

## NIGERIA - KGVI DEFINITIVES



This display explores the diversity of the King George VI (KGVI) Nigeria definitives set introduced in 1938 and superseded in 1953.

During that 15 year period the set underwent significant variation in colours, perforations and paper / gum combinations.

Part 1 of this display considers the set as a whole: background and commissioning, printers and printings, variation and sources of information.

Part 2 describes each of the values of the set.

## The origins of the GVI definitive set

The previous set of Nigerian definitives had been issued on 1 February 1936, showing the head of King George the Vth (KGV), who had died 11 days previously. The set will have been designed, printed (by De La Rue) and despatched to Nigeria before his death.

The examples below, taken from this attractive set, played a part in the design of the GVI definitives.



KGV was succeeded by his eldest son, who became King Edward VIII, but after just under a year as monarch, Edward abdicated in order to marry an American divorcee, Wallis Simpson. Edward's brother became King George VI on 10 December 1936.

There had not been time to prepare a new set of definitive stamps for Nigeria during Edward's brief reign, and, with time taken for design and printing, a new set of definitives featuring KGV I was not issued until 1 May 1938. Meanwhile the 1936 definitives continued in use, with reprints of some values right into 1938. The GVI coronation issue of 12 May 1937 helped to bridge the gap.

## GVI definitives - the design: stage 1

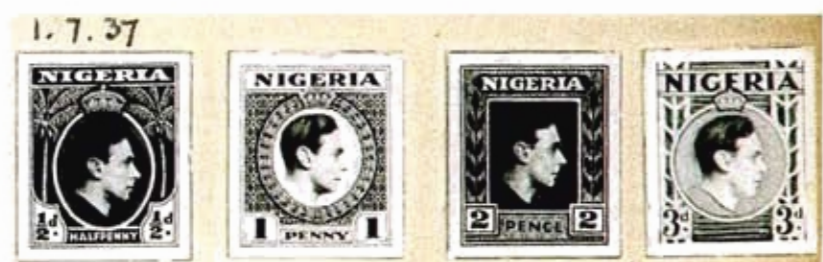
The design of the KGV1 definitives began in 1937, when Bradbury Wilkinson (BW) and De La Rue (DLR) were invited to submit artwork based on the portrait photographs by Bertram Park shown below. The image on the left, taken in 1936, was used by BW, the right hand one, taken in ?1933 was used by DLR. My thanks to Brian Livingstone for the images



The artwork on the left below shows a mock up prepared by DLR, simply done by pasting the GVI image onto a GV stamp. It is titled "*Recess printed. Approved king's head vignette for colonial stamps 21.4.37*". On the right are drawings from BW showing ideas for a smaller stamp.



Image c 1.5X actual size, by kind permission of the British Library



Courtesy of KGV1 Collector's Society taken from "Messrs Bradbury Wilkinson and Co Ltd. Photographic Progressive Essays From the Printer's Record Book" published by KGV1 Collectors' Society, 60th Anniversary 1960-2020"



A more advanced stage of artwork from Bradbury Wilkinson. Image courtesy of Graeme Murray

## GVI definitives - the design: stage 2

In the event, the contract for the lower values of the new set went to BW whose simpler and smaller design is shown on the right, titled "Second Proof". Image courtesy of the British Library



*Approved  
RWC  
3/12/37*

DLR were contracted to print the 2/6 and the 5s values. For the 2/6 stamp they used the KGV 2/6 design and colours, but with the head of KGV1, and for the 5s they used the old 10s design, featuring the Niger at Jebba, but with new head and using the orange frame from the KGV £1.



The image above comes from DLR records and is titled 'Requisition 1380/2 25th October 1937'. Reproduced by courtesy of the British Library.

Although the GV definitives and the later QEII set included 10s and £1 values those were not included in the GVI set.

Were the smaller size BW stamps, the re-use of KGV designs and the omission of top values a measure of economy? Other West Africa KGV1 definitives - (Sierra Leone for example) included larger format throughout, and 10/- and £1 values.

# NIGERIA - KGVI DEFINITIVES

## GVI definitives - the design: stage 3

The images below come from BW colour proofs, courtesy of the British Library and dated 13 January 1938. They show that colours were not fixed until relatively late on. Apart from the orange 1 1/2d, the proof colours shown were based on the colours used for the GV definitives.



The colour proofs below, dated 18.2.44, (also from the British Library) prepare for colour changes necessitated by new postal rates.



## GVI definitives - issued 1 May 1938

The new definitive set had been requisitioned by the Crown Agents in 1937. Requisition no 3780/1 went to BW for the values up to the 1/-, Requisition 3780/2 went to DLR for the new 2/6d and 5/-. The BW stamps were despatched to Nigeria in several batches, between 21 February and 28 March 1938. The DLR material was all sent on 4 January 1938 (this and other similar data comes from Crown Agent Requisition books in the British Library).

Supplies were thus available in Nigeria in good time for distribution to post offices ready for the official issue date of 1 May 1938. The first day cover shown below was sent from Damaturu in Northern Nigeria to Potiskum some 65 miles away, arriving (as shown by backstamp) on 3rd May.

Although philatelic, it is of interest as a local cover, and even first day covers of this set ordered from, and sent, abroad are not as common as one might expect.



# NIGERIA - KGV1 DEFINITIVES

## GVI definitives - a summary

The table and notes below summarise GVI definitives over the entire period of production. Apart from rare sideways watermark variants, Gibbons does not recognise any other constant varieties or flaws - surprising given how many stamps were printed.

SG cat no	Value	Gibbons colour	First issued <sup>1</sup>	Perfs	Total stamps <sup>2</sup>	No of issues <sup>3</sup>	No of print runs <sup>4</sup>
49	½d	Green	1.5.38	12	29,680,920	13	38
49a	½d	Green	15.2.50	11½	17,864,880	3	12
50	1d	Carmine	1.5.38	12	18,835,200	3	11
50a	1d	Rose-red shades	3.40	12	42,341,040	5	25
50b	1d	Bright purple	1.12.44	12	64,518,000	4	30
50ba	1d	Bright purple	15.2.50	11½	38,606,000	2	7
51	1½d	Brown	1.5.38	12	49,631,280	5	23
51a	1½d	Brown	15.11.50	11½	68,899,200	3	16
52	2d	Black	1.5.38	12	4,386,160	5	10
52a	2d	Rose-red	11.12.44	12	5,970,360	7	12
52ab	2d	Rose-red	15.2.50	11½	9,660,600	5	11
52b <sup>9</sup>	2½d	Orange	1.41 or 4.41	12	1,341,360	3	3
53	3d	Blue	1.5.38 <sup>5</sup>	12	4,725,080	6	12
53b	3d	Black	11.12.44	12	3,135,600	2	6
54	4d	Orange	1.5.38	12	412,800	1	2
54a	4d	Blue	11.12.44	12	1,236,360	2	4
55	6d	Blackish-purple	1.5.38	12	8,507,840	10	13
55a	6d	Blackish-purple	17.4.51	11½	4,155,600	6	8
56	1s	Sage-green	1.5.38	12	3,624,200	9	12
56a	1s	Sage-green	15.2.50	11½	4,552,800	5	9
57 <sup>9</sup>	1s3d	Light-blue	2.40	12	1,753,560	7	10
57a	1s3d	Light-blue	14.6.50	11½	1,713,000	7	7
58	2s6d	Black & blue	1.5.38	13 X 11½	69,900	1	1
8a	2s6d	Black & blue	6.42 <sup>6</sup>	13½	240,360	6	10
58ab	2s6d	Black & deep blue	5.3.47	13½	71,820	1	1
58b	2s6d	Black & blue	7.9.42 <sup>7</sup>	14	245,280	3	4
58c	2s6d	Black & blue	15.8.51	12	257,220	3	3
59	5s	Black & orange	1.5.38	13 X 11½	76,680	1	1
59a	5s	Black & orange	8.42	13½	215,880	3	3
59b	5s	Black & orange	26.4.48 <sup>8</sup>	14	109,320	2	2
59c	5s	Black & orange	19.5.49	12	408,480	4	4

<sup>1</sup> *First issued date* shows when the stamps were made available to dealers. The date of first despatch to Nigeria was often earlier.

<sup>2</sup> *Total stamps* is taken from The Crown Agent's requisition books which give the number actually delivered from the printers. That information does not always match numbers taken from printers' records.

<sup>3</sup> *No of issues* is taken as the number of separate Crown Agent requisitions for the value.

<sup>4</sup> *No of print runs* is taken from printers' records summarised by McCaig

<sup>5</sup> The blue 3d was replaced by the 3d black in December 1944 but reissued in 1.48

<sup>6</sup> Issued before and after the perf 14 printings of 1942

<sup>7</sup> Perf 14 issued in 1942 and again in 1948 and 1949

<sup>8</sup> Perf 14 issued in 1948 and again in 1950

<sup>9</sup> New values reflecting postal rate changes (2½d surface to UK/empire, and 1s3d airmail to UK).

### GVI definitives - summary of diversity

**Number printed** Ranges from about 70,000 just under 69,000,000 for different issues. This reflected postal rates and the volumes of different sorts of mail. Looking at covers, it was not unusual to see multiples of low values, suggesting perhaps that the higher values were not always available. Catalogue values roughly reflect numbers.

**Colours and colour changes** Several values were reprinted in new colours - the 3d was first printed in blue, then in black, and later reverted to blue. This reflected changes in key postal rates requiring colour change to maintain conformity with UPU rules.

War-time shortages of particular dyes meant it was difficult to maintain consistency between printings - particularly true of the 1d rose-red.

Some commentators ascribe subtly different shades to reprint issues. This is described under individual values later on. Gibbons is generally conservative though its ascription of a particular deep-blue in SG58ab is suspect. On the other hand, there is a distinct yellow-green shade of the 1/2d which deserves separate listing.

Colour is notoriously difficult to judge, especially with stamps over 70 years old.

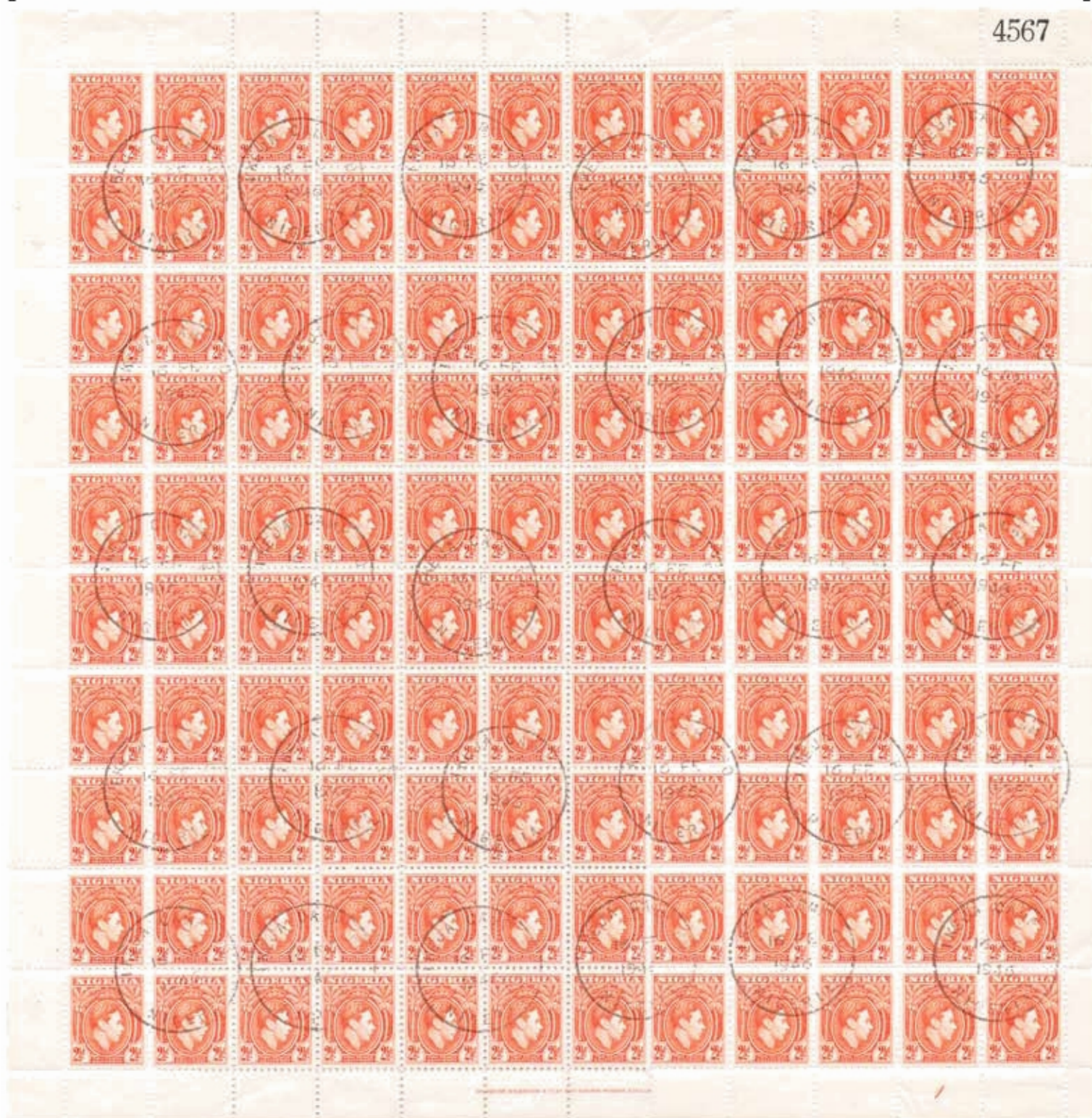
**Perforations** The BW issues are relatively straightforward - line perforated 12 but from c. February 1950 all comb perforated 11.5.

DLR values are not at all straightforward. The listing shows a variety of perforations, with both line and comb types. This is generally ascribed to problems at the DLR works after bomb damage in December 1940. However, as described in the pages on individual denominations, printings alternated gauge several times even after the war ended.

**Paper and gum changes** Authorities distinguish several paper and gum types, though it can be difficult nowadays to assess these accurately. Given the longevity of the set and war-time shortages, it would be surprising if there were no variation. However, having measured a sample of 100 mint stamps across the range, I have not found a clear pattern of differences in paper thickness.

## GVI definitives - sheet printing and numbering 1

All the stamps were recess printed. The BW issues were printed in sheets of 120 (10 rows of 12), which were printed in pairs, then separated. This example at 75% size, of SG 52b, was sent to Nigeria (as shown by the sheet number top right) and returned to the Crown Agents' Bureau cancelled to order. The plate number is shown in the lower right-hand corner.



# NIGERIA - KGV1 DEFINITIVES

## GVI definitives - sheet printing and numbering 2

This sheet of SG 59a (5/- comb perforated 13.5) was printed by DLR. It comes from the third printing, which was issued to collectors in June 1944 though sent to Nigeria in March 1943. Shown at 75% size (and scanned in two halves), from the collection of Graeme Murray. Note the unusual position of the sheet number.



## GVI definitives - sheet printing and numbering 3

BW line-perforated issue sheets were perforated right through to the edge of the four selvages, as shown by the top two rows of stamps below which come from the 12th issue (19.5.49).

Comb-perforated BW sheets generally have no perforations through the bottom selvedge, through perforations on the side and the top selvages.

However, in the bottom two rows shown here, from the final BW issue (the 14th, of 14.6.50), which was comb perforated, one side selvedge has only 2 extra perforations on either the right or left (depending on whether they come from a right hand or left hand pane), while it has through perforations on the other side, where it adjoined the other pane.

Note also the variable width of the selvages and (in these examples), the presence of a plate number below the 11th row. BW plate numbers came in pairs (as in 6, 6a) indicating whether the sheet came from the left hand printing plate or the right hand one). BW plate numbers were not always shown.



## GVI definitives - sheet printing and numbering 4

DLR sheet perforations and plate numbers present a more complicated picture. On line-perforated issues, the perforations extend into the bottom selvedge, generally going to the edge, likewise on the right and left selvedges, and probably on the top selvedge, though only 2 examples have been seen.

The comb-perforated issues have no perforations through the bottom selvedge, and most examples seen have a single extra perforation in right and left selvedges. No examples seen which include the top selvedge. The first issue of both the 2/6 and the 5/- have no extra perforations on one side selvedge and through perforations on the other. Top and bottom selvedges have a single extra perforation.

As bicolour stamps passing twice through the presses, the DLR sheets have registration dots and crosses in the frame colour, as shown on an earlier page, and have two plate numbers. The vignette number is under the second stamp from the left, the frame number under the second from the right. Plate numbers are not always in line, and on issue 1 of both values the vignette number is usually missing - probably guillotined off. On earlier issues there is a horizontal smudge of frame colour between the 2 plate numbers, but this is less evident in later issues.

**Sheet numbers:** As with most colonies, Nigeria opted to have sequential numbers printed on every sheet despatched. This cost extra, and sheets retained by the Crown Agents' Bureau were not numbered. Numbers were applied after printing, using separate machinery, and at least three different font sizes were used - see image below.



Leading zeros reflected the anticipated total number of sheets for the issue. Generally the sheet number was placed as shown, to the right on the top selvedge, but other positions were common, especially if the top selvedge was narrow, as shown on the image of the 5/- sheet shown earlier.

# NIGERIA - KGVI DEFINITIVES

## Specimen and coil stamps

Requisitions for new issues from both printers included an order for specimen stamps to be sent to the UPU for distribution to their members.

According to Bob Myers' article in *Cameo* 125 (*West African UPU British Empire Security Protected Specimen Stamps from 1884 to 1948*) 400 copies of each of 15 new issues of the KGVI set were sent. Gibbons KGVI catalogue offers the 15 specimens and notes that the 15 excludes the 2½d value. The number of copies of issues after 1938 was probably 360.

The images below show 16 specimens. It may be that the 2 examples of the 1d (nominally SG50 and SG50a) are actually the same, without the 2½d. The Crown Agents requisition book states, under requisition 8847 which deals with the 2½d 'New Duty. GPO Specimens and Dealers 12,000 stamps'.

Requisition 7692/3 included 962,880 1d bright purple stamps (SG50b) to be made into 206 reels of 480 each. Sent 12/49 to 1/50 these coils were for use in vending machines. I've not seen any examples.



SG49



SG50



SG50a GM



SG50b GM



SG51



SG52



SG52a GM



SG53



SG53b GM



SG54



SG54a GM



SG55



SG56



SG57 GM

'GM' refers to examples kindly lent by Graeme Murray.



SG58



SG59



## **Display part 2 the individual denominations**

The pages which follow deal with each denomination in turn, describing each issue in terms of how many were printed, when they were sent to Nigeria, and when they were made available via the Crown Agents' Bureau. Each issue is illustrated with an individual mint example taken from a reliably-dated collection.

In assembling information and images, a number of sources have been used, not all published and not all in agreement with each other. The first page of this section therefore considers where the information came from and how any necessary reconciliations have been made.

Images rather than real stamps are used, partly because many have delicate selvages (not shown) on which issue dates were written, partly in the hope that colours are clearer when unaffected by mounts, and also because I do not own a number of the examples!

## GVI definitives individual values: introduction 1

### Sources of information

**Potter and Shelton (PS)** published *The printings of King George VI colonial stamps*. PS published this key early reference work in 1952, before the last of the KGVI issues, and missed a few requisitions during war years. Many collections are still organised according to PS printings.

**McCaig (McC)** Colin McCaig was a renowned collector of West Africa. He assembled, but did not publish, an account of Nigerian stamp issues, which included otherwise lost information from BW on printings of the GVI set. His manuscript is dated c 1956

**Saunders (S)** *Nigeria – the definitive set* was published in 1967 as a supplement to Geosix No 45. Saunders took PS printing dates as a starting point and added a considerable amount of new information, on papers, gum and perforations together with more complex descriptions of the colours of each printing.

**Warren (W)** *Nigeria 1938 to 1951 definitives* published in Geosix in 4 parts between 1989 and 1994. His work built on PS printing dates and on S assessments of colour, to which he added information about numbers printed and despatch dates gained from CARB records

**Crown Agents' Requisition Books (CARB)** held in the British Library and give information about every requisition (which generally involved a print order)

**Crown Agents' Bulletin (CAB)** issued regularly with details of reprints, issue dates etc. Wartime disruption and paper shortages meant that between 1938 and 1942 CAB issues were irregular and information sometimes incomplete.

**Gibbons' Stamp monthly (GSM)** provided information about new issues and reprints.

**Stamp collections.** George Vith specialists usually based their collections on the PS summary of individual printings, . The author has several such collections to cross reference (most notably McC and W collections), and has generously been lent material, most notably from Graeme Murray (GM).

## GVI definitives individual values: introduction 2

### The individual values tables

For each value I have provided a summary table of information, supplemented as necessary by footnotes. Table headings are derived as follows:

**Issue#** assigns a number to each requisition given in CARB.

**PS/S#** does the same for each printing mentioned by PS, as supplemented by S for printings after the publication of PS. X indicates that there is no PS/S equivalent to a particular requisition.

**Perf** gives perforation (rounded to the nearest half). l indicates line perforation, c comb.

**Req no** gives the requisition number as stated in CARB.

**Runs** gives the actual number of print runs to fulfil that requisition, taken from McC who had access to the original printers' records from BW and DLR.

**Total printed** taken from CARB, usually but not always agreeing with McC. The number sent to Nigeria was usually slightly fewer after supplies were earmarked for dealers via the Crown Agents' Bureau.

**Plate nos** plate numbers do not appear on all BW issues, but where they do, they are given here. It is not clear why policy appears to have varied, or why some denominations involved up to 8 plates while others only one.

**Sent to Nigeria** CARB give earliest and last dates of despatch to Nigeria for each issue. These do not necessarily coincide with the dates of individual print runs (at times the Crown Agents appear to have delayed sending until the new stamps were actually needed), but are probably the most useful indicator of when stamps became available to be used on Nigerian mail.

**Issue date** Refers to when stamps were made available to stamp dealers. Before the commencement of the Crown Agent's Bureau service at the end of 1941, dealers had to obtain supplies from Nigeria. That, coupled with lack of detailed information, meant that some early issue dates are not exactly known. Issue dates could be up to a year after first sending to Nigeria!

**Colour descriptions** CARB, and Gibbons give simple colour descriptions. PS elaborated a little on those colours, while S and W gave detailed descriptions. The colours given here are mostly based on S, but distinctions are not easy to make with confidence in many cases.

## NIGERIA - KGVI DEFINITIVES

### GVI definitives individual values: the ½d (p1)

The half-penny was printed in considerable numbers. It was the standard rate for post-cards within Nigeria for much of the period, and for printed material, though relatively few such covers survived. However it is common on covers sent abroad in combination with other low values.

Colours (see next sheet) range through shades of green varying from dull to bright, though issue 10 is a distinctive yellow-green.



Internal post card (75% true size) sent by the CMS Bookshop in Lagos in response to an order from Calabar, dated 12.2.49. 'TPO' in red meaning unknown.



Registered cover to Foyles book shop in London, bearing correct rate of 4½d (3d registration, 1½d surface mail). Posted Sapele Town (D1 cancel) 19.8.49. Reverse bears handwritten Registration etiquette and is stamped Sapele (20.8.49).

## GVI definitives individual values: the ½d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	12	3780/1	2	1,316,760	None	21.2.38 – 28.3.38	1.5.38
2	X	12	5548/1	1	1,051,200	None	22.8.38	9.38
3	X	12	6739/1	1	1,656,720	None	28.2.39	3.39
4	X	12	8202/1	3	1,806,360	None	23.2.40 – 15.3.40	3.40
5 <sup>1</sup>	2	12	9631/1	4	1,502,040	None	23.8.41 – 12.4.42	6.42
6 <sup>1</sup>	2	12	110/1	3	2,266,800	None	1.4.42 – 8.6.42	7.42
7 <sup>2</sup>	3	12	899/1	5	4,834,200	None	5.4.43 – 29.6.43	7.44
8 <sup>3</sup>	4	12	1917/2	4	1,519,800	None	26.10.44 – 29.11.44	11.12.44
9	5	12	2210/1	4	1,828,800	None	17.1.45 – 6.4.45	26.3.45
10 <sup>4</sup>	6	12	3998/1	3	1,444,800	None	29.10.46 – 10.7.47	15.11.46
11 <sup>4</sup>	7	12	4944/1	3	2,461,440	None	21.5.47 – 10.7.47	26.6.47
12	8	12	6116/1	2	2,208,000	None	2.4.48 – 28.4.48	26.4.48
13	9	12	6888/1	3	5,784,000	None	26.10.48 – 16.11.48	10.11.48
14	10	11.5	8947/1	3	6,612,000	None	3.11.49 – 6.12.49	15.2.50
15 <sup>5</sup>	11	11.5	3071/1	3	2,462,880	None	1.7.51 – 8.8.51	15.8.51
16	12	11.5	4032/1	6	8,790,000	2/2A	3.1.52 – 25.8.52	7.2.52

<sup>1</sup> Issue 5 printings run over a long period, and appear to overlap with Issue 6

<sup>2</sup> Uncertain issue date. Authorities either silent or disagree.

<sup>3</sup> CARB also gives req 1917/1: 30,000 stamps sent to Nigeria from existing Bureau stock without fresh printing

<sup>4</sup> CARB data shows overlap of dispatch dates. Some uncertainty about total printed

<sup>7</sup> CARB shows that 100,080 stamps were sent to Nigeria from Bureau stocks on 1.7.51, presumably to meet a shortage, and that this Bureau stock was then replaced by stamps from this requisition.

Issue 1



Green

Issue 2



Green

Issue 3



Green

Issue 4



Green

Issue 5



Dull-green

Issue 6



As issue 5

Issue 7



Dull-green

Issue 8



Dull-green

Issue 9



Dull-green

Issue 10



Yellow-green

Issue 11



Green

Issue 12



Blue-green

Issue 13



Green

Issue 14



Green

Issue 15



Green

Issue 16



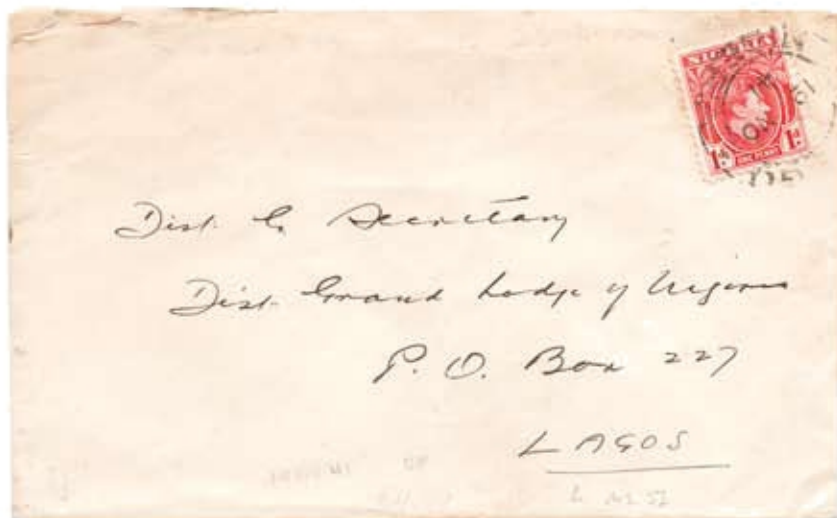
Bright-green

## GVI definitives individual values: the 1d (p1)

As the normal surface postage rate within Nigeria for much of the period, many millions of the 1d were printed (see next sheet), though relatively such covers have survived. Two examples are shown below at 75% real size.

The first printings of the 1d were in carmine, a shade of red with a touch of blue in it. However, war-time shortages of dyes necessitated a change of colour to rose-red. That ink proved difficult to formulate consistently as recognised by the Gibbons description '*Rose red shades*'.

A final change to bright purple took place in 1944 in response to an increase from 1d to 1½d in the rate for postcards sent to foreign countries, for which the UPU reserved the colour red.



An internal letter sent from Enugu to Lagos on 19.11.41.

The reverse is pictured below showing arrival three days later, as shown by the machine cancel type M2 57. This is the last known use date for that cancel.



A philatelic cover, showing the scarce Kishi D1 skeleton cancel. Gallaway was a collector who worked for Nigerian railways and posted letters to himself. Internal mail rates were 1½d by the time this was sent, but by the unsealed letter was perhaps accepted as commercial, so not taxed.

## GVI definitives individual values: the 1d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	12	3780/1	3	3,359,760	None	21.2.38 – 28.3.38	1.5.38
2	X	12	5548/1	5	7,717,440	None	25.7.38 – 13.9.38	9.38
3	X	12	7513/1	3	7,758,000	None	28.8.39 – 27.9.39	9.39
4	2	12	8202/1	4	5,535,600	None	15.3.40 – 29.4.40	3.40
5	3	12	9631/1	9	9,594,000	None	23.8.41 – 12.4.42	6.42
6	4	12	110/1	4	7,530,000	None	11.5.42 – 16.7.42	8.42
7	4	12	227/1	3	7,419,600	2/2a?	16.7.42 – 17.8.42	8.42
8	5	12	879/1	5	12,261,840	2/2a?, 3/3a	5.4.43 – 29.6.43	6.43 or 7.43
9	6	12	1652/1	5	7,539,600	2/2a, 3/3a	16.3.44 – 7.6.44	1.12.44
10	7	12	5129/1	8	14,386,800	2/2a, 3/3a	1.9.47 – 20.1.48	29.9.47
11	8	12	6562/1	5	18,339,600	4/4a, 5/5a	28.4.48 – 5.8.48	12.8.48
12 <sup>1</sup>	9	12	7692/1	12	24,252,000	4/4a, 5/5a	16.3.49 – 18.10.49	19.5.49
13 <sup>2</sup>	10	11.5	7692/3	2	1,046,000	5/5a	19.12.49 – 13.1.50	15.2.50
14	11	11.5	126/1	5	37,560,000	6/6A, 7/7A, 8/8A	23.3.50 – 6.6.50	14.6.50

<sup>1</sup> McC records 1,536,000 fewer stamps printed than CARB records. Perhaps his data is missing a printing (there were several other printings of 1,536,000 in this requisition). W confusingly gives a Feb 50 issue date, and the use of plates 6,7,8, which didn't come into use until issue 14 (according to CA records). He also mentions coils of stamps, which were produced only in issue 13.

<sup>2</sup> A much smaller printing, probably to produce coil stamps, though 83,280 more stamps were printed than the 962,880 stamps supplied as 2006 coils of 48. W suggests that plates 6/6a etc were also used for this issue, but those plates were probably not used until issue 14.

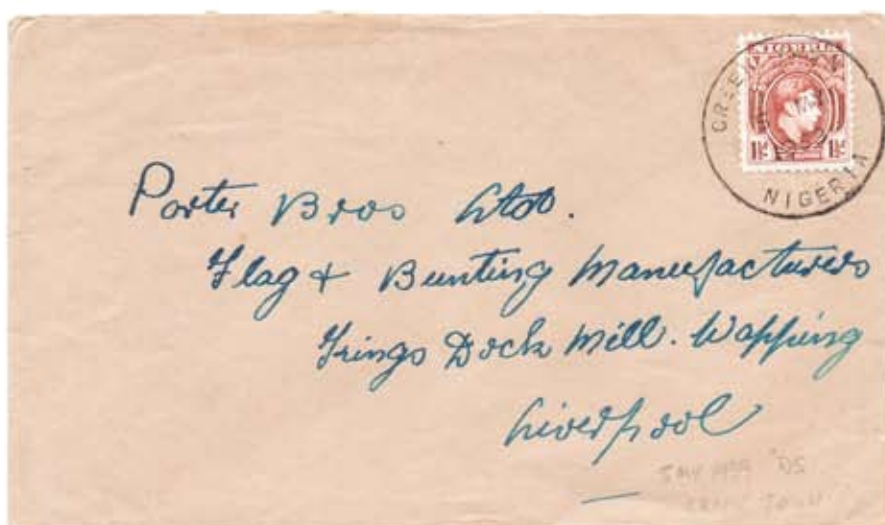


## GVI definitives individual values: the 1½d (p1)

The 1½d is second behind the 1d in terms of numbers printed, and perhaps not surprisingly the number of plates involved (see p2) was relatively large. For five years of KGVI's reign 1½d was the standard rate for internal mail, and for eight years it was the standard surface rate for mail to the UK and Empire.

Colours varied between printings, but not to a great extent.

Both covers below bear the correct postage for the time and are shown at 75% true size



Porter Bros covers sent in pursuit of postmarks by Herbert Porter are well known, but this is likely to have been a genuine enquiry for his firm's products.

Posted 5.3.39 from Creek Town (cancel type D5 - earliest known use)



Galloway was introduced on Sheet 20.

This letter may well be genuinely sent to him by someone else, to judge by the mis-spelt name and the handwriting. Bode Sadu cancel is type D2, 2.2.53

## GVI definitives individual values: the 1½d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos <sup>3</sup>	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	12	3780/1	2	1,324,560	None	21.2.38 – 28.3.38	1.5.38
2	2	12	8202/1	2	725,520	None	15.3.40 – 16.4.40	3.40
3 <sup>1</sup>	3	12	1588/1	6	18,354,000	None?, 2/2A, 3/3A	28.2.44 – 27.7.44	3 or 4.44
4	4	12	2710/1	4	14,812,800	None?, 2/2A, 3/3A?	3.9.45 – 27.11.45	24.10.45
5 <sup>2</sup>	X	12	3998/1	9	14,414,400	2/2a	29.10.46 – 10.7.47	2., 5. or 10.47
6	5	11.5	1866/1	8	29,052,000	4/4a, 5/5a?	13.11.50 – 9.7.51	15.11.50
7	6	11.5	5429/1	4	29,328,000	4/4a, 5/5a	24.3.52 – 16.6.52	28.5.52
8 <sup>3</sup>	7	11.5	5429/3	4	10,519,200	4/4a?, 5/5a, 6/6a?	11.8.52 – 6/10/52	22.10.52

<sup>1</sup> Rate for surface letter within Nigeria went up to 1½d on 1.4.44 hence large number printed

<sup>2</sup> Not mentioned in PS or S, perhaps because issue date uncertainty. CAB #169 of 2.47 notes that the Bureau will not sell the 1½d definitive until supplies of the 1½d Victory issue have run out. GSM mentions (5.47) that bureau supplies are now available. W notes an additional 4,111,200 stamps printed between 26.8.46 to 29.10.46 which don't appear in McC records or CARB. Suspect an error in W

<sup>3</sup> a question mark after plate number shows that authorities differ on plate numbers used. For example, in issue 8 W and S mention 5a/5a only. Only McC mentions 4/4a

Issue 1



Chestnut-brown

Issue 2



Duller-chestnut-brown

Issue 3



Reddish-chestnut-brown

Issue 4



Deep-red-brown

Issue 5



Deep-red-brown

Issue 6



Red-chestnut

Issue 7



Deep-red-brown

Issue 8



Deep-red-brown

## GVI definitives individual values: the 2d (p1)

Initially printed in black, the 2d value did not correspond to a specific postal rate, but was used in combination with other values. In 1944 the rate for a foreign postcard went up to 2d, necessitating a change of colour to rose red in accordance with UPU regulations.

Although demand for the 2d value was thus much lower than for, say, the 1d, it was re-printed often, with ensuing minor colour variation as shown on p2.



Registered cover from Calabar (label reusing envelope sent from US Consulate) Back stamps Calabar 21.9.42, Lagos 26.9.42. Reg fee was 3d, so 3d for postage when rate was 1d + 1d per extra ounce.



Registered cover from Iseyin to Lagos. Correct postage of 3d registration, 1d postage. 25.1.49 Iseyin cancel Di, repeated on reverse, with reg cancels from Oyo (25.1.49), Ibadan (26.1.49) and Lagos iPO (27.1.49)

## GVI definitives individual values: the 2d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	12	3780/1	2	543,600	None	21.2.38 – 28.3.38	1.5.38
2	X	12	5548/1	2	1,188,000	None	25.7.38 – 29.8.38	9.38
3	X	12	8202/1	1	660,000	None	15.3.40	3.40
4	2	12	9874/1	2	769,000	None	19.12.41 – 6.2.42	3.42
5 <sup>1</sup>	3	12	899/1	3	1,225,560	None	11.3.43 – 29.4.43	4.44?
6	4	12	1652/1	3	1,119,000	None	16.3.44 – 5.5.44	11.12.44
7	5	12	2391/2	2	438,600	None (or 1?)	27.3.45 – 11.5.45	23.5.45
8 <sup>2</sup>	6	12	3450/1	2	345,600	None	27.4.46 – 23.5.46	20.5.46
9	7	12	3863/1	1	569,160	None	29.10.46	15.11.46
10 <sup>3</sup>	8	12	4732/1	2	786,000	None	21.5.47	30.4.47
11 <sup>4</sup>	9	12	5499/1	1	766,800	2 <sup>McC</sup> or 1 <sup>CA7</sup>	20.1.48	7.1.48
12	10	12	6699/1	1	1,945,200	2	5.8.48	12.8.48
13	11	11.5	8947/1	3	2,409,600	2	3.11.49 – 6.12.49	15.2.50
14 <sup>5</sup>	12	11.5	1173/1	2	2,457,000	2 or 2/2a <sup>5</sup>	12.10.50 – 13.11.50	11.50
15	13	11.5	4245/1	2	2,046,000	2	29.1.52 – 27.2.52	28.5.52
16	13	11.5	5429/1	2	1,518,000	2 or 2/2a <sup>5</sup>	24.3.52 – 7.4.52	28.5.52
17	14	11.5	5429/3	2	1,230,000	2 or 2/2a <sup>5</sup>	8.9.52 - 22.9.52	22.10.52

<sup>1</sup> Issue date from Bureau comes from PS. 4/44 was a long time after first dispatch to Nigeria no other information to hand on issue date to the Bureau

<sup>2</sup> W in Geosix gives an extra printing, dated ?.8.46 involving over 2m stamps, which is not mentioned in McC or CARB or S, and a lot more than were printed in issues 8 and 9 which followed soon after

<sup>3</sup> The Bureau issue date is given in GSM of July 47.

<sup>4</sup> CARB and McC only mention plate 2 for this issue and for all later issues. S mentions 2/2a for issues 16 and 17, and one would expect plates in pairs (2 and 2a).

<sup>5</sup> Issue date comes only from PS.

Issue 1



Black

Issue 2



Black

Issue 3



Black

Issue 4



Slate-black

Issue 5



Slate-black

Issue 6



Carmine-red

Issue 7



Scarlet

Issue 8



Dull-scarlet

Issue 9



Deep-bright-red

Issue 10



Carmine-red

Issue 11



Bright-carmine-red

Issue 12



Bright-carmine-red

Issue 13



Deep-scarlet

Issue 14



Deep-scarlet

Issue 15



Rose-scarlet

Issue 16



Rose-scarlet

Issue 17



Carmine-rose

## GVI definitives individual values: the 2½d (p1)

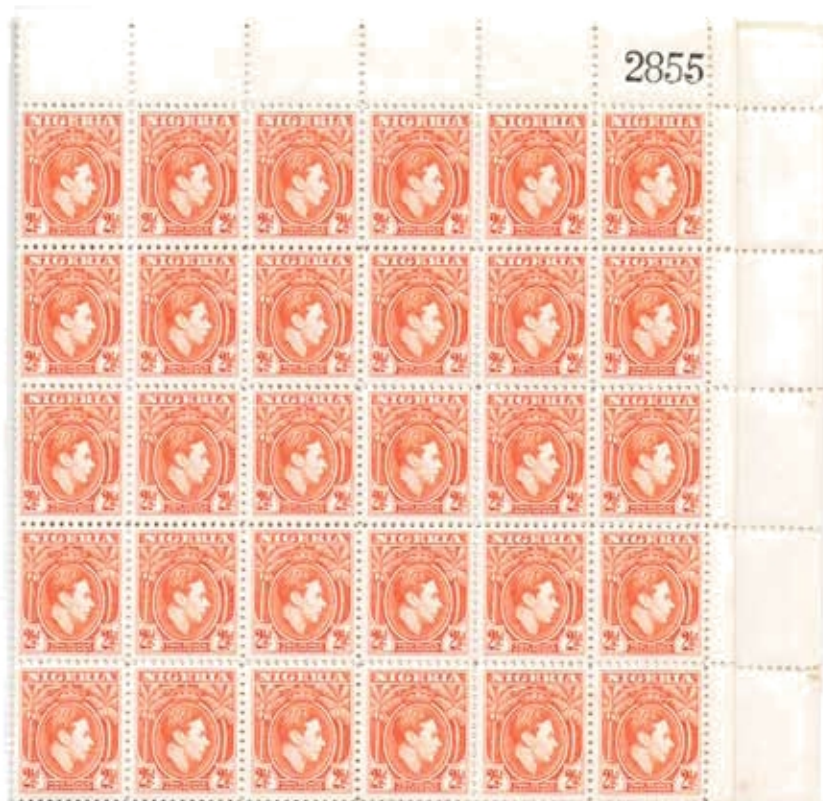
The 2½d was introduced in January 1941 to cater for an increase to 2½d in the rate of postage for surface mail to UK and Empire, which was implemented on 1.8.40.

With only three printings, it is relatively scarce, and at one point in 1944 supplies ran out at the Crown Agents' Bureau and had to be supplemented by sheets returned from Nigeria.

An earlier page shows a full sheet cancelled to order at Ikeja Camp.



Surface mail to the UK, correctly paid, sent by the Church Missionary Society Port Harcourt to UK publishers. Stamp cancelled 27.9.41 with Port Harcourt type D13, with half moon civilian censor mark (type 2.16) in red.



Top right corner of mint sheet, probably supplied from stock returned from Nigeria (hence the sheet number)

Both images 75% of actual size

GVI definitives individual values: the 2½d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1 <sup>1</sup>	1	12	8847/1	1	957,960	1, 1a	21.1.41	1.41 or 4.41
2 <sup>2</sup>	2	12	9868/1	?1	105,000	1, 1a	5.2.42?	4.44?
3 <sup>3</sup>	3	12	3129/1	1	278,400	1, 1a	4.2.46	18.2.46

<sup>1</sup> Issue date of 1.41 (McC), or 4.41 (PS).

<sup>2</sup> McC records a print run dated 5.2.42 with no associated requisition number, and no despatch dates. There is no public release recorded for that time and it seems likely that those stamps were retained by the Bureau. Later, at unknown date, requisition 9868/1 was made, with no associated printing details and 105,000 stamps were sent to Nigeria from Bureau stock. When were they sent? Either in April 1944 (PS) or 1950 (W states they were sent 23.3.50). The latter is unlikely given that CAB advises (1.3.45) that the 2½d was unavailable to buy from the Bureau, then, on 2.7.45, that it was again available, from stocks returned from the Colony.

<sup>3</sup> Sheets of the 2½d are known cancelled-to-order at Ikeja Camp 16 FE 1946, presumably from this issue.



Cover to Porter, addressed in Arthur Pretious' handwriting, posted from Nguru 19.3.46. Stamps pay for 3d registration plus 7d postage (3d + 2d per extra oz X2). 75% of actual size.

## GVI definitives individual values: the 3d (p1)

When the 3d was introduced, it paid for a surface mail letter to 'foreign' destinations, and was coloured blue in accordance with UPU rules. In April 1944 the rate was increased to 4d, so the 3d was re-printed in a new colour. The rate changed back to 3d in April 1947, so the 3d was reprinted again, in its original blue.



Registered air mail from Umuahia. Stamps cover 3d registration, plus 1s to pay for carriage (rate was 6d per half oz at this time).

Cancelled 9.5.39 in Umuahia, with backstamps for Enugu (9.5.39) and Kano (11.5.39).



Registered air mail from Birnin Kebbi 18.12.45 (type D5 cancel), with registered backstamps from Zaria (20.12.45) and Lagos (22.12.45).

Stamps total 1s 6d. 3d pays for registration, and the air-mail rate is correct for the time, at 1s 3d to the UK.

Covers at 75% of real size

GVI definitives individual values: the 3d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	12	3780/1	2	540,000	None	21.2.38 – 28.3.38	1.5.38
2	X	12	5548/1	1	396,000	None	29.8.38	9.38
3	X	12	8202/1	1	396,000	None	15.3.40	3.40
4	2	12	110/1	3	228,000	None	1.4.42 – 8.6.42	6.42
5 <sup>1</sup>	3	12	899/1	2	583,080	None	11.3.43 – 29.4.43	4.44
6	4	12	1652/1	3	630,000	None	16.3.44 – 5.5.44	11.12.44
7	5	12	2391/1	3	2,505,600	None	12.3.45 – 6.4.45	23.5.45
8	6	12	5129/1	3	2,582,000	None	7.10.47 – 24.10.47	7.1.48

<sup>1</sup> PS give issue date of the last blue 3d (presumably issue 5) as 4.44, a year after the first batch were sent to Nigeria. CAB does not give issue dates in this period, and McC doesn't give an issue date.



Posted surface mail from Ikot Akan on 15.4.50. Cancelled with type D2 with backstamp Aba 15.4.50.

The postage of 3d is the correct rate for USA at the time.

Image 75% of real size.

## GVI definitives individual values: the 4d (p1)

The 4d was originally printed in orange in quite small numbers (hence the high catalogue value relative to other BW denominations).

Then in 1944 the postal rate for foreign surface mail (a UPU regulated colour) changed to 4d, so the denomination was re-issued in blue.

The foreign surface mail rate changed back to 3d in April 1947, but it was decided just to withdraw the 4d (on 5.1.48) rather than print it again in a new colour.



Surface mail to the UK was 1½d when this letter was posted on 30.1.39, and the other 3d was the cost of registration.

Cancel is Ogidu (D1), repeated on reverse.



A home-made envelope to the USA, showing correct 4d postage for surface carriage. Cancelled Oyubia type D1 4.7.46 and on reverse, Oron type D4 also 4.7.46

Covers at 75% of real size

## GVI definitives individual values: the 4d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	12	3780/1	2	412,800	None	21.2.38 – 28.3.38	1.5.38
2	2	12	1651/1	2	620,400	None	16.3.44 – 6.4.44	11.12.44
3 <sup>1</sup>	3	12	2391/2	2	615,960	None	27.3.45 – 11.5.45	23.5.45

<sup>1</sup> McC gives total printed as 815,560, but CARB gives 615,960. No clue to explain the difference. W in Geosix gives extra print date in 1946 involving an extra 1,545,240 stamps! **A printing after issue 3 is not mentioned by McC or in CARB.** Government notice 1844 stated that the 4d would be withdrawn on 5.1.48



Correctly paid 1s 3d rate, for airmail to the UK in 1946, posted from Uzuakoli on 21.10.46. Cancel type D2

Cover at 75% of real size

## GVI definitives individual values: the 6d (p1)

The 6d was standard rate for UK-bound airmail up to 10.39 but thereafter none of the common letter postage rates required 6d. Nonetheless, demand for the 6d continued steady throughout, used in multiples, in combination with other values and to pay registration plus 3d surface mail rates. It was frequently reprinted albeit in modest quantities each time.

Colours vary somewhat, though not to the point where differences are obvious.



Airmail to the UK posted Sokoto on 31.8.39. The airmail rate increased to 1s 3d on 4.10.39 through pencil note on reverse states 'last airmail at 6d rate'. Cancel is type D4. backstamped 'aria(31.8.39)



Airmail from Lagos to Switzerland posted 2.5.46. The airmail rate at the time was (?) 1s 8d, as paid. The diagonal red 'Jusqu'a' bars show that the letter did not travel by air all the way. It will have flown to the UK, then to Switzerland by surface mail.

Covers at 75% of real size

## GVI definitives individual values: the 6d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	12	3780/1	1	330,240	None	21.2.38 – 28.3.38	1.5.38
2	X	12	5548/1	1	632,400	None	22.8.38	9.38
3	X	12	8202/1	1	725,040	None	15.3.40	3.40
4	2	12	9874/1	2	1,260,800	None	19.12.41 – 6.2.42	3.42
X <sup>1</sup>	3							4.44
5	4	12	2210/1	2	1,050,960	None	21.2.45 – 12.3.45	26.3.45
6	5	12	4427/1	1	667,800	None	16.12.46	5.3.47
7 <sup>2</sup>	6	12	5150/1	1	382,800	None	1.9.47	29.9.47
8	7	12	5705/1	1	788,400	None	20.1.48	1 or 2.48
9	8	12	6478/1	1	794,400	None	28.4.48	26.4.48
10	9	12	7692/1	2	1,875,000	None	16.3.49 – 28.4.49	19.5.49
11	10	11.5	2077/1	2	882,000	None	5.1.51 – 23.1.51	17.4.51
12 <sup>3</sup>	11	11.5	4245/1	1	864,000	None	12.2.52	28.5.52
13 <sup>3</sup>	11	11.5	5429/1	2	1,248,000	None	27.2.52 – 24.3.52	28.5.52
14	12	11.5	5429/3	1	283,200	None	8.9.52	22.10.52
15	13	11.5	7425/1	1	378,000	None	15.12.52	20.5.53
16	13	11.5	7425/2	1	500,400	None	7.4.53	20.5.53

<sup>1</sup> PS mention an issue dated April 44 (as do S and W, though with no details of numbers or despatch dates – probably echoing PS). No trace of this in McC, CARB, or in announcements. Perhaps a mistaken entry in PS?

<sup>2</sup> W in Geosix mentions a printing of 1/47 (involving 382,800 stamps – same as total for issue 7) but there is no mention in McC, PS or S of a 1/47 printing. W also gives a printing of 10/47 (with no numbers). McC and the requisition book gives only the 1 requisition, 5150/1, so presume that both W dates refer to issue 7.

<sup>3</sup> Issues 12 and 13 have different requisition numbers but McC, and CAB, give a single issue date for the two requisitions. S gives a single date of May 1952 PS and W just give '1952'.



## GVI definitives individual values: the 1s (p1)

Rather like the 6d, the 1s was printed 'little and often'. It was however significant as the standard postal rate for airmail to the UK between 27 January 1947 and 1 April 1952. It was also commonly used in multiples on parcels.

GSM of June 1942 mentions 'A correspondent in the colony informs us that there has been a shortage of 4d and 1s stamps, neither of these values being on sale for the last few months of 1941'. The 1s was not reprinted until April 1943 so the shortage must have lasted some time!

Colours vary somewhat, though not to the point where differences are obvious.



This cover was flown by air to the USA via Pan Am, and then by surface mail to Canada. The 3s rate is correct for the time.

The cover was posted at Isanlu (type D1 cancel) on 23.7.43, backstamped Jos 24.7.43). The empty violet triangle is a civilian censor mark, in use 8.42 to 8.43



Air mail to the UK in the early days of the 1s rate, to Baxendine Book sellers. Posted in Ado Ekiti (type D4 cancel) on 29.4.47, with Oshogbo backstamp dated 30.4.47, type D7 (early re-usage date according to Proud)

Covers at 75% of real size

## GVI definitives individual values: the 1s (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	12	3780/1	1	261,000	None	21.2.38 – 28.3.38	1.5.38
2	X	12	5548/1	1	512,520	None	25.7.38	9.38
3	2	12	879/1	2	501,800	None	5.4.43 – 29.4.43	2.44
4	3	12	2210/1	2	300,840	None	21.2.45 – 13.3.45	26.3.45
5	4	12	3776/1	1	190,800	None	5.7.46	1.10.46
6 <sup>1</sup>	5	12	4732/1	2	251,040	None	27.2.47 – 14.3.47	30.4.47
7	6	12	5150/1	1	477,600	None	1.9.47	29.9.47
8	7	12	6275/1	1	496,800	None	2.4.48	26.4.48
9	8	12	7692/1	1	631,800	None	16.3.49	19.5.49
10 <sup>2</sup>	9	11.5	8947/1	2	1,222,800	None	18.11.49 – 6.12.49	15.2.50
11	10	11.5	2077/1	2	1,071,600	None	5.1.51 – 23.1.51	17.4.51
12 <sup>3</sup>	11	11.5	4245/1	1	1,152,000	None	27.2.52	28.5.52
13 <sup>3</sup>	11	11.5	5429/1	2	428,400	None	27.2.52 – 7.4.52	28.5.52
14	12	11.5	5429/3	2	678,000	None <sup>McC</sup> , 2/2a	8.9.52 – 22.9.52	22.10.52

<sup>1</sup> The issue date is GSM of July 47. 18,000 stamps of this issue were kept by the Bureau to replace Bureau stocks previously sent to Nigeria, presumably to cover an unexpected shortage.

<sup>2</sup> CAB of 1.11.50 states '*supplies of the 1s and the 1s3d have been received from Nigeria*' for sale by the Bureau, presumably because it had run out of stock.

<sup>3</sup> Issues 12 and 13 have different requisition numbers but a single issue date for the two requisitions. CAB does not give an issue date for the 1/- from req 4245/1 but does give 28.5.52 for the 1/3d from that requisition, and states that req 5429/1 was issued 28.5.52. PS and S give a single date of May 1952.



## GVI definitives individual values: the 1s 3d (p1)

The 1s 3d was added to the range of definitives in January 1940 to cater for the increase in rate of postage for airmails to the UK, introduced in October 1939. After the interruptions of the early war period, and the resumption of regular direct flights to the UK, the rate returned to 1s 3d, dropped to 1s in January 1947 and returned to 1s 3d in April 1952.

Given that most overseas airmail was registered (adding 3d to the cost), demand for the 1s 3d was steady during much of the KGV1 period, as reflected by regular reprints shown on p2.

There was some colour variation between printings but nothing major.



Airmail from Lagos sent 2.2.40, shortly after the 1s 3d was introduced



This registered airmail to the Nazarene Institute was sent from Abeokuta on 22.7.52, 3 months after the airmail rate increased, so it should have 1s 6d worth of stamps. It has somehow missed being charged for the underpayment.

Covers at 75% of real size

## GVI definitives individual values: the 1s 3d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos <sup>1</sup>	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	12	7945/1	1	134,760	?1	4.1.40	2.40
2 <sup>2</sup>	X	12	8599/1	1	338,760	?1	5.9.40	?9.40
3	2	12	879/1	2	207,120	?1	5.4.43 – 29.4.43	2.44
4	3	12	1588/2	2	397,680	?1	17.5.44 – 27.7.44	12.6.44
5	4	12	3450/1	2	166,200	?1	23.5.46	20.5.46
6	5	12	3863/1	1	206,400	?1	29.10.46	15.11.46
7	6	12	4944/1	1	302,640	?1	21.5.47	26.6.47
8	7	11.5	126/1	1	384,000	?1	23.3.50	14.6.50
9	8	11.5	3071/1	1	79,200	?1	8.8.51	15.8.51
10 <sup>3</sup>	9	11.5	4245/1	1	303,000	?1	27.2.52	28.5.52
11 <sup>3</sup>	10	11.5	5429/1	1	219,000	?1	24.3.52	28.5.52
12	11	11.5	5429/3	1	236,400	?1	8.9.52	22.10.52
13 <sup>4</sup>	11	11.5	7425/2	1	158,400	?1	7.4.53	20.5.53
14 <sup>4</sup>	12	11.5	7425/3	1	333,000	?1	4.5.53	20.5.53

<sup>1</sup> Plate number information is confusing. McC states that issues from 3 onwards show plate #1. S states all issues were plate 1 (did he mean 'taken from plate 1' or 'showed plate 1 on selvage?'). GSM comment (April 1944) re issue 3: 'The 2½d and 1s3d are the only low values to have plate numbers: 2½d figure 1 on bottom margin below the 11<sup>th</sup> stamp; 1s3d figure '1' centred below the imprint' (an unusual position?). No examples bearing a plate number have been seen by the author (out of 4 bottom selvage examples).

<sup>2</sup> No mention of an issue date in GSM or CAB

<sup>3</sup> Issues 10 and 11 were requisitioned separately only a few weeks apart, but issued on the same day.

<sup>4</sup> Issues 13 and 14 were requisitioned separately only a few weeks apart, but issued on the same day. It is worth noting that the rate for an airmail letter to the UK increased from 1s to 1s 3d on 1.4.53. Perhaps the increase in numbers printed (issues 10 to 14) anticipates this change.



## GVI definitives individual values: the 2s 6d (p1)

The 2/6 value is the most varied of the set, in a number of ways.

The main complexity lies with colour variations and catalogue descriptions. Gibbons identify one printing (issue 9 below) as '*Black and Deep Blue*' with all others described as '*Black and Blue*'.

However, in 1952 PS wrote '*I find the catalogue descriptions of the 2s. 6d. confusing, as the only really deep blue is the original (ie issue 1), which is quite distinctive. The subsequent printings are all in paler inks very difficult to describe satisfactorily*'. GSM describing issue 8 wrote '*...the frame is a deep ultramarine with a slight tint of violet. It is easily identified and worthy of catalogue status.*' And GSM wrote of issue 9: '*The 2s6d...has returned to its original shade...*'.

Issue 1



Deep-ultramarine & Black

Issue 2



?Ultramarine & Black

Issue 3



Deeper-blue & Black

Issue 4



Deeper-blue & Black

Issue 5



Deeper-blue & Black

Issue 6



Deep-grey-blue & Black

Issue 7



Deep-grey-blue & Black

Issue 8



Deep-grey-blue & Black

Issue 9



Deep-blue & Black

Issue 10



Light-ultramarine & Black

Issue 11



Grey-blue & Black

Issue 12



Deep-bright-blue & Black

Issue 13



Deep-Bright-blue & Black

Issue 14



Bright-grey-blue & Black

GVI definitives individual values: the 2s 6d (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	13X11.5 c	3780/2	1	69,900	F1 V1	4.1.38	1.5.38
2	2	13.5 c	110/2	1	42,180	F1 V1	29.4.42	6.42
3 <sup>1</sup>	3	14 l	110/2A	1	48,900	F1 V1	15.2.42 – 24.9.42	?9.42
4 <sup>2</sup>	4	13.5 c	1588/3	1	11,820	F1 V1	12.6.44	12.6.44
5 <sup>3</sup>	5	13.5 c	1917/3	1	28,680	F1 V1 <sup>4</sup>	30.6.44 – 6.9.44	9.10.44
6	6	13.5 c	2391/3	3	48,540	F1 V1	25.4.45 – 15.5.45	23.5.45
7	7	13.5 c	3129/2	1	61,140	F1 V1	18.12.45 -31.12.45	18.2.46
8	8	13.5 c	3776/2	1	48,000	F1 V1	14.11.46 - 23.12.46	15.11.46
9	9	13.5 c	4732/2	1	71,820	F2 V1	21.1.47	5.3.47
10	10	14 l	6888/2	2	93,240	F2 V1	13.8.48 – 18.8.48	10.11.48
11	11	14 l	8947/2	1	103,140	F2 V1	?9.9.49	31.10.49
12	12	12 c	3071/2	1	43,920	F2 V1	31.5.51	15.8.51
13	13	12 c	4245/2	1	51,300	F2 V1	22.1.52	7.2.52
14	14	12 c	5429/2&4	1	162,000	F2 V1	? 2.5.52	22.10.52

<sup>1</sup> According to PS this issue was sent to Nigeria without being released in London. Thus dealer supplies had to come from contacts in Nigeria

<sup>2</sup> McC records 1 print run for this requisition. RH records that the plates were issued in April and issued again in May for a reprint. No mention of reasons why a reprint was felt necessary or why all 11,820 stamps from this printing were assigned to the Bureau (according to CARB). PS give issue date as 4.44, but 12.6.44 given in CAB.

<sup>3</sup> There were actually 2 requisitions: 1917/1 and 1917/3. McC mentions but gives no details of numbers printed for 1917/1, though he gives print numbers for requisition 1917/3 (which agree with the CARB record) , and the issue information shown above all relates to 1917/3. However, requisition 1917/1 is mentioned in CARB, consisting of 7,200 stamps sent from the Bureau stock to Nigeria on 30.6.44, which corresponds to W's mention 'June 44: 7200 all allocated to the Bureau'. It is very likely that these were sent to meet a local shortage but that no fresh print run was ordered. CARB notes that 7,200 from requisition 1917/3 were sent to the Bureau, presumably to replace those sent earlier.

<sup>4</sup> GSM (12.44) noted that the vignette plate number for this issue had been re-engraved: '...the figure 1 was formerly 3½mm high and 13½mm away from the second stamp in the bottom row: the new figure is 2mm high and 9½mm from the same stamp. There is evidence from small plate scratches that the plate is the same one in both cases. The frame-plate number "1" is unchanged below the fifth stamp... in the majority of sheets in our supply the bottom margin had been (irregularly) trimmed thereby removing all numbers



Issues 2 (top) and 5 (below) showing re-engraved vignette plate no 1 in black

**GVI definitives individual values: the 2s 6d (p3)**

The cover below was flown from Lagos to Tonawanda in New York State, via San Juan in Puerto Rico. It left Lagos on 14 December 1941 (Lagos machine cancel type M3 S1), and has backstamps from San Juan (17 DE 1941) and North Tonawanda (Dec 17 1941). The rate for airmail on this route should have been 3s but perhaps the letter, being unsealed, enjoyed a concessionary rate. The stamp is issue 1 of the 2/6.



The piece below must have come from a heavy package. It bears stamps to the value of £1 10s, posted in Lagos 16.5.49. The 2/6- stamps are perf 14, from issue 11.



Covers at 75% of real size

# NIGERIA - KGVI DEFINITIVES

## GVI definitives individual values: the 5s (p1)

The 5s was primarily used on parcels and registered mail, where the sender also took out insurance. The war-time Pan-Am air mail service to the UK via the USA cost 5s .

Numbers printed were similar overall to the 2s 6d but while the same complications of perforation are found, there were fewer printings and the range of colours was less.

The used examples below include an oddity - a perf 14 with cancel date before the earliest printing of that variety.

### Perf 13 X 11.5



1939



1940



1942

### Perf 13.5



1943



1946



1948

### Perf 14



1947 (!)



1950



1951

### Perf 12



1949



1951



1953

## GVI definitives individual values: the 5s (p2)

Issue#	PS/S#	Perf	Req no	Runs	Total printed	Plate nos	Sent to Nigeria	Issue date
1	1	13X11.5 c	3780/2	1	76,680	F1 V1	4.1.38	1.5.38
2	2	13.5 c	227/2	1	62,940	F1 V1	15.5.42	8.42
3 <sup>1</sup>	3	13.5 c	899/2	1	105,420	F1 V1	9.3.43 – 31.3.43	12.6.44
4	4	13.5 c	3776/2	1	47,520	F1 V1	14.11.46	15.11.46
5	5	14 l	6478/2	1	43,320	F1 V1	25.3.48	26.4.48
6	6	12 c	7692/2	1	74,400	F1 V1	22.3.49	19.5.49
7	7	14 l	9476/1	1	66,000	F1 V1	10.49?	15.2.50
8 <sup>2</sup>	8	12 c	1173/2	1	121,080	F1 V1	27.9.50	15.11.50
9	9	12 c	4245/2	1	94,980	F1 V1	22.1.52	7.2.52
10	10	12 c	5429/2&4	1	118,020	?F1 V1	5.52?	22.10.52

<sup>1</sup> Issue date comes from CAB (6.44 in McC). Given as Apr 44 in PS. GSM (2.44) comments 'A small supply of the 5s ... received from the colony proves to be comb perf 13.6 and is printed on white paper'. This must refer to copies of issue 3 obtained from Nigeria before the Bureau release date, which was over 12 months after Nigeria received this issue.

<sup>2</sup> 6,000 stamps were sent from the Bureau to Nigeria on 3.7.50 (ie before this requisition).

Issue 1



Orange & Black

Issue 2



Deeper-orange & Black

Issue 3



Deeper-orange & Black

Issue 4



Red-orange & Black

Issue 5



Bright-orange & Black

Issue 6



Red-orange & Black

Issue 7



Red-orange & Black

Issue 8



Dull-red-orange & Black

Issue 9



Bright-red-orange & Black

Issue 10



Bright-red-orange & Black