

## AIR MAIL POSTCARD RATES:- 1931 – 1965

A display to publicise the variations of airmail postcard rates from the postal authorities, Southern & Northern Rhodesia, and Basaland: this by way of describing the complexity of the different postcard rates, and their gradual reduction by 1938, and why there is the great scarcity of examples of most rates [in the hope that this exhibit will give rise to examples being published in our Journal].

Except for some “first flights”, most airmail postcards are scarce, except destination U.K. Many destinations and rates are rare. By 1932 Southern Rhodesia Post Office published 27 groups of destinations with (for mail collectors!) 17 different rates for postcards. For example, 5<sup>d</sup> to South West Africa, 1/2<sup>d</sup> for India and U.S.A.; and ranging up to 4/11<sup>d</sup> for Argentina (the precision of each rate fascinates one!) – but to find one actually franked!

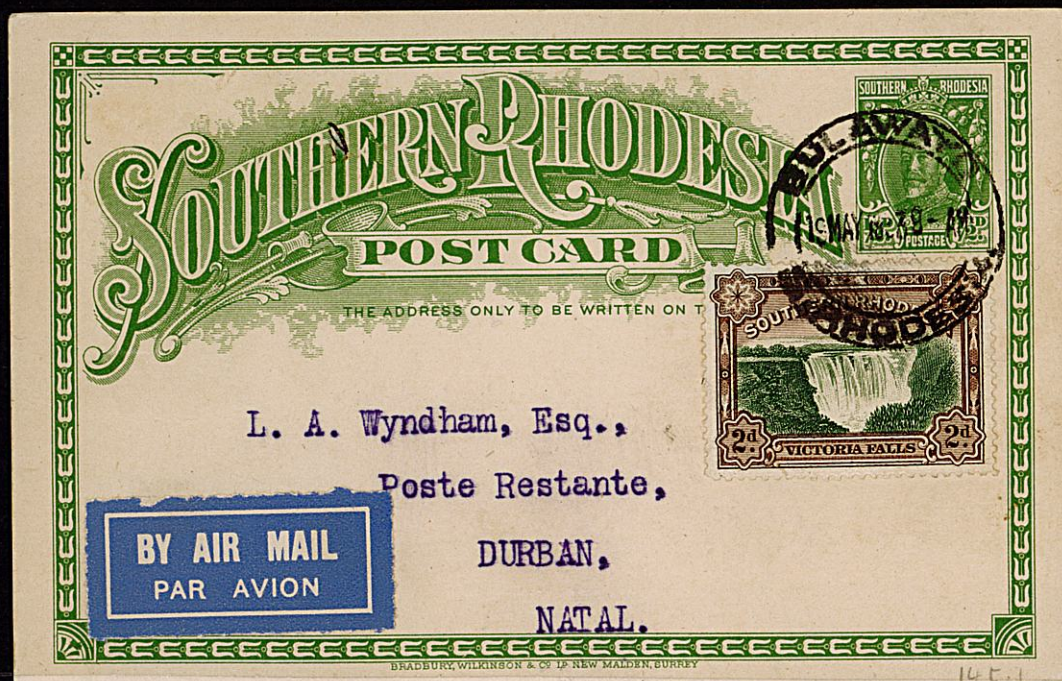
I chose to display chronologically all three postal authorities in parallel



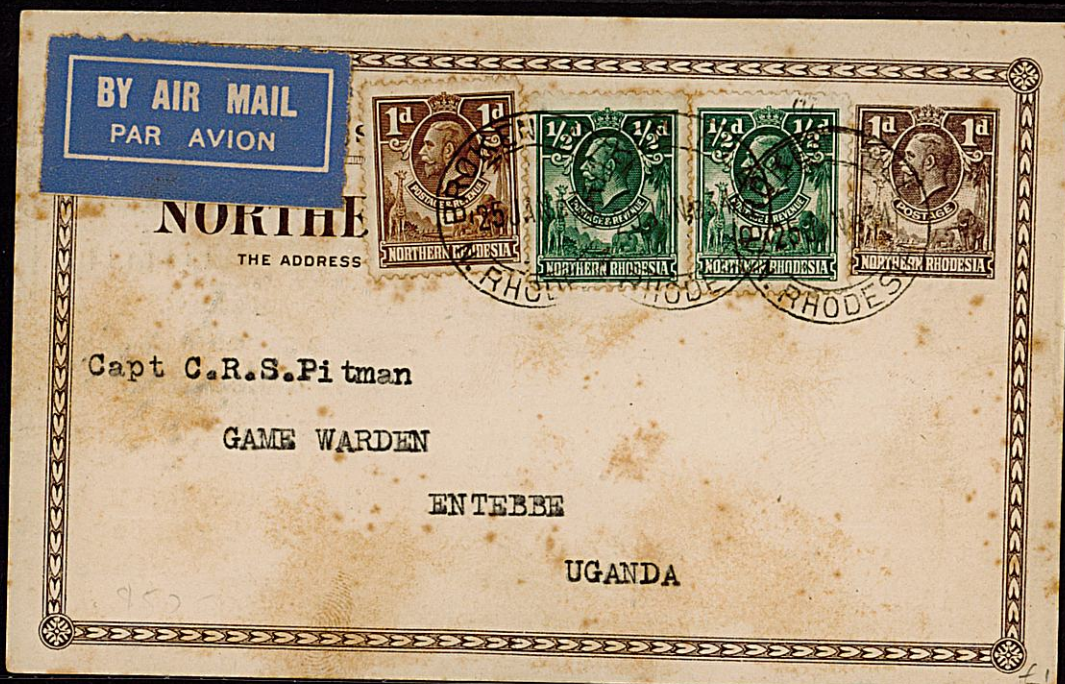
18 APR 1933 Victoria Falls: 7<sup>d</sup> air mail to U.S.A. - NOV 1932. But to New York only 6<sup>d</sup> from Feb. 1936! - until 1939 – p.p.c. of “Victoria Falls Bridge”. Percy M. Clark.



16 MAY 33 Abercorn 5<sup>d</sup> via Mpika 18 MAY 1933, thence by air mail to London. 5<sup>d</sup> pc rate 1/11/1932 – 1/5/34. Upated 1½<sup>d</sup> psc with long message of travels.



19 MAY 33 Bulawayo 2½<sup>d</sup> air mail to Natal: 1/11/32 – 1/6/34. Upated ½<sup>d</sup> Field Marshall psc – Durban 22 MAY.



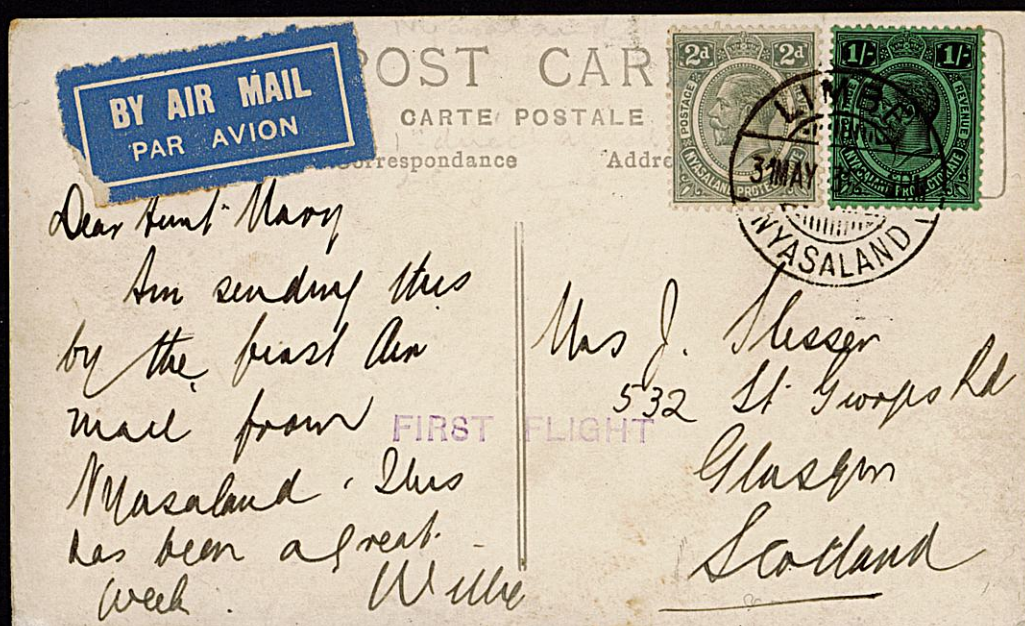
25 JAN 34 Broken Hill: 3<sup>d</sup> Air mail to Uganda 1/11/32 – 29/6/37.  
1<sup>d</sup> psc uprated. Long message – discontented staffer, between birds-egg collectors!



8.3.34 Blantyre 6<sup>d</sup> by air mail to U.K. Feb 1934 – Nov. 34 – first regular airmail feeding into Cape to Cairo, etc. existing service.



SR 1 APR 34 Gwelo: 5½<sup>d</sup> Air mail to Europe - 1/11/32 – 27.7.38.  
Field Marshal ½<sup>d</sup> psc uprated, arrived Leipzig 14.4.34.

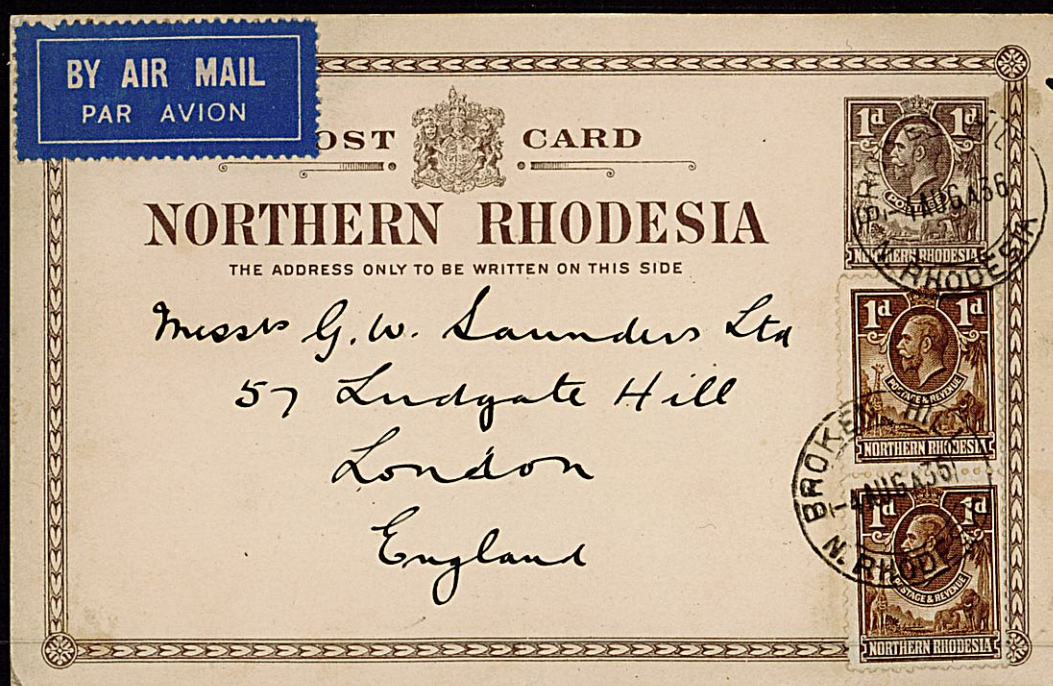


Date? This is a puzzle: franked 1½<sup>d</sup> – the Europe LETTER rate Jan 1932 – 1935 and dated 3 MAY 31 2 p.m. (or is it 3 MAY 33 12 p.m.? What First Flight 1931 or 1933?). Any ideas?





SR 5 JAN 1935 Gwelo 2<sup>d</sup> air mail to Nyasaland 8.3.34 – 23.2.38, 1/2<sup>d</sup> SR psc uprated. Arrived Blantyre 10 JAN 35, Zomba 11 JAN.



NR 4 AUG 36 Broken Hill 3<sup>d</sup> air mail to U.K. 1/12/34 – 28/7/37. Arrived 13 AUG 1936. Re purchase of "6<sup>d</sup> Cape Triangular on cover!".



9 DEC 1936 Salisbury: 3<sup>d</sup> air mail to U.K. 1 DEC 1934 – 28 JUN 1937. (In step with NR!) ½<sup>d</sup> field marshal psc uprated.

Postcard rates, particularly on Imperial Airways routes between London and Cape Town dropped steadily: Nyasaland 5<sup>d</sup> in 1933, to 4½<sup>d</sup> in 1934, and 3½<sup>d</sup> by June 1935 (all to U.K.).

Northern Rhodesia (to U.K.) similarly 11/1932: 5<sup>d</sup>; 3/1934: 4½<sup>d</sup>; and 1934: 3<sup>d</sup>. And Southern Rhodesia 12/1931: 10<sup>d</sup>; 11/1932: 5<sup>d</sup>; 1934: 3<sup>d</sup>.

But all this was swept aside by the first stage of the British Empire mail Scheme, when all letters were sent airmail from Southern and East Africa at 2<sup>d</sup> per postcard (letters 2<sup>d</sup> per ½ oz.) operative from 27 June 1937.

But rates off the BEAS routes remained, with many incremental variations, which altered considerably up and down between 1934 and 1939, between the three postal administrations. I can find a rate of almost 1½<sup>d</sup> increment between 1½<sup>d</sup> and 2½<sup>d</sup> and many higher (e.g. 3½<sup>d</sup> for a postcard in 1939 from Northern Rhodesia).

# POST CARD

06647

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

W. Tunstall Esq.

P.O. Uplands,

Kenya Colony

East Africa



Last of I.A. overland Service  
Salisbury - Kisumu  
TOSN 8

28 JUN 1937 Nkana. Postcard 1½<sup>d</sup> rate one day prior to BEAS, and with an air mail etiquette. Via Lusaka 29 JUN 37, arrived Uplands, Kenya 2 JY 37. (Superscription seems to note change of postal routing) and 2<sup>d</sup> rate – the only BEAS raise?! With British Empire Air Mail Scheme air mail etiquettes were not required and all first-class letters and postcards went by air.

# Post Card

For Correspondence

Address



Sept 2 37  
We are flying in Uplands  
Lusaka, and down  
the road to Uplands,  
Expected the back and  
18.  
19.



Mr. Head  
Crowswags  
Maddley Hills  
Welwyn  
Herb  
Uplands

9 AUG 1937 Umtali, 2<sup>d</sup> BEAS to any BEAS destination. But underpaid: so "TO PAY 20c U.T"

For Inland Postage and some Foreign Countries this space may now be used for communication

PAR AVI  
BY AIR MA  
PER LUGPO



over 9000 20/6/39

[illegible]

Dr. Joseph Mulger

München 15  
München

~~Hesperia~~ 3

Heinrich Lützke

20 JUN 39 Livingstone: 8<sup>d</sup> air mail to Germany. From 28.7.38 until WWII commenced.

C/O R. Metelekamp, Esq.

10/8/39

Rhodesia

POST CARD

The Address only to be  
written here



M<sup>rs</sup> Kirby.  
6. Upland Terrace.  
Swansea.  
Glam.:  
Great Britain

Great Britain

to

10 AUG 1939 Salisbury – BEAS reduced to 1½<sup>d</sup> for postcards. (2<sup>nd</sup> stage of BEAS: 23 FEB 1938). Just before BEAS abolished on outbreak of WW2.

Postcards through the period of WWII are seemingly very scarce. The SAS was suspended on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1939 on the outbreak of war and all mail rates, except South Africa, increased by December.

Airmail to Europe was suspended in June 1940. A service to the Americas was cautiously introduced - to start with via West Africa and Brazil in March 1942 (at 2/3½<sup>d</sup> for a postcard!) The U.K. service re-started by 1944.

POST 46 Gatooma. 7½<sup>d</sup> air mail to U.K. 7½<sup>d</sup> to U.K. reintroduced from



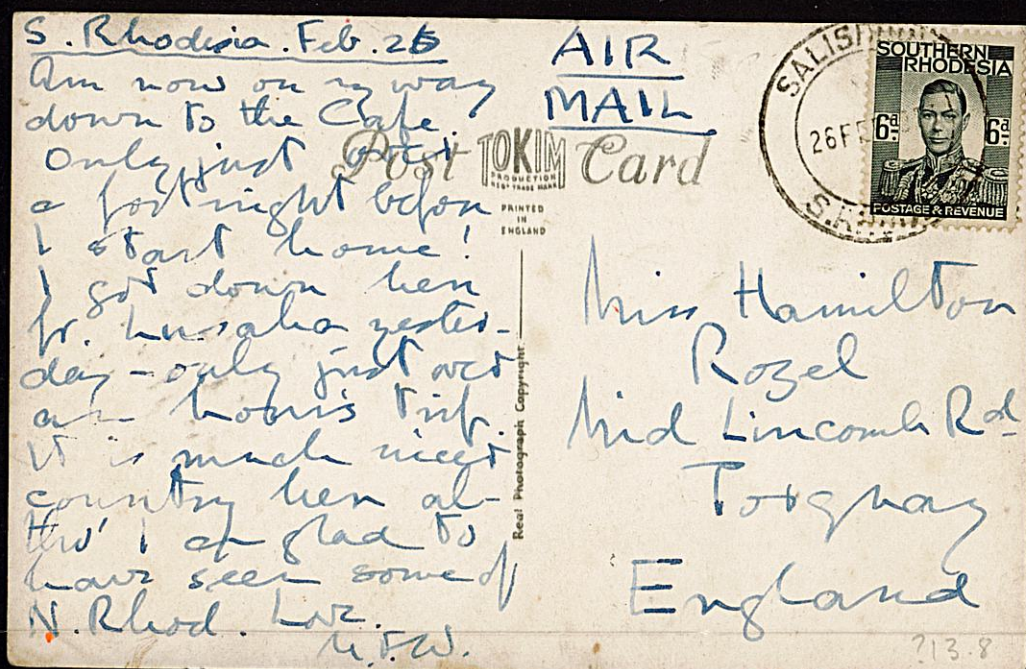
3/5/44 An uprated ½<sup>d</sup> psc additionally hand-struck "BY AIR TO LONDON ONLY", addressed to Italy from an internee or p.o.w. The service for onward surface transmission to liberated Europe operated from 5/MAR/45.



11 JUL 1947 Victoria Falls: 6<sup>d</sup> air mail to Europe from Southern Rhodesia ppc with 6<sup>d</sup> Victory issue of Princess Margaret, 5 MAY 47 to 1 MAY 50.



15 FEB 49 Marandellas: 4½<sup>d</sup> air mail to U.K – ppc of a sable antelope bull.



26 FEB 1951 Salisbury: 6<sup>d</sup> air mail to U.K. 1/5/50 to 1/6/53.  
ppc of Victoria falls.



"23.3.53" Victoria Falls 1/- air mail to Canada - 1/4/50 - 1/6/53 -  
"The Bridge & Boiling Pot".



16 FEB 53 Umtali: 7½<sup>d</sup> air mail to Europe 1/5/50 – 1/6/53  
ppc "ETB": Main Street, Umtali.



2 JY 53 Livingstone: 9<sup>d</sup> air mail to Europe from 20/4/53  
ppc Great Baobab Tree Victoria Falls

POST CARD

Febr. 6 - 57.

Correspondence

VIA AIR MAIL

Address



Greetings from  
our trip to the  
beautiful Victoria  
Falls. It has been  
thrilling to see them.  
We are starting to-  
morrow on our  
trip back to Johannes-  
burg. Sincerely Sasana

Mr. & Mrs.

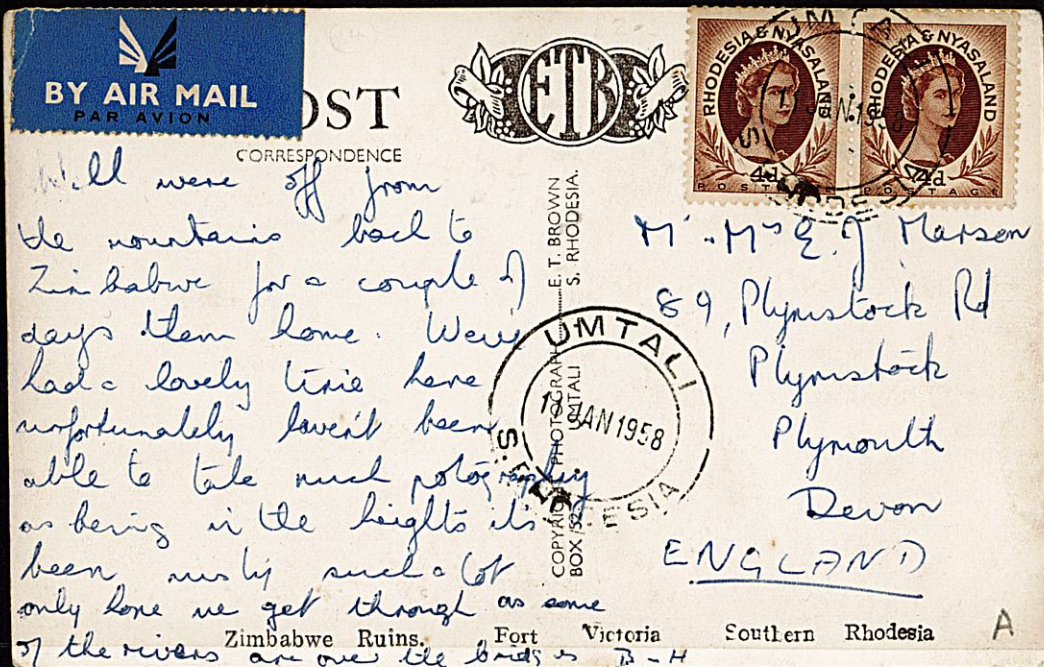
Erwin Chrysler  
4121 West 227 St.  
Fairview, Ohio

U.S.A.

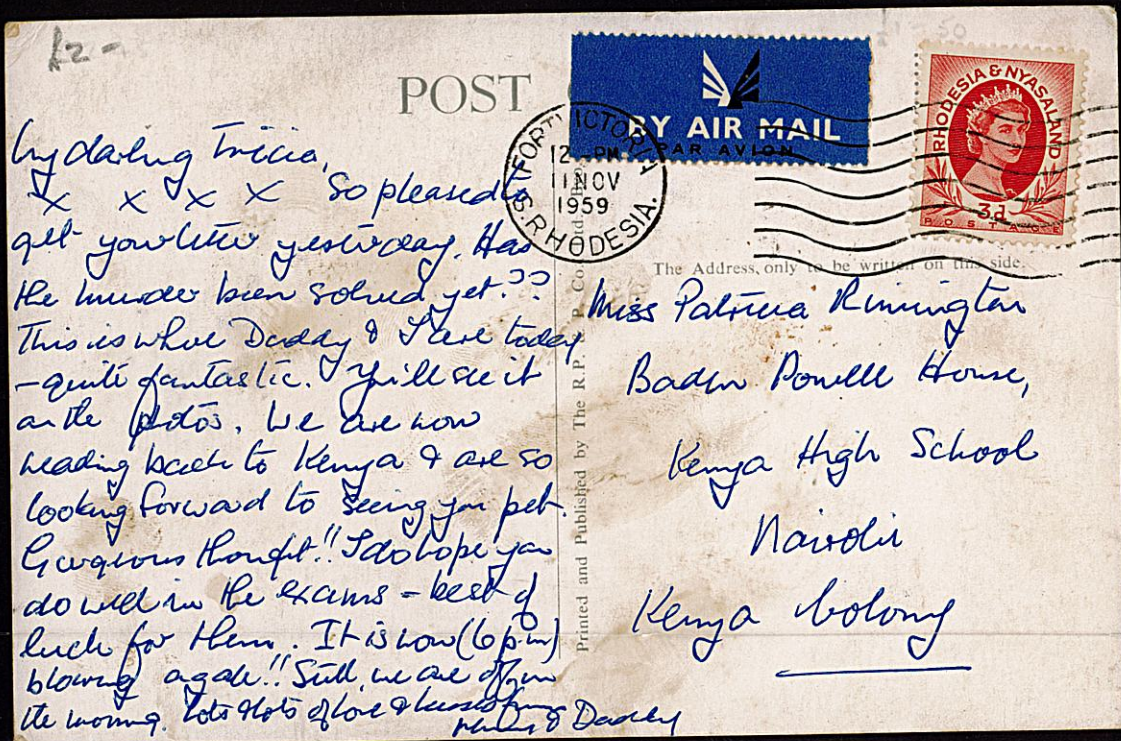
Victoria Falls. A view of the Main Falls  
from the Rain Forest.

a Aruv Bulume

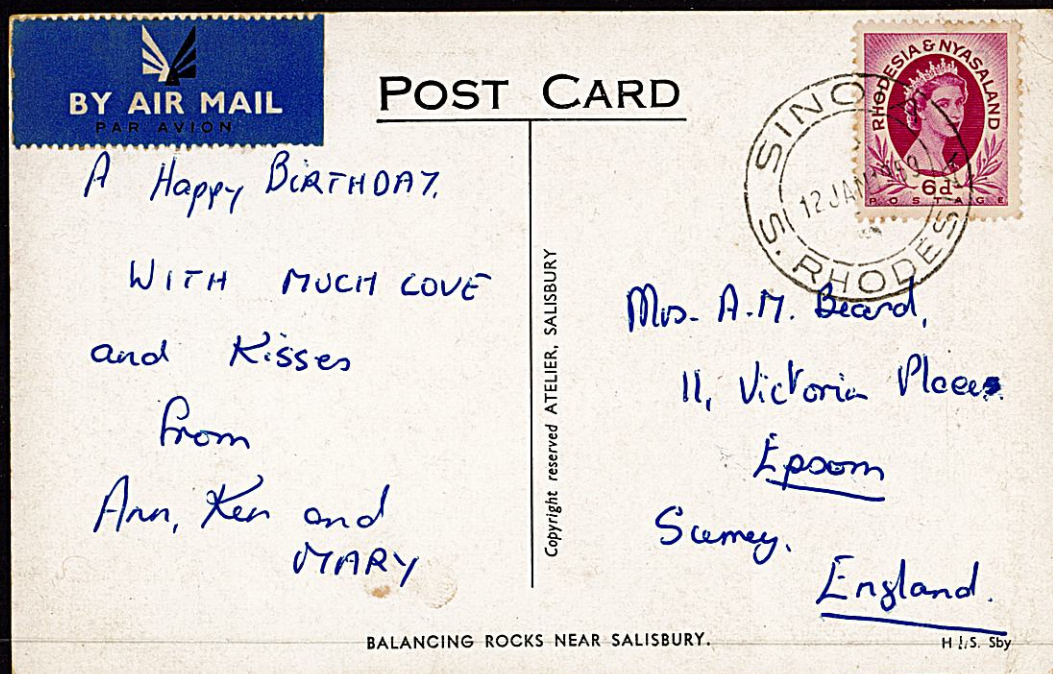
N 7 FEB 57 Victoria Falls: 1/3<sup>d</sup> air mail to U.S.A. from 27/8/54.  
ppc of "Falls from Rain Forest".



N 11 JAN 1958 Umtali: 8<sup>d</sup> air mail to U.K. from 1/6/53  
ppc "ETB" "Zimbabwe Ruins: Fort Victoria".



NOV 1959 Fort Victoria 3<sup>d</sup> air mail to Kenya from 1/6/53 or earlier  
(947)



12 JAN 1959 Sinoia - 6d 2nd class air mail to U.K.

ppc "Balancing Rocks": Very short message. Rare example of 2nd  
class air mail postcard (to U.K. only).

Copyright: Jack Hall & Company: Series No. 13  
P.O. Box 1886, Salisbury

POSTCARD

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION



Mr. KAROL BOVAR

c/o Post Office,

GEORGES HALL N.S.W.  
AUSTRALIA.

50. Oct. 58.

Dear Uncle Harol.

My greetings to you  
from Rhodesia.

dear.

16

7 OCT 58 Salisbury: 1/6<sup>d</sup> air mail to Australia from before 1/7/59  
ppc of African bushman

DEAR GLENN,  
PLEASE BROADCAST  
THIS MESSAGE ON A SUNDAY TO  
RONNIE NOBLE OF  
P.O. BOX 734, GWELO.  
THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE  
"HIYA RONNIE, HOPE THAT DISC OF YOURS  
HAS SLIPPED BACK INTO PLACE. DON'T  
GO THROWING YOURSELF OFF YOUR  
HORSE, & MAKING "CRATERS" IN RHODESIA.  
CHEER-UP, (& DON'T FORGET TO "SWING-  
ROUND) - THE CORNER ON 24th!!) SEND  
MY LOVE TO YOUR FOLKS.  
GLENN, THE CARD YOU ALWAYS  
IS SPECIALLY DESIGNED KIMEN \*  
FOR YOU - TOMMY SANDS R.O. BOX 129  
SURE LEAVES NOTHING TO THE BLANTYRE  
WANT TO BE BAD - TOMMY SANDS NYASALAND  
THANK THE KNIFE-HARMONICATS. \*  
DREAM BOY - ANNETTE. \*  
THEME FOR A DREAM (CR) \*  
TONIGHT WE LOVE - (TC.) \*  
IMAGINATION! \*  
CD

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION



HOSPITAL'S HOUR,

P.O. BOX 594,

LORENZO MARQUES.

P.E.A.

5 MAY 61 Blantyre: 3<sup>d</sup> air mail to P.E.A. Mozambique

ppc "homemade". 3<sup>d</sup> rate raised from 2<sup>d</sup> 1/7/59 in line with rate to  
South Africa. (A.P.U.)