





SYNOPSIS

**The Inauguration of Union Airways Service Routes.
South Africa's First Commercial Airmail Service.**

Scope and Treatment: This is a one frame aerophilately exhibit focused on the inaugural airmail service provided by Union Airways in South Africa beginning on August 26, 1929. The exhibit begins on the title page with a forerunner example of the first government airmail flight in 1925. Following are the Union Airways first flights covering the Northern and Southern routes. Each of these sections then shows extensions to various South African cities and towns, often accomplished by regular post. Incoming and outgoing international mail is then shown (Britain and other destinations) in each of the Northern and Southern Route sections. There are 42 covers in the exhibit, 24 of which are Northern flights and 16 Southern flights. The Southern flights were essentially the reverse of Northern routes so primary attention is given to initiation of the Northern routes. Discrete maps have been provided to aid in orienting the viewer to various cities. The font used for the text is Palatino Linotype 11. Route and rate details are provided in Arial 9 font. Important items are double matted white on maroon. Route symbols used: by ship , by plane , by train , by regular post . As with most aerophilately exhibits the bulk of material for first flights is philatelic. However, I have tried to illustrate various routes using commercial covers when available, as well as interesting origins and destinations, and forwarded covers.

Condition and Rarity: In most cases the covers are in good condition but given the age and nature of handling bulk airmail in the 1920's, some covers have minor defects. Assembling this material has been an enjoyable, albeit difficult task.

Exhibit Highlights: The following are considered the most important items in the exhibit although many interesting covers are shown.

P.4 Registered first flight cover from Cape Town to Johannesburg via Bloemfontein, 510 flown.

P.7-8 Rarely seen incoming covers from Scotland and the Irish Free State for the Cape Town inaugural flight.

History of Exhibit: This exhibit started out gold but then garnered only vermeils. I have taken the comments from various juries to heart and have completely reorganized the exhibit since my original treatment was, admittedly, confusing. The exhibit represents a snapshot in time focusing only on the inaugural flights of Union Airways. To treat this as the complete story of Union Airways would clearly require a multi-frame exhibit, however, the story of the inauguration of service is appropriate for a one frame exhibit.

Judging References: The most definitive reference is: *South African Airmails. A Chronological Listing Indicating the History and the Development of South Africa and South West Africa.* Capt. M. F. Stern. Publ. by The Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa, pp 7-8, circa 1968 (no publication date listed). Since this may not be available through APRL I have provided a copy of relevant pages along with the synopsis.