

## Northern Rhodesia Postage Due and First Flight Cover

### Commercial / Philatelic Cover( ??)

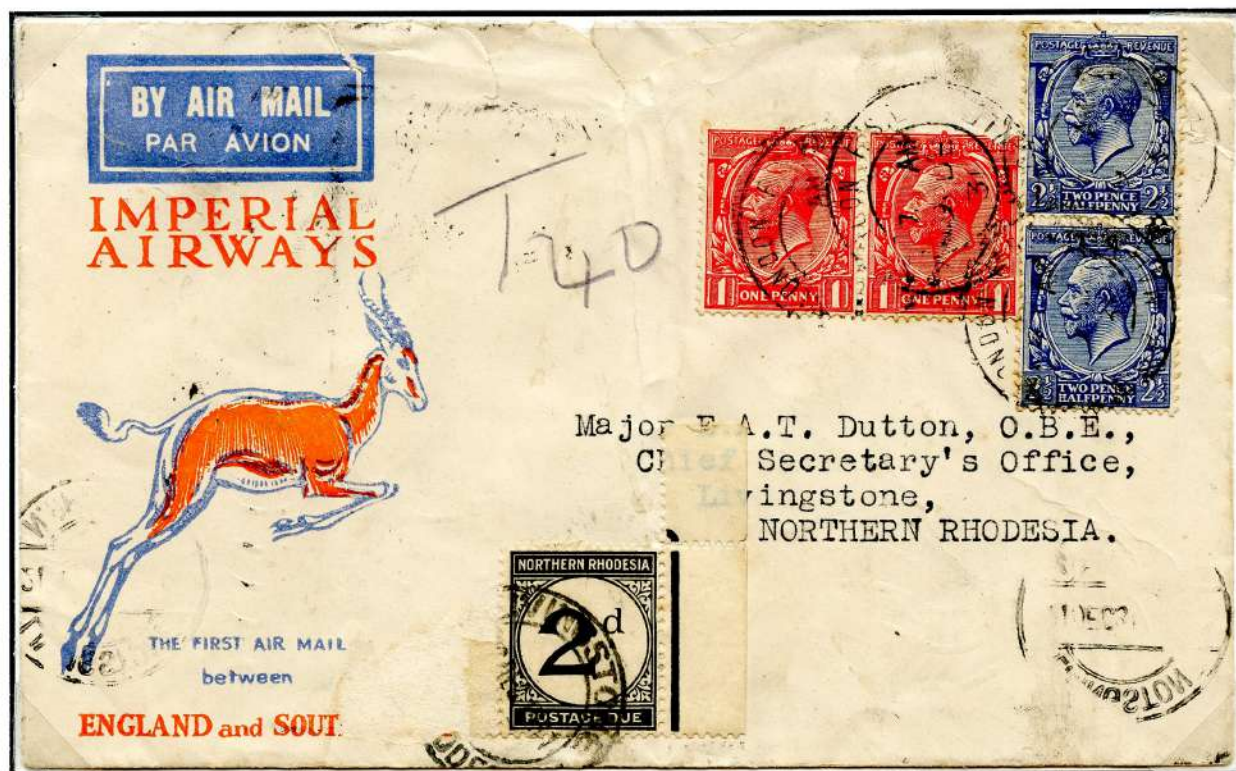
From London, England

To Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia

Posted 9 December 1931

Received 21 December 1931

**Imperial Airways Springbok Cachet First Flight Cover, London to Cape Town  
Postage due cover as short paid 2d, surcharged 4d, one dues stamp "removed"**



The first London to Cape Town flight by Imperial Airways was originally scheduled to start on January 20 1932, but in order to position aircraft in South Africa for the return flight, it was decided to send mail with the aircraft. This special Experimental and Christmas flight left London on December 10, 1931. The airmail postage rate to Northern Rhodesia was 9d but the sender attached postage of only 7d in total. A double deficiency tax of 4d was assessed in England, as noted in pencil to the left of the stamps. This mail was offloaded from the flight on 19 December 1931 at Broken Hill and sent by surface mail to the addressee in Livingstone by 21 December 1931 (as indicated by two receiving postmarks on the back).

It appears that two 2d Northern Rhodesia postage due stamps for the 4d surcharge were applied and cancelled at Livingstone on the bottom centre of the cover. It also appears that one of the 2d stamps was removed carelessly as part of the removed stamp is still evident on the cover. Part of the removed stamp shows three perforations and a small thin portion on the lower right still attached to the other stamp. The Livingstone postmark is positioned to cancel two stamps. It is missing the top left of the cancel, showing a gap in what would be a nice clear strike.

Northern Rhodesia postage due stamps were introduced in June 1929. Early usage of these adhesives is rare. This item is one of the earliest known used on cover. The Northern Rhodesia postage dues were in use until the 1950s.