

**Nigeria**  
**1936 Pictorial Issue Definitives**  
 Watermark Multiple Script CA. Printed Recess by De LaRue  
 Perf 11.5 x 13 (½d - 1s) and 14 (2/6d - £1)



This issue of stamps was partly designed by residents of Nigeria after a competition was announced in The Nigeria Gazette of July 19, 1934 with an offered prize of £5.00 for the best design or set of designs. These were to be considered with those submitted by The Crown Agents in the customary manner. His Excellency the Governor of Nigeria was to decide on the result of the competition.

The results were announced in The Nigeria Gazette on 9 February, 1935. Prizes were awarded to Mrs. K. C. Cooper, of Ikoyi, for the best set of designs, and to Mr. D. C. E. Tovey, of the Cameroons Administration, for the best single design.

They were distributed to Post Offices all over Nigeria but, unfortunately, the King died on Monday, 20 January, 1936 and after much deliberation, and due to the cost of £160,000.00 for the issue, it was decided to proceed and they were issued on the first day of February, 1936.

The following designs are those of Mrs. K. C. Cooper (later known as Mrs. Joan Vyvan) and the three designs missing from this display are presumed to be those chosen for the new issue and sent to De La Rue. De La Rue was bombed in September and December of 1940 where, it is presumed, many of their archives were lost.



# 1936 GEORGE V PICTORIAL ISSUE DEFINITIVES

## UNACCEPTED DESIGNS

Nairobi, Monday, September 29, 1969.

### Unusual history

Mrs. Joan Vyvyan, who is the trade assistant of the Agricultural Society of Kenya, is a woman of many parts. Many people know her as a skilful tapestry artist, but visitors to this year's Nairobi Show will also find her represented as a designer of stamps.

The Stamp Bureau is showing an exhibit of African stamps on the East African Posts and Telecommunications stand and the display includes three stamps with a rather unusual history.

They were the last stamps to be issued in Nigeria bearing the head of George V. A competition was held for the design of the issue and Mrs. Vyvyan's entries for the penny, two penny (the two most common denominations at the time) and 5/- stamps were accepted. They feature cocoa, mahogany and cola nuts.

The real trouble with the design, however, was the King's portrait — "It took me six weeks each time to draw his head," Mrs. Vyvyan recalls.

Batches of stamps were issued to post offices all over Nigeria ready for sale on a Monday morning and at the weekend the King died.

It is, of course, unusual to put out a new issue bearing the likeness of a dead monarch but after a lot of to-ing and fro-ing and high level discussions, it was

decided to go ahead with the sale. There was, after all, £160,000 worth of stamps at stake.

These designs were submitted by Mrs Joan Vyvyan. Numbers 1, 5 and 6 are absent from this set numbered to 12, presumably being the designs accepted for the 1d, 2d and 5s as mentioned in the accompanying article from the Kenya Gazette. Each design has inscribed on the back 'Entry No 5' with the design number below.



At right are designs number 2 of a map of Nigeria for the 1d stamp and number 3 of a village scene for the penny halfpenny.



DESIGNS FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.

The question of introducing a new issue of Nigerian Postage and Revenue Stamps is shortly to be considered, and in connection therewith designs by residents in Nigeria are invited for competition.

2. A prize of £5 will be awarded for the best design, or set of designs, submitted locally, irrespective of whether such designs are eventually selected. The winning designs will be considered on their merits with those obtained through the Crown Agents for the colonies in the customary manner.

3. Any design or set of designs submitted will become the property of the Government of Nigeria, and may be used wholly or in part as His Excellency the Governor in his discretion may direct.

The decision of His Excellency the Governor on all points arising out of the competition will be final.

4. The number and face value of the denominations of the new issue under consideration will be the same as those at present in use, viz. :-

½d.	3d.	2s. 6d.
1d.	4d.	5s.
1½d.	6d.	10s.
2d.	1s.	£1

Designs for 8stamps embossed on registered and ordinary envelopes are not required.

5. Competitors may submit,

- (a) a single design for all denominations, or
- (b) two designs for low and high values respectively, or
- (c) a full range of twelve separate designs.

6. It is suggested that designs should depict views and scenes typical of the major industries of Nigeria, e.g., palm oil and kernels, groundnuts, cocoa, cotton, tin, etc.: a space for a vignette portrait of His Majesty the King should also be included : "Postage and Revenue " and "Nigeria" as well as the value of the stamp should be embodied in the design, Full liberty will be allowed in regard to size, choice of border designs and other details.

7. Designs should be forwarded in sealed covers marked "design for Postage Stamps " and addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government, Lagos, in time to arrive on or before 12 noon On the 31st of August, 1934.

**Stamps for the Jubilee.**

In common with the other Crown Colonies, British West Africa is to have sets of special stamps in commemoration of the King's Silver Jubilee, A single design is to be used for all, with simply a change in name to differentiate between the Colonies. The stamps, which will be intaglio-printed in two colours, will be a little larger than the current stamps of the French West African territories, and will bear a portrait of the King and a view of Windsor Castle. In no case will the face value of the highest denomination exceed Ls., so that collectors will be able, if they wish, to obtain the whole series of 172 stamps for 43 countries at a cost of under £4. Supplies have already been despatched to most colonial post offices, and will be available on May 6, and remain on sale till the end of the year.

In two 'West African Colonies this will add considerably to philatelic variety, for Sierra Leone has only just returned to what was almost a new issue when, 14 months ago, it was temporarily superseded by the Wilberforce Centenary series, and Nigeria is contemplating a, new issue, having, in fact, just awarded prizes to Mrs. K. C. Cooper, of Ikoyi, and Mr. D. C. E. Tovey, of the Cameroons Administration, for the best set of designs and the best single design respectively.

W.A. 9/2/35



Canoes



Mother and child

King George V





Design Numbers 9 and 10 For 2/6d and 5s



2/6d Government House



5s Water Tower, Kaduna



Designs number 11 and 12 For 10s and £1



10s The Benue Bridge



£1 Map of Lagos



Halfpenny, Penny and Pennyhalfpenny Imprint  
Strips and Corner Plate 1 Blocks of Four.



Halfpenny bottom imprint selvedge row of four showing perforated through. Thus fed into perforator inverted.





Twopence, Threepence and Fourpence Imprint  
Strips & 3d and 4d Plate 1 Blocks of Four.

