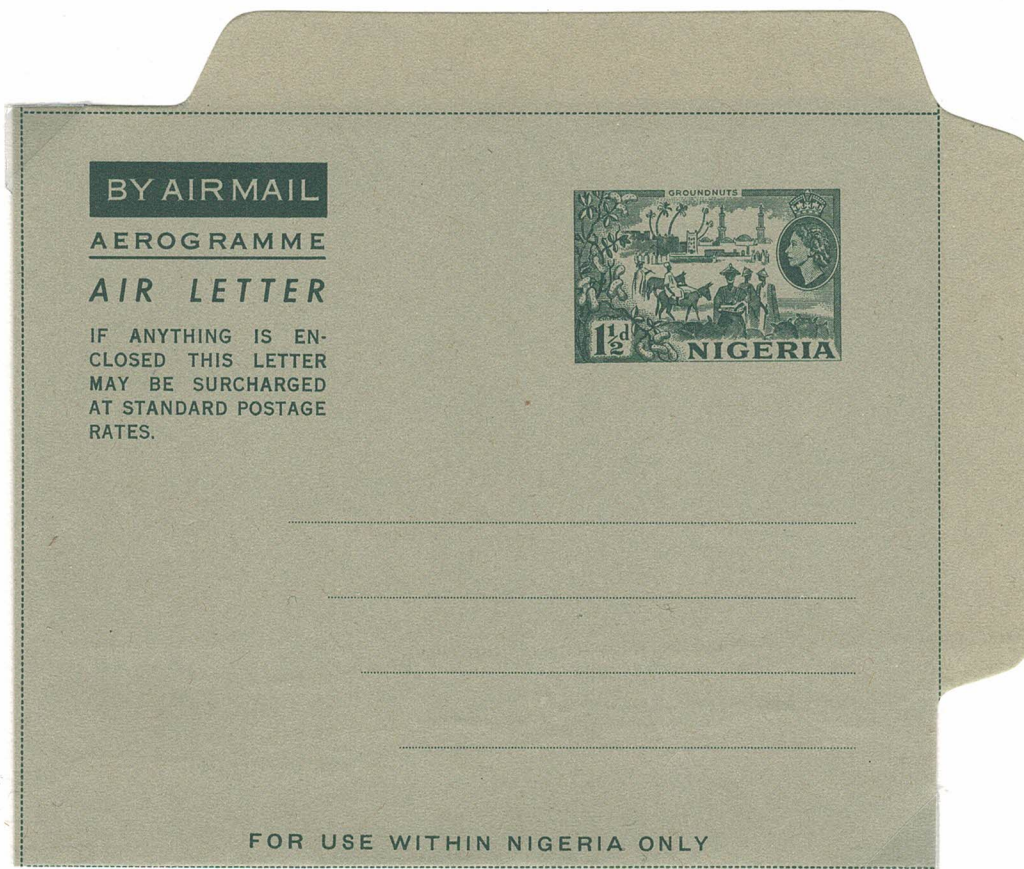
Date of issue 1956, requisition 7446/1, ordered 25 million

Earliest date of use: 3 October 1956

Printed from a new plate. There are now five lines of text at the top left and three lines of text on the reverse.

There are also small changes to the stamp; the driver of the rear donkey has a longer staff and redrawn G of groundnuts.

The two unused examples here show shades of the green printing; particularly evident in the coloured block top left.



1956. QE2 1½d GROUNDNUTS internal airletter, amended design.

H&G8, Harris WANG.A.09.01.

Date of issue 1956, requisition 7446/1, ordered 25 million

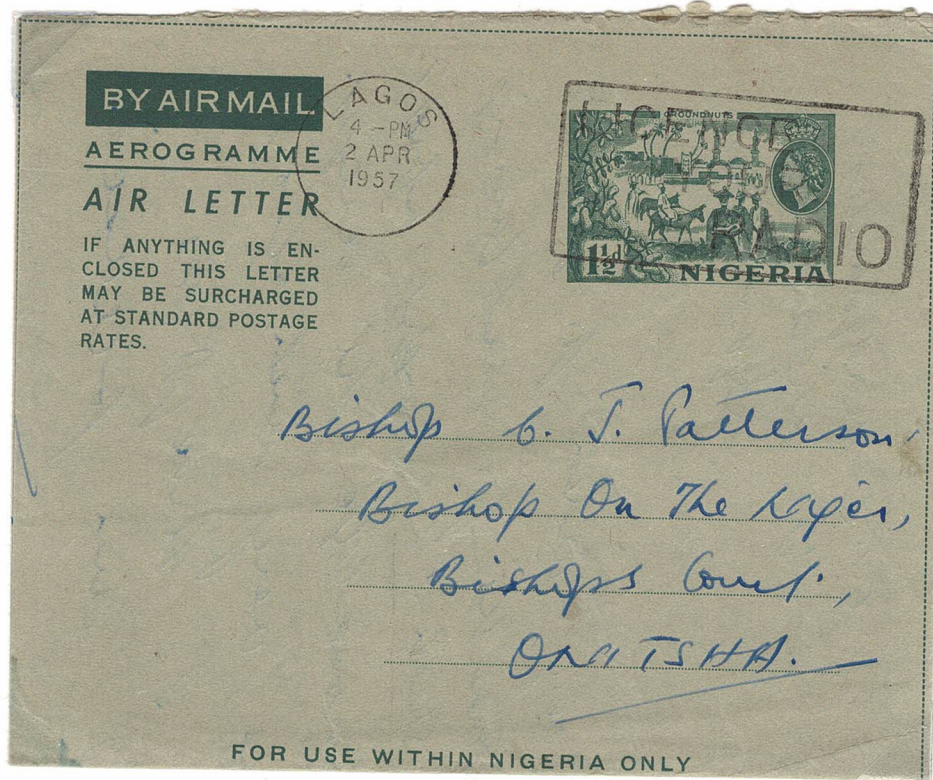
Earliest date of use: 3 October 1956

Printed from a new plate. There are now five lines of text at the top left and three lines of text on the reverse.

There are also small changes to the stamp; the driver of the rear donkey has a longer staff and redrawn G of groundnuts.

Used examples. The first is a correct internal usage from Lagos to Bishop Patterson at Onitsha on 2 April 1957.

The second is written by Bishop Patterson and correctly uprated to 6d for external use to the USA on 29 January 1957.



THE LAGOS TIMBER CO., LTD.

Telephone : Lagos 44064.

RASMUSSEN BUILDINGS, YABA.

Cables : RASMUSSEN Lagos.

OWNERS OF REAL ESTATE

Mail Address :

LETTING OUT HOUSES:

P.O. Box 1, Yaba, Nigeria

SALE OF LAND

Inland Telegrams : RASMUSSEN Yaba.

(Residential and Business)

Directors :

NILS RASMUSSEN

KARL RASMUSSEN

LILLEMOR RASMUSSEN

Bankers : Barclays Bank (D.C.O.), Yaba.

27th November, 1958.

R. Singley, Esq.,
Postal Department,
Lancaster Pa,
U. S. A.

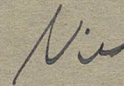
My dear Dick,

The new two pence air letter has now appeared and
a few have been mailed to you.

The first large head was handed over to Mr. Anibaba
this morning, parcel No. 830.

Under no circumstances send any money. If the heads
arrive in fairly good shape, then but only then, will I
tell you where to cough up.

Yours very sincerely,



NR/MUF.

N. Rasmusson.

This is the 1954 version of the internal aerogramme, duly uprated for postage to the USA from Yaba on 28th November 1958 with a 3d postage stamp and a 1½d cut-out from another pre-printed aerogramme. It is interesting, being from philatelist Nils Rasmusson, whose Lagos Timber Company notepaper shows a range of other activities, and being sent to Richard Singley, a well-known airmail collector, whose address appears on many unwritten aerogrammes. The new Nigerian aerogramme is referred to (next sheet); however, it's likely the "large head" was not philatelic, but part of Rasmusson's other business!

1958. QE2 2d TIN internal airletter.

H&G9, Harris WANG.A.010.01. Requisition 1289/1, 12 million ordered

Date of issue 1 November 1958, despite having been approved in November 1957.

The internal aerogramme postage increased to 2d from 1 October 1957, but earliest known used date; 26 November 1958.

Presumably old stocks of WANG.A.09.01 were to be used up with added ½d adhesives.

BY AIRMAIL

AEROG RAMME

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
MAY BE SURCHARGED
AT STANDARD POSTAGE
RATES.

NIGERIA



2d

FOR USE WITHIN NIGERIA ONLY

← Second Fold here →

Sender's name and address:-

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER
MAY BE SURCHARGED AT STANDARD
POSTAGE RATES

→ To open cut here

→ To open cut here

1958. QE2 2d TIN internal airletter.

H&G9, Harris WANG.A.010.01. Requisition 1289/1, 12 million ordered
Date of issue 1 November 1958, despite having been approved in November 1957.

The internal aerogramme postage increased to 2d from 1 October 1957, but earliest known used date; 26 November 1958.

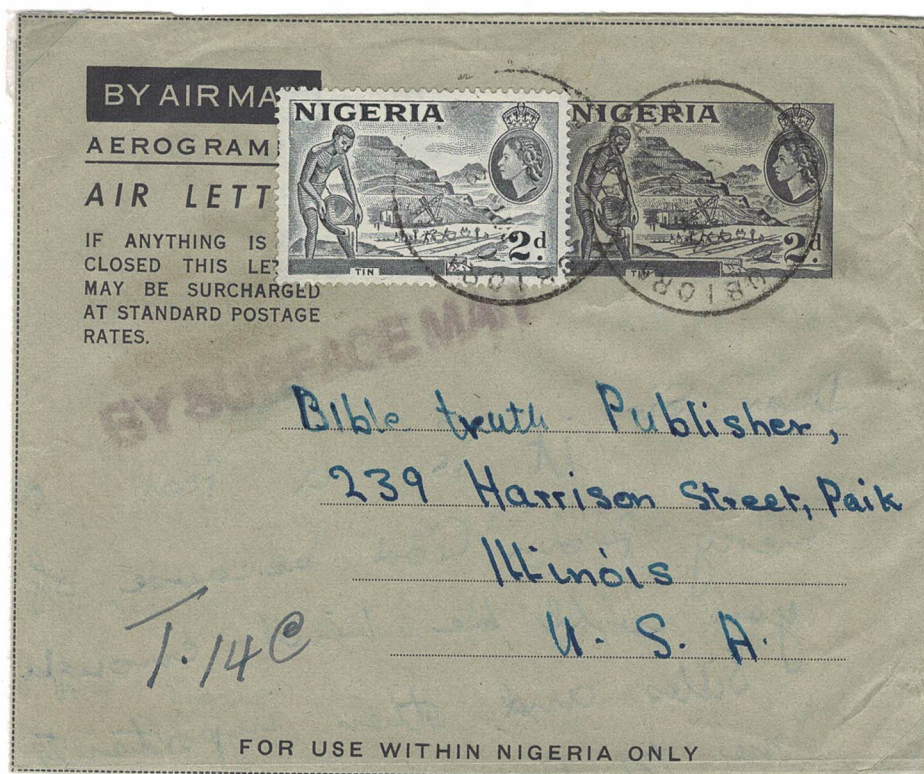
Presumably old stocks of WANG.A.09.01 were to be used up with added ½d adhesives.

The external aerogramme rate of 6d did not increase at that time, so when an internal aerogramme was used externally it should have been uprated to 6d.

The first here was sent on 7 May 1959 (date taken from the message inside) and wrongly franked 4d. The Nigerian post office struck it "BY SURFACE MAIL" but it was equally underpaid by that route: the first step foreign surface letter rate was also 6d.

The US post office therefore taxed it 14c on arrival.

The second example was sent from Minna to Cotonou, Dahomey on 23 March 1961, correctly rated 6d.

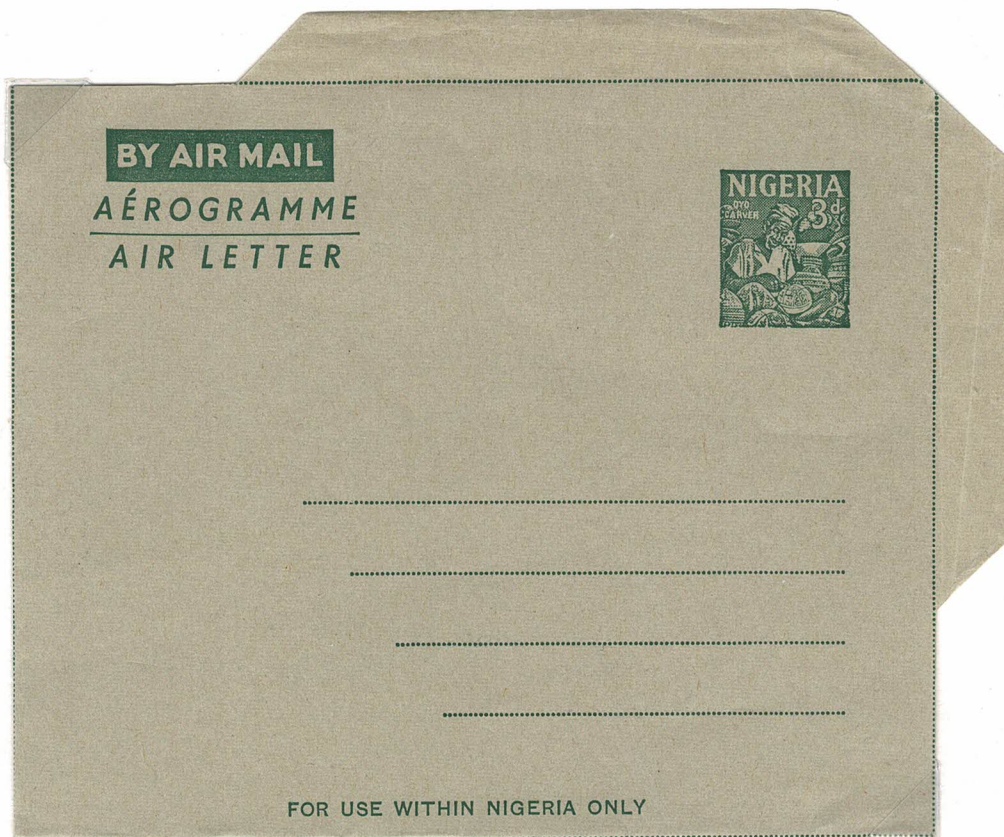


1961. 3d OYO CARVER internal airletter.

H&G10, Harris WANG.A.11.01. Requisition 1738/1, Number ordered not known.

Date of issue 1 February 1961. Earliest known used date 2 May 1961.

The internal aerogramme postage increased to 3d, probably from 1 February 1961, when this new one was released.
I am only able to show an unused one and one used to the USA at 6d rate with an additional 3d adhesive.



NIGERIA AEROGRAMMES

The aerogramme on the right was sent after the rate had increased again, to 3d on 1st February 1961. It was posted on 25th September 1961 from Yala Market Postal Agency in Ogoja to Enugu, about 120 miles to the West. It would not have flown.

The 2d postage due stamp covers double the deficiency, and the use of a registered handstamp to cancel it is quite typical. It apparently took 3 days to reach Enugu.

BY AIR MAIL
AEROGRAMME

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
MAY BE SURCHARGED
AT STANDARD POSTAGE
RATES.

T2d

708

Photo Department
Kingsway Store
Okpara Street
Enugu, Nigeria

To open cut here—

FOR USE WITHIN NIGERIA ONLY

← Second Fold here →

Sender's name and address:-

Charles S. Ford
Baptist Mission
Ogoja

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER
MAY BE SURCHARGED AT STANDARD
POSTAGE RATES

ENUGU * 28 SP 61





1961. 6d BENIN MASK external airletter.

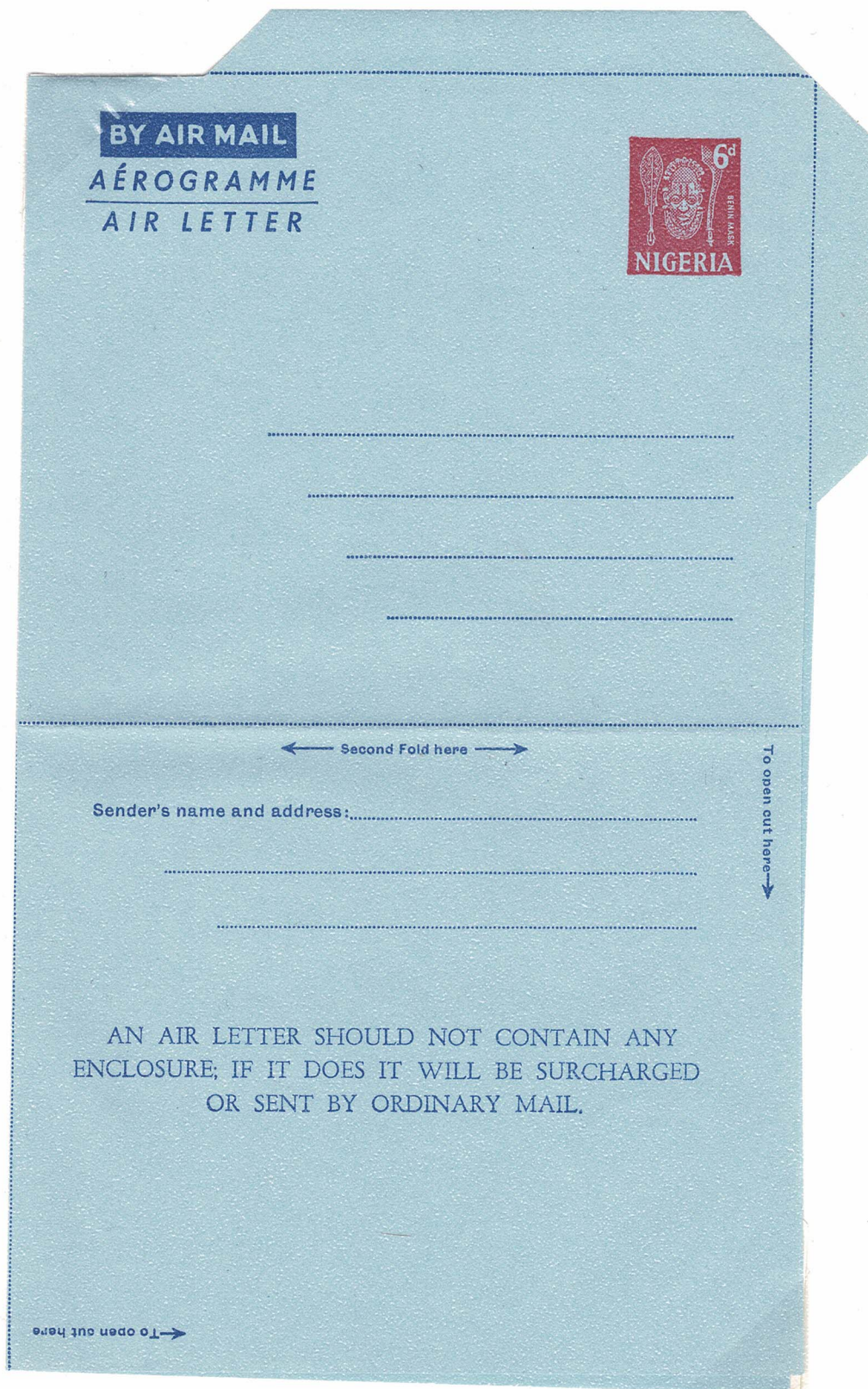
H&G11, Harris WANG.A.12.01. Requisition 1738/1, Number ordered not known.

Date of issue 1961. Earliest known used date 10 April 1961.

There are two versions of the warning text. Version 1 has the semicolon after ENCLOSURE above the O of OR.

Version 2 has the semicolon after ENCLOSURE above the R of OR

Version 1 is shown here, unused.



1961. 6d BENIN MASK external airletter.

H&G11, Harris WANG.A.12.01. Requisition 1738/1, Number ordered not known.

Date of issue 1961. Earliest known used date 10 April 1961.

There are two versions of the warning text. Version 1 has the semicolon after ENCLOSURE above the O of OR.

Version 2 has the semicolon after ENCLOSURE above the R of OR

Version 1 is shown here, used to Sweden from Apapa on 14 June 1962 (note date arranged as 14 62/ JU).

BY AIR MAIL
AÉROGRAMME
AIR LETTER

PAPA
6d
BENIN MASK
NIGERIA

Mrs. Maimie Asuman
44, Köpmangatan
Örebro
(SWEDEN)

← Second Fold here →

Sender's name and address: D. Tenconi
P.M. Box 1123
APAPA
(Nigeria)

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

→ To open cut here

→ To open cut here

1961. 6d BENIN MASK external airletter.

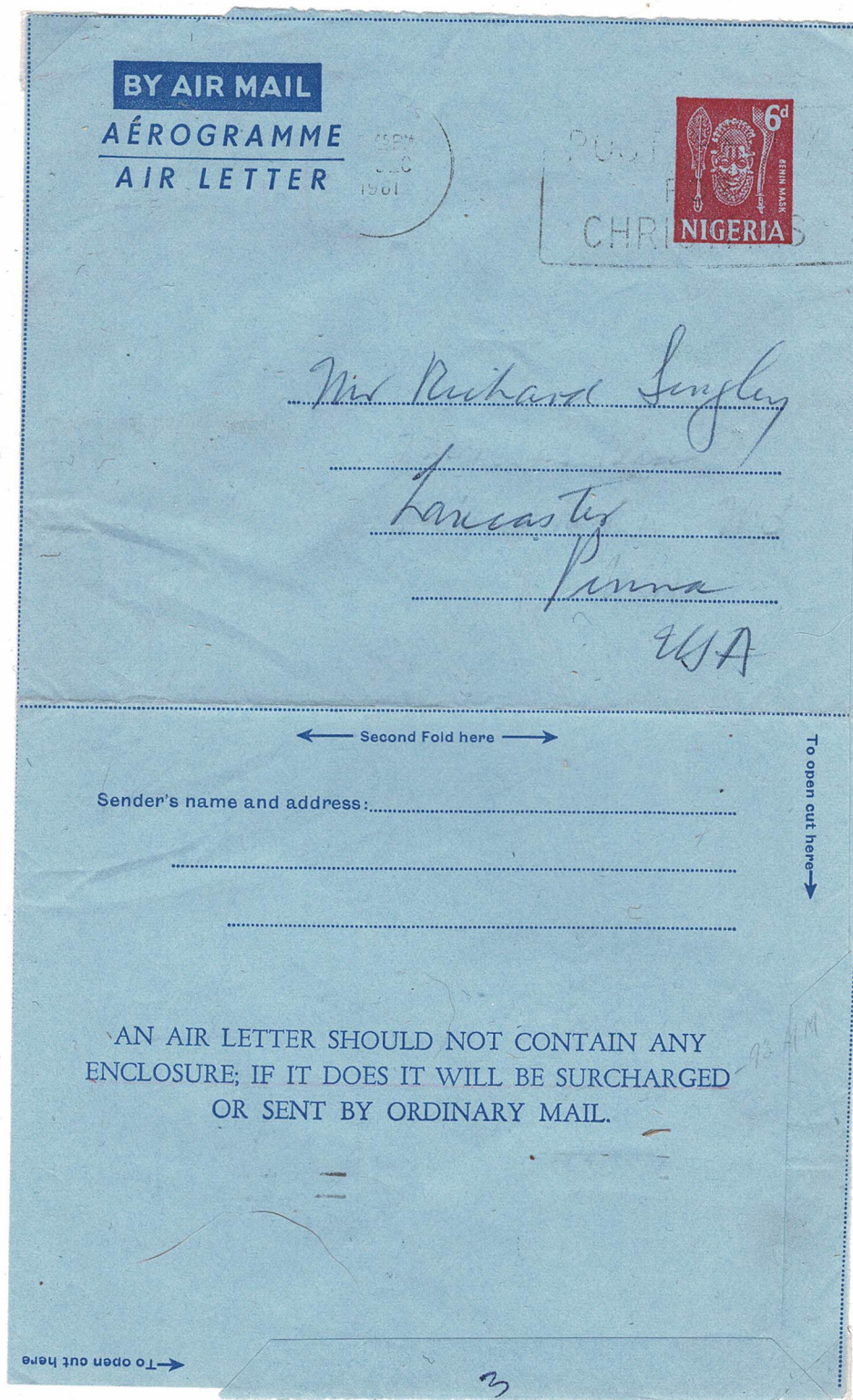
H&G11, Harris WANG.A.12.01. Requisition 1738/1, Number ordered not known.

Date of issue 1961. Earliest known used date 10 April 1961.

There are two versions of the warning text. Version 1 has the semicolon after ENCLOSURE above the O of OR.

Version 2 has the semicolon after ENCLOSURE above the R of OR

Version 2 is shown here, used to the USA in December 1961.



1962. 6d BENIN MASK external airletter.

H&G12, Harris WANG.A.13.01. Requisition 49838/1, Number ordered not known.

Date of issue 1962. Earliest known used date 14 November 1962 with stamp die IIa.

This stamp has a 1mm space between the right foot of the A of NIGERIA and the corner of the design and the handle of the spear lies between the N and I of NIGERIA.

Shown unused and used from Mushin to the USA on 10 September 1963.

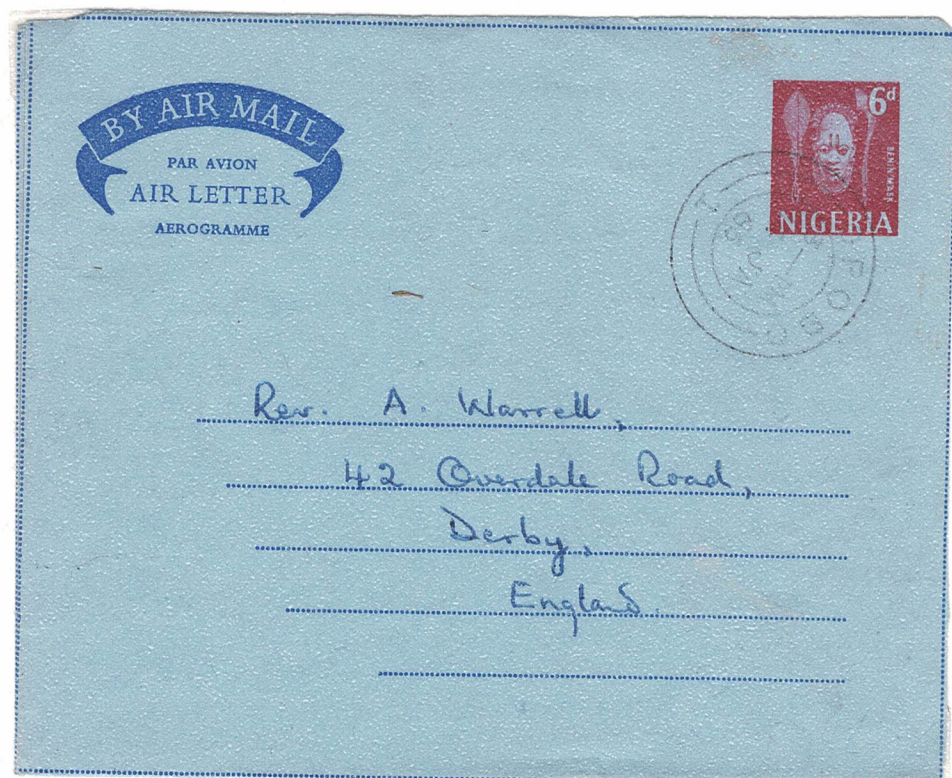


1962-65. 6d BENIN MASK external airletter.

H&G12, Harris WANG.A.13.02. Requisition 49838/1, Number ordered not known.

Date of issue 1962. Earliest known used date 2 July 1965 with stamp die IIb.

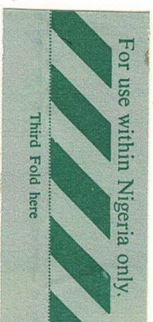
This stamp has a 0.6mm space between the right foot of the A of NIGERIA and the corner of the design
and the handle of the spear is over the right leg of the N of NIGERIA.
Shown unused and used from Opobo to the USA on 14 January 1966.



The internal aerogramme rate rose in 1968 from 10c to 15c. The corresponding stamp in the aerogramme also changed, to require only one gummed tab.

My study has identified three variants of this aerogramme, with two easily distinguishable layouts. There are two sizes of the first layout, differing in all features by only 1½% (i.e. about 2mm wider folded) and with line lengths increased in the same proportion. It appears that a second plate (known used in 1970) may have been created from the first (used 1968-69?) by photographic enlargement. The pair below right show the difference clearly; the lighter green copy is from the first plate, 134mm wide and folded exactly on the fold lines. The mint copy is 136mm wide. The two essays are 134 mm between fold lines. Incidentally, although philatelic, the used copy is the earliest known used.

The distinct third plate, used in 1971-72 and seen on the next sheet, has two major differences: the diagonals forming the border are narrower, so the text "For use within Nigeria only." is differently placed in relation to the diagonals - in particular, the "w" of "within" starts above a space in the first two plates and above a diagonal in the third. Also, the text "Third Fold here" is about 3mm from the line in the new plate, compared with 1mm in the original. This layout is exactly the same as for the decimal issue which followed, the printer was NSP&M Co., Lagos.



(x100%)

The stamp was also slightly redrawn. The lower two of the four fragments at the end of the upper log are about 1.4mm from the frame in the original and 1.1mm in the last plate.



(x150%)



This version of the aerogramme, from the last plate, was probably first available in 1971.

This copy was posted in Lagos on 21st February 1972 to Abeokuta. The destination is 58 miles from Lagos so it would not have been flown, but was carried by road or possibly by rail (Aro Station on the Western Line is at Abeokuta).

The internal mail rate was 4d for 1oz, so at this period the aerogramme would not have been cheaper.

NIGERIA AEROGRAMMES

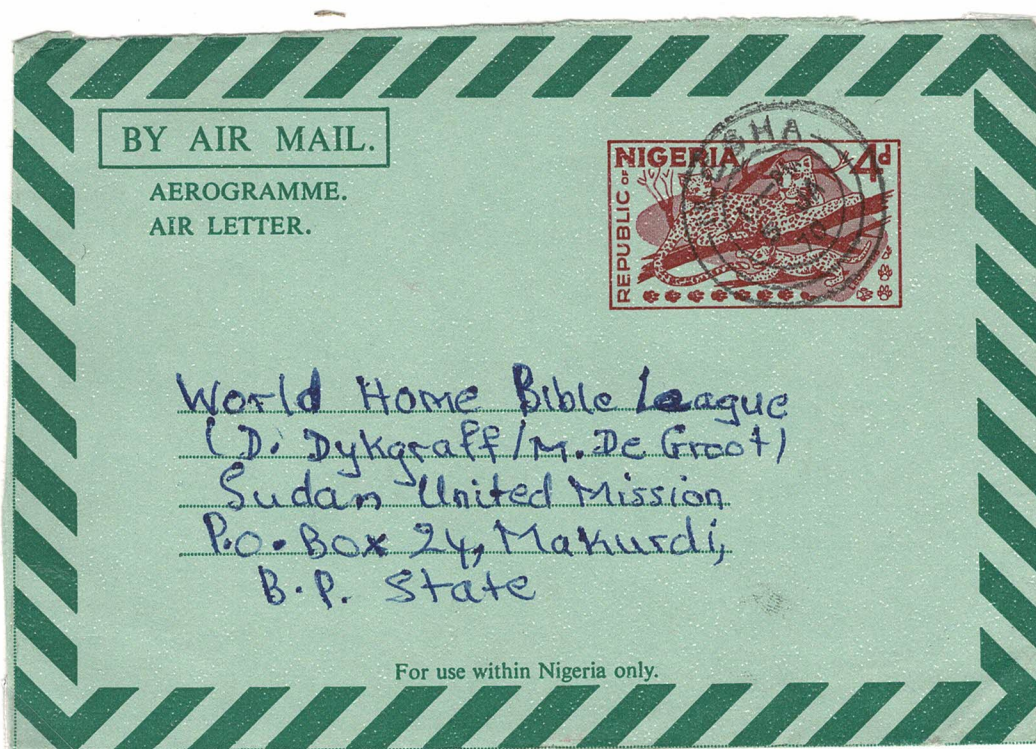


1968. 4d LEOPARDS internal airletter.

H&G13, Harris WANG.A.14. Probably printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

There are three versions with dates of issue 1968 to 1970. Earliest known used date of the first version is 13 March 1968.

The second version, apparently a photographic enlargement of the first version, is shown used internally from Ilesha to Makurdi on 5 January 1970.

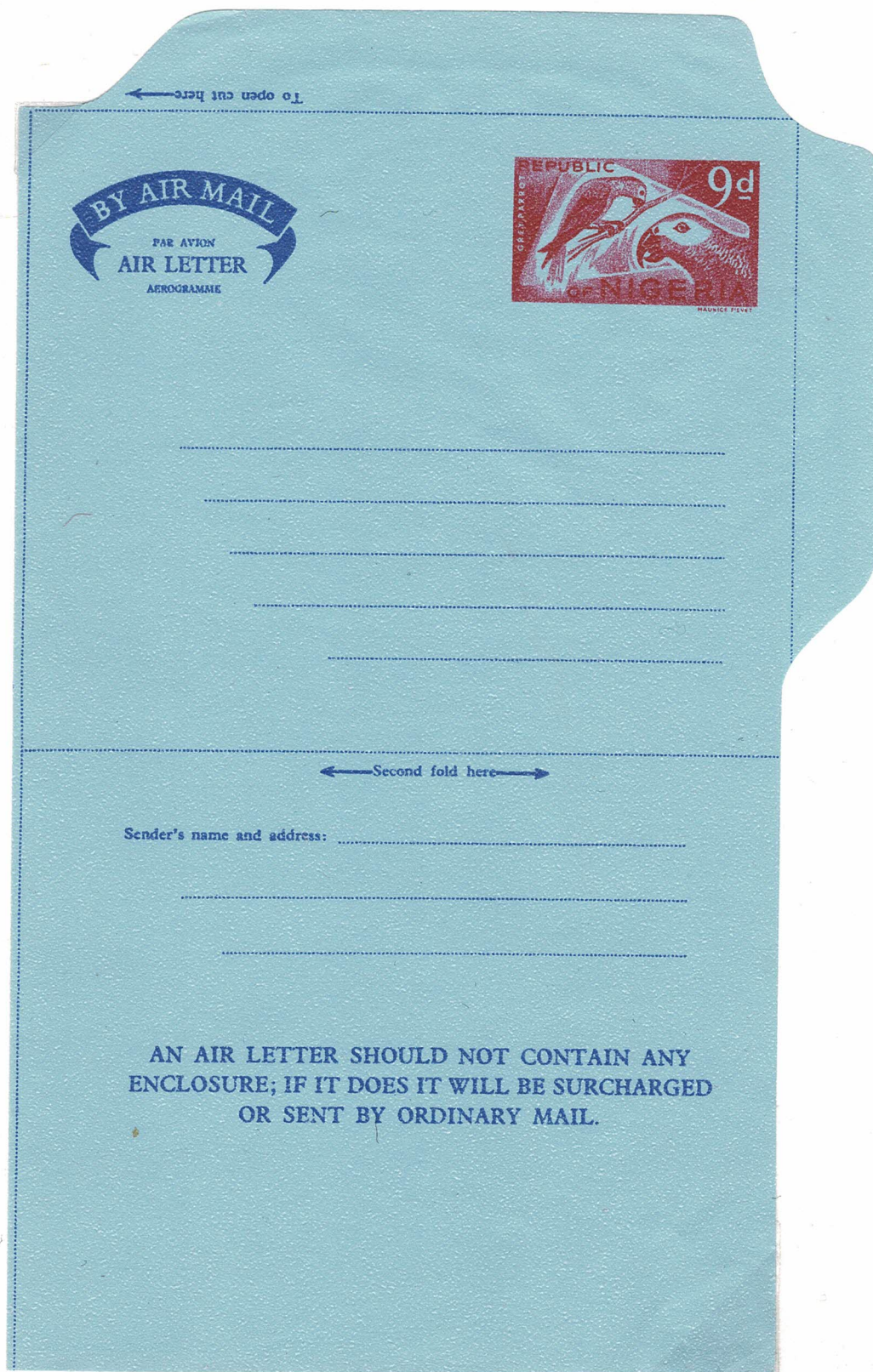


1968. 9d GREY PARROTS external airletter.

M&W14, Harris WANG.A.15.01. Printed by Dickinson, UK. Requisition R89335/5, numbers printed not found.

There are three versions with dates of issue 1968 to 1971. Earliest known used date of the first version is 29 September 1968.

The first version WANG.A.15.01 is characterised by tabs with curved ends, the semicolon in the warning text is below the first E of LETTER and the designers name extends most of the way under the R of NIGERIA.



1968. 9d GREY PARROTS external airletter.

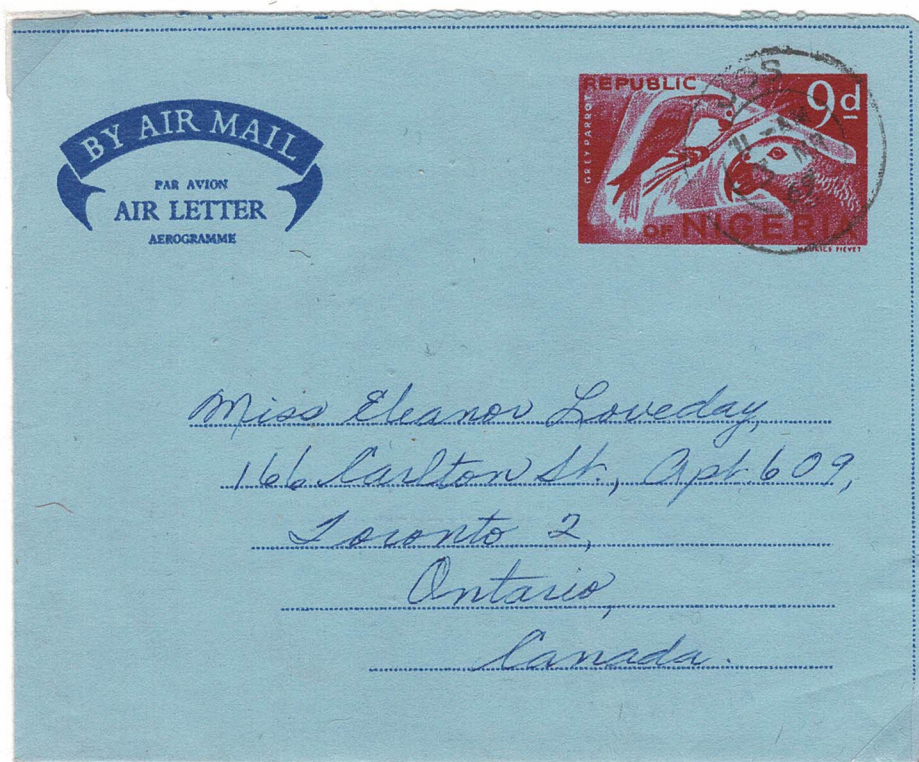
M&W14, Harris WANG.A.15.01. Printed by Dickinson, UK. Requisition R89335/5, numbers printed not found.

There are three versions with dates of issue 1968 to 1971. Earliest known used date of the first version is 29 September 1968.

The international aerogramme rate increased to 9d in 1966 (exact date not known),
except to countries within the OAU for which the rate remained 6d.

The first version of the 9d, WANG.A.15.01, is characterised by tabs with curved ends, the semicolon in the warning text is below the first E of LETTER and the designers name extends most of the way under the R of NIGERIA.

This first version is shown used from Jos on 3 March 1969.



1968. 9d GREY PARROTS external airletter.

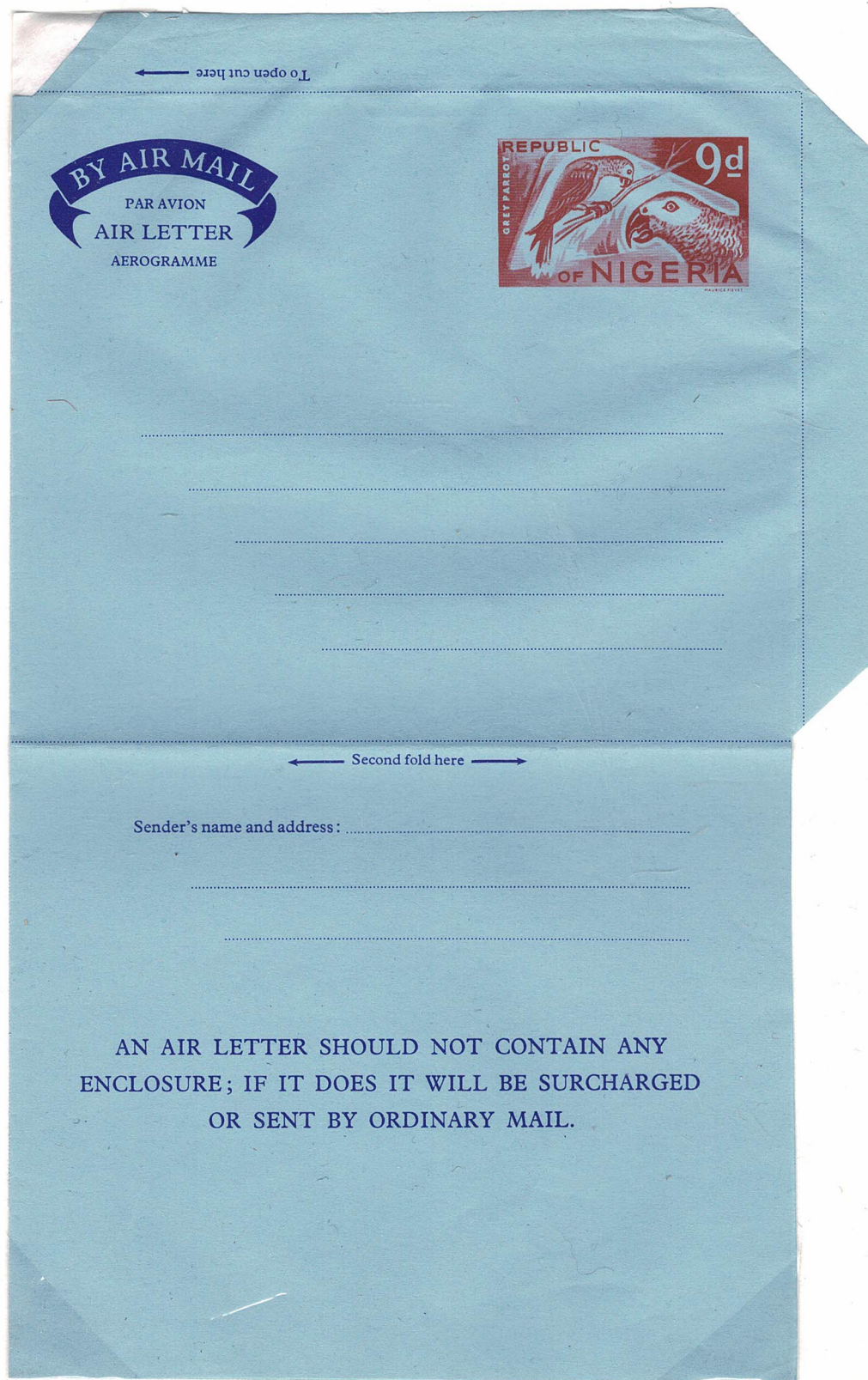
M&W15, Harris WANG.A.15.02. Probably printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

There are three versions with dates of issue 1968 to 1971. Earliest known used date of the second version is 28 November 1968.

The international aerogramme rate increased to 9d in 1966 (exact date not known),
except to countries within the OAU for which the rate remained 6d.

The second version of the 9d, WANG.A.15.01, is characterised by tabs with straight ends,
the semicolon in the warning text is below the space between the L and first E of LETTER
and the designers name extends between the right of the R and the right of the A of NIGERIA.

The blue paper colour is quite consistent but the intensity of the red varies from pale red to deep scarlet.



1968. 9d GREY PARROTS external airletter.

M&W15, Harris WANG.A.15.02. Probably printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

Earliest known used date of the second version is 28 November 1968.

The second version of the 9d, WANG.A.15.01, is characterised by tabs with straight ends, the semicolon in the warning text is below the space between the L and first E of LETTER and the designers name extends between the right of the R and the right of the A of NIGERIA.

The intensity of the red varies from pale red to deep scarlet. It is shown used in pale red from Lagos on 31 May 1969, in red from Lagos on 19 January 1970 and in deep scarlet from Calabar on 2 January 1971.



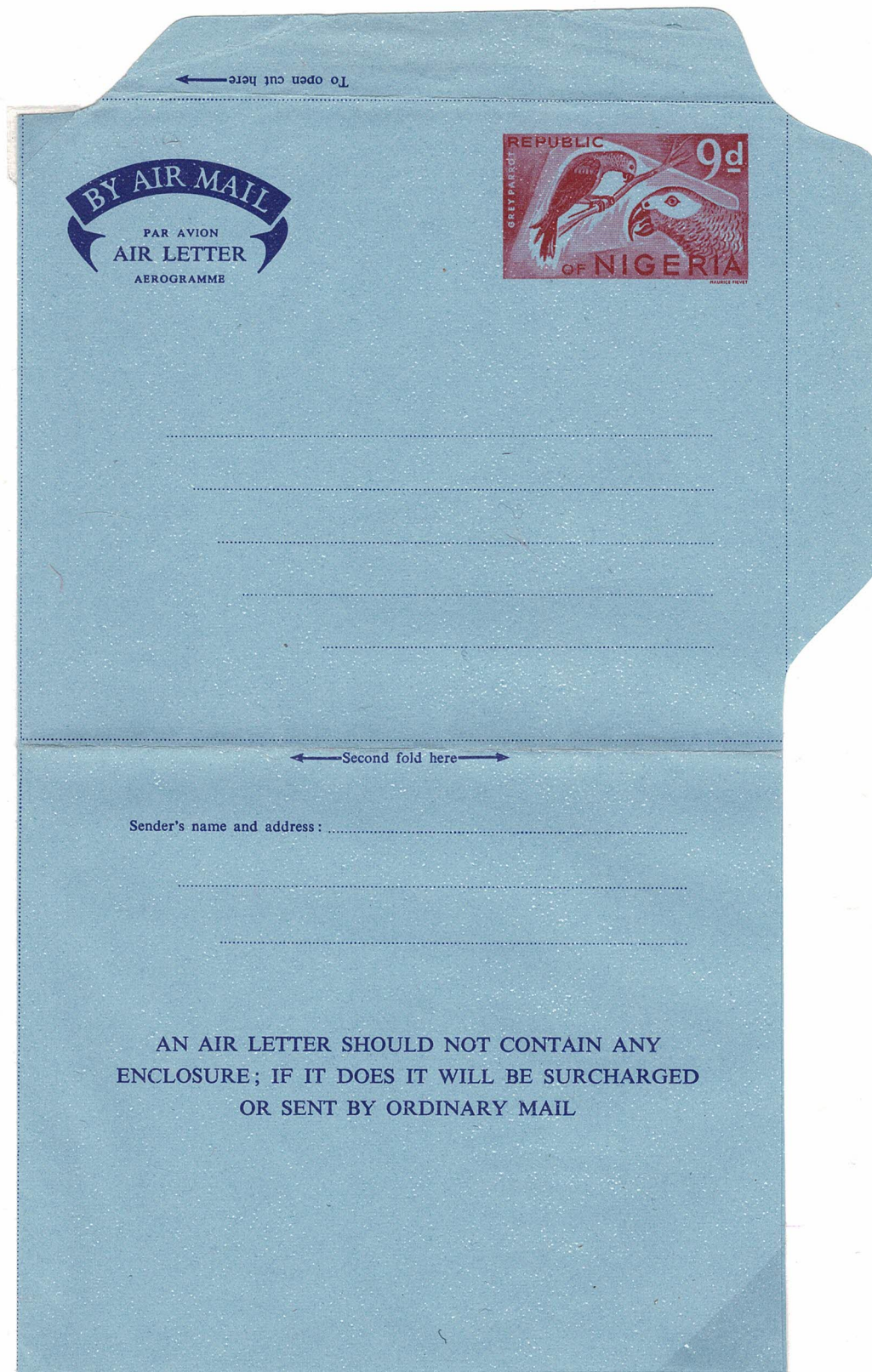
1968-1971. 9d GREY PARROTS external airletter.

M&W16, Harris WANG.A.15.03. Probably printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

There are three versions with dates of issue 1968 to 1971. Earliest known used date of the third version is 24 April 1971.

The third version WANG.A.15.03 is characterised by tabs with curved ends, the semicolon in the warning text is below the L of LETTER and the end of the designer's name is in line with the right edge of the design.

There are two distinct shades of the "stamp" in light red and deep pink. The deep pink is shown here unused.



1968-1971. 9d GREY PARROTS external airletter.

M&W16, Harris WANG.A.15.03. Probably printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

There are three versions with dates of issue 1968 to 1971. Earliest known used date of the third version is 24 April 1971.

The third version WANG.A.15.03 is characterised by tabs with curved ends, the semicolon in the warning text is below the L of LETTER and the end of the designer's name is in line with the right edge of the design.

There are two distinct shades of the "stamp" in light red and deep pink. The light red is shown used on 20 NO 71 from Owo and the deep pink is shown used on 12 DE 72 from Onitsha Branch Office. Both are uprated to 1/- because the overseas aerogramme rate was increased from 9d in 1971 (probably on 1 July). This aerogramme is hard to find used at the 9d rate.



1968-1971. 9d GREY PARROTS external airletter.

M&W16, Harris WANG.A.15.03. Probably printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

There are three versions with dates of issue 1968 to 1971. Earliest known used date of the third version is 24 April 1971.

The third version WANG.A.15.03 is characterised by tabs with curved ends, the semicolon in the warning text is below the L of LETTER and the end of the designer's name is in line with the right edge of the design.

After July 1971 the aerogrammes were sold by post offices with an additional 3d stamp.

No 1/- aerogramme was ever prepared because decimalisation was imminent.



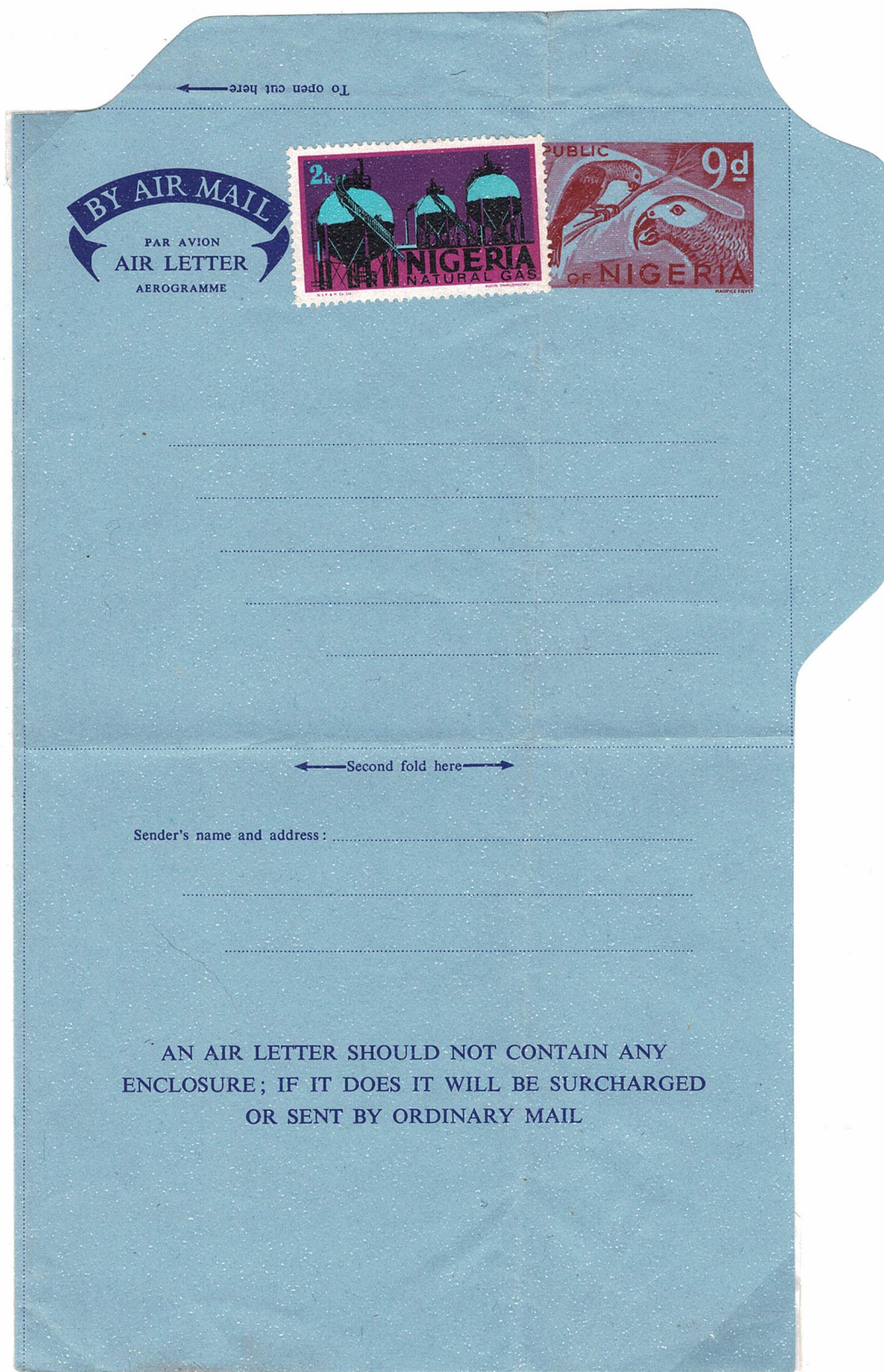
1968-1971. 9d GREY PARROTS external airletter.

M&W16, Harris WANG.A.15.03. Probably printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

There are three versions with dates of issue 1968 to 1971. Earliest known used date of the third version is 24 April 1971.

The third version WANG.A.15.03 is characterised by tabs with curved ends, the semicolon in the warning text is below the L of LETTER and the end of the designer's name is in line with the right edge of the design.

After decimalisation on 1 January 1973 surplus 9d aerogrammes continued to be sold by post offices, but now with an additional 2 kobo stamp.



NIGERIA AEROGRAMMES

There are many detail differences between the previous version of the Benin Mask aerogramme and this final one. The clearest is in the warning text, which uses a different font, most visible in the letter U.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

1962/65
type

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

1970 type

It is hard to find used copies of this version and, so far, no remaining mint copy is known. 12th November 1970 is the earliest known date of use. The copy here was sent on 18th April 1972 from The University of Ife to USA. It is uprated to 1/- as the overseas rate had increased from 9d to 1/- in mid-1971. No copies have yet been recorded used for the 6d OAU rate for which it was probably intended.



Mr. P.H. Silverstone,
330 WEST 58th ST.,
NEW YORK,
NEW YORK 10019
UNITED STATES.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: *L.A. Sturton,*

Unije.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

1970. 6d BENIN MASK external airletter.

M&W12c, Harris WANG.A.16.01. Printed by NSP&M. Number ordered not known.

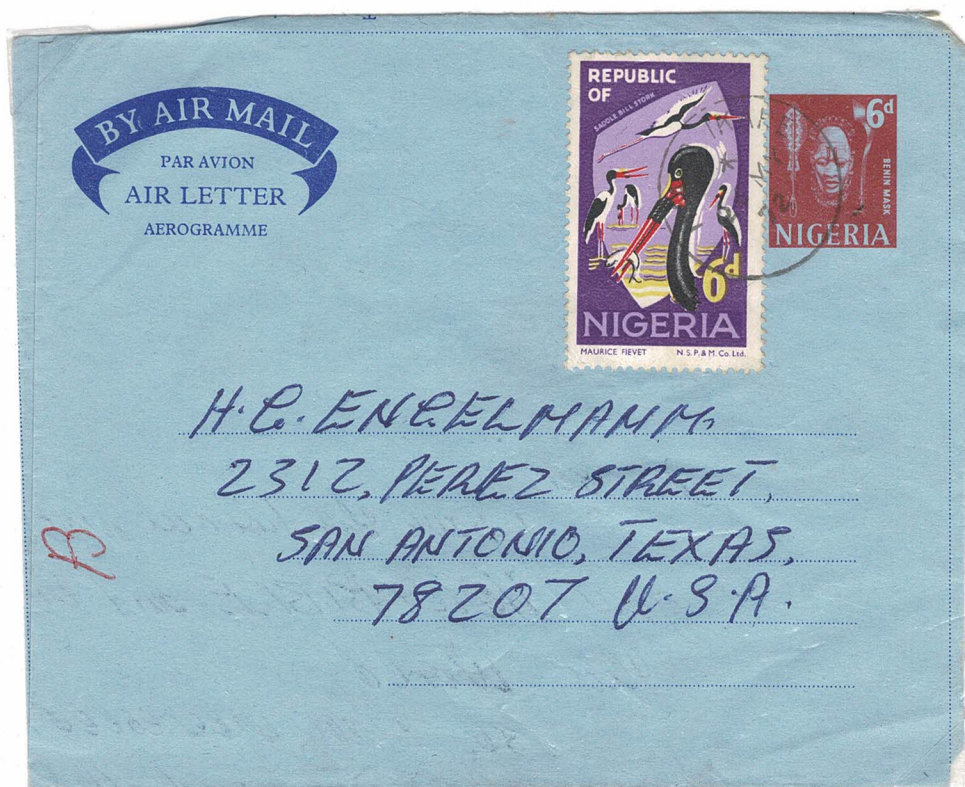
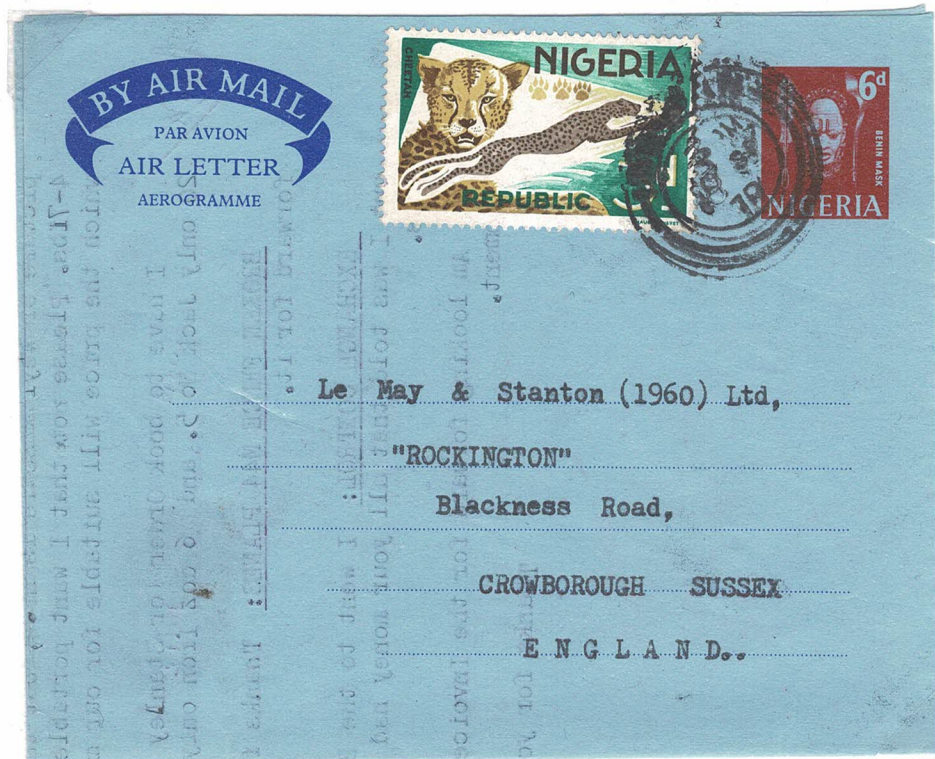
Date of issue 1970. Earliest known used date 29 August 1970.

This aerogramme was produced for use to members of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) for which the 6d rate continued after the overseas rate was otherwise increased to 9d in 1966. It seems this concession did not continue after the overseas rate increased again on 1 July 1971 to 1/-. It is rare to find it used as intended and most stocks were uprated for worldwide use.

This stamp has a 0.8mm space between the right foot of the A of NIGERIA and the corner of the design and the whole design has finer detail, especially seen in the pattern on the broad head of the spear.

The warning text also uses a different fount.

Shown used at 9d rate to the UK on 10 September 1970 and at 1/- rate from Ikare to the USA on 2 May 1972.



NIGERIA AEROGRAMMES

Decimalisation took place in Nigeria on 1st January 1973 (the last Commonwealth country to take this step). In the new currency: 100 kobo (k) = 1 naira (₦), with ₦2 equivalent to £1.

Decimal stamps are said not to have been issued until **2nd April 1973** (SG catalogue). That makes these two aerogrammes interesting - each a **First Day Cover**. The copy on the right (the late 1968 version) was written on 31st March 1973 and cancelled in Kaduna at 7am on **Sunday 1st April 1973**. The full overseas rate of 10k in stamps was added - presumably the writer thought that the 9d stamp was no longer valid. **The stamps must have been on sale prior to the date they were officially issued.** The writer does not mention the stamps or anything relevant, so this is not a philatelic creation.

The copy below (1971 version) is uprated with a 2k stamp (equivalent to 3d) so that the total postage is the correct rate 10k (1/-) for an overseas aerogramme. It was posted in Katsina on 2nd April 1973, the recorded first day of issue. SG notes that genuine first day covers of the definitive set have a backdated postmark of 1st April.



← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: *Muhammed Hammam
26 Damaturu Road
Kaduna, NIGERIA.*

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

1973. Various pre-decimal aerogrammes uprated using decimal adhesives.

The previous 1/- overseas aerogramme rate converted to 10 kobo, so the old 6d aerogrammes needed an additional 5 kobo.

The examples shown here are WANG.A.13.02 dated 3 JY 73 and WANG.A.16.01 dated 13 JU 73.



1973. Various pre-decimal aerogrammes uprated using decimal adhesives.

In the absence of a 2½ kobo stamp the 9d aerogrammes were uprated with 2 kobo adhesives.

The examples shown here are probably both WANG.A.15.03 and are dated 7 May 1973 and 10 September 1973.

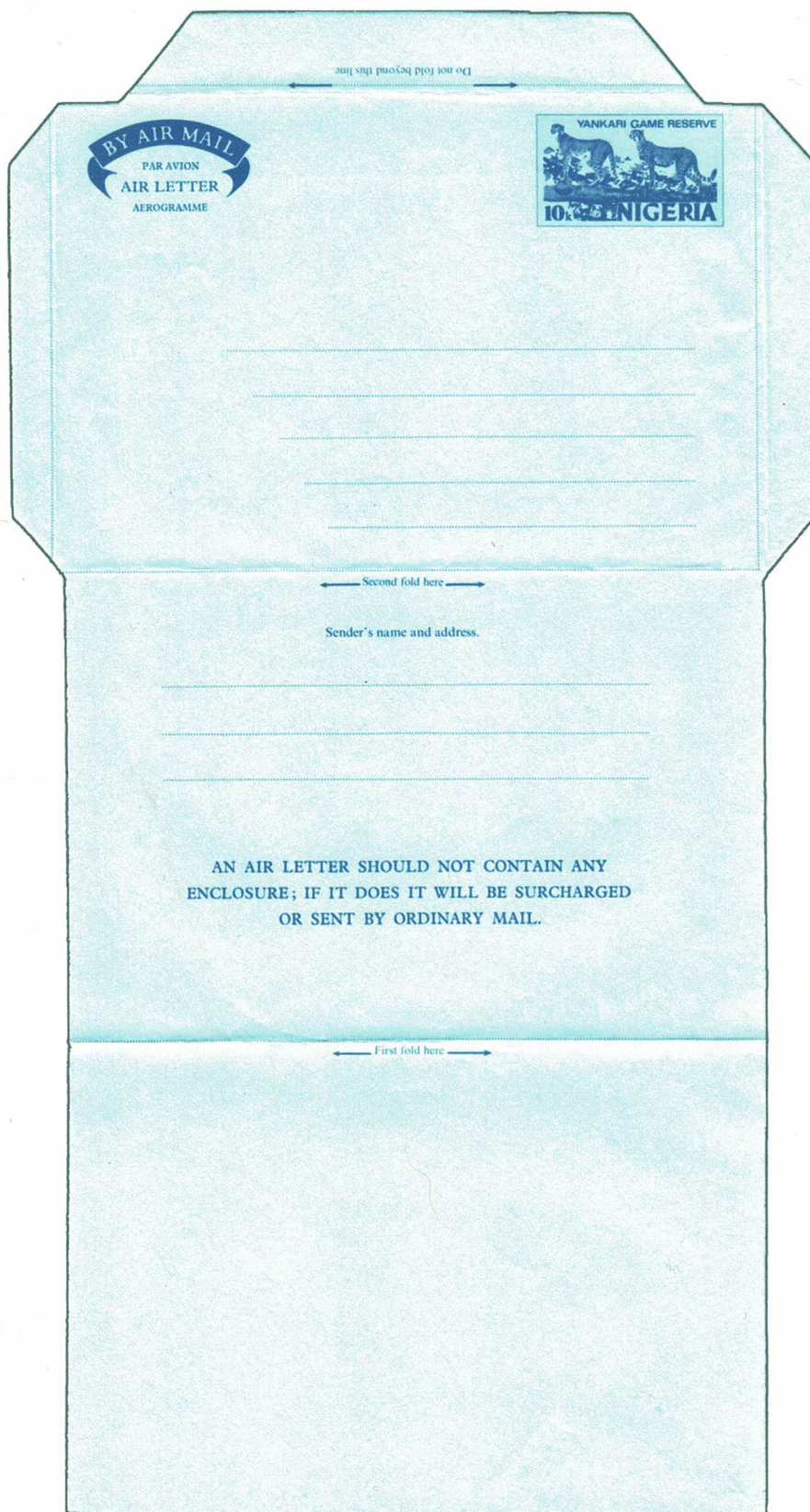


NIGERIA AEROGRAMMES

From 1973 through to the penultimate issue of overseas aerogrammes a new layout was adopted, which does not fit easily into display sheets. The layout is shown here at $\frac{2}{3}$ scale. They were printed by the Nigeria Security Printing & Minting Co. Ltd.

Internal aerogrammes continued with the layout first used for the 1968 issue, 4d Leopards.

The overseas rate remained at 10k until 1979. A version of the 10k definitive stamp was used for this aerogramme with no apparent significant differences throughout its life, apart from a deeper blue shade of printing seen in 1977/78.



NIGERIA AEROGRAMMES

The inland aerogramme rate increased to 5k (the old 6d), from 4d at decimalisation on 1st April 1973. The layout of the first decimal aerogramme was exactly the same as the last plate of the 4d, incorporating the 5k Cattle Ranching stamp of the new definitive series, printed in one operation with the text and border.

This rate prevailed for 6 years and the aerogramme was issued in varying shades of green and tints of paper. On the left is the earliest recorded example, sent overseas on 12th December 1973 from Jos.

Below is a cancelled copy (Lagos 2nd April 1974) in a deep green shade with separate cattle hardly visible.



1973. 5 kobo CATTLE RANCHING internal airletter.

M&W17a & b, Harris WANG.A.17.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

Date of issue 1 April 1973. Earliest known used date 12 December 1973.

There are three versions with light green, green and a dark green printing in which the cattle can hardly be seen.

The light green and dark green are shown here, unused.

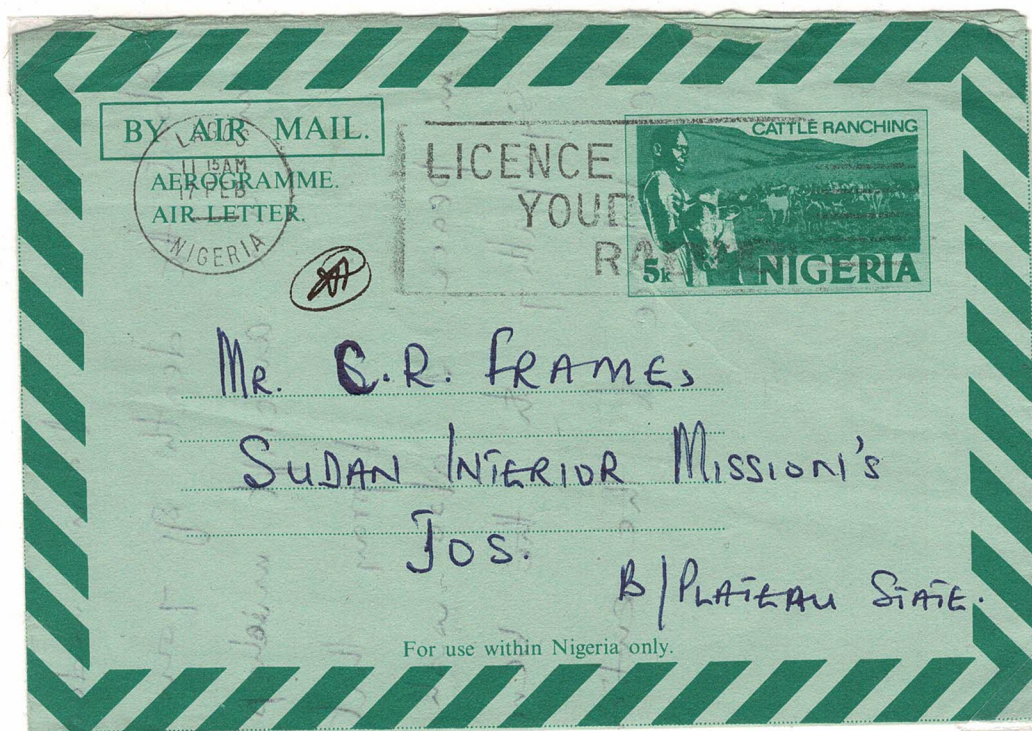


1973. 5 kobo CATTLE RANCHING internal airletter.

M&W17a & b, Harris WANG.A.17.01. Probably printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

Date of issue 1 April 1973. Earliest known used date 12 December 1973.

The mid green version is shown here unused and correctly used for internal mail from Lagos to Jos on 17 Feb 1974
(date taken from the message inside because the Lagos machine cancel has no year slug)

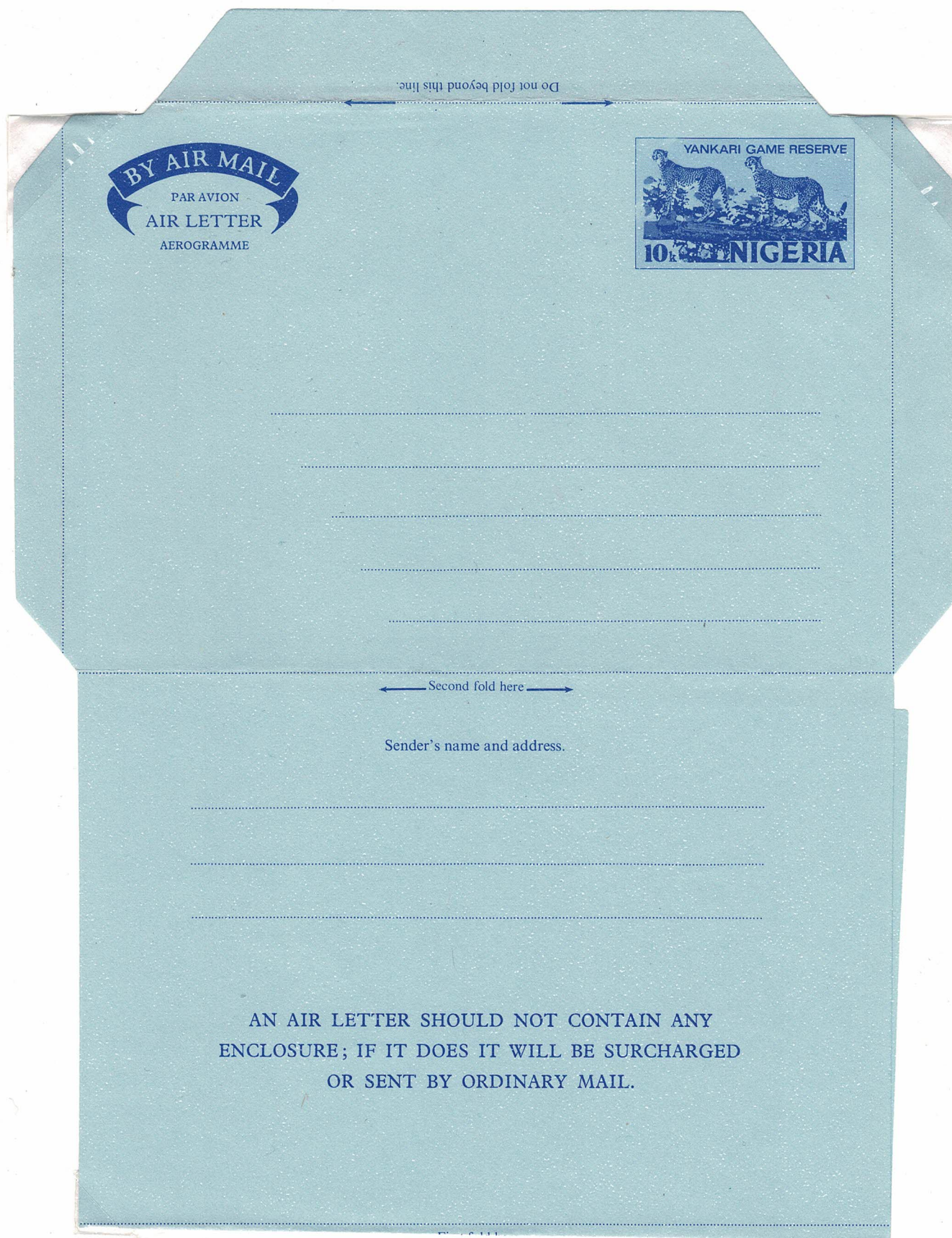


1973. 10 kobo YANKARI GAME RESERVE external airletter.

M&W19, Harris WANG.A.18.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

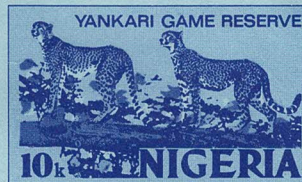
Date of issue 1 April 1973. Earliest known used date 26 April 1973.

There are three versions with dull grey-blue, blue and bright ultramarine "stamp". The blue version unused in on this sheet and the bright ultramarine is on the next sheet.



1973. 10 kobo YANKARI GAME RESERVE external airletter.
M&W19, Harris WANG.A.18.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

Do not fold beyond this line.



Second fold here

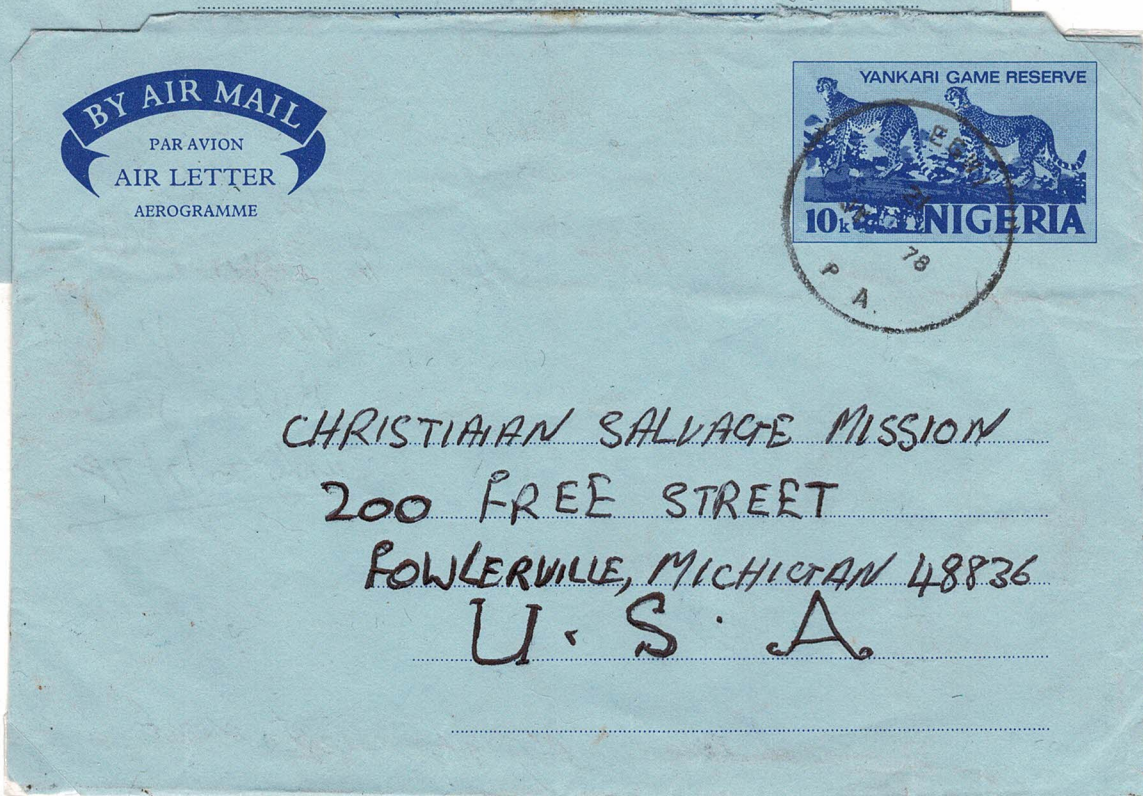
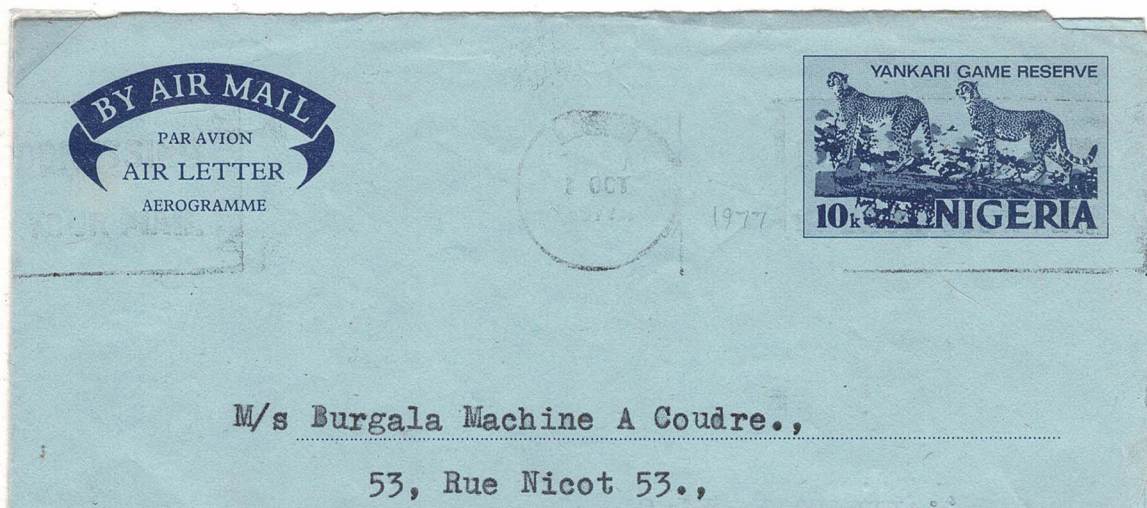
Sender's name and address.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

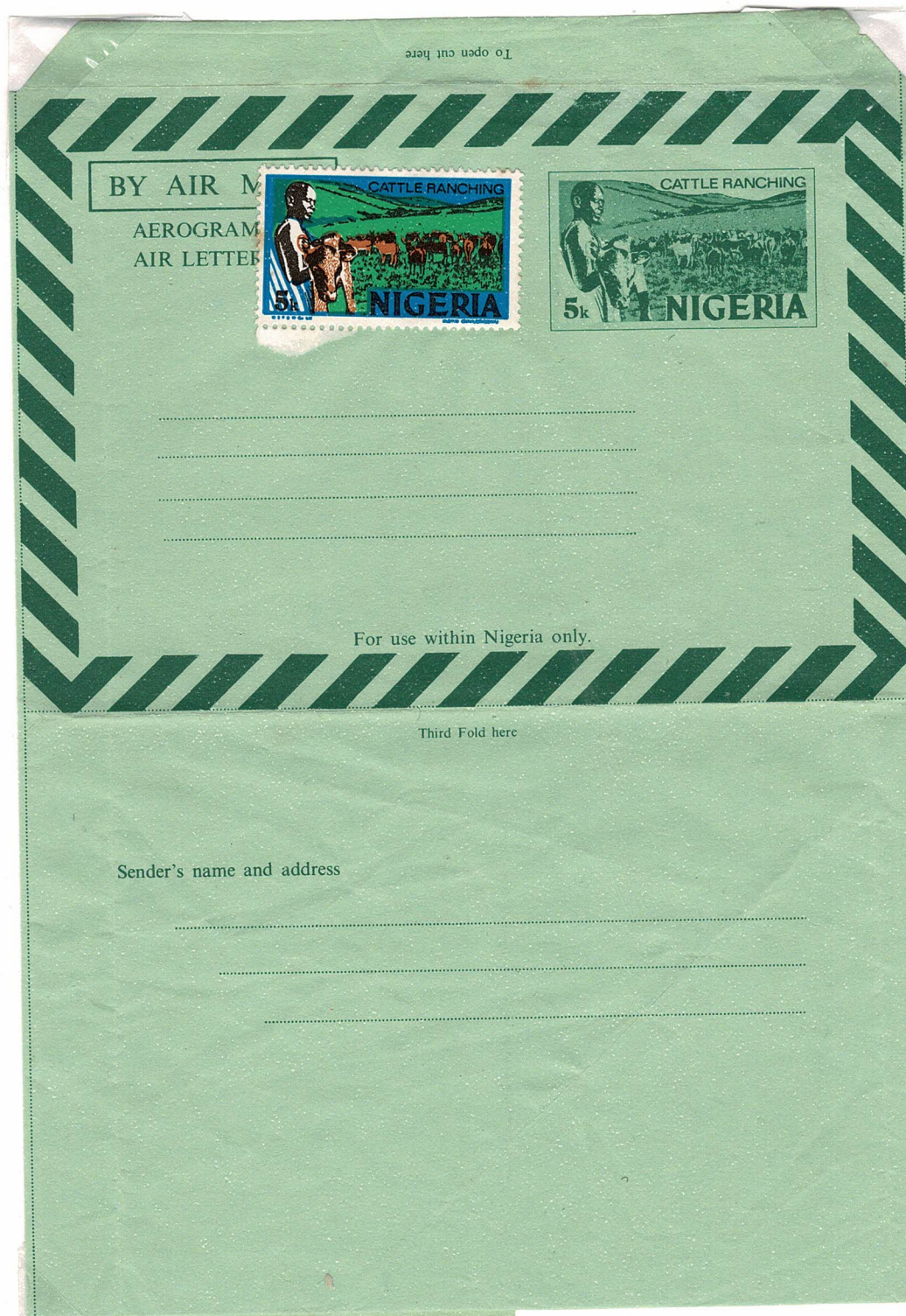
1973. 10 kobo YANKARI GAME RESERVE external airletter.

M&W19, Harris WANG.A.18.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

Used copies in the grey-blue and blue shades are shown here, used in 1977 and 1978



The internal aerogramme postage rate was doubled from 5 kobo on 1 April 1979, also the date of issue of a new design. FDCs of the new aerogramme are known dated 1 April 1979 but the earliest known postally used date is 2 July 1980. That delay is probably because excess stock of the 5 kobo design was used up by adding a 5 kobo adhesive before sale, as shown here.



1979. 10 kobo YANKARI GAME RESERVE internal airletter in green.

M&W18, Harris WANG.A.19.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 5 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted. The internal aerogramme postage rate was doubled from 5 kobo on 1 April 1979, also the date of issue of this new design.



1979. 10 kobo YANKARI GAME RESERVE internal airletter in green.

M&W18, Harris WANG.A.19.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 5 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted. The internal aerogramme postage rate was doubled from 5 kobo on 1 April 1979, also the date of issue of this new design.

FDCs of the new aerogramme are known dated 1 April 1979 but the earliest known postally used date is 2 July 1980.

The postally used copy, wrongly used to the UK but not taxed, is dated 31 January 1981 and is my earliest use.

Note that it is printed in a darker green than the FDC

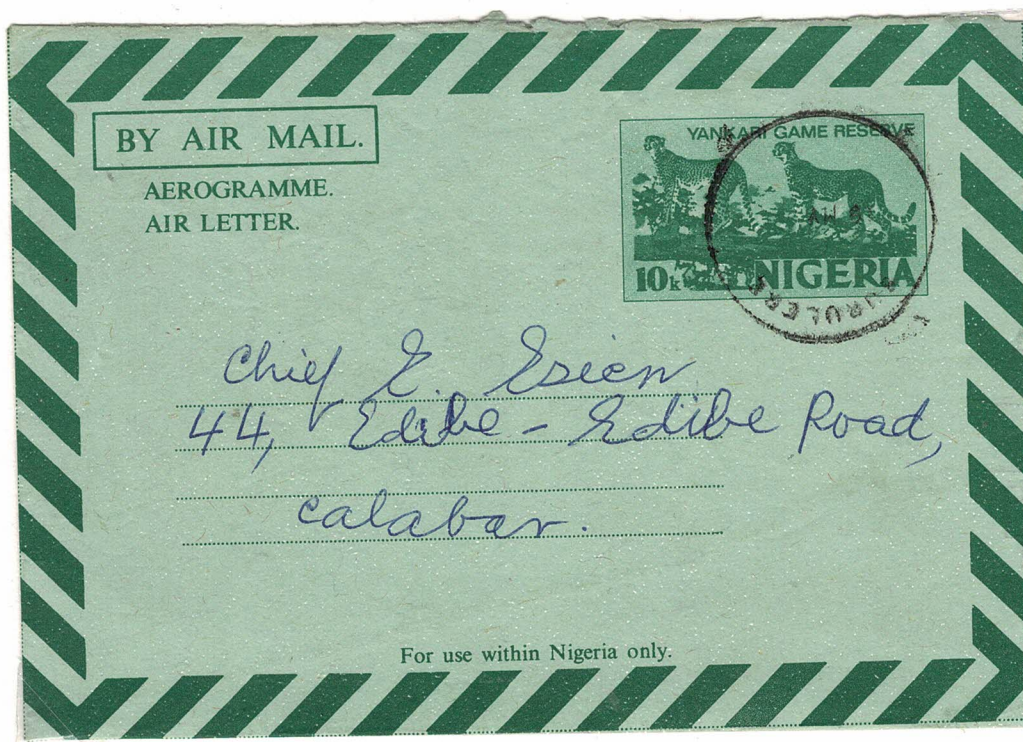


1979. 10 kobo YANKARI GAME RESERVE internal airletter in green.

M&W18, Harris WANG.A.19.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

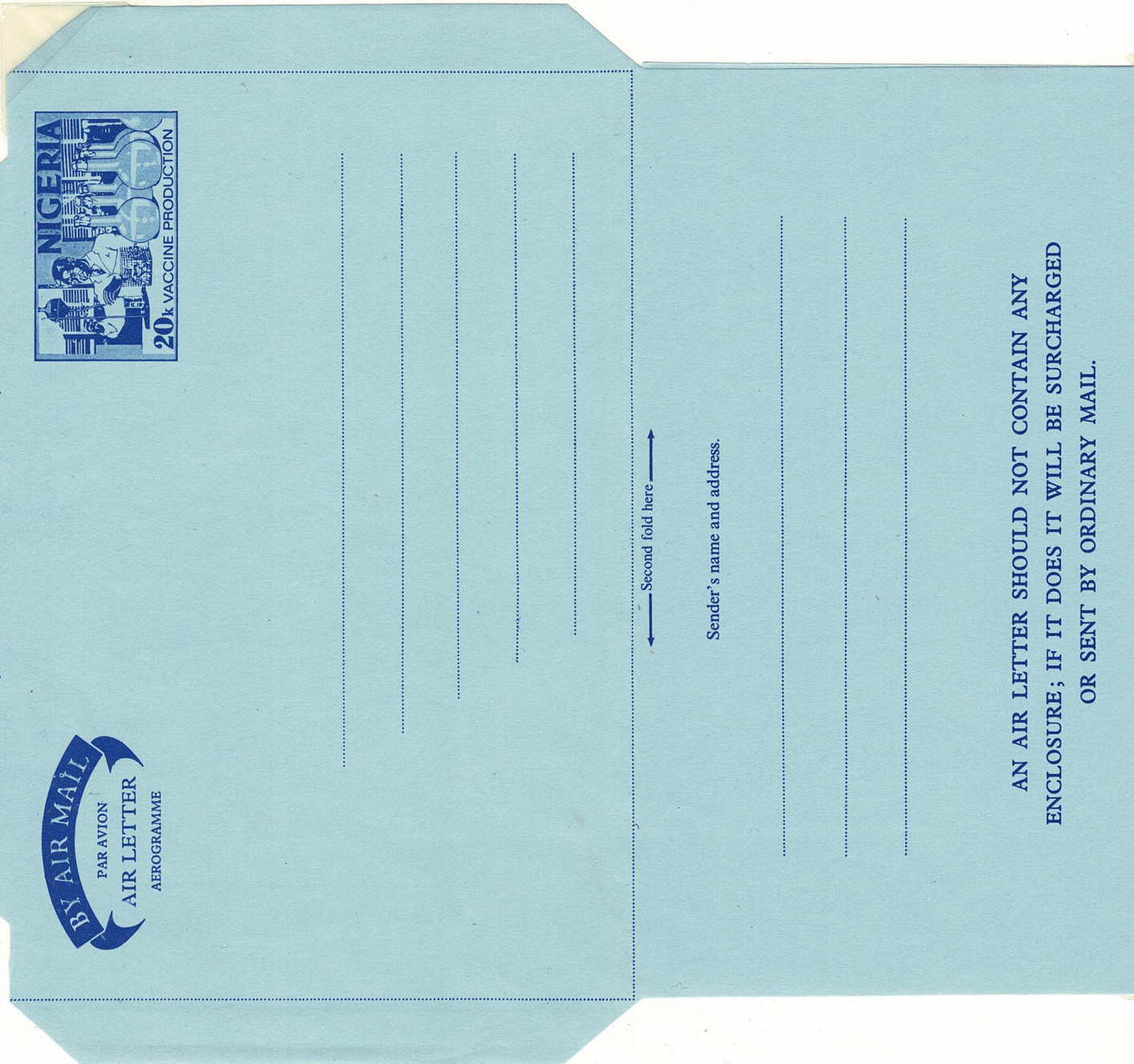
This was printed from the same plates as the previous 5 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.
Postally used copies, correctly used internally, are scarce/ This from Surulere to Calabar on 19 May 1983 is my only one.

Note that it is printed in a darker green than the FDC.

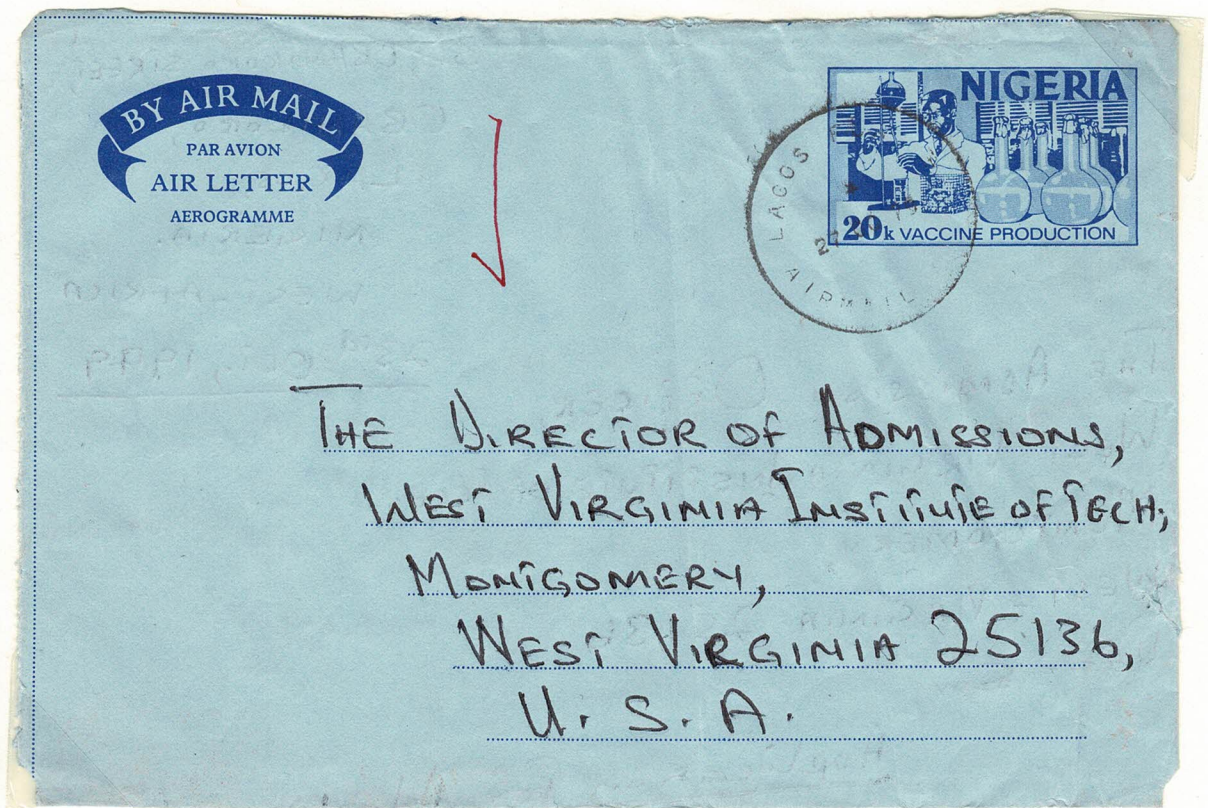


NIGERIA AEROGRAMMES

The overseas aerogramme rate increased to 20k on 1st April 1979, and the inland rate to 10k. The current definitive stamps were incorporated into replacement aerogrammes.

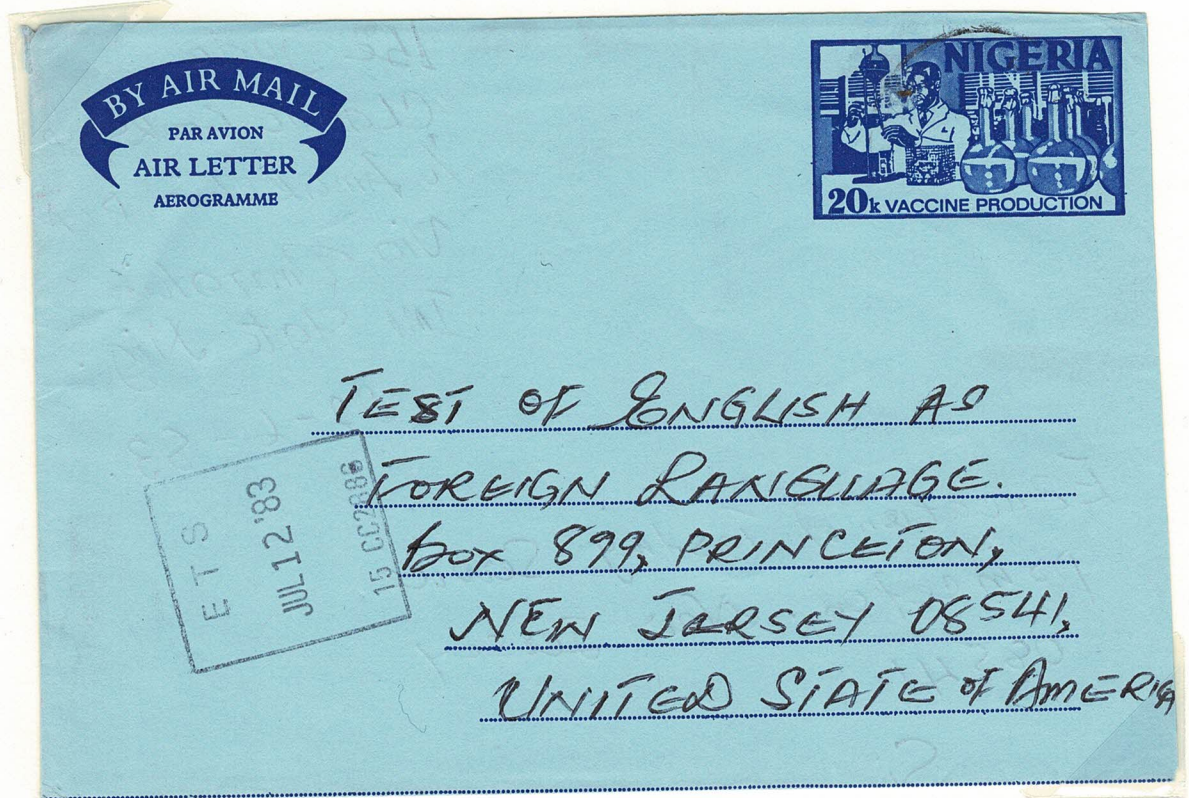


NIGERIA AEROGRAMMES



The aerogramme above is a fairly early example, 27th October 1979, with a relevant cancellation of LAGOS FGN / AIRMAIL OFFICE.

The item below is heavily inked on a different tint of paper, written on 22nd June 1983.



1979. 20 kobo VACCINE PRODUCTION external airletter in blue.

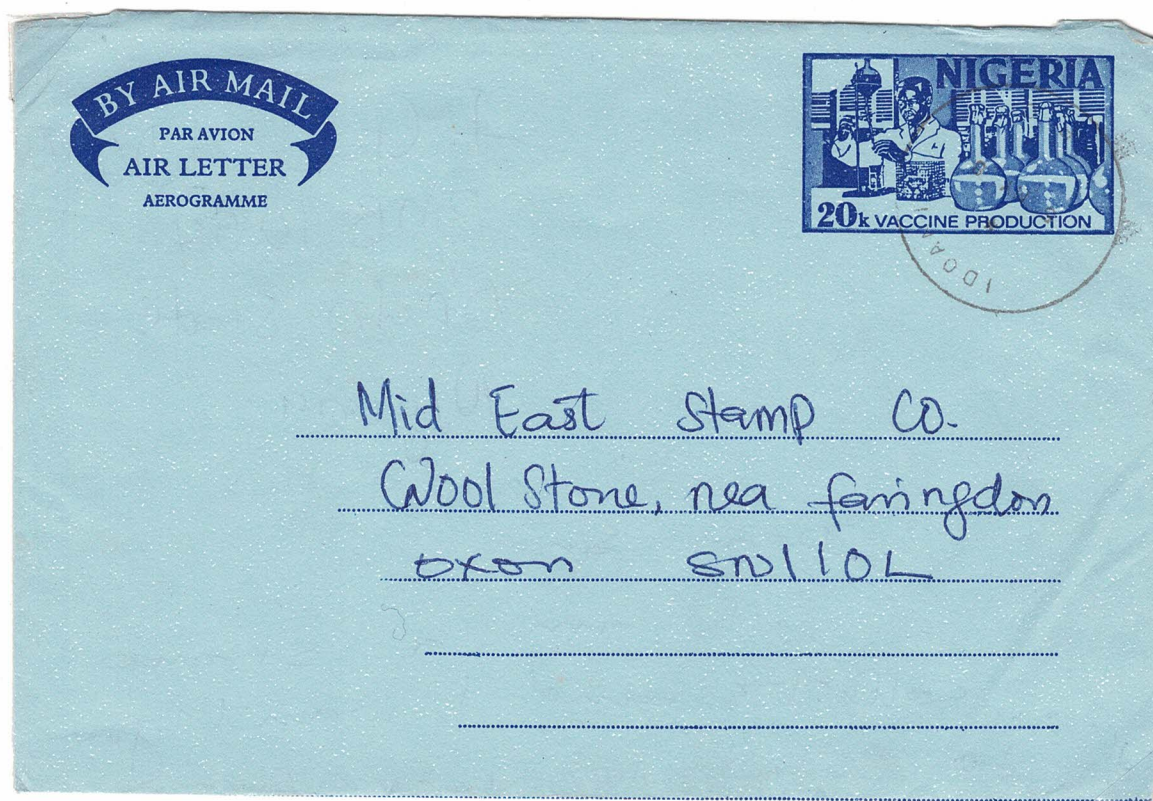
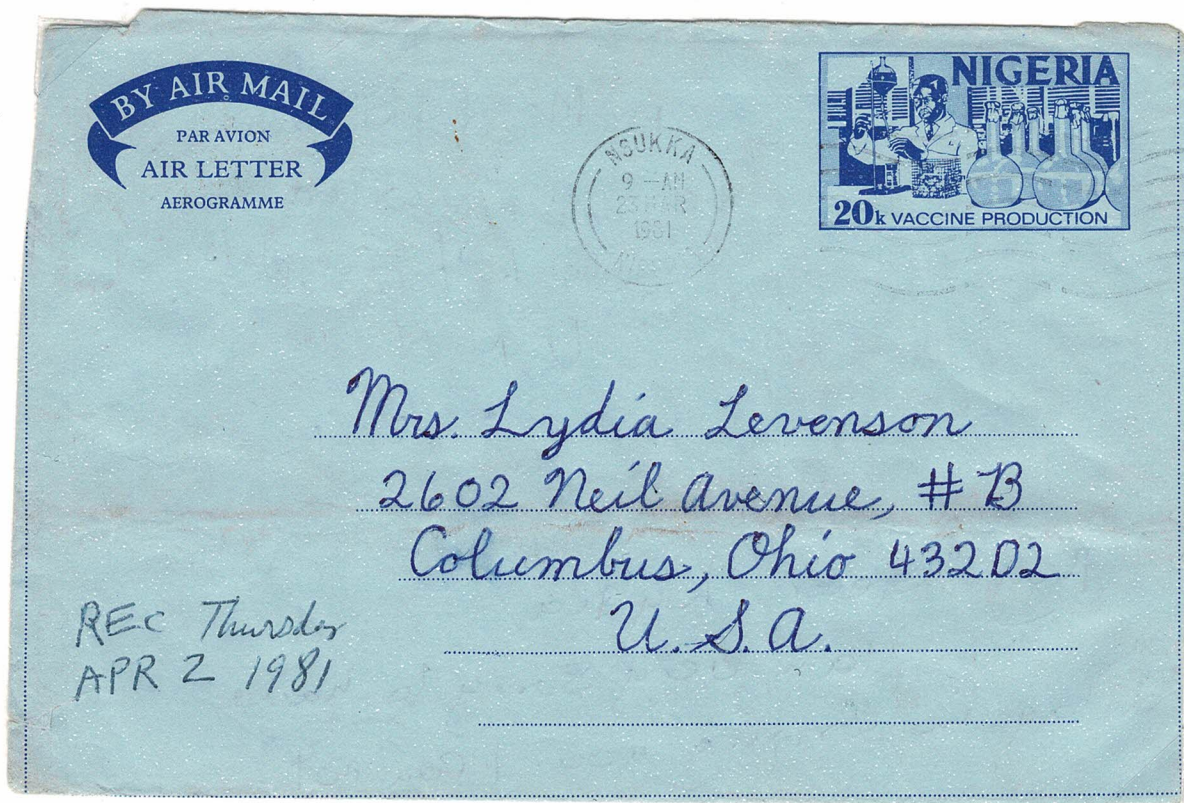
M&W20, Harris WANG.A.20.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 10 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

Earlier printings were on dull greenish-blue paper with a light blue stamp.

Later printings were on blue paper with a dark blue stamp.

This design was replaced at the end of 1984.



NIGERIA AEROGAMMES

The 20k of a new definitive series was first issued probably in December 1983. An overseas aerogramme with this stamp was also produced, of which the earliest known use is in December 1984. In the early printing, on the left below, the stamp has a flat tone and shows lines of ink in the curves at top right and bottom left of the flower. In a later printing (1986), presumably from a second plate, in the middle below, the stamp has a lighter appearance and looks more sharply defined.

The third copy here was miscut because of a diagonal paper fold lower right.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

← First fold here →

Do not fold beyond this line.



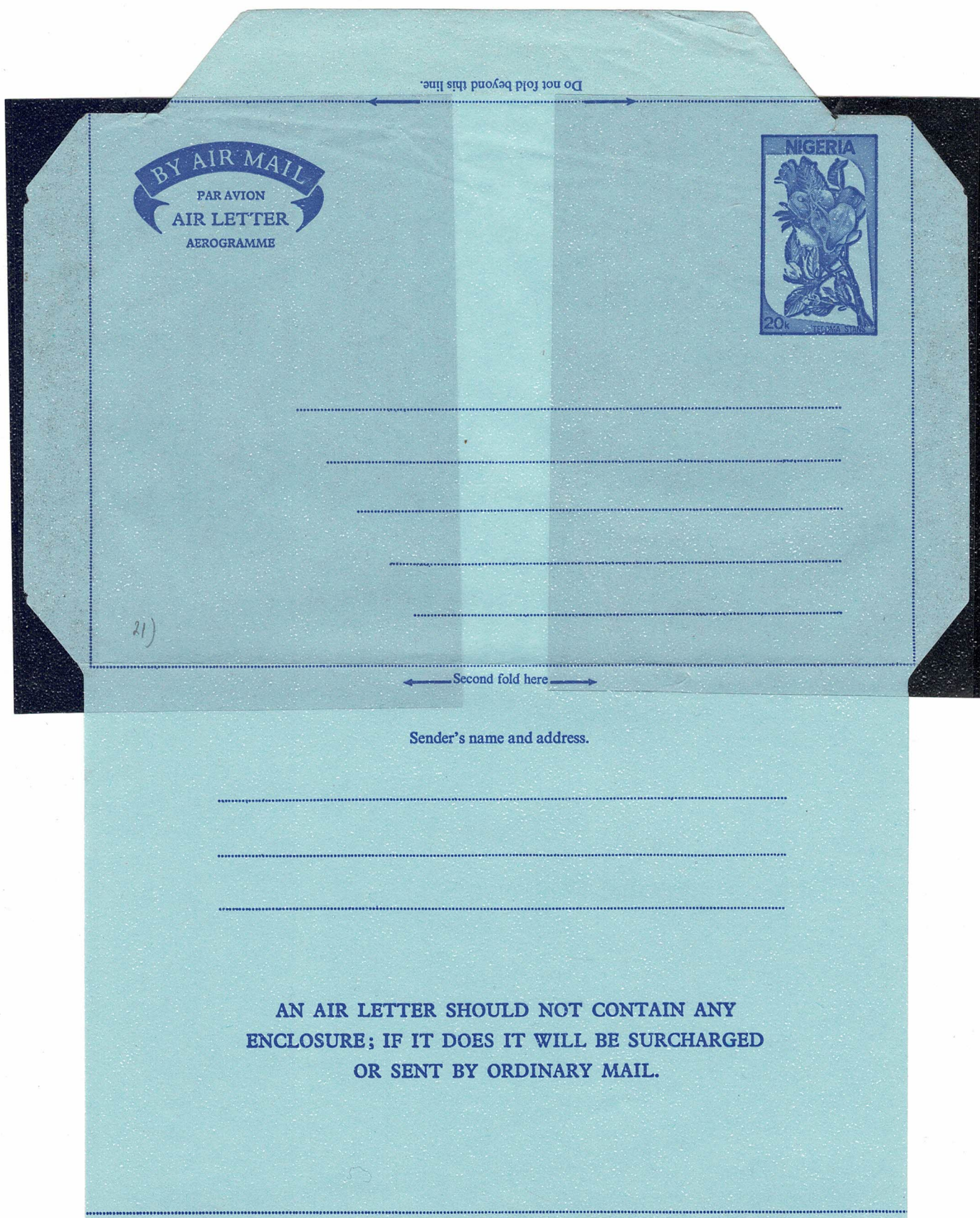
1984. 20 kobo TECOMA STANS flower external airletter in blue.

M&W22, Harris WANG.A.21.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

The first plate of the stamp design was very "busy" and all the print has a dull matt blue appearance.

Earliest known date of use is 10 December 1984.



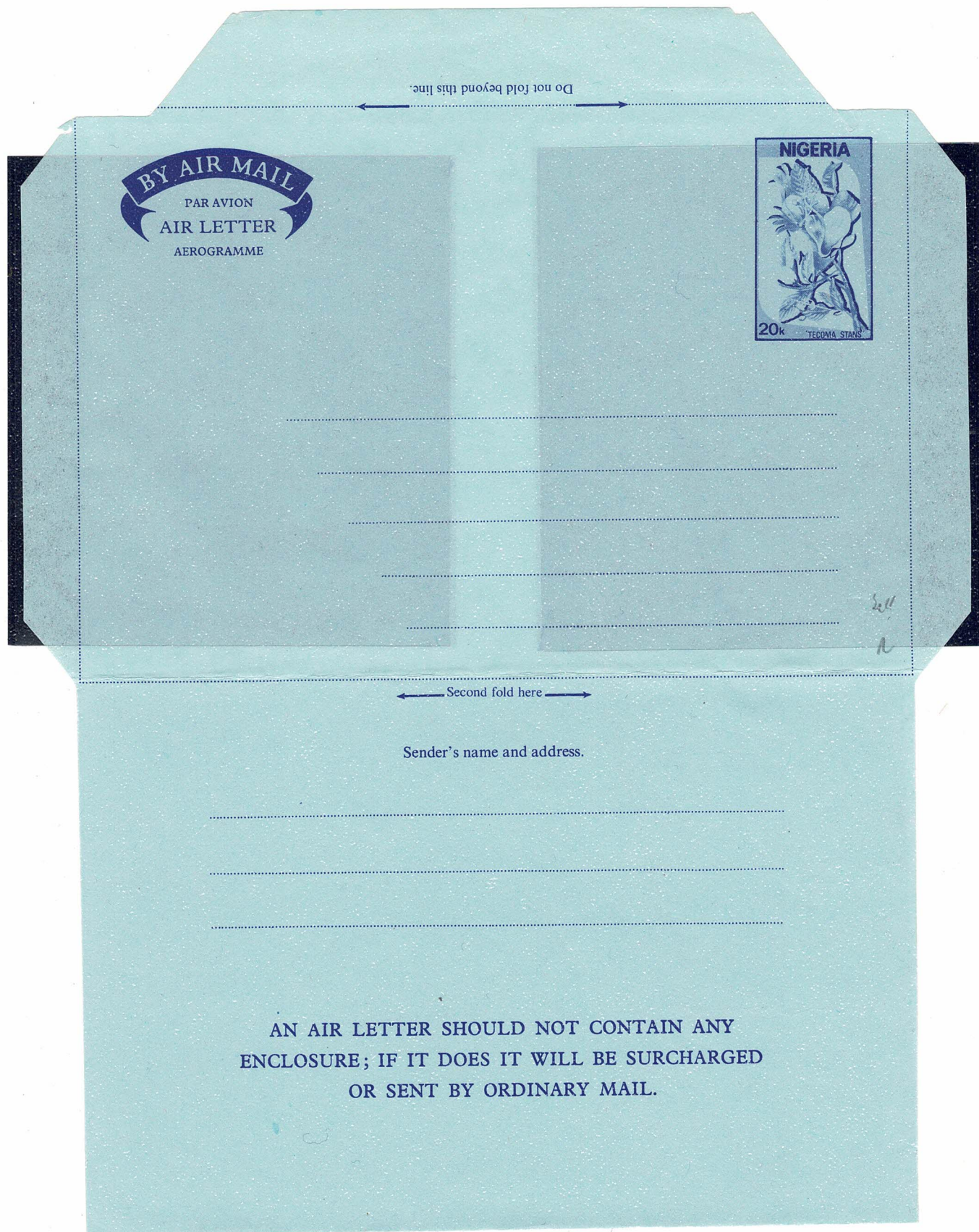
1984. 20 kobo TECOMA STANS flower external airletter in blue.

M&W22, Harris WANG.A.21.02. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

The second plate of the stamp design has less detail but a finer appearance and the print has a bright blue appearance.

Earliest known date of use is 31 December 1986.



1984-86. 20 kobo TECOMA STANS flower external airletter in blue.

M&W22, Harris WANG.A.21.02. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

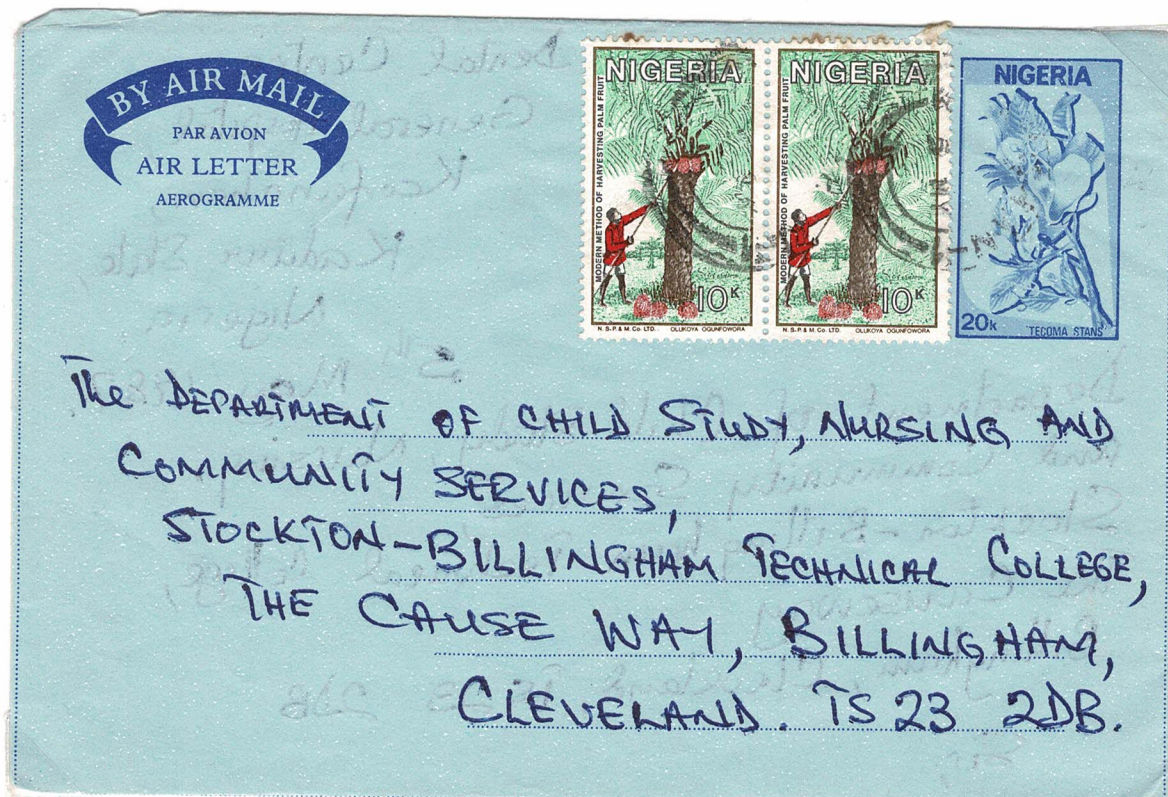
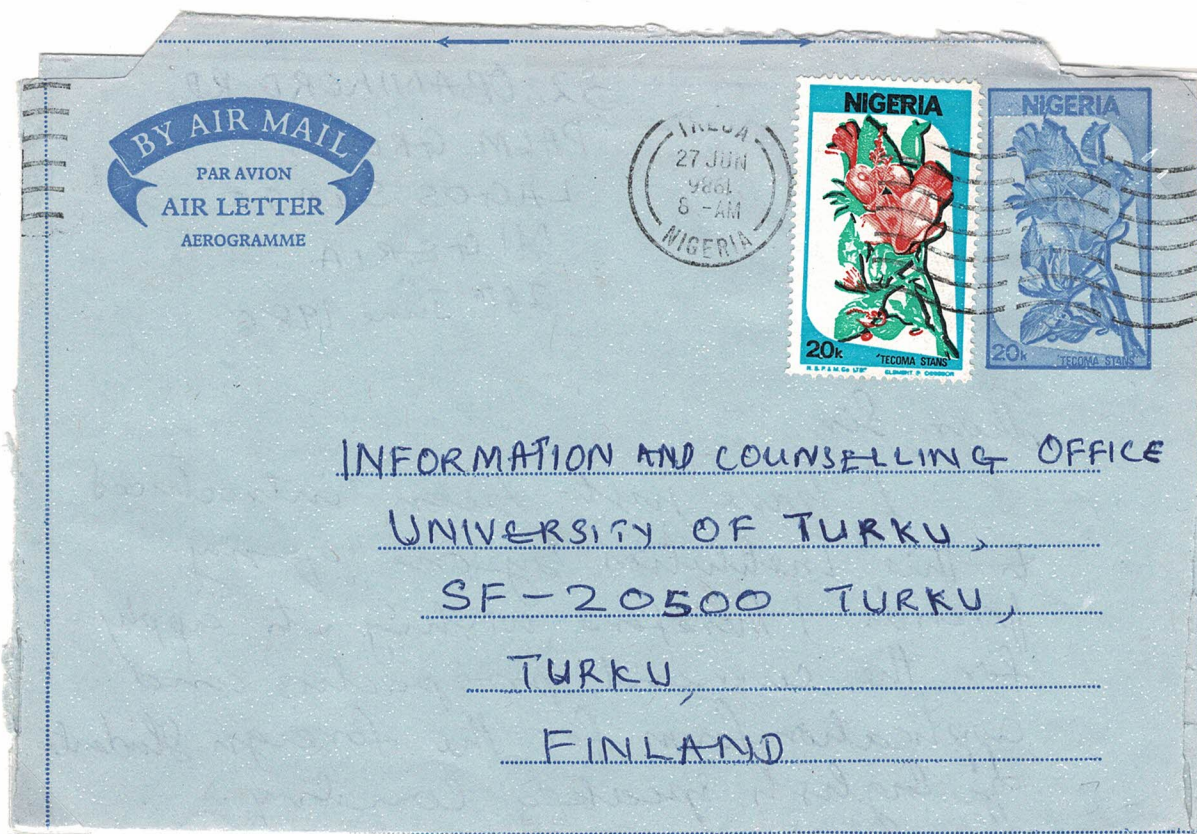
This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

The two types are shown here; the first from Ikeja to Finland on 27 June 1986 and

the second from Kafanchan to the UK on 5 May 1987.

Both are uprated to 40 kobo after the two price changes in 1985, initially to 50 kobo on 1 January then reduced to 40 kobo, probably on 1 August.

Peter Horlyck commented that he had never seen these aerogrammes used without supplementary adhesives



1986. 40 kobo NPOKITI DANCERS external airletter in blue.

M&W23, Harris WANG.A.22.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted. Again, there are two types. In the first, the dancers' headdresses are short and there is no shading in the sky or beneath the feet.

There are two paper shades, both shown here.



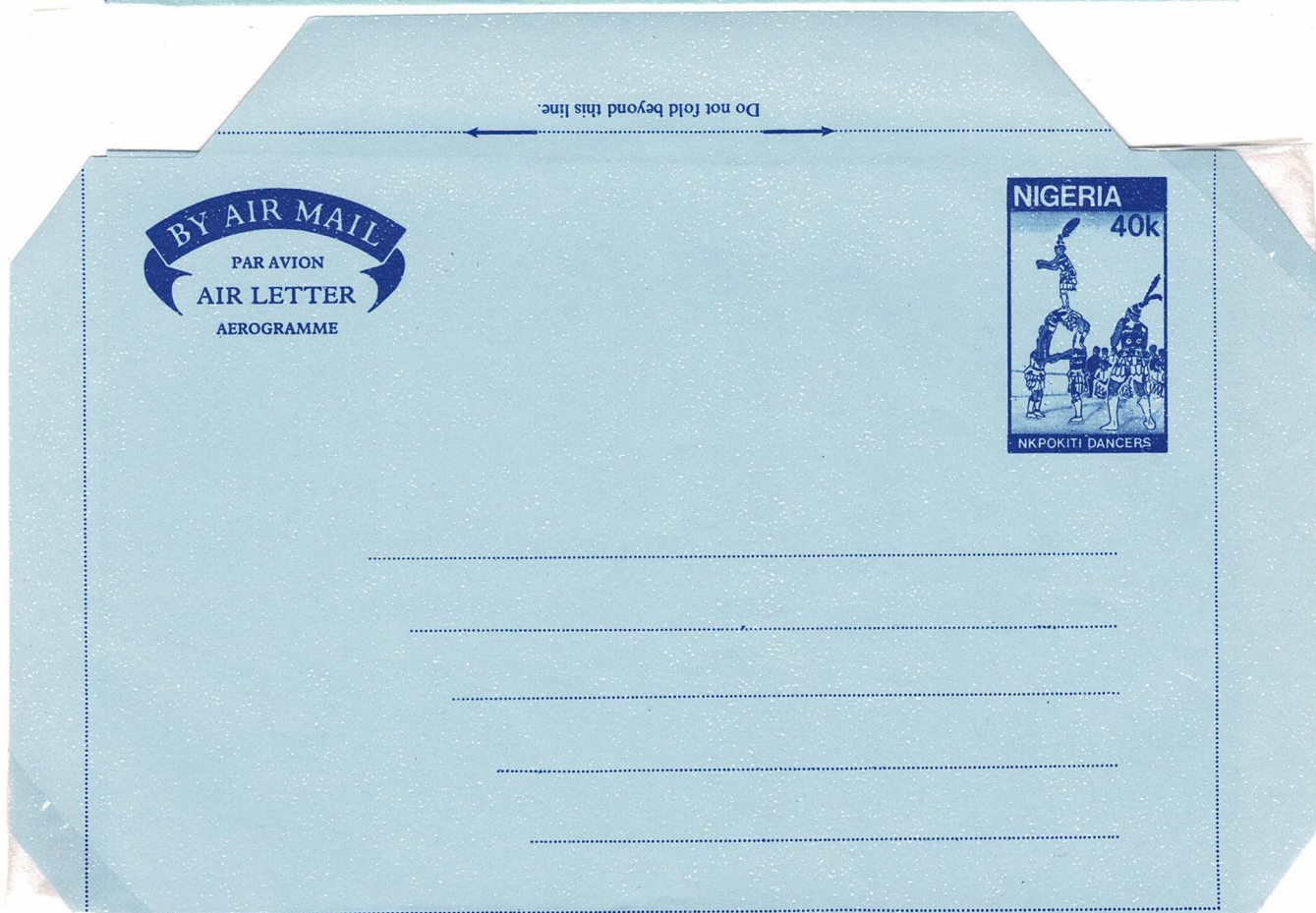
1986. 40 kobo NPOKITI DANCERS external airletter in blue.

M&W23, Harris WANG.A.22.02. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

In the second type, the dancers' headdresses are longer and thicker and there is shading in the sky and ground.

Again, there are two paper shades, both shown here.

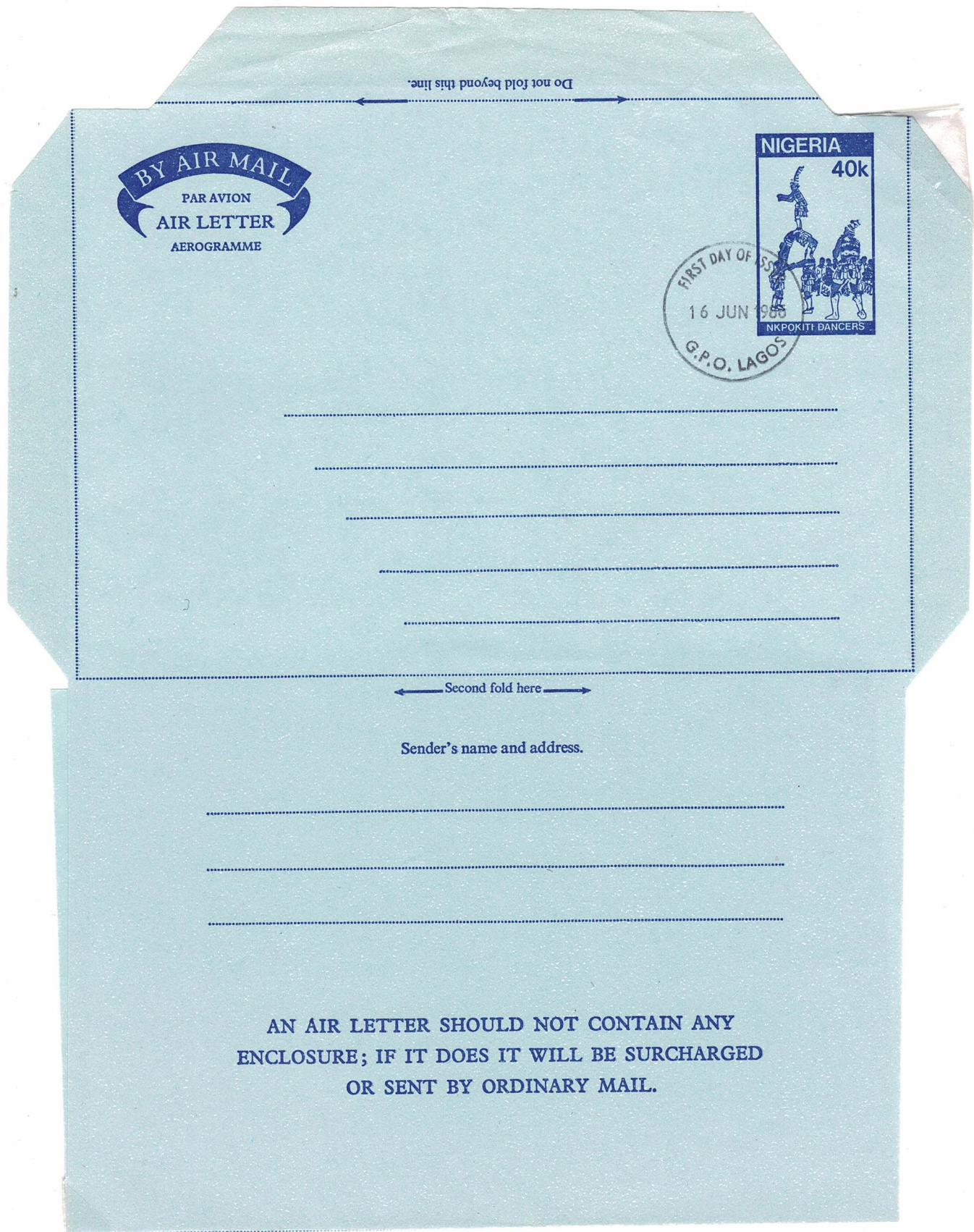


1986. 40 kobo NPOKITI DANCERS external airletter in blue.

M&W23, Harris WANG.A.22.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

Date of issue 16 June 1986 according to this FDC, but the earliest known commercial use date is 20 June 1988.

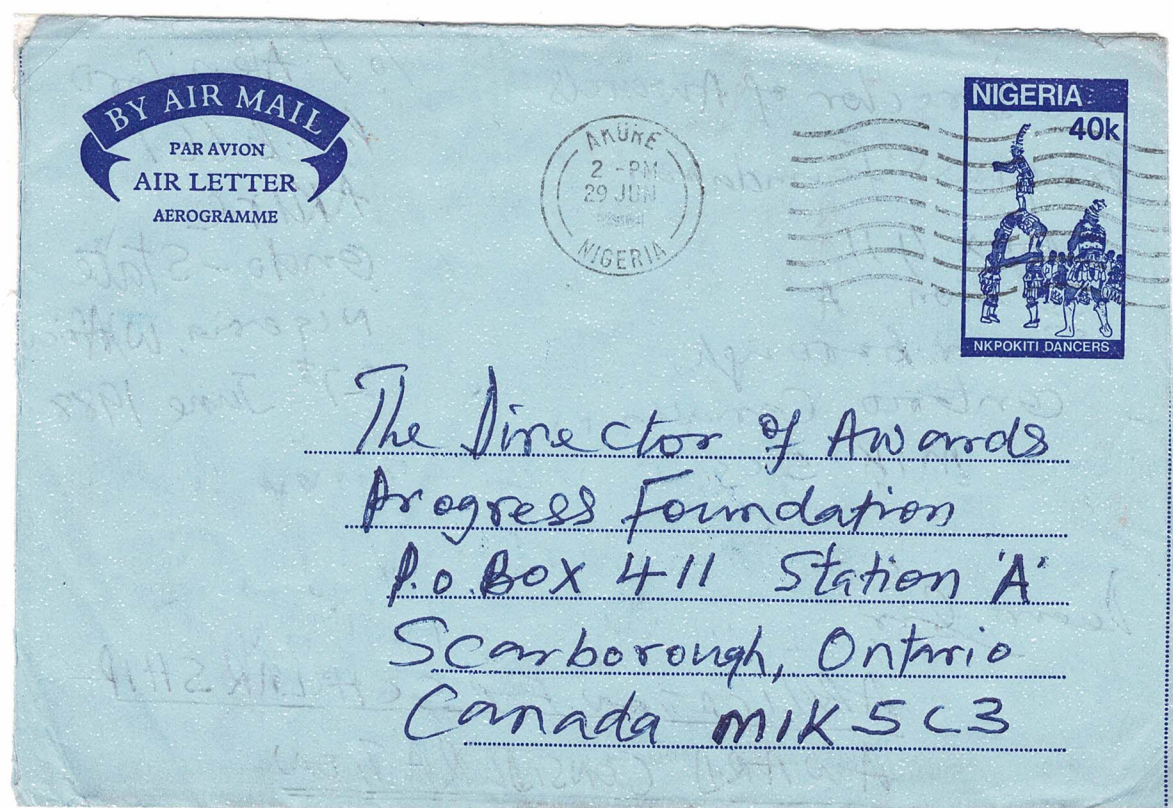
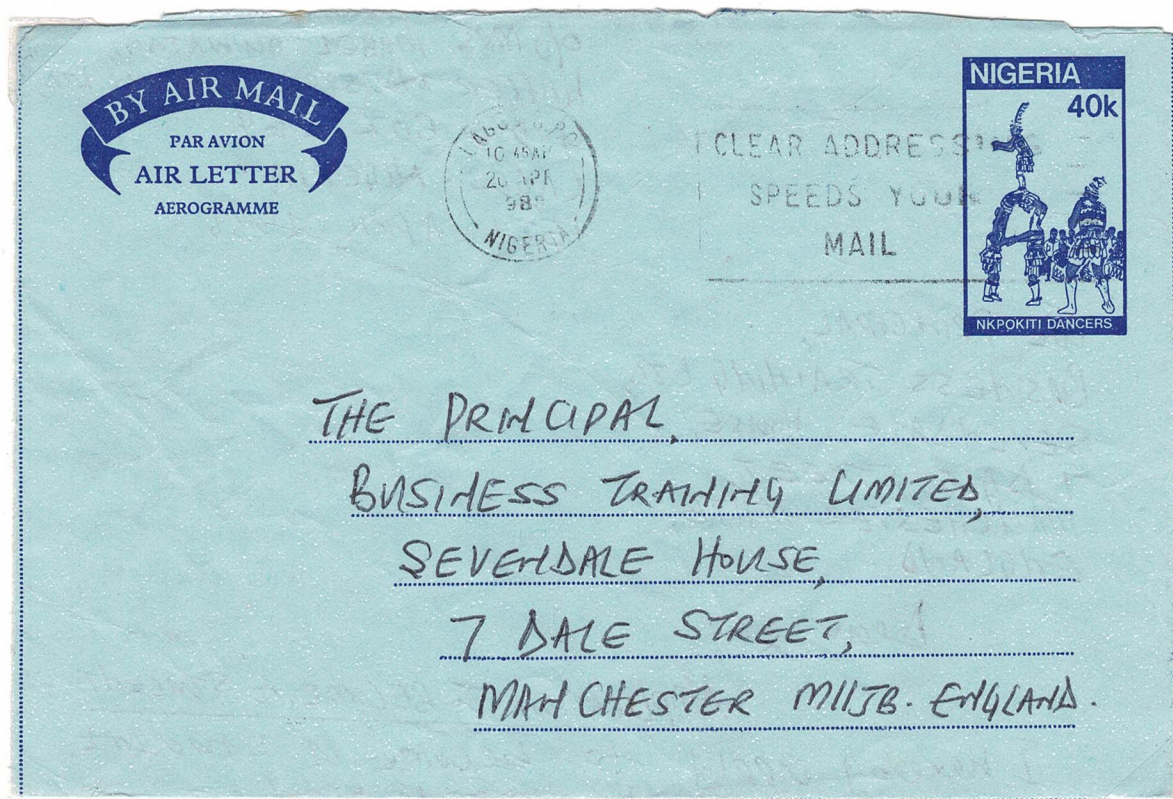


1986. 40 kobo NPOKITI DANCERS external airletter in blue.

M&W23, Harris WANG.A.22.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted. Date of issue 16 June 1986 according to this FDC, but the earliest known commercial use date is 20 April 1988, shown here.

The two paper shades are also evident when comparing the second example dated 29 June 1988.



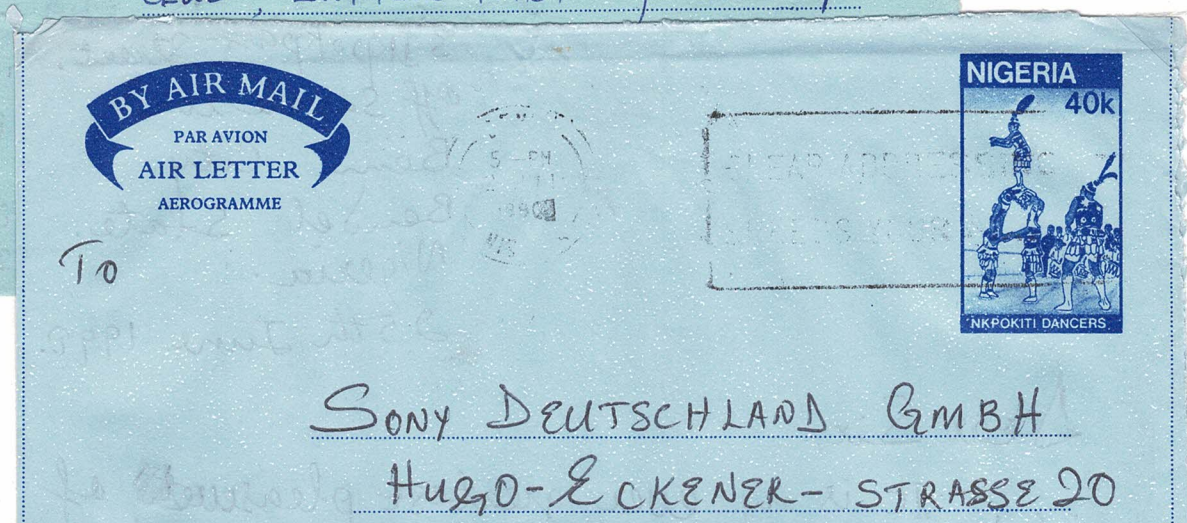
1986. 40 kobo NPOKITI DANCERS external airletter in blue.

M&W23, Harris WANG.A.22.02. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

In the second type, the dancers' headdresses are longer and thicker and there is shading in the sky and ground.

Used examples in three paper shades are shown here, dated 6 September 1989, 25 June 1990 and 22 August without a year.



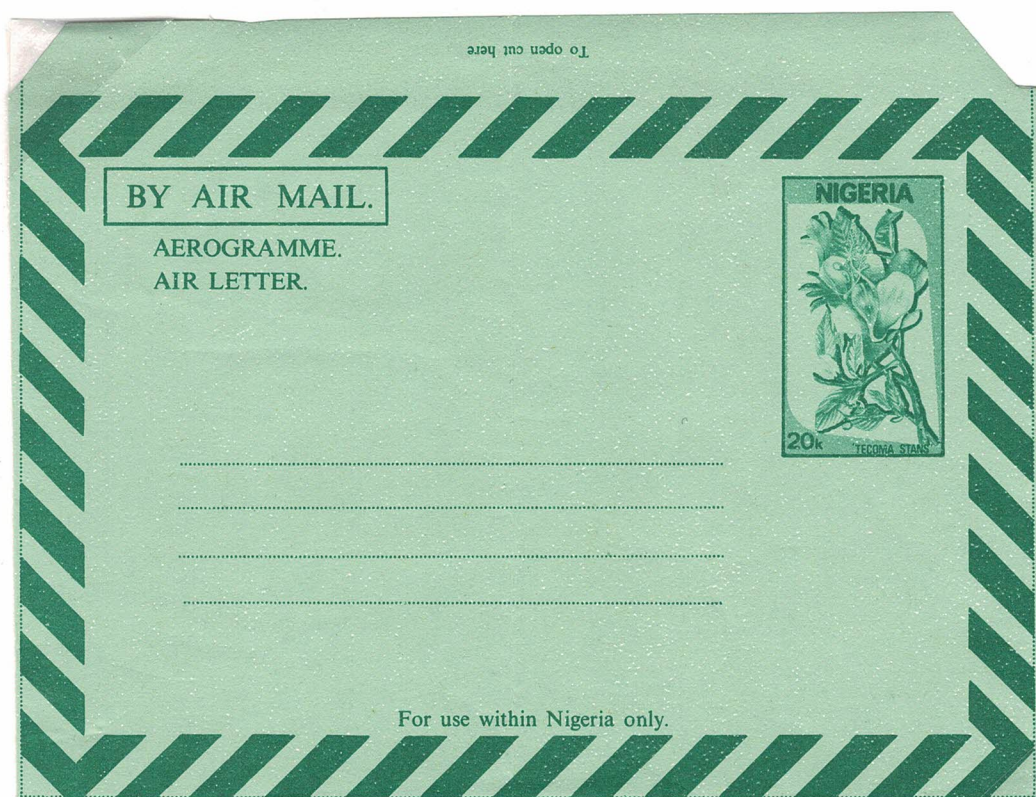
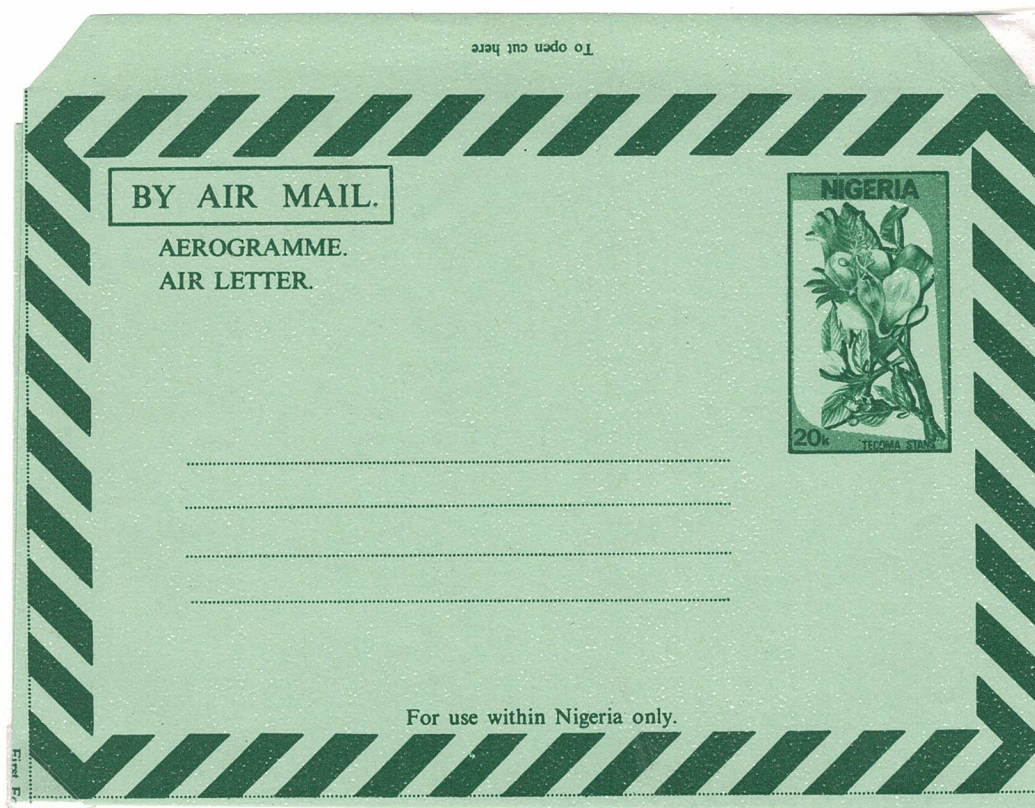
1986. 20 kobo TEKOMA STANS internal airletter in green.

M&W21, Harris WANG.A.23.01 and 02. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 10 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

Ray Harris differentiates the two numbered types by the paper colour; sage green or emerald green.

I think a better differentiation is the print colour: deep green or light green as shown here, unused.



1986. 20 kobo TEKOMA STANS internal airletter in green.

M&W21, Harris WANG.A.23.01 and 02. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 10 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted. Two correctly used copies to inland addresses are shown here. They seem to both be the darker green printing on sage green paper but the stamps exhibit two shades of the dark green ink.



1986. 20 kobo TEKOMA STANS internal airletter in green.

M&W21, Harris WANG.A.23.01 and 02. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 10 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

A used copy to an external address correctly uprated to 40 kobo on 2 December, presumably in 1989 or 1990 is shown here.

I also show use in 1991 after the rate increased to 50 kobo on 1 January that year, which resulted in 30k tax annotated.

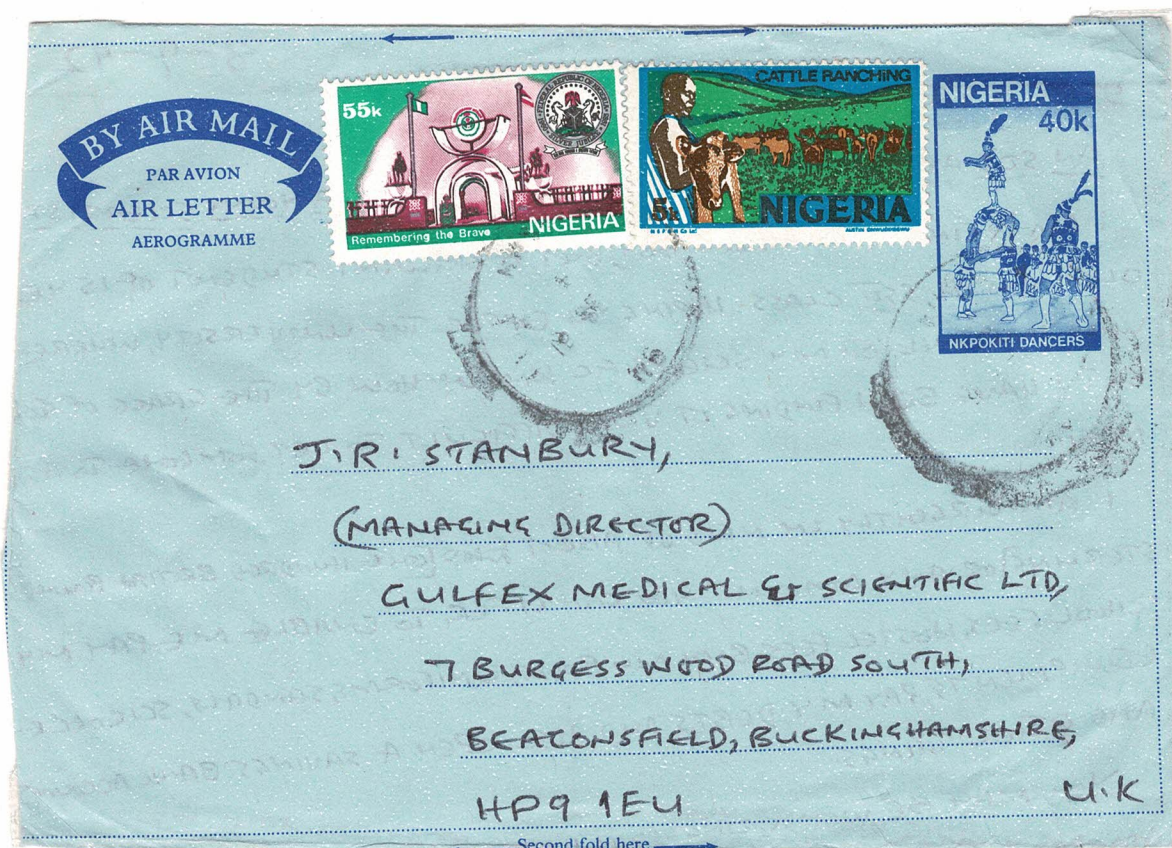


On 1 January 1991 the rates increased again, to N1 for an external aerogramme and 50 kobo for an internal one.

For the first time the existing stock was overprinted with a handstamp.

These are very scarce and I am not able to show either value, mint or used.

I am only able to show the 40 kobo aerogrammes uprated by using adhesives to the additional value of 60 kobo.



1991. 50 kobo MODERN POST OFFICE internal airletter in green.

M&W25, Harris WANG.A.26.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

Again, a green shade and a deep green shade can be shown unused.

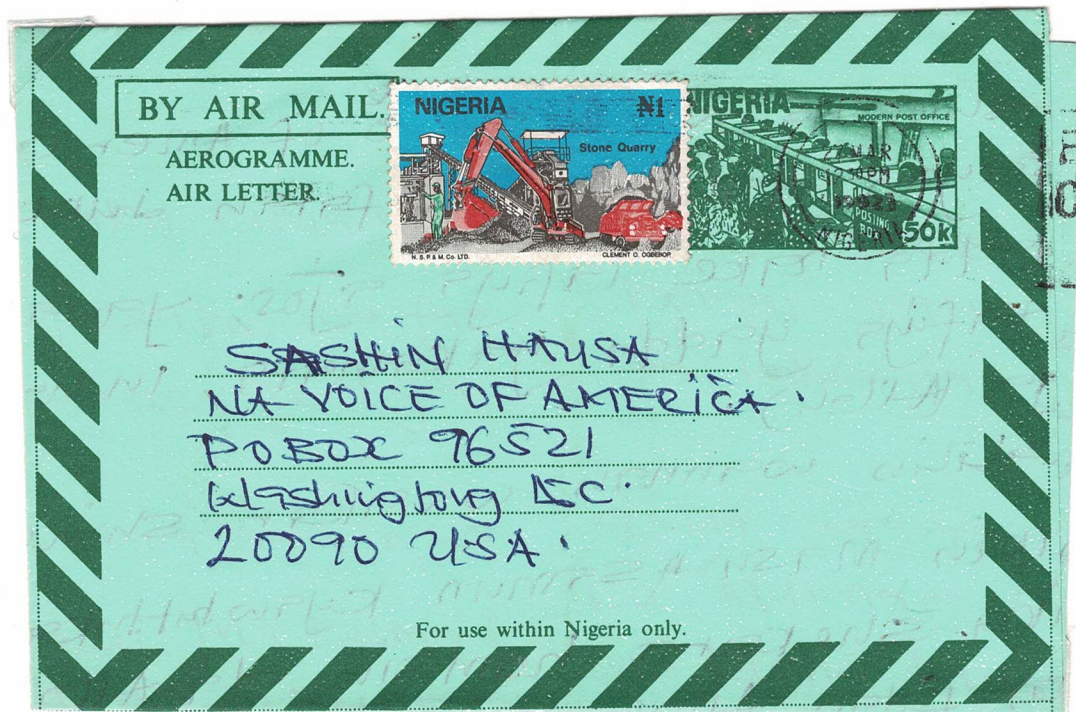
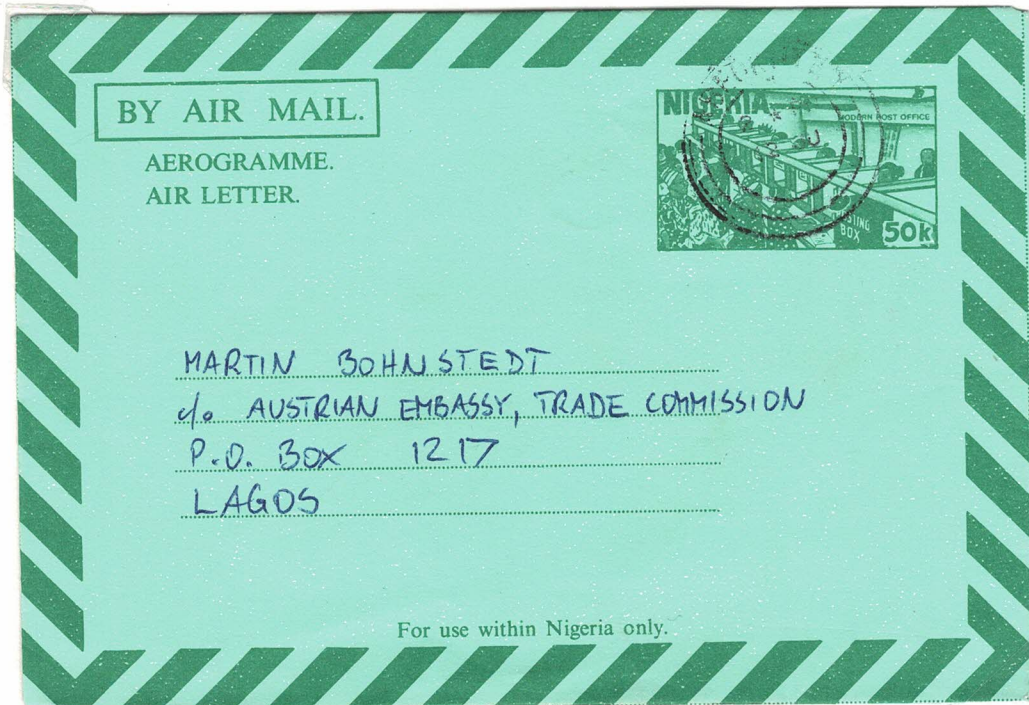


1991. 50 kobo MODERN POST OFFICE internal airletter in green.

M&W25, Harris WANG.A.26.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 20 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted. Used examples are shown with both light and dark green printings. The light green is a philatelic internal use on 12 June 1992.

The dark green is dated 27 March 1992 at N1.50 when the external aerogramme rate was N1, used to the USA.

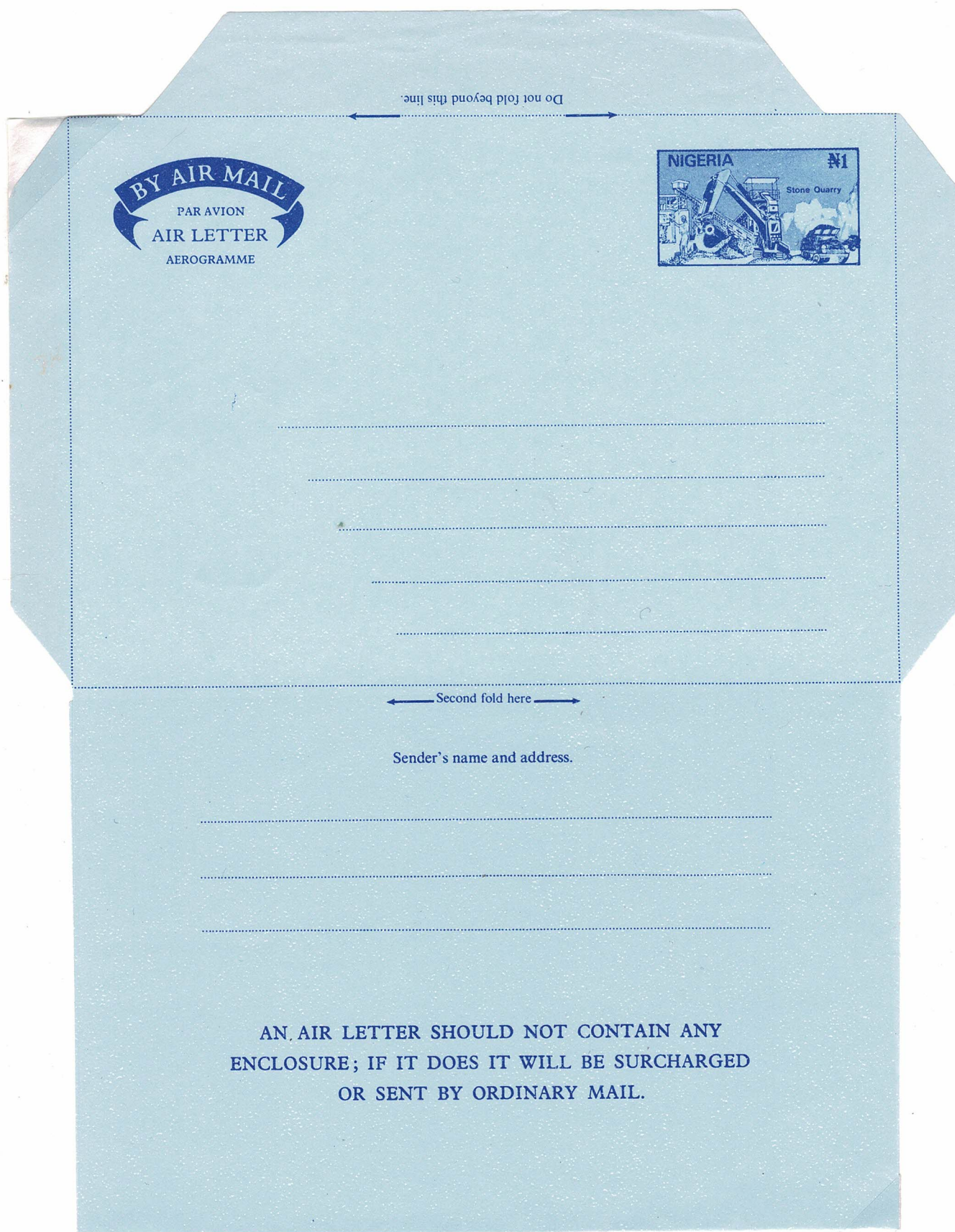


1991. N1 STONE QUARRY external airletter in blue.

M&W24, Harris WANG.A.27.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 40 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

Earliest known cancellation date is 23 October 1991

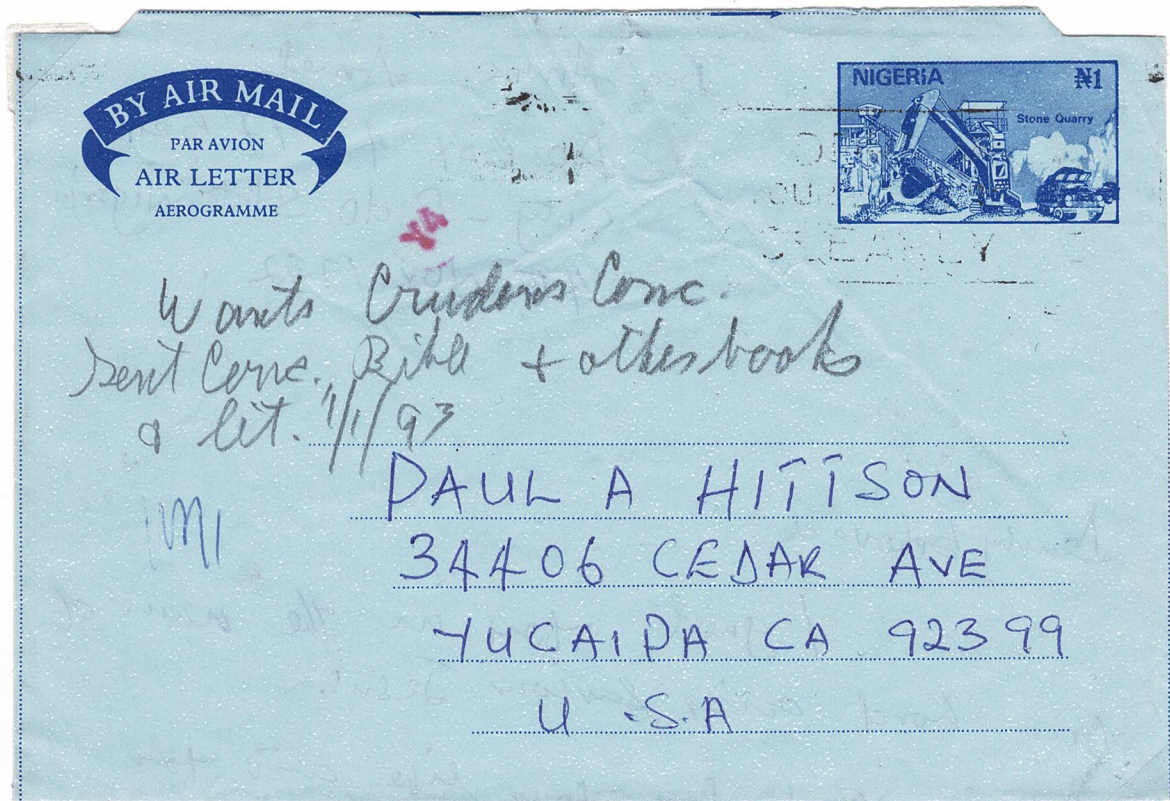


1991. N1 STONE QUARRY external airletter in blue.

M&W24, Harris WANG.A.27.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

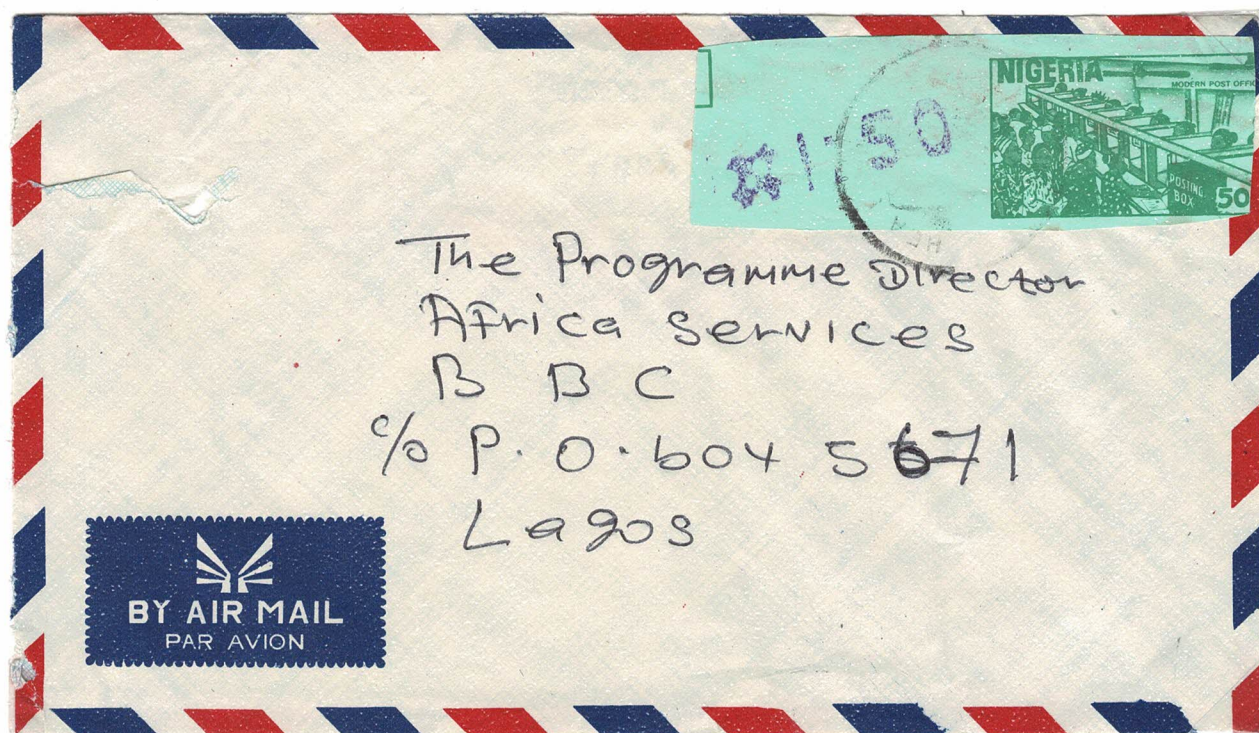
This was printed from the same plates as the previous 40 kobo blue aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

Earliest known cancellation date is 23 October 1991. The used example shown here is, according to the inside text, dated 4 November 1992 from Benin.



In 1991 (possibly 2 April) the rates increased again, to N20 for an external aerogramme and N1.50 for an internal one. By this time the Nigerian public was making very little use of aerogrammes, so there was substantial excess stock of the old 20 kobo and 50 kobo internal aerogrammes and of the 20 kobo, 40 kobo and 1 Naira external aerogrammes. Although new N1.50 and N20 aerogrammes were eventually printed in 1993, handstamps were used to redenominate the old stocks for at least the two years from 1991 to 1993.

These are very scarce and I am not able to show either value as a complete air letter sheet, mint or used. I can show the N1.50 surcharge on 50 kobo green as a cut-out on an internal letter to Lagos which lacks a clear cds of origin.



1994. N1.50 AFRICAN ELEPHANT internal airletter in green with multicoloured stamp.

Harris WANG.A.33.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 50 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

To open cut here

BY AIR MAIL.

AEROGRAMME.
AIR LETTER.

N1.50 NIGERIA

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

NSP&M G. H. OGBURN

For use within Nigeria only.

Third Fold here

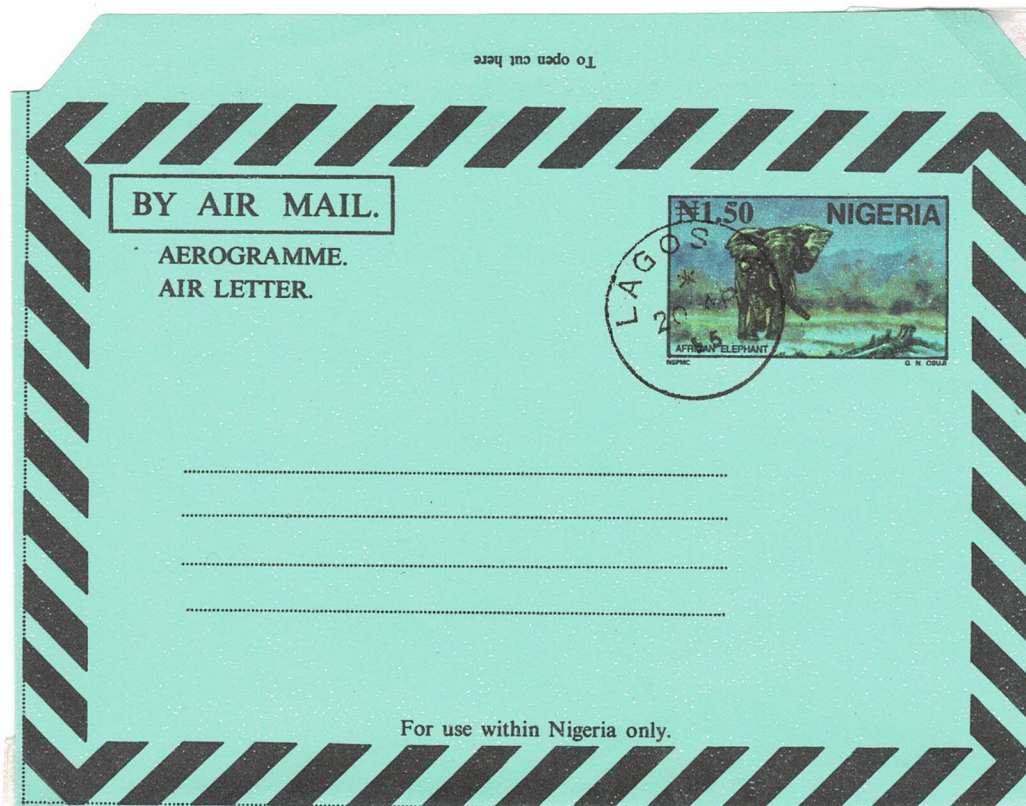
Sender's name and address

1994. N1.50 AFRICAN ELEPHANT internal airletter in green with multicoloured stamp.

Harris WANG.A.33.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed from the same plates as the previous 50 kobo green aerogramme, with just the stamp design substituted.

Date of issue 1994 according to GSM April 1996 but the earliest known date of use is 20 April 1995, cancelled to order, as shown here. I do not have a commercially used example as they are very scarce.



1994. N20 ROAN ANTELOPES external airletter on blue paper with multicoloured design and new layout of the folds.

Harris WANG.A.34.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed on completely new plates.

Date of issue 1994 according to GSM April 1996 and the earliest known used date is 4 April 1994.



1994. N20 ROAN ANTELOPES external airletter on blue paper with multicoloured design and new layout of the folds.

Harris WANG.A.34.01. Printed by NSP&M in Nigeria. Numbers printed not found.

This was printed on completely new plates.

Date of issue 1994 according to GSM April 1996 and the earliest known used date is 4 April 1994. The commercially used example dated 28 October 1994 from Murtala Muhammed Airport to Bangladesh has much less green colour in the "stamp" than the cancelled to order example dated 20 April 1995.



1996. The overseas rate for aerogrammes increased again, to N30, but the exact date is not yet known.

As a result of this increase the excess stock of the N20 roan antelopes was uprated in either of two ways.

Some of the stock was sold with an extra N10 adhesive. The unused aerogramme shown here was uprated with a copy of the 1999 N5+5 stamp raising funds for the 1999 World Youth Football Championships for which Nigeria was the host.

The "+N5" element should not have been treated as postage but the postal clerk who sold this appears not to have known.



1996. The overseas rate for aerogrammes increased again, to N30, but the exact date is not yet known. As a result of this increase the excess stock of the N20 roan antelopes was uprated in either of two ways. Some of the stock was sold with an extra N10 adhesive. Two used copies to Finland and to the UK were uprated with N10 adhesives but, curiously, despite the commercial addresses shown here, neither contains any message.

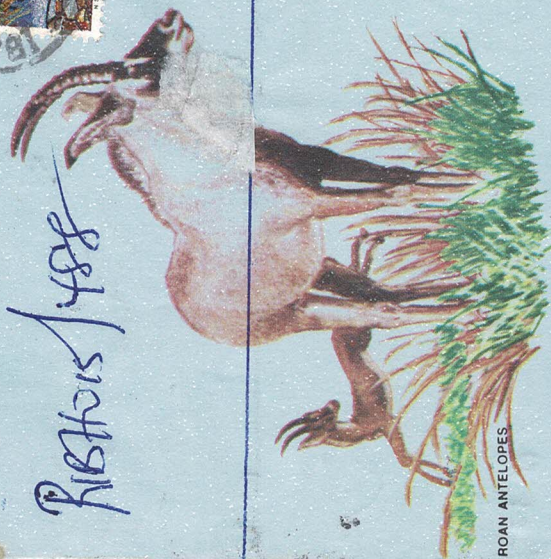


1996. The overseas rate for aerogrammes increased again, to N30, but the exact date is not yet known.

As a result of this increase the excess stock of the N20 roan antelopes was uprated in either of two ways.

Some of the stock was sold with an extra N10 adhesive and in the case of the registered aerogramme shown here there is a further N50 adhesive to pay the registration fee to Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong receiving cds confirms that it was sent from Ibadan on 21 June 1996.



ROAN ANTELOPES

AEROGamme • PAR ANION

TRITIME (INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED

TAK FUNG INDUSTRIAL CENTRE

BLOCK 2 6TH FLOOR, ROOM 11

166 TEXACO ROAD, TSUEN WAN,

NEW TERRITORIES, HONG KONG.

HONG KONG. TEL. 26150882/FAX. 26150867.



POTTERY-MAKING



SECOND FOLD

9/20

Name and address of sender

MEDFORT NIG ENTERPRISES

GPO BOX 1803,

IBADAN/NIGERIA.

TEL. 2316654/FAX. 2413121.

AN AEROGamme SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE.

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

1996. The overseas rate for aerogrammes increased again, to N30, but the exact date is not yet known.

As a result of this increase the excess stock of the N20 roan antelopes was uprated in either of two ways.

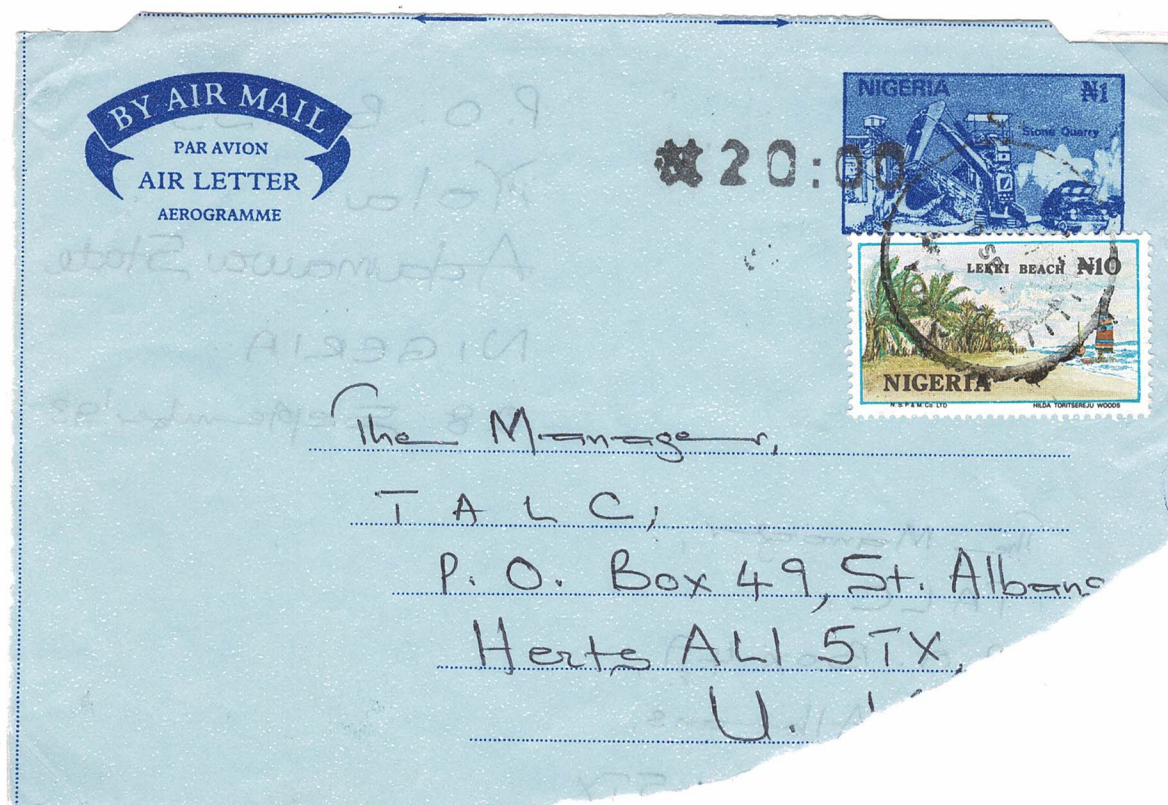
The other way to uprate these N20 aerogrammes to N30 was to apply a handstamp shown here on an indistinctly cancelled used copy sent to Germany on 20 February 1997.



1996. The overseas rate for aerogrammes increased again, to N30, but the exact date is not yet known.

It is also known from material such as the aerogramme front shown here, that excess stock of old N1 aerogrammes was also handstamped. In this case the N20:00 handstamp must have been added in about 1993 when the rate rose to N20, but then the aerogramme was sold to a user after the rate further increased to N30 in 1996, for which a N10 adhesive was added.

Although this is only a front, the reverse luckily includes the sending date – 28 September 98 – from Yola.



Finally, probably in 1996 when the overseas rate increased to N30, the green internal aerogramme shown here gives evidence of an increase in the internal aerogramme rate from N1.50 to N5.00. It has been handstamped twice, from 20 kobo to N1.50, then again to N5.00. It was eventually correctly used internally from Oron to the BBC World Service at Lagos on 2 April 1998.

It is unique!

