

THE 1½d STAMP – 1936 (Large format)

PRINT

Printed by the Government
Printing Works, Pretoria

LIFESPAN

Nov. 1936 – Aug. 1941
4 years 9 months

DESIGN

Drawn from a photograph by
J Prentice

Although the words "Air Mail" does not appear on the stamps, it was primarily intended as an Air Mail stamp

Under the Empire Air Mail Scheme all first-class mail would be conveyed over the Empire air routes at a rate of 1½d per half ounce. The intention was that all letters franked with these stamps was to be automatically forwarded by air doing away with affixing air mail labels to items addressed to any part of the British Empire

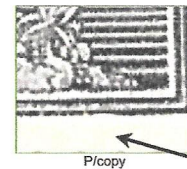
Upon the operation of the Empire Flying Boat service in 1937 the Postal authorities decided to prepare a 1½d stamp to meet the demand for such denomination

Stamps were printed alternately in English and Afrikaans with an English inscribed stamp as the first on the sheet

Vignettes were printed with a pure bronze ink that shows a metallic shiny gold effect (Shades)

CHARACTERISTIC

A characteristic appears on every Afrikaans stamp and takes the form of a small curved dent near the right-hand end of the bottom frame line



The design is symbolic of the gold mining industry in South Africa and depicts the headgear and dump of a gold mine against a golden background



P/copy

Two air liners, an Imperial Airways "Atalanta" class and a South African Airways Junkers flying in the background over the skyscrapers of Johannesburg. The dark green border of the design incorporates two small winged springboks, incidentally the emblem of the then South African Airways

ISSUE 1

Headplate 6926: Frameplate 22
November 1936

The first stamps of Issue 1 appeared with an inverted watermark. In later printings, it also appears upright

ISSUE 2

Headplate 62: Frameplate 15
August 1940

Upright watermark

ISSUE 3

Headplate 6930a: Frameplate 15
August 1940

Upright watermark

WATERMARK

Multiple Springbok head
Upright and inverted

PERFORATION

14 x 14

SHEET

120 Stamps in 20 rows by
6 columns