

10) MAIL CARRIED BY AIR (continued)

10.3) FIRST FLIGHTS AIRMAIL

The first official airmail flown by aircraft took place in India in 1911. During the 1800's, balloons and gliders carried the first flown mail. A 'first flight cover' is mail that has been carried on an inaugural flight of an airline, route, or aircraft, normally postmarked with the date of the flight and often of the arrival destination proving it was actually carried on the aircraft.



First Airmail flight of South West Africa Airways 'Coastal Service', cover.

Printing variety: S.W.A. overprint shifted up



Normal overprint (3rd printing large lettering)

Airmails featuring de Havilland DH60 Cirrus Moth aircraft

1930 South Africa Airmails 4d & 1s overprinted SWA (3rd printing large lettering) (1s overprint shifted up) with pair 1929 1/2d Officials tied to SWA Airways 'Coastal Service' 1st flight cover by special WINDHOEK LUGPOS/ AIR MAIL handstamp cancellations with ordinary WINDHOEK / 10 AUG 31 (10 August 1931) date stamp cancellation below and WINDHOEK / 10 AUG 31 (10 August 1931) date stamp cancellation backstamp together with arrival backstamp cancellation WALVIS BAY / 11 AUG 31 (11 August 1931)

10.4) AEROGRAMMES

An 'aerogramme' also known as an 'airletter' is a thin lightweight piece of foldable and gummed paper for writing a letter for transit via airmail, in which the letter and envelope are one and the same. Most postal administrations forbid enclosures in these light letters, which are usually sent at a preferential rate.

Union of South Africa
(World War II)
Active Service
Airletter

Postage stamp imprinted
Postal rate 3d

Postmark Egypt
Canceller '31'
25 July 1943
Post Paid

'Passed By Censor'
purple cachet
with censors signature

