



# Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

Ray Harris 1 October 2023

## Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

½d value SG69



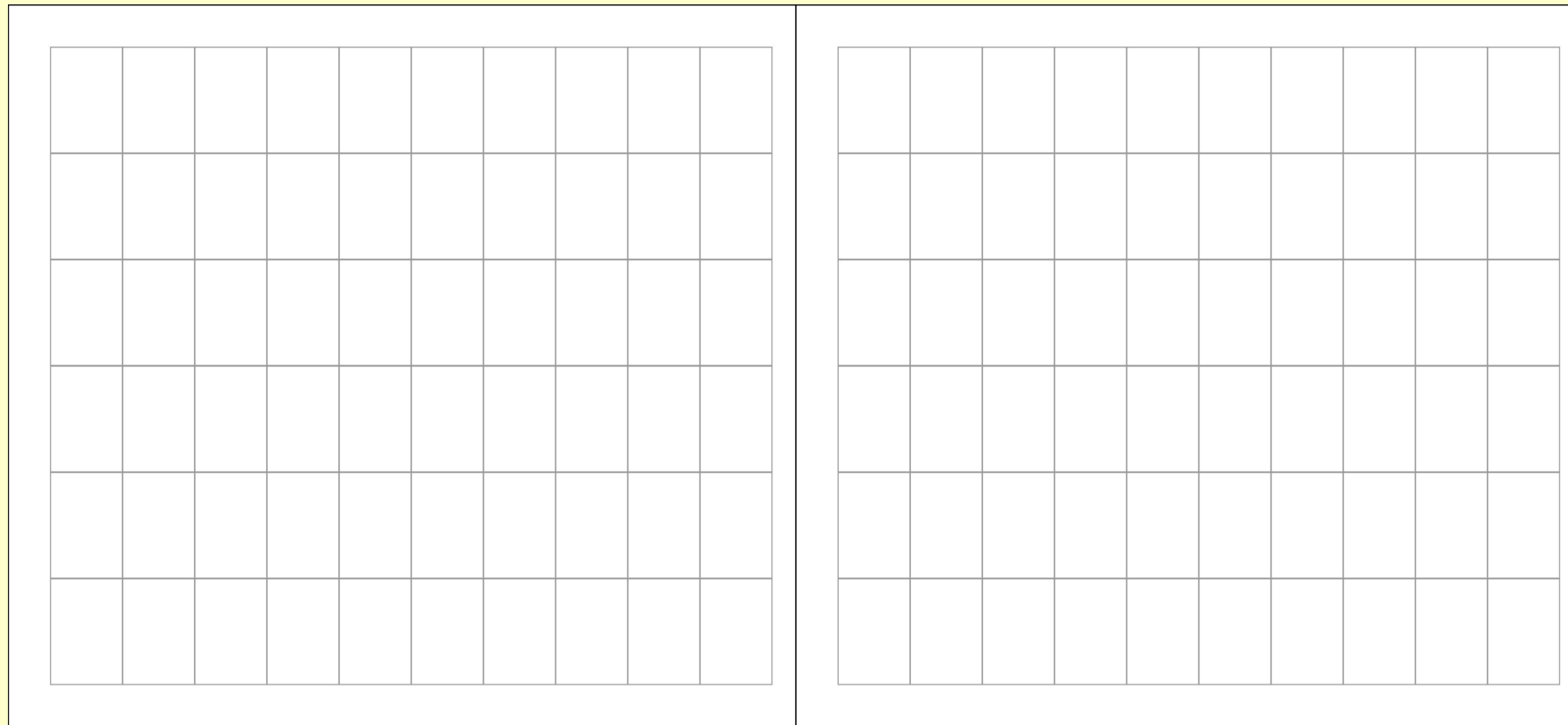
### Requisition 1622/1

Border and vignette approved 17 November 1952. Design approved 22 December 1952. Border plate 1 used only from 29 December until 9 April 1953, when it was destroyed and replaced by plate 2. (The plate issue book states plate 2 was issued to Ridgewell on 30 March 1953)

Despatched from 6 February to 19 October 1953. 158,130 panes (stamp sheets) of 60 were produced, of which 6000 went to the Crown Agents Bureau. Possibly all the sheets to Bureau were from plates 1-1.

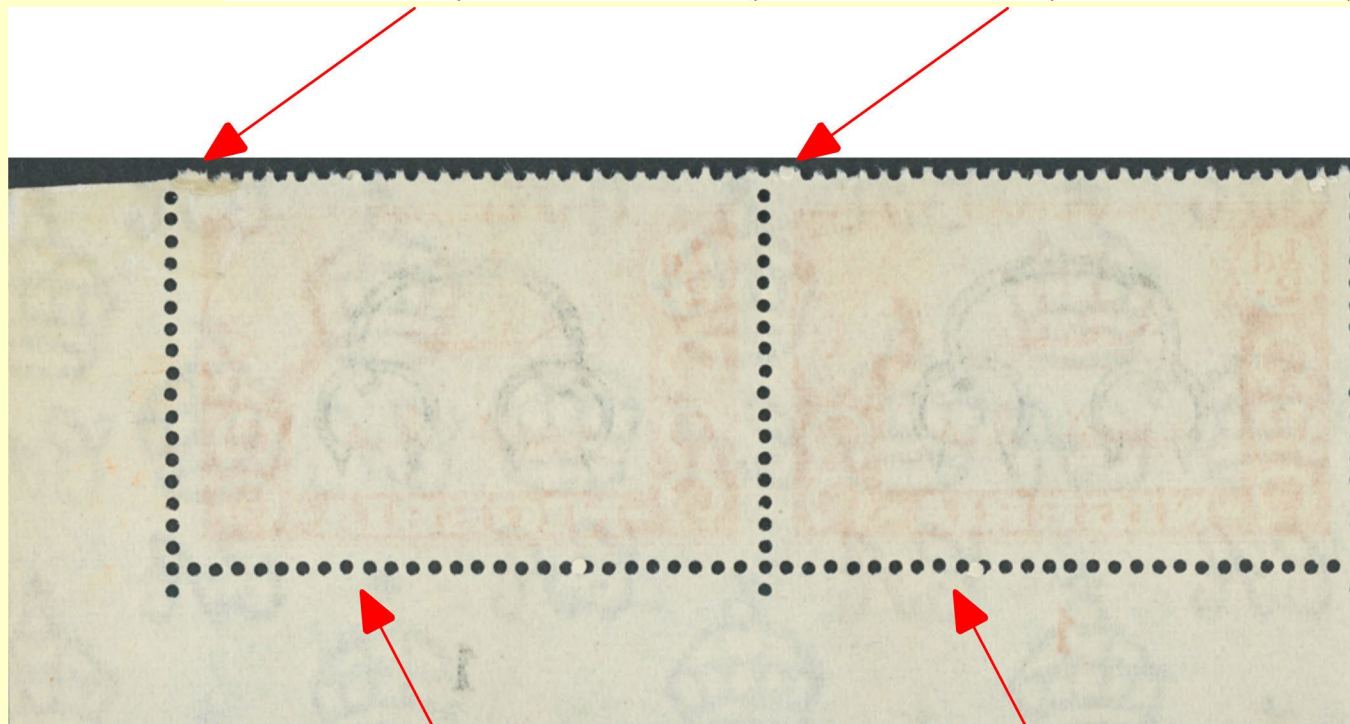
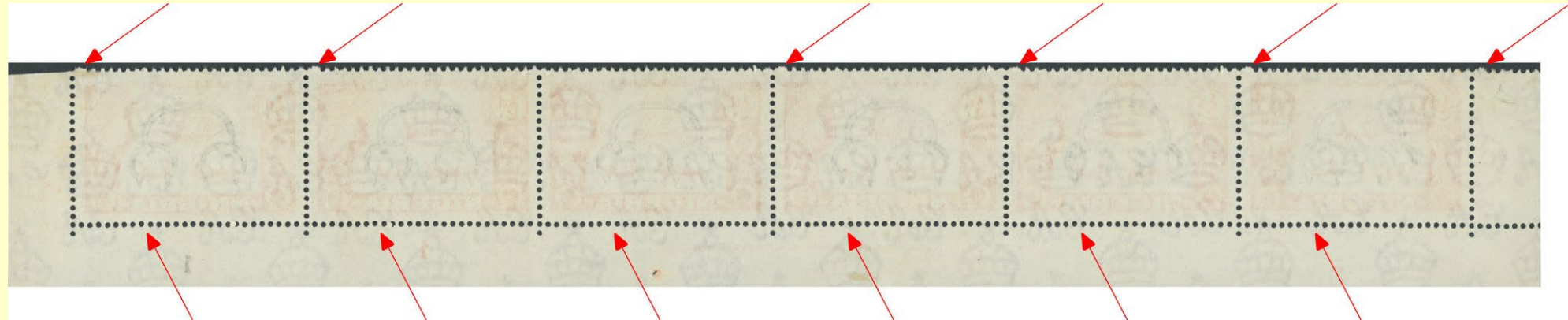
Printing released 1 September 1953

Paper Issue book shows that all the paper for this value in this requisition was issued in January 1953 (requisition for paper is 331/53); 78,000 sheets with an extra 11,500 allowed. 78,000 sheets of paper is consistent with a requisition for 156,000 sheets of stamps. Paper size for low values was 11½ x 23 inches; stamp sheet size about 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches.



Likely layout of two panes

Perforation of bottom marginal strip from plates 1-1



The perforating comb, imagined moving from left to right on the sheet, covered just one column of stamps. It would have moved 39.4mm at each step.



**Requisition 1170/1**

Plates 2-1 again; paper size 12 x 25 inches; 76,500 stamp sheets ordered, 73,500 sent plus 1500 to CA Bureau. 3667 of the 73,500 taken from Bureau in exchange.

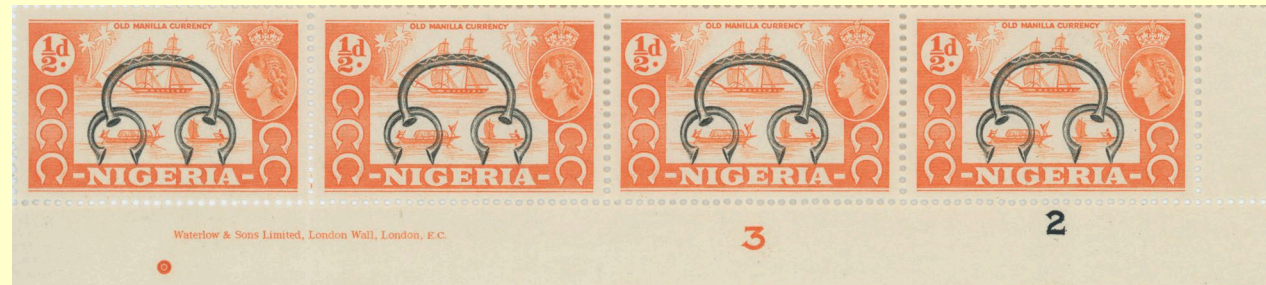
Printing released 18 August 1954.

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**Requisition 3934/1**

Plates 3-2; border plate 3 used from 28/10/54; vignette plate 2 from 22/11/54. Paper size now 12½ x 21½ inches; 80,000 stamp sheets ordered, 80,270 sent of which 4467 sheets were taken from Bureau in exchange.

Printing released 21 September 1955.



**Requisition 136/1**

Plates 3-2; 102,000 stamp sheets ordered, 103,300 sent plus 2000 to CA Bureau. 3367 sheets taken from Bureau in exchange.

Printing released 25 September 1957.

Requisition 349/1

Plates 4-3; border plate 4 and vignette plate 3 both used from 15/8/57; 120,000 stamp sheets ordered, 120,330 sent, including 5109 from Bureau in exchange.

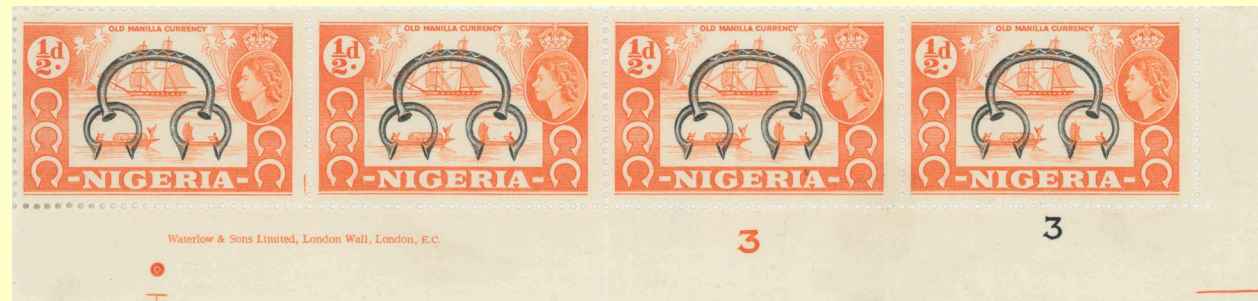
Printing released 13 March 1958.



Requisition 834/1

Plates 3-3 from 2/4/58, then 5-3 from 24/6/58; 120,000 stamp sheets ordered, 132,000 sent; 4307 sheets taken from Bureau in exchange.

Printing released 7 January 1959.



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From a requisition  $\geq 100,000$  sheets

From a requisition  $< 100,000$  sheets

Sheets to the Bureau had no numbers. Sheets taken back from the Bureau were numbered in a side margin before sending to Nigeria.



Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

½d value SG69



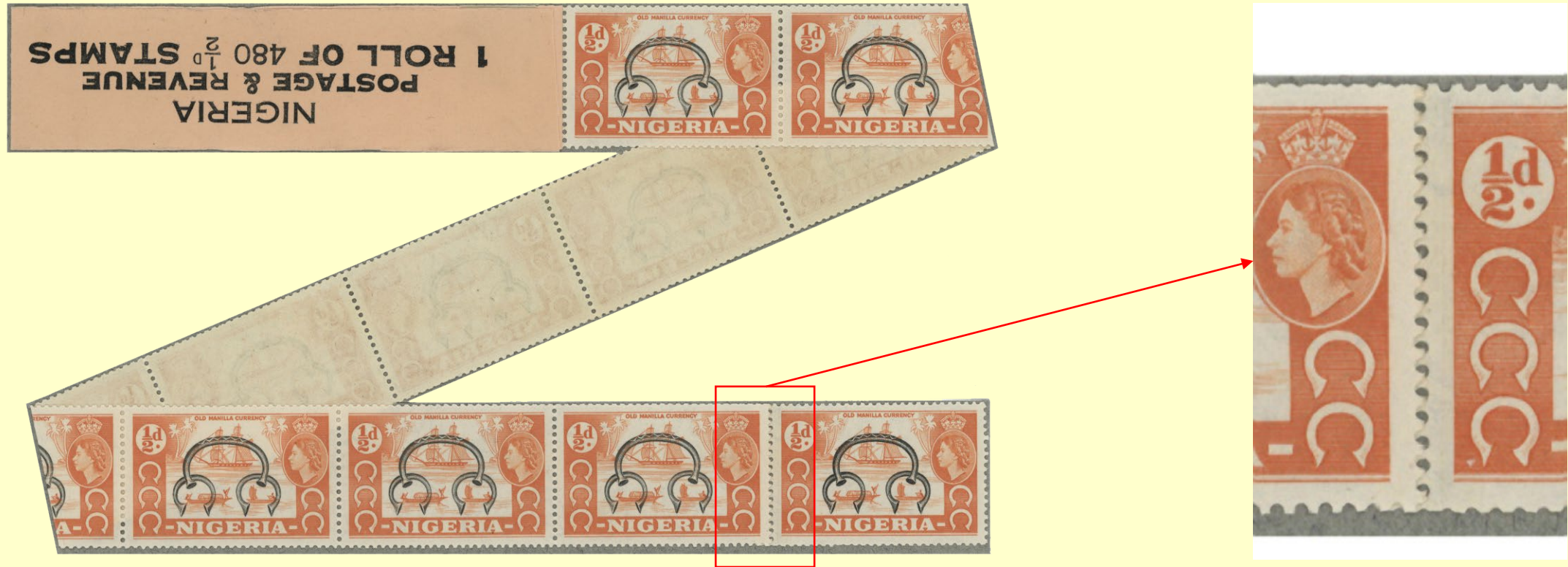
This block must be from Requisition 3934/1 in September 1955: 80,270 sheets sent, 4467 sheets from Bureau



This block must be from Requisition 834/1 in January 1959: 132,000 sheets sent, 4307 sheets from Bureau

Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

½d value SG69



Requisition 9187/1

Special plate, 10 x 10 stamps, 2 x 100 on one sheet of paper 22¾ x 26 inches  
9600 sheets ordered and were despatched from 18 October 1954 to 7 February 1955. This is equivalent to 2000 reels.

23 July 1953 the Nigeria Daily Times announced the coming new series of postage stamps, from paintings prepared by the artist Monsieur Maurice Fievet, "well known in Nigeria".

It goes on to provide a description of each stamp and the relevance of the design to Nigeria.

Thursday, July 23, 1953 DAILY TIMES Page 5

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**DAILY TIMES**

Telegraphic Address:—"DAILY TIMES"  
 Lagos Editorial Office:  
 P.O. Box 139, Lagos.  
 3-7, Kakawa St., Telephone 20392  
 Advertisement Office:  
 172, Broad Street, Telephone 20648  
 London Office:  
 7, Breems Buildings, Fetter Lane,  
 London, E.C.4.  
 Telephone: Holborn 5308.  
 Annual Subscription Rates:  
 Lagos 40s.; Up-country and abroad 60s.

# NEW PICTORIAL POSTAGE STAMPS

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ON September 1, there will be on sale at all Post Offices and Postal Agencies in Nigeria and the Cameroons a complete new series of postage stamps to replace the existing one. The new series of stamps has been printed in England by Waterloo and Sons Limited, from original painting prepared by Monsieur Maurice Fievet, whose work as an artist is well known in Nigeria.

Below, the "Daily Times" publishes explanatory notes of the stamps.

**LAST WORDS TO OUR ENVOYS**

NOW, Nigerians know the men and women to represent them at the London Conference; they know the people to whom to look for the building of a new society of a united people or to hold responsible for the disintegration of peoples who have worked and progressed together for half a century. We trust that all our delegates know the importance of their mission and believe that, while in London, they will work hard to build and not to destroy.

In spite of all that has happened, the "Daily Times" still believes in the unity of Nigeria. It is the sacred duty of all lovers of the country to resist everything that may tend to do damage to that unity, and to strive at all times to break the barriers of language and custom that tend to divide us.

Today, after many months of bitter recrimination, we have no doubt that our leaders have come to realise that the building

**1d "OLD MANILLA CURRENCY"**

The old manilla currency is believed to have originated some 400 years ago when a particular kind of metal bracelet, brought by the Portuguese for barter (the word 'manilla' means 'bracelet' in Portuguese), established itself as a form of currency in the palm oil districts of Nigeria. In 1949 the Nigerian Government abolished it by buying it up, and some thirty million manillas were collected in this way. The design of this stamp depicts manillas, coloured black, on an orange coloured background and frame. A portrait of the Queen appears in the top right corner.

**1d "BORNU HORSEMEN"**

The Emirs of the areas that make up Northern Nigeria, of which Bornu is one, used to maintain large numbers of horsemen, who were their principal fighting troops. Small companies of these horsemen are still kept, and these turn out, in the original trappings, on ceremonial occasions.

The stamp has a black inset in a sage-green surround. There is no portrait of the Queen, but the Crown, the symbol of the Commonwealth, is displayed prominently in the top left corner of the design.

**1½d "GROUNDNUTS"**

Groundnuts are one of Nigeria's principal exports, being planted extensively by farmers in the light savannah country in the North. The design shows a scene in Kano City, the centre of the trade, with Kano Mosque and local houses in the background. A groundnut plant is illustrated on the left hand side of the surround.

The stamp is in one colour only—emerald green. A portrait of the Queen appears on the right.

**2d "TIN"**

Tin is Nigeria's principal mineral export, though it is found and mined only in the small area of the

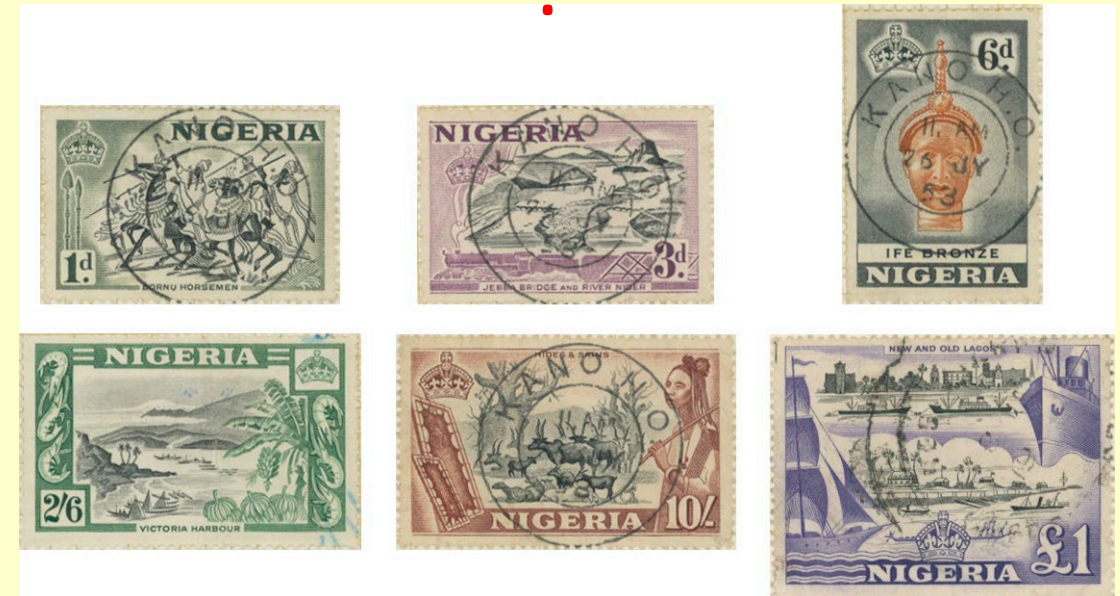
# Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

all values SG69-80

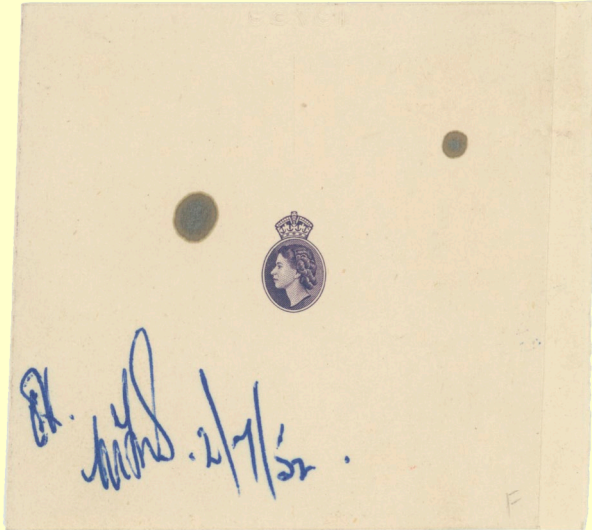
To my friend  
Desmond these  
few of the 12  
stamps we  
designed for  
Nigeria.  
Our best  
souvenir.  
Maurice Fiévet  
J. Fiévet



?



Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961



Ex Waterlow archive  
"OK initials 2/7/52"



x 800%

## Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

1½d value SG71

1½d was internal postage rate, so many thousands needed. Single colour stamp and originally on a rotary plate, but that was abandoned and destroyed on 12 February 1953. A flat plate was created instead.

Paper had been supplied for the rotary printing as 10½ inch reels. The paper size is then given as 10½ x 12½ inches from 28 January 1953 and 11½ x 12½ inches from 17 April 1953 for the final 60,000 sheets. From the paper size it appears all the figures refer to sheets of 60, though other references are to sets of 120 to a sheet.

668,740 sheets produced including 4000 to Bureau.



Plate 1 issued 28 January 1953,  
destroyed 19 March 1953



Plate 2 issued 4 March 1953



Plate 3 issued 7 April 1953

# Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

Nigeria	Per	5 <sup>d</sup>	78,000	120	11,500	89,500	89,500	11x23	6,308 5.1.53	5,000 6.1.53	20,000 7.1.53	10,000 7.1.53	10,000 12.1.53	10,000 13.1.53	17,272 15.1.53	10,920
1622/2	Stampo	1 <sup>a</sup>	18,667	120	2,333	21,200	21,200	11x23	21,200 13.6.52	21,200 14.4.52	4,222 10.11.52	10,000 28.1.53	25,000 29.1.53	10,000 2.2.53	25,000	
		1 1/2 <sup>a</sup>	25,000-10.3.53	25,000-20.2.53	25,000-23.2.53	25,000-5.2.53	25,000-9.2.53	10s Reels	4,222 10.11.52	10,000 28.1.53	25,000 29.1.53	10,000 2.2.53	25,000			
		2 <sup>d</sup>	38,500	120	5,750	44,250	44,250	11 1/2 x 23	5,000 9.10.52	10,000 10.10.52	15,000 13.6.52	16,900 29.9.52	13,000 26.9.52			
		3 <sup>d</sup>	26,000	120	3,900	29,900	29,900	11 1/2 x 23	5,942 15.10.52	7,000 31.3.53						
		4 <sup>d</sup>	5,167	120	775	5,942	5,942	11 1/2 x 23	5,000 14.8.52	10,000 15.8.52	18,375 18.8.52	1,325 19.8.52				
		6	30,167	120	4,533	34,700	34,700	14 1/4 x 24 1/2	34,700							
		1/-	17,417	120	2,177	19,594	19,594	11 1/2 x 23	19,594 7.11.52							
		2/6	4,834	60	966	5,800 ÷ 2	3,900	14 1/2 x 24 1/2	3,900 19.8.52							
		5/-	3,500	60	700	4,200 ÷ 2	2,100	do	2,100 19.8.52							
		10/-	2,667	60	583	3,250 ÷ 2	1,625	14 1/2 x 24 1/2	1,625 14.8.52							
		£1	1,834	60	416	2,250 ÷ 2	1,125	15 1/2 x 17 1/4	2,250 19.8.52							
		Reprint £1	1,834	60	416	2,250	2,250	do	2,250 24.10.52							
		Issued to test M/c	12 sh6	12	12	12	12	4 x 3	36 26.11.52							
		11 " destroyed						24 x 3	24 28.2.52							
		1 sheet to come (m/fance)						12 x 3	12 4.3.52							
		4 sheets 11 1/2 x 23						12 x 3	12 16.4.52							
		for drawing and proofing						12 x 3	12 29.4.52							
		See 69/DWFC 156/20000 4x3-19.11.52						12 x 3	12 14.5.52							
		for proofing 16 <sup>d</sup>						12 x 3	12 20.5.52							
								60	60 29.7.52							
								12	12 27.8.52							
								24	24 4.9.52							

# Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

2d value SG72



Plates 1-1 and 2-1 used in release of 1 September 1953.

Border plate 1 destroyed on 28 November 1952 and then plate 2 used.

71,570 sent to Nigeria, 2000 to Bureau.



In March 1954 the internal postage rate went from 1½d to 2d.



Next release, 18 August 1954, included plates 2-1, 3-2 and 3-3. Border plate 2 was used until 23 February 1954, then plate 3. Vignette plate 1 was used to 23 February 1954, plate 2 to 18 March (about 140,000 sheets), when plate 3 was introduced.

417,448 sheets to Nigeria including 1217 exchanged, and 1500 to Bureau.

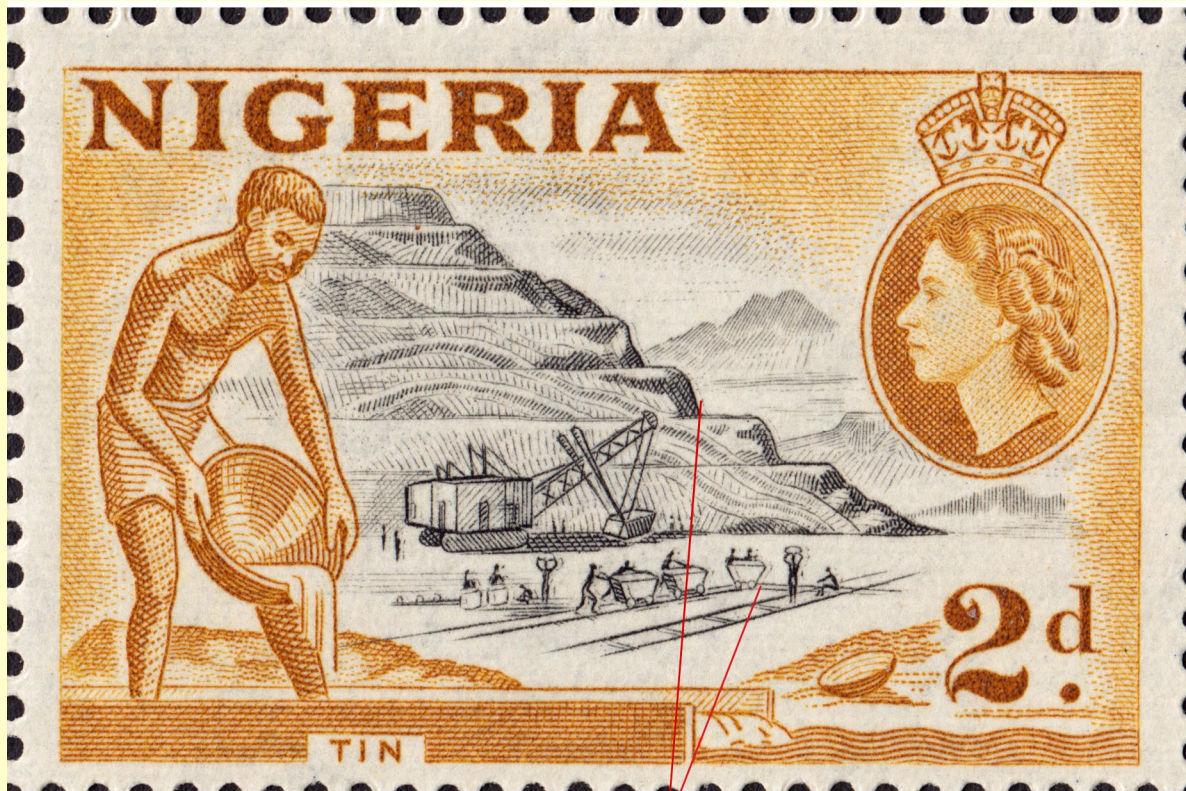


Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

2d value SG72



Final release, 21 September 1955, included plates 4-4 and 5-5. Of 588,727 sheets sent, including exchange of 1050, about 162,000 were plate 5-5. Number of sheets to Bureau not noted by me, but complete unnumbered sheets of 4-4 are not uncommon.



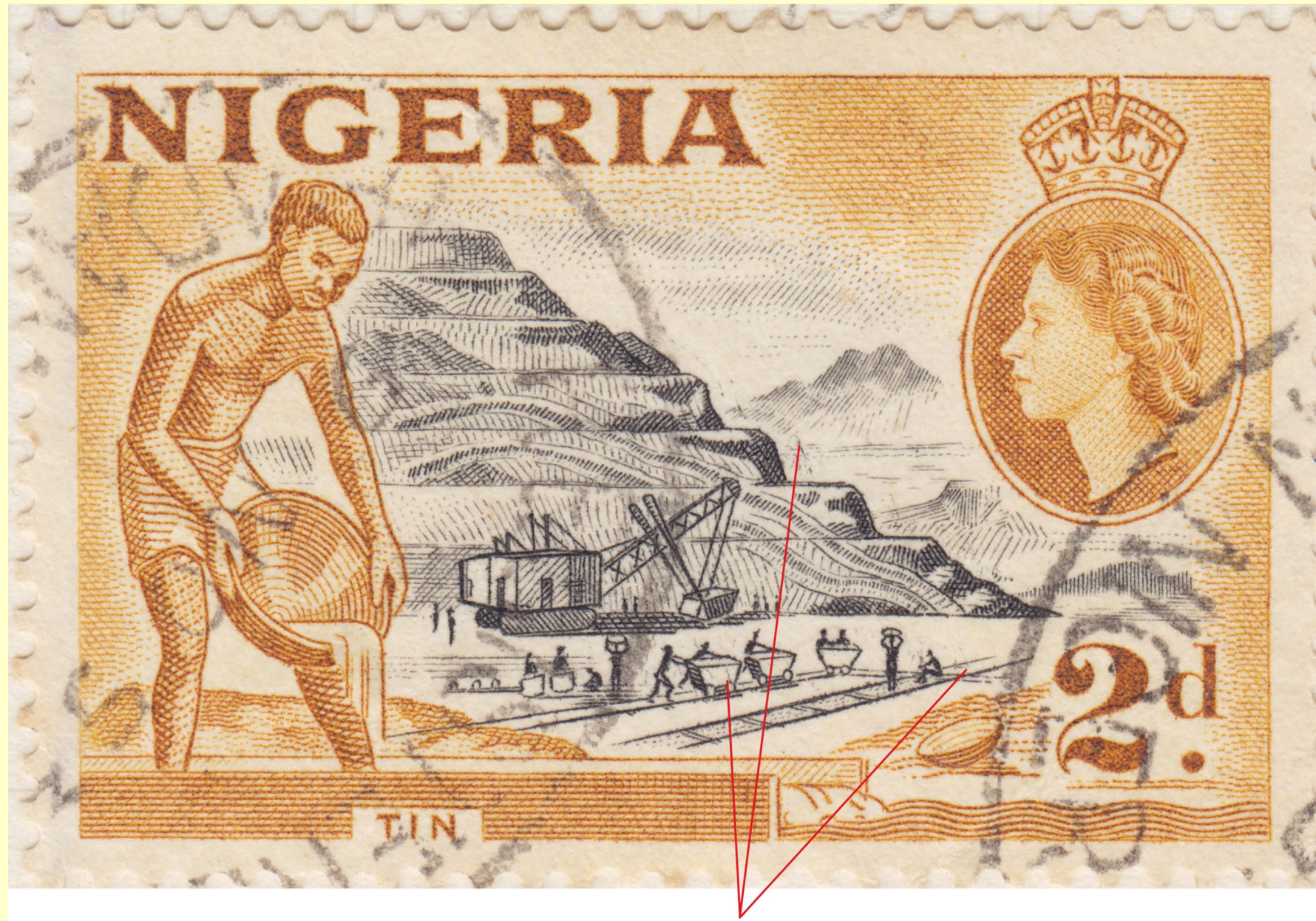
Re-entry Pl.3 R1/5; faint but visible trace of people, trucks



Scratch Pl.3 R1/6; a "smoking man"

Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

2d value SG72

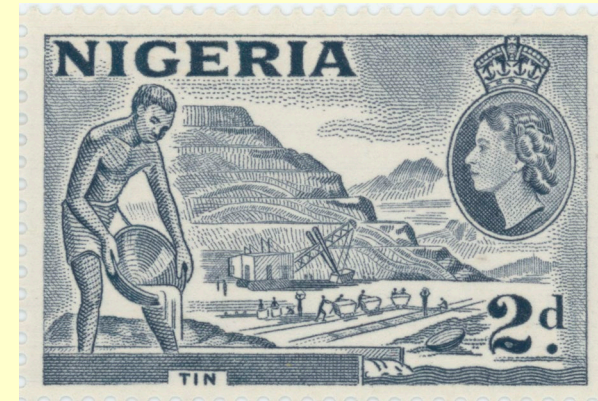


Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

2d value SG72c/d/e/f

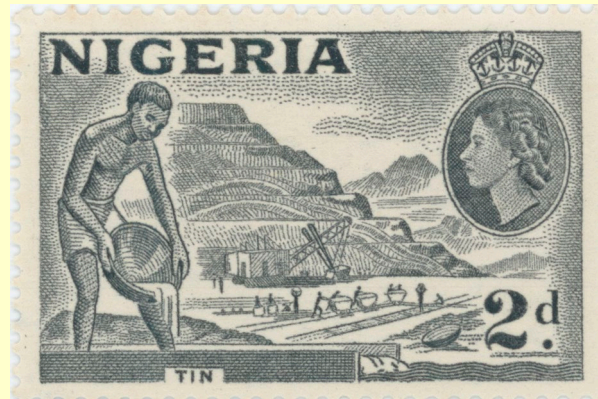


Slate-violet

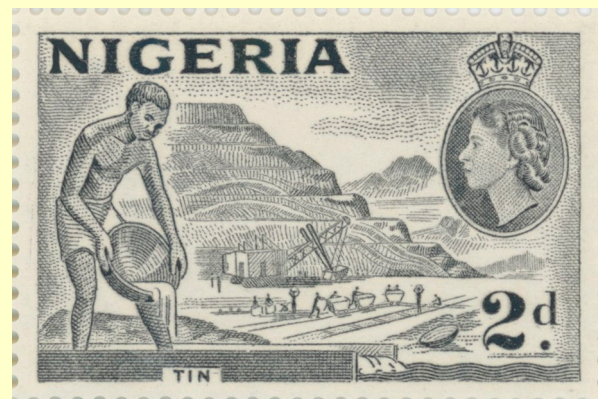


Slate-blue

Type A



Bluish-grey



Grey

Type B

Type A: faint or no dots over workman's head



Rotary printing by Waterlow  
at subsidiary IBS in Brussels

Type B: line of dots over workman's head





In positions R1/4 and R5/3 on type A there are faint dots, identified by each of the blue vertical lines.

Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

2d value SG72c/d/e/f

Requisition 920/1958

1250 reels of 480 ordered, 1187 despatched 5 September 1958, cylinder destroyed 4 May 1961



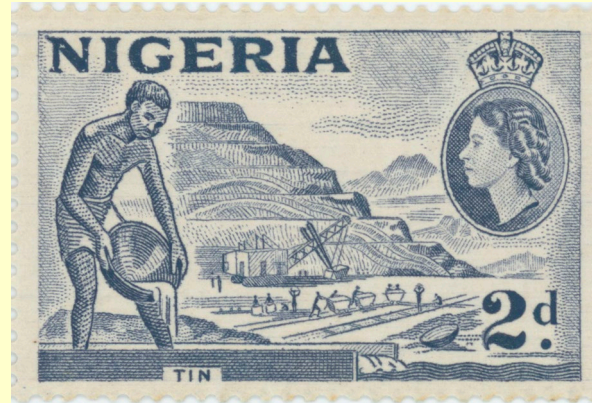
Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

2d value SG72c/d/e/f/+

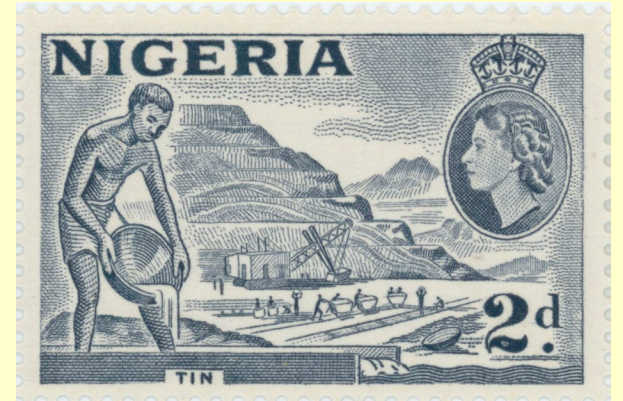


Type A

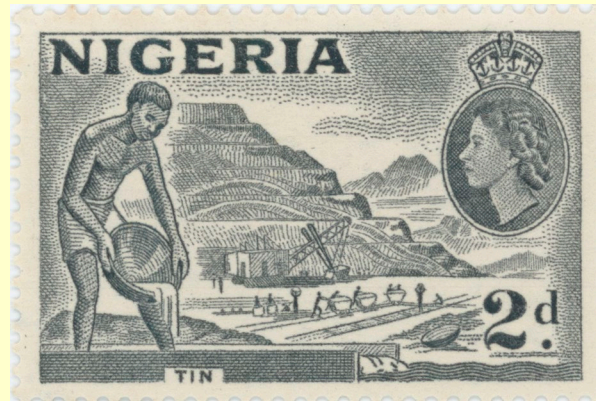
Slate-violet



Reel stamp

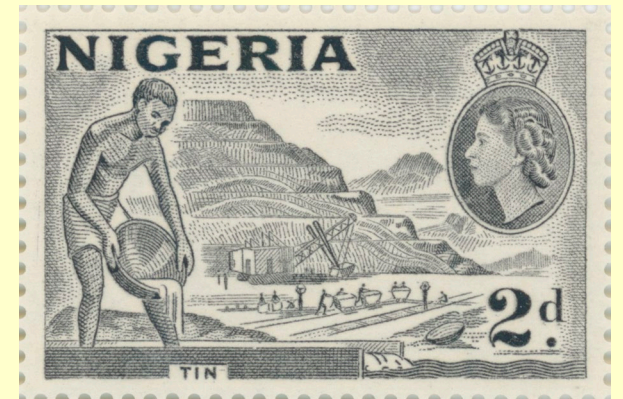


Slate-blue



Type B

Bluish-grey



Grey



A



C?



B

Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961



Colour ~~not~~ Approved 9/1/57 Grey type B



Waterlow samples. Each stamp has a small hole punched through.



# Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

## Requisition 624/1, 1959

Two types of 'wallet' were ordered from De La Rue, 2000 containing the complete set of definitives and 5000 with the set to 2/6. Stamps were obtained from the Bureau.

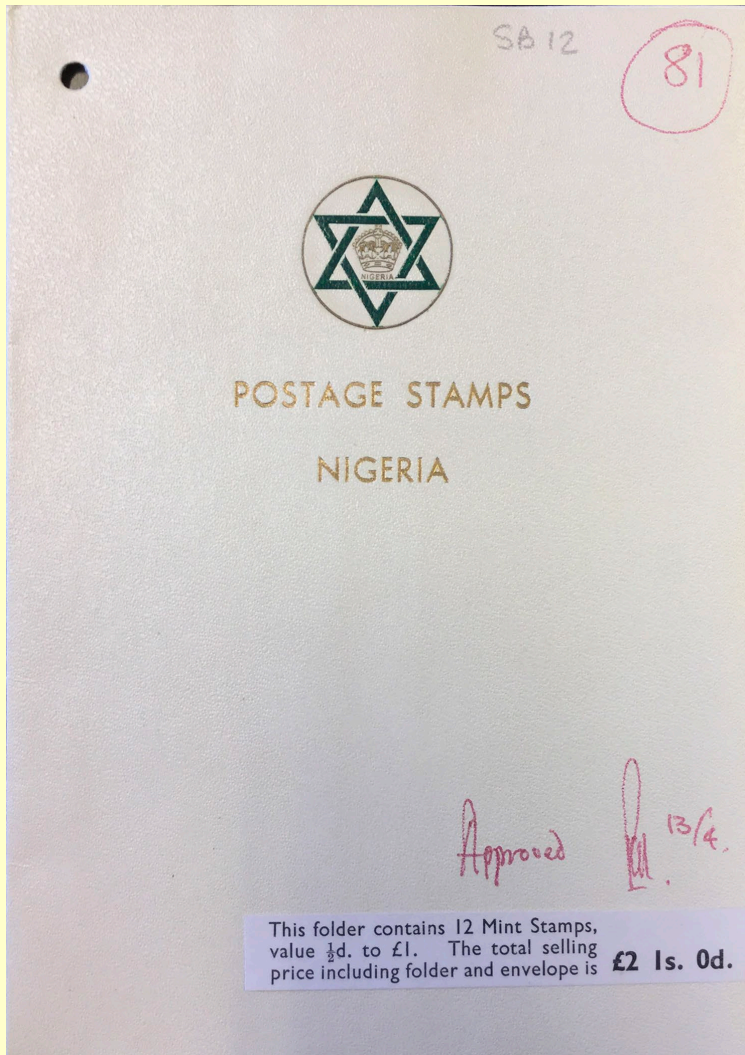


De La Rue were also asked to produce envelopes to match; this is the smaller one. The 2/6 postage is for the double weight airmail rate. The sender worked for the West African Airways Corporation.

# Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

## Requisition 624/1, 1959

Two types of 'wallet' were ordered, 2000 containing the complete set of definitives and 5000 with the set to 2/6.



## Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961



837 sheets sent, 8000 to Bureau.  
In mid-1961 a further 3700 sheets sent.



137 sheets sent, 1000 to Bureau.  
In mid-1961 a further 370 sheets sent.



64 sheets sent, 1000 to Bureau.  
In mid-1961 a further 177 sheets sent.

## Southern Cameroons



257 sheets sent, 1500 to Bureau.



27 sheets sent, 500 to Bureau.  
In mid-1961 a further 64 sheets sent.

## Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961



73 sheets sent, 2000 to Bureau.

In mid-1961 a further 850 sheets sent, collected from Bureau stock.  
The different sheet number font and number length distinguishes it.

## Southern Cameroons

1/- value

2200 sheets sent, 1500 to Bureau.  
In mid-1961 a further 950 sheets sent,  
collected from Bureau stock

Waterlow created a new border plate 4.



13,831 sheets sent, 2000 to Bureau.

In mid-1961 a further 1400 sheets sent, collected from Bureau stock.



Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961

Southern Cameroons

De La Rue printed new sheets from existing Waterlow plates. These were issued in September 1961.



Number of sheets sent not noted by me. Crossed out sheet number suggests returned from Nigeria and renumbered.

Wide margins shows an element of Waterlow's own plate numbers and marginal engraving.



2216 sheets sent, 1000 to Bureau. In mid-1961 a further 3700 sheets sent.

DLR print from Waterlow plates 2-1

Retouch R 2/10

# Nigeria Definitives 1953-1961



Number of sheets sent not noted

Type B

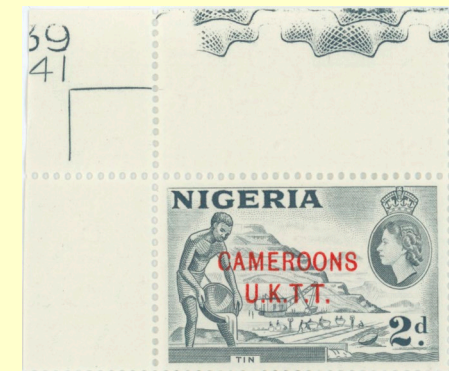


# Southern Cameroons



Type A, scarce

De La Rue printed new sheets from existing Waterlow plates. These were issued in September 1961.



For the £1 value Waterlow created border plate 2; plate 1 had printed less than 7000 sheets but had not been used since 1954. The high values had all been printed in sheets of 60 stamps. For the £1 value the paper size was  $15\frac{1}{8}$  x  $17\frac{1}{4}$  inches with the stamp sheet measuring about 12 x 15 inches.

