

Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

The final two covers in the series are addressed to Kisumu, Kenya and Kampala, Uganda. Both are backstamped with arrival postmarks for the 8th February.



Mr. C. Wyndham,
Poste Restante,
K I S U M U,



Mr. C. Wyndham,
Poste Restante,
K A M P A L A,
Uganda, East Africa.

Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN4 7.

The first northbound flight encountered its first problem when the aircraft " City of Basra " tried to take off from Salisbury . The air field was sodden and a wheel sank into a hole caused by the removal of an anthill . As the aircraft was damaged , the mail was transferred to the " City of Delhi " piloted by Captain J M Gittings. South of Broken Hill, the aircraft encountered a severe storm forcing the aircraft to land in a swamp. The mail eventually arrived in Croydon 9 days late!

This registered cover sent to Norfolk has the correct postage of 1/4d being 1/- for the air mail rate and 4d registration fee paid by a block of four 1929 4d air mail stamps.



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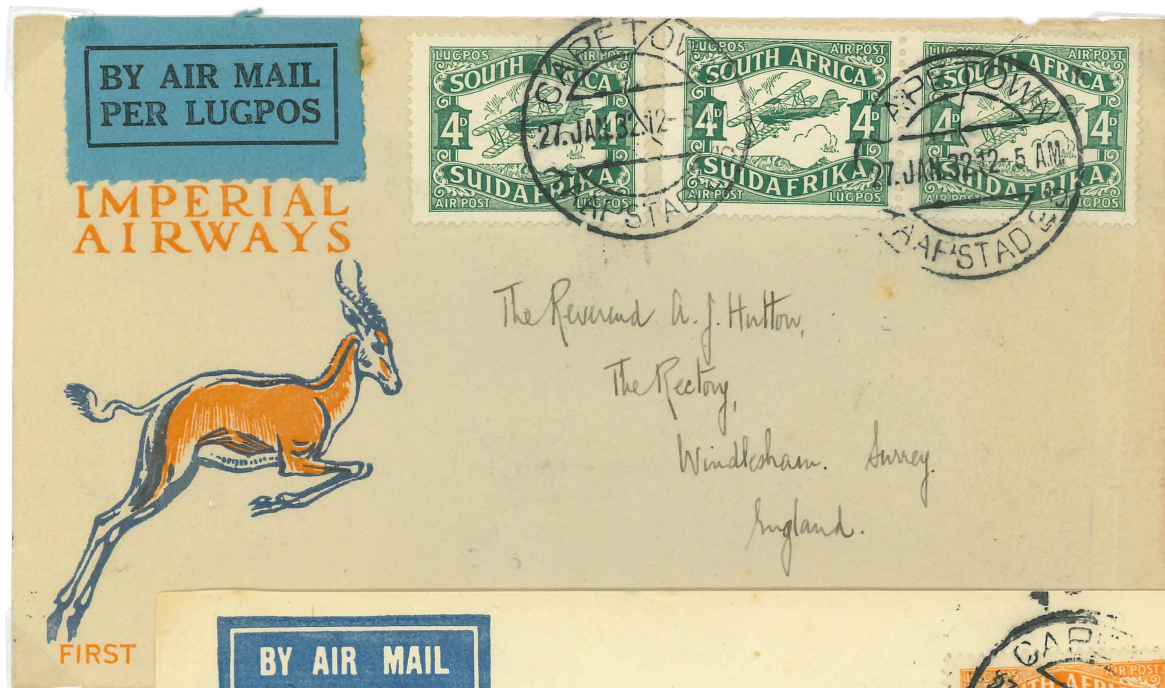
Two Imperial Airways " First Air Mail between England and South Africa " advertising envelopes , posted in Cape Town on 27th January for the first regular flight South Africa to England. The red ink printing appears orange on the lower cover.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

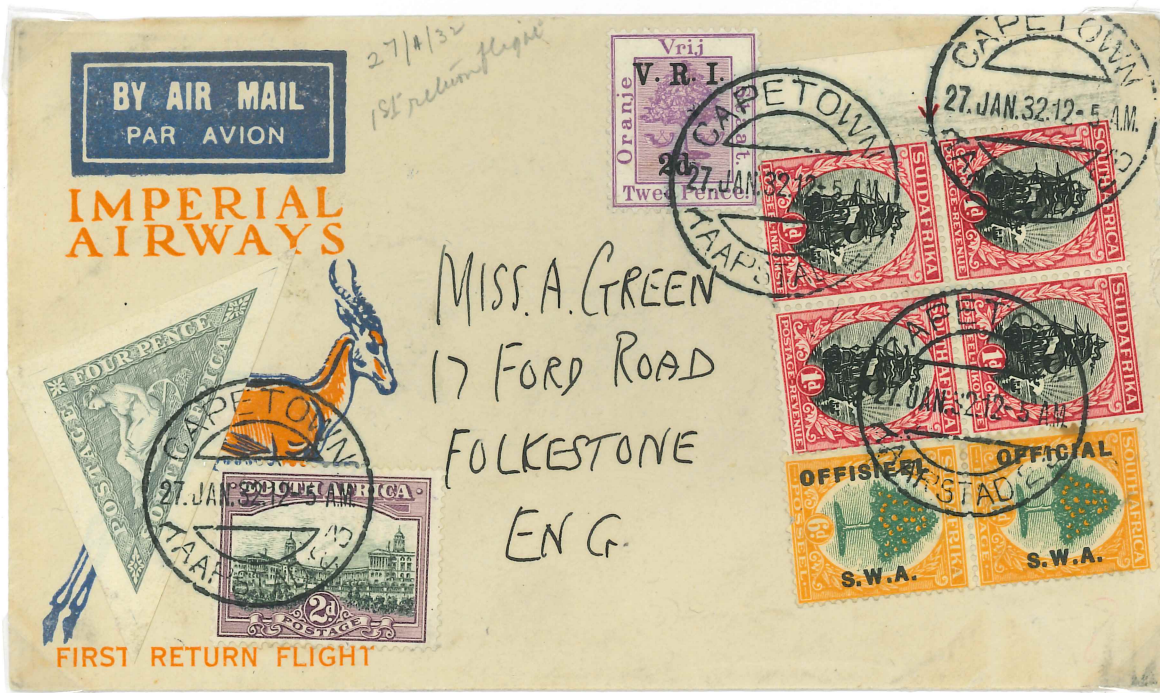
The flight AN 47 was the first of a regular service from Cape Town to Croydon and is often referred to as the " First Return Flight " The postage was 1/- . The covers below are correctly stamped with either the air mail stamps of 4d (SG40) or 1/- (SG41) They would have arrived at Croydon on 16th February after delays near Broken Hill.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

An obviously " Philatelic " cover from Cape Town to Folkestone. Overpaid postage 2/- instead of 1/- it was sent by The African Stamp Exchange based in Wale Street , Cape Town using a variety of duties from Orange River Colony, South West Africa and South Africa.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

A cover from Kalk Bay posted to Ilford, Essex on 25th February joining the flight to Croydon at Cape Town leaving on the 27th February. Postage of 1/2d paid.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

A cover from Kenilworth posted on 26th February joining the flight to Croydon at Cape Town leaving on the 27th February . Postage of 1/- paid with the air mail duty SG41.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

Two registered covers posted in Victoria West on 27th January 1932 to join flight AN 47 . Addressed to Mr. C. Wyndham , a noted aero-philatelist , the covers were over franked and the strips of stamps have varieties. The strip of three 1/- values has the flaw " white spot under U of LUGPOS " in the middle stamp whilst the four 4d values have flaws " white spot between A & F of AFRICA " and " short I in AIR ' on the second and third stamps in the strip. Back stamped with a departure cds for Victoria West , in transit for Johannesburg and Purley arrival postmarks.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

These covers are postmarked "Cambridge" on 25th January 1932 and would have flown on the "First Return Flight" Cape Town to Croydon. The 4d strip has the varieties "white spot between A & F of AFRICA" and the central stamp the "short I in AIR"



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47

Initially posted in Durban on 21st January 1932 it was sent to Cape Town to join the first flight to Croydon on 27th January. Total postage paid for the registered letter was 1/6d. The air mail rate for the flight was 1/- and the registration 4d, both paid with the 1929 air mail stamps.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

This cover was posted in Durban on 26th January 1932 to join flight AN 47 at Johannesburg . A news article notes that the 26th January was the last day for mail , from Durban , to connect with the flight at Johannesburg. Addressed to Captain Karl Zelle of the ship " Tanganyika " at Hamburg, Germany. The letter was taken off the flight at Paris for transit to Hamburg and then redirected to Aden Coal Company , a Richard Cory & Bros., coaling station in Aden. Indistinct German Airmail cachet in red ink.

FIRST AIRMAILS TO
EUROPE

DURBAN POST CLOSES
TO-MORROW

It is notified that correspondence posted before 4 p.m. to-morrow (Tuesday) will still connect with the first flight of the Imperial Airways Service, departing from Capetown on Wednesday, Jan. 27. Thereafter, the regular weekly closing at the Durban head office will be 4 p.m. on Tuesdays.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

A South African Travel Bureau illustrated envelope for the first regular flight Cape Town to Croydon. Posted in Cape Town on 27th January 1932 and addressed to Augsburg , Bavaria , Germany. It was taken off flight AN 47 at Paris for onward delivery to Germany. Paris Gare Du Nord Avion transit stamp, dated 16th February on reverse.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

A registered cover sent to Vermont, USA. It was flown on the first regular flight AN 47 which departed Cape Town on 27th January 1932, arriving at Croydon 9 days late. The cover was flown by Pan American Airways to New York and is backstamped with an arrival New York oval postmark dated 23rd February.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and
Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

A registered letter from Umtata to Bedford , England postmarked 23rd
January 1932. It joined flight AN 47 at Johannesburg and has the in-transit
postmark on the reverse. Correctly franked 1/4d for a registered letter , the
postage was paid with the air mail set of two stamps. The 4d value has the
variety " short I in AIR '



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

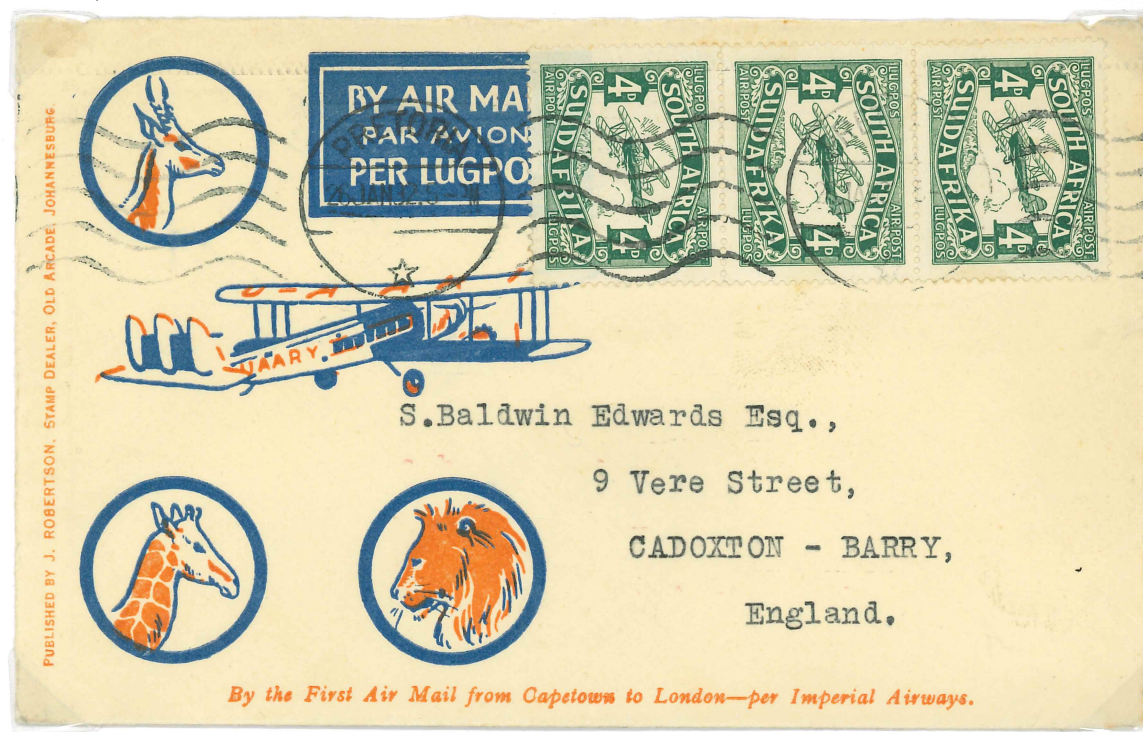
A letter from Johannesburg to Northampton, England using the advertising envelope for Parry, Leon & Hayhoe Ltd, agents for Imperial Airways in South Africa. The left hand 4d value has the variety " short I in AIR "



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

A letter from Johannesburg to Cadoxton, a district of Barry in Wales using the advertising envelope for the first flight from Cape Town to London by Imperial Airways . Postage paid with a vertical strip of three 4d air mail stamps.

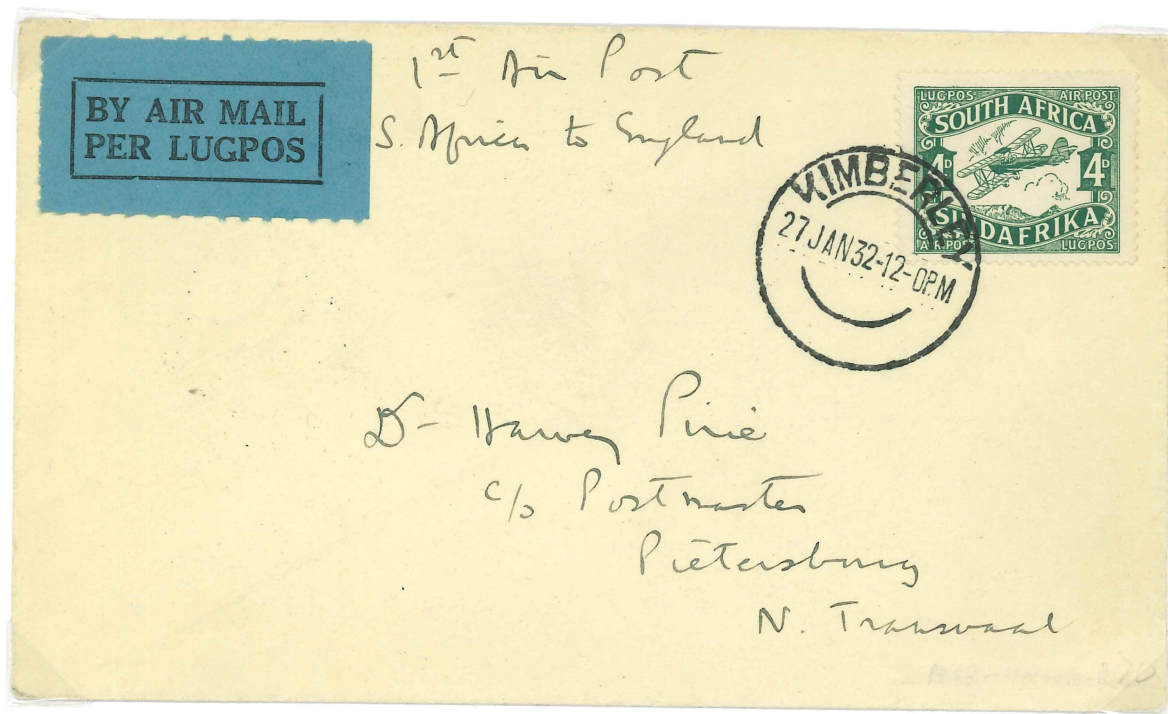


Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

A cover addressed to the philatelist Dr. Harvey Pirie . Posted in Kimberley it joined the flight AN 47 on 27th January and arrived in Pietersburg on the same day. Pietersburg cancel dated 28th January on reverse of cover.

Manuscript " 1st Air Mail Post /S.Africa to England " on front. Blue air mail label.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and
Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

An illustrated Imperial Airways cover addressed to Bulawayo , Southern
Rhodesia. Arrival backstamp at Bulawayo for 28th January. Postage paid 5d



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and
Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47

This cover was posted in Bulawayo on 28th January to join flight AN 47
from Cape Town to Croydon . Postage paid 10d with a Southern Rhodesian
SG 22 duty. Hand stamped " FIRST OFFICIAL AIR MAIL "



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

A cover postmarked Limbe in Nyasaland on the 23rd January 1932. Has a "First Official Air Mail" hand stamp, in violet, on the front. Back-stamped with an in-transit Salisbury postmark dated 27th January. A contemporary card noted that the letter was to travel on the first flight from South Africa to Great Britain. Owing to the 'City of Delhi' aircraft crashing near Broken Hill, the letter would have arrived at Croydon 9 days late.



S.

Limbe,
Nyasaland.
22/1/32

Dear Mr. Munn,

Please keep
this envelope as a souvenir
of the first air mail flight
from Africa to Britain.
The envelope will be valuable
at some future date.

Yours sincerely
J. W. Steeds

Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town .

The First " Regular " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 20th January 1932 AS 47.

A clean cover posted in Dar es Salaam to join flight AS 47 at Dodoma , Tanganyika . Backstamped Dodoma for 7am on 30th January 1932 , which according to the time table in Peter Wingent's book on Imperial Airways African Route , flight AS 47 left Dodoma on 29th January ! Postage paid with a nice variety of Tanganyika duties . Tanganyika Territory Air Mail label.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

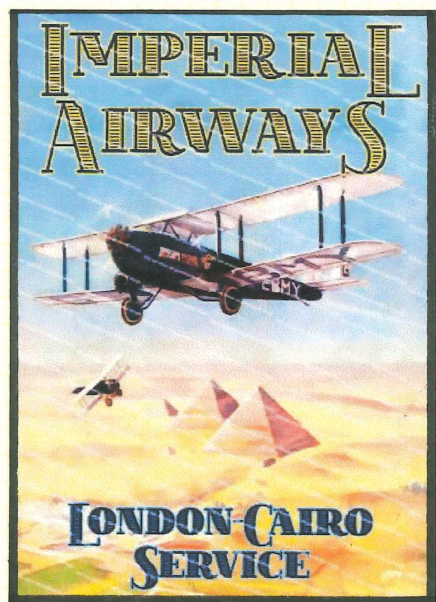
An illustrated Imperial Airways cover posted in Cape Town to Sudan . Flown on the first regular northbound flight AN 47 it departed Cape Town on 27th January 1932 via Khartoum to Sinkat in Sudan. The cover has an in-transit postmark for Khartoum dated 10th February and is backstamped with an arrival postmark at Sinkat dated 12th February. Postage of 8d was paid.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

An advertising cover sent from Cape Town on 27th February 1932 and arrived at Cairo on 12th February, nine days late! Cairo receiving postmark on reverse. Postage of 10d was paid.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

An illustrated Imperial Airways cover posted at Cape Town for Luxor on the first flight, South Africa to England. Backstamped with an in-transit Cairo postmark dated 12th February and arrival Luxor postmark for the 13th February.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

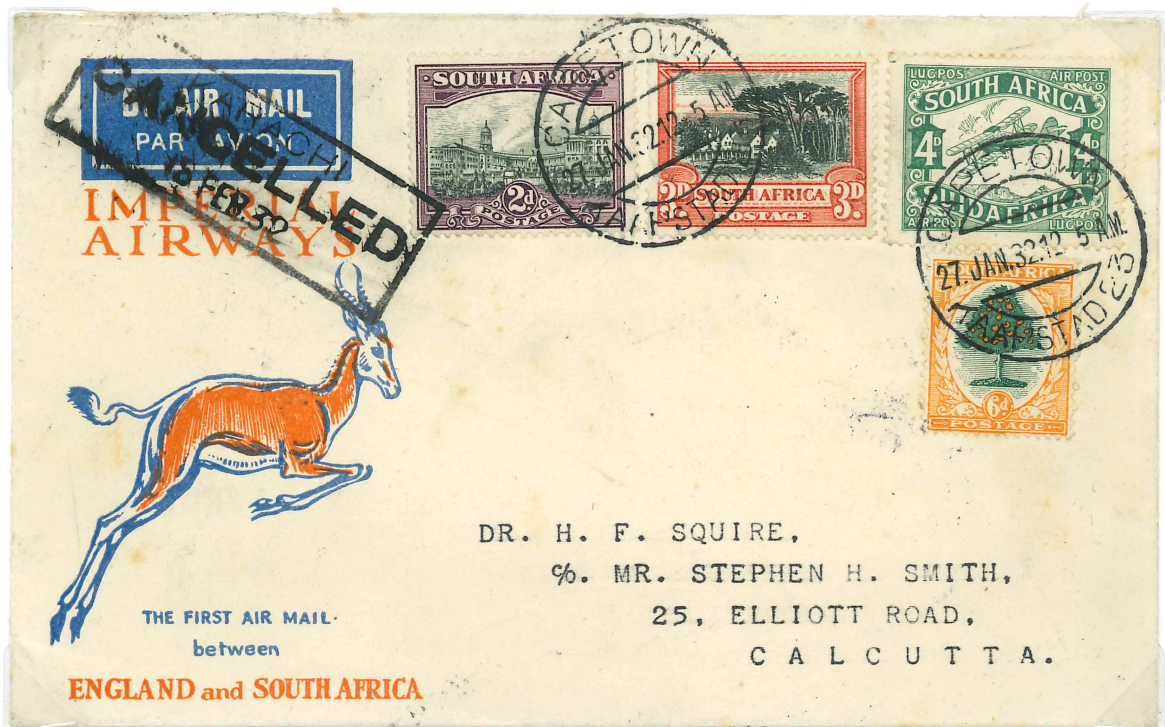
These covers were posted to Athens and arrived on 13th February 1932. They have the Athens receiving cachets both in the usual violet but also in red ink.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

An illustrated Imperial Airways cover addressed to Calcutta , India via Cairo. On arrival at Cairo on 12th February, it was transferred to the Imperial Airways flight from Croydon to Karachi. At Karachi , the blue airmail label received a boxed " Karachi Cancelled " cachet dated 18th February . This was applied as the airmail rate should have been 1/5d instead of the 1/3d paid. The cover would then have travelled surface mail to Calcutta arriving on 21st February.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town .

The First " Regular " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 20th January 1932 AS 47.

An Imperial Airways cover to commemorate the first " Regular " flight from England to South Africa AS 47. Posted at Hudson Place , London SW1 on 20th January , the envelope contained a letter from Imperial Airways explaining the new service. Addressed to South African Breweries in Cape Town. Manuscript "Received Cape Town 3rd February 1932 "



First Regular Air Mail London—Cape Town



IMPERIAL AIRWAYS LIMITED

Airway Terminus · Victoria Station · London · SW1

RECEIVED

20 January, 1932

3 - FEB. 1932

ANSWERED

Dear Sir,

This letter has been sent to you by the first regular service of the third Empire air route to be opened by Imperial Airways, namely that between London and Cape Town and vice versa.

You have probably had many an occasion to use the weekly air mail to East Africa and you will have had opportunity to test the great saving of time which can be effected by its use, not only in the transport of mails and of freight but of passengers, and now with the extension of this great aerial route of 8,000 miles throughout the length of Africa this saving will be made more evident.

At the present time all of us who belong to the British Commonwealth of Nations are passing through an anxious time and it is essential for the well being of all, that the pound sterling be supported by 'Buying British'. May I therefore take this opportunity of reminding you that every penny spent on Imperial Airways travel, or on the transport by it of mails and of freight is as helpful in the support of the currency as money spent on the purchase of Empire goods.

I hope that you will consider the occasion of sufficient importance to warrant your keeping this letter and its envelope as a souvenir and a reminder of this historic occasion and of the value of aerial transport and in particular of the Empire air mail.

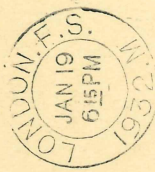
Yours faithfully,
IMPERIAL AIRWAYS LIMITED

Managing Director



EERSTE GEREËLDE LUGPOS LONDEN—KAAPSTAD

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



F. J. H. Lang Esq.,

Stock & Share Broker.

P. O. Box 3162.

Cape Town.

Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

Flight AN 52 Cape Town to Croydon 2nd March 1932.

A privately illustrated cover published by the Johannesburg based stamp dealer J. Robertson. Posted in Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia on 27th February, it joined flight AN 52 at Broken Hill on 4th March, for onward delivery to Southampton via Croydon. Arrived at Croydon on 15th March, two days late after the aircraft "City of Baghdad" was forced to land by an unknown aircraft, in the hills south of Wadi Halfa. The cover was registered and the postage of 10d paid and 8d for the registration.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service Croydon to Cape Town

Flight AS 53 from Croydon to Cape Town 2nd March 1932.

A commercial cover posted in Worcester , England on 27th February to Woodstock , Cape Town. It would have travelled to Croydon to meet flight AS 53 leaving on 2nd March . Correctly franked at 1/- with a GB SG 429 duty. Blue " BY AIR MAIL " label.

