

QUEEN ELIZABETH II AEROGRAMMES OF CEYLON

This exhibit concerns the Ceylon aerogrammes with indicia including a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and their use. The twelve types are presented in the order of their introduction.

An air letter sheet or aerogramme is a sheet of thin, lightweight writing paper of a standard size that can be folded into four and sealed with gummed flaps. Because of its size, weight and lack of enclosure, it can be sent via airmail at a special, low rate.

The use of the term aerogramme was officially endorsed at the 1952 Universal Postal Union Congress in Brussels. Thereafter, the term air letter went out of use.

As in other countries, aerogrammes were introduced in Ceylon before World War II but became very popular as a result of that war. As a rapid means of communication between military personnel and their families, they were relatively cheap and offered the needed privacy.

In addition to the denomination, the Ceylon forms differed in the colour of the paper, the colour and/or definition of the indicium, whether the outer ends of the flaps were scalloped, angled or curved, whether the flaps were outlined or not, and how many lines of text there were on the back.

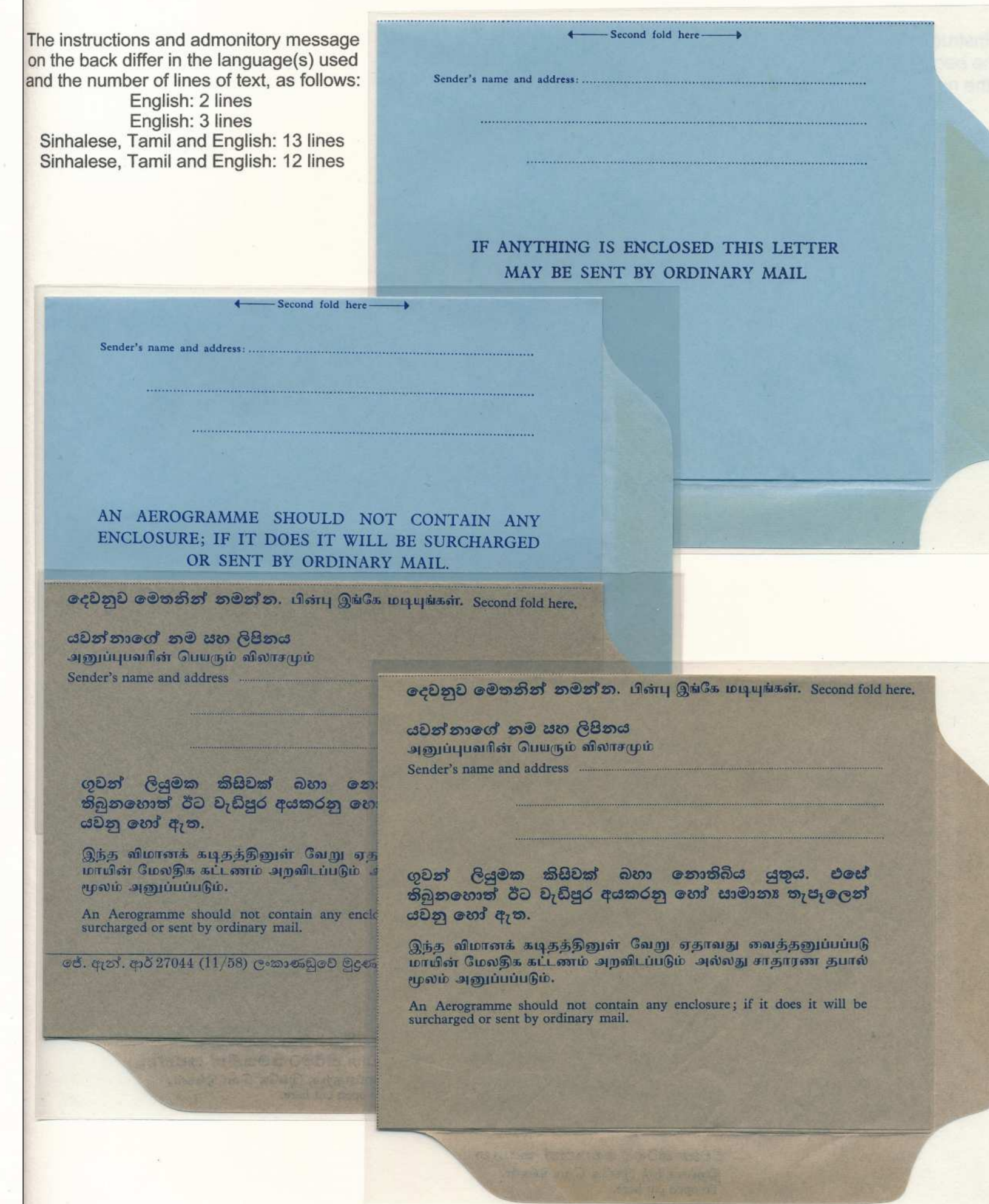
General and military formulaer aerogrammes, i.e. ones without indicia, were in use but are outside the scope of this exhibit. The rates for the period of use of the Ceylon Queen Elizabeth II aerogrammes were as follows:

Table with 5 columns: Years, India/Pakistan, Rest of Asia, UK, Europe, North America. Rows for 1954-56, 1956-58, 1960-68.

As a consequence of the rate changes in 1959-60, the 20c and 40c aerogrammes were replaced by 30c and 50c ones. When the North America rate was 50c, there were no 50c aerogrammes and when it increased to 60c, no 60c aerogrammes were produced.



Registered general formulaer aerogramme addressed to the U.S.A. Approved by P. M. G., CEYLON. Dated 15 November 1957. Franked at 80c (50c postage plus 30c registration). Registered aerogrammes are not common.



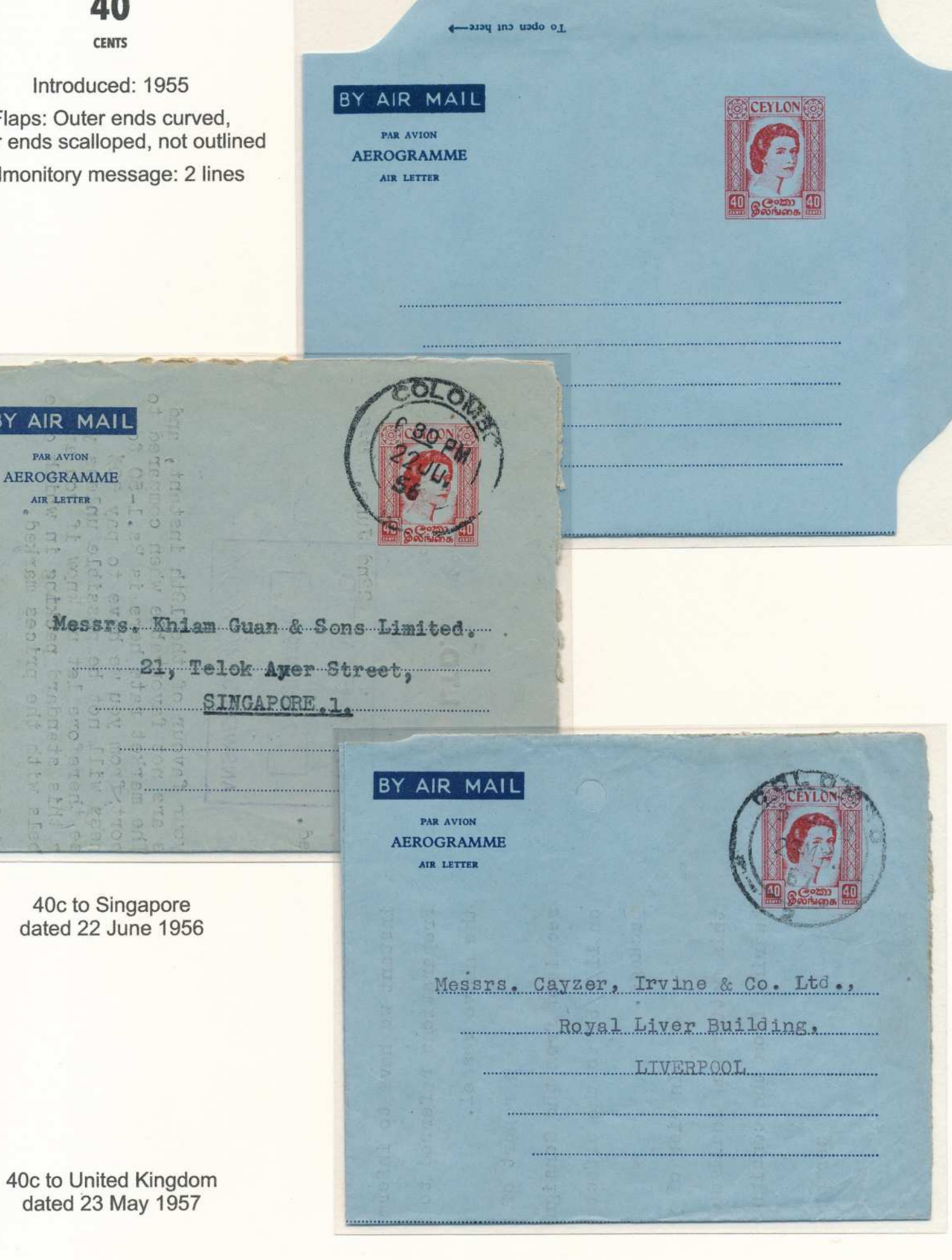
40 CENTS Introduced: 1954 Flaps: Outer ends angled, inner ends scalloped, not outlined Admonitory message: 2 lines



40c to France dated 9 August 1954



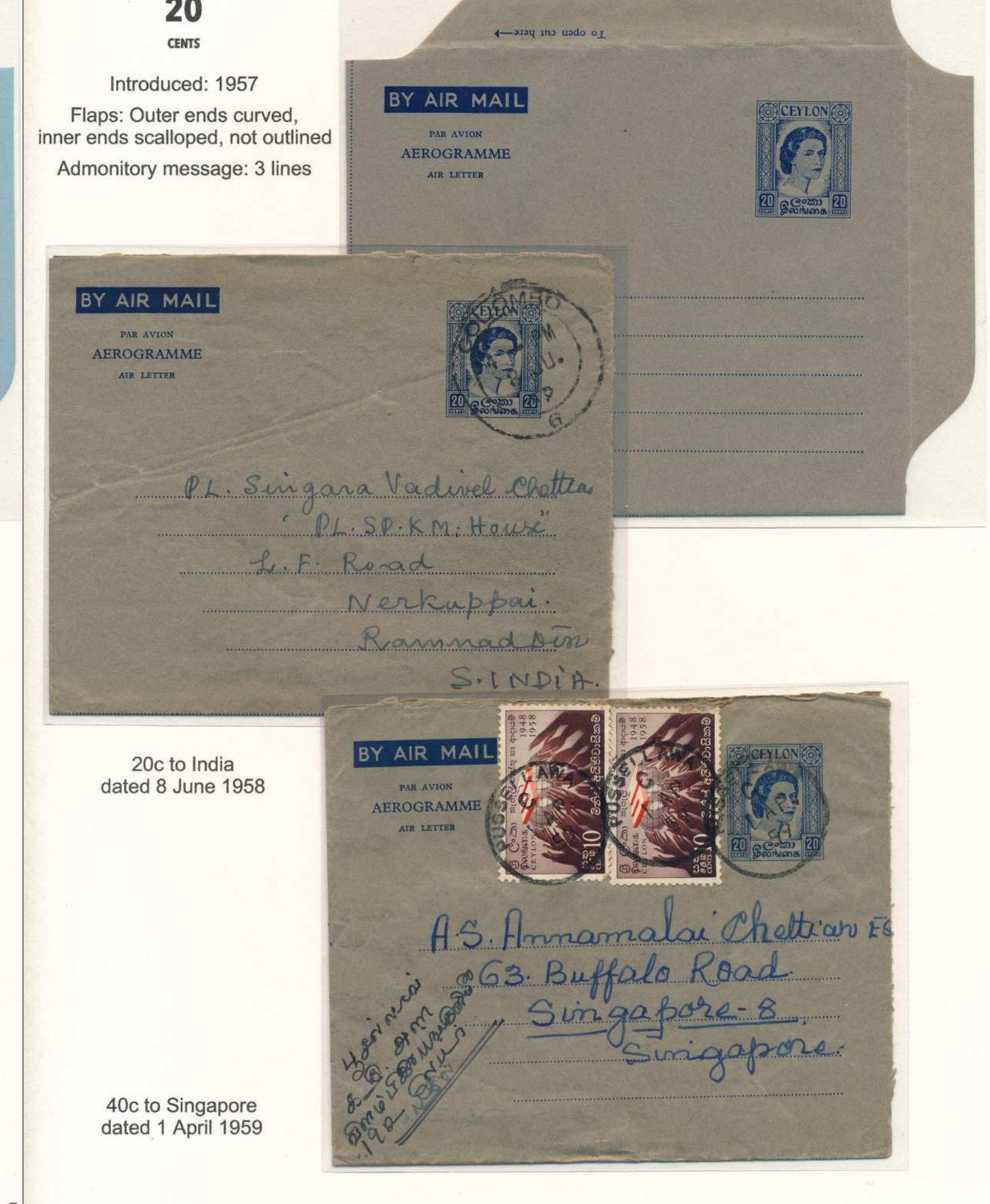
50c to United States, dated 19 February 1955



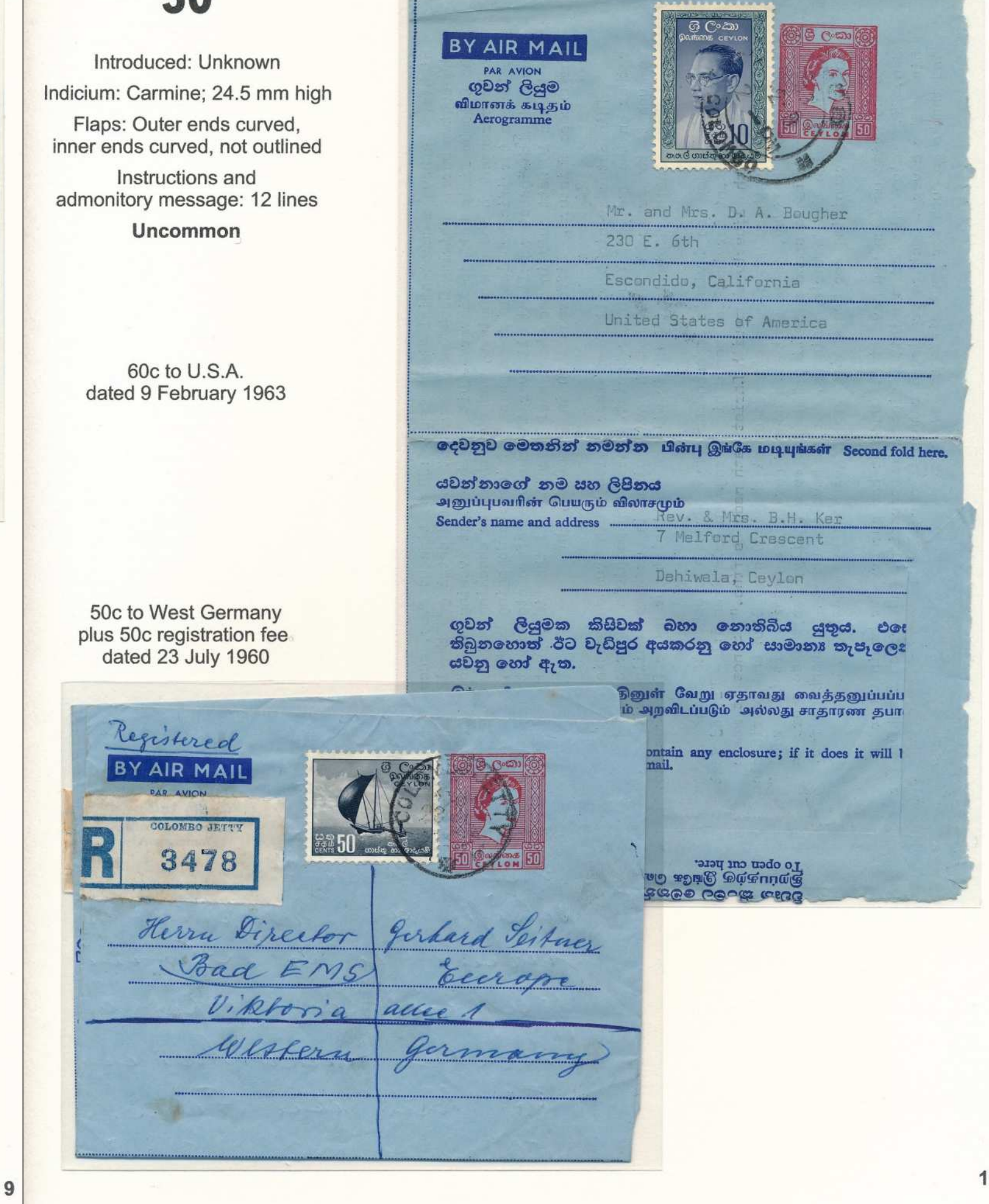
40c to Singapore dated 22 June 1956



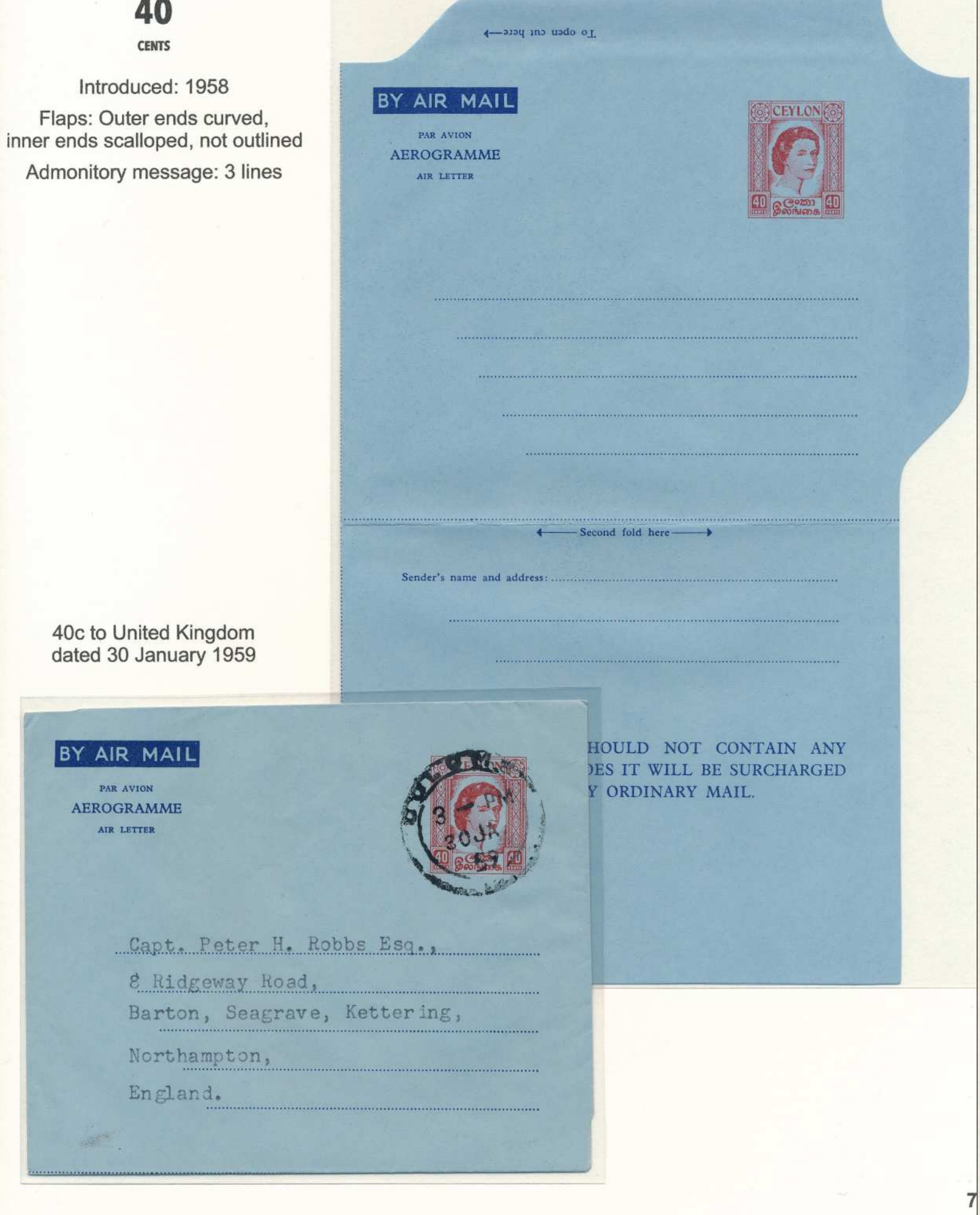
40c to United Kingdom dated 23 May 1957



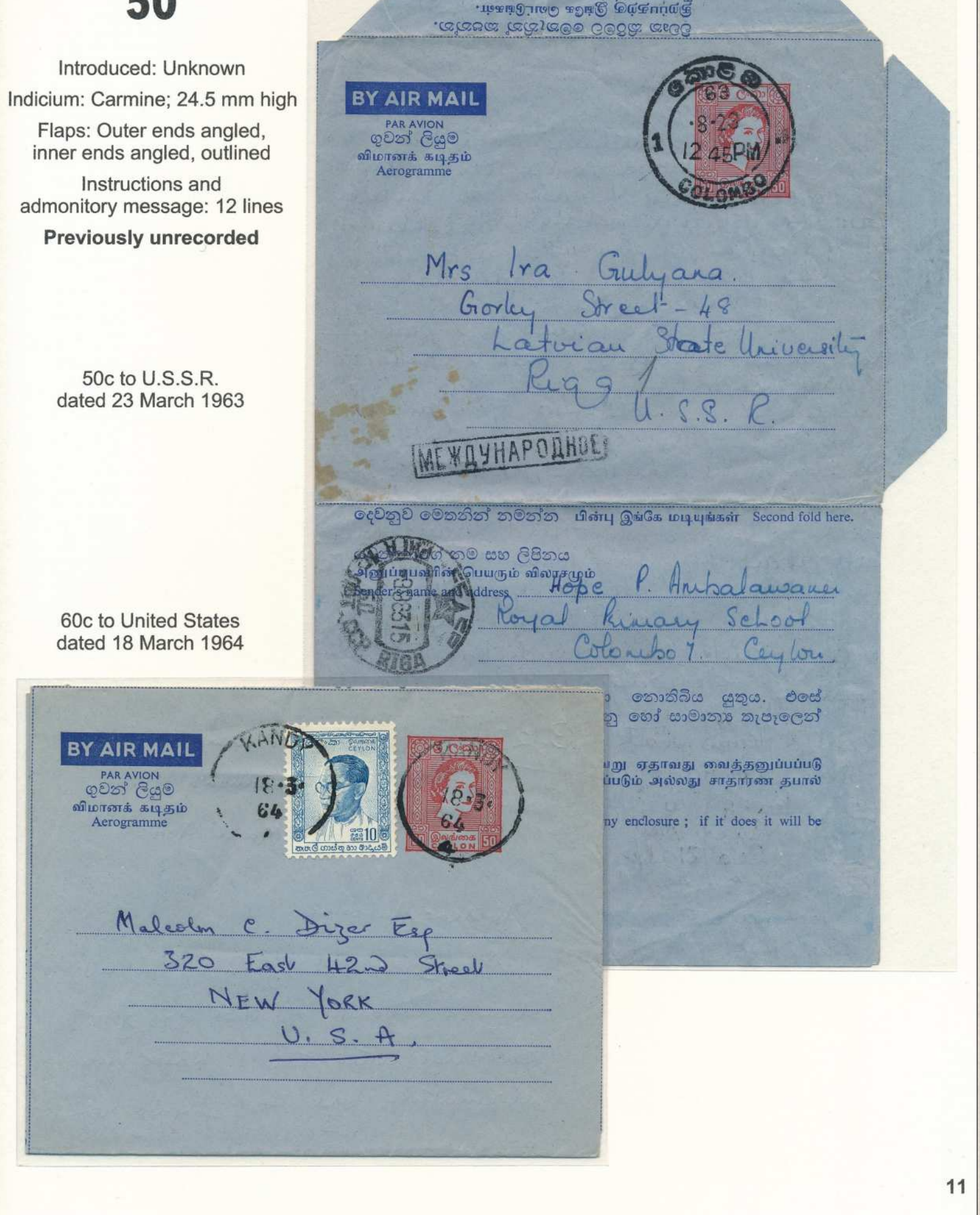
20c to India dated 6 June 1958



40c to Singapore dated 1 April 1959



40c to United Kingdom dated 30 January 1959



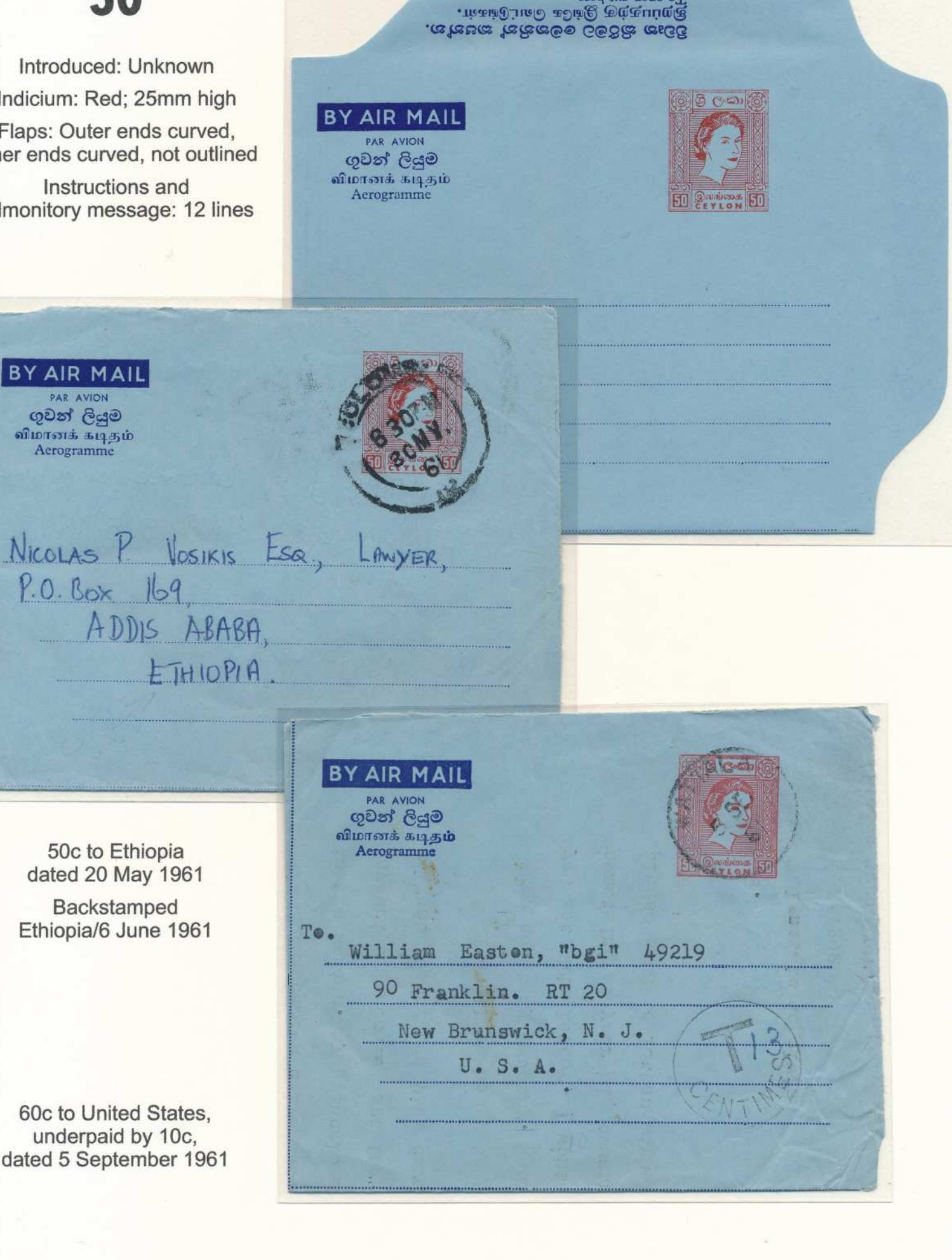
40c to United States dated 18 March 1964



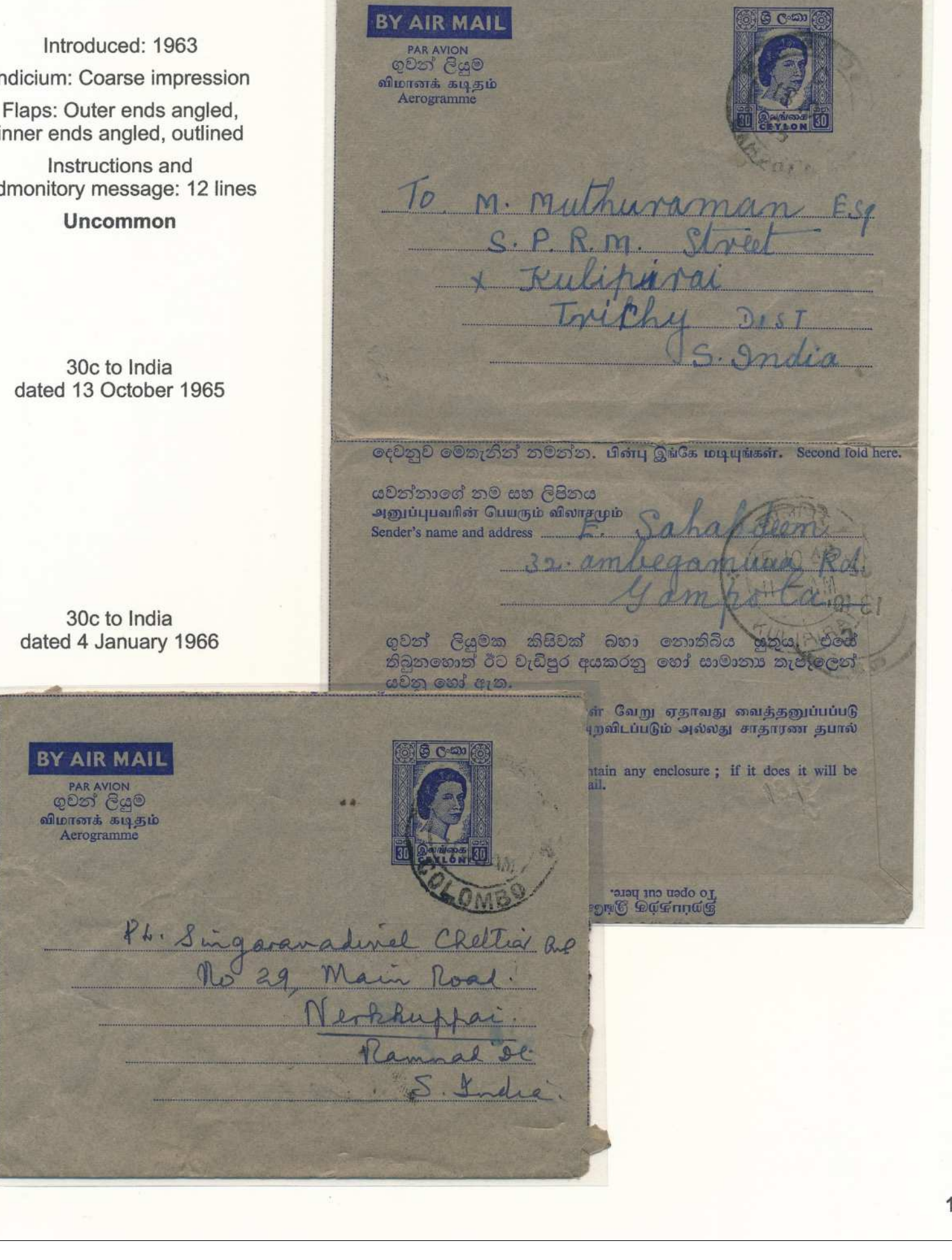
30c to Pakistan dated 26 February 1960



30c to India dated 10 April 1960



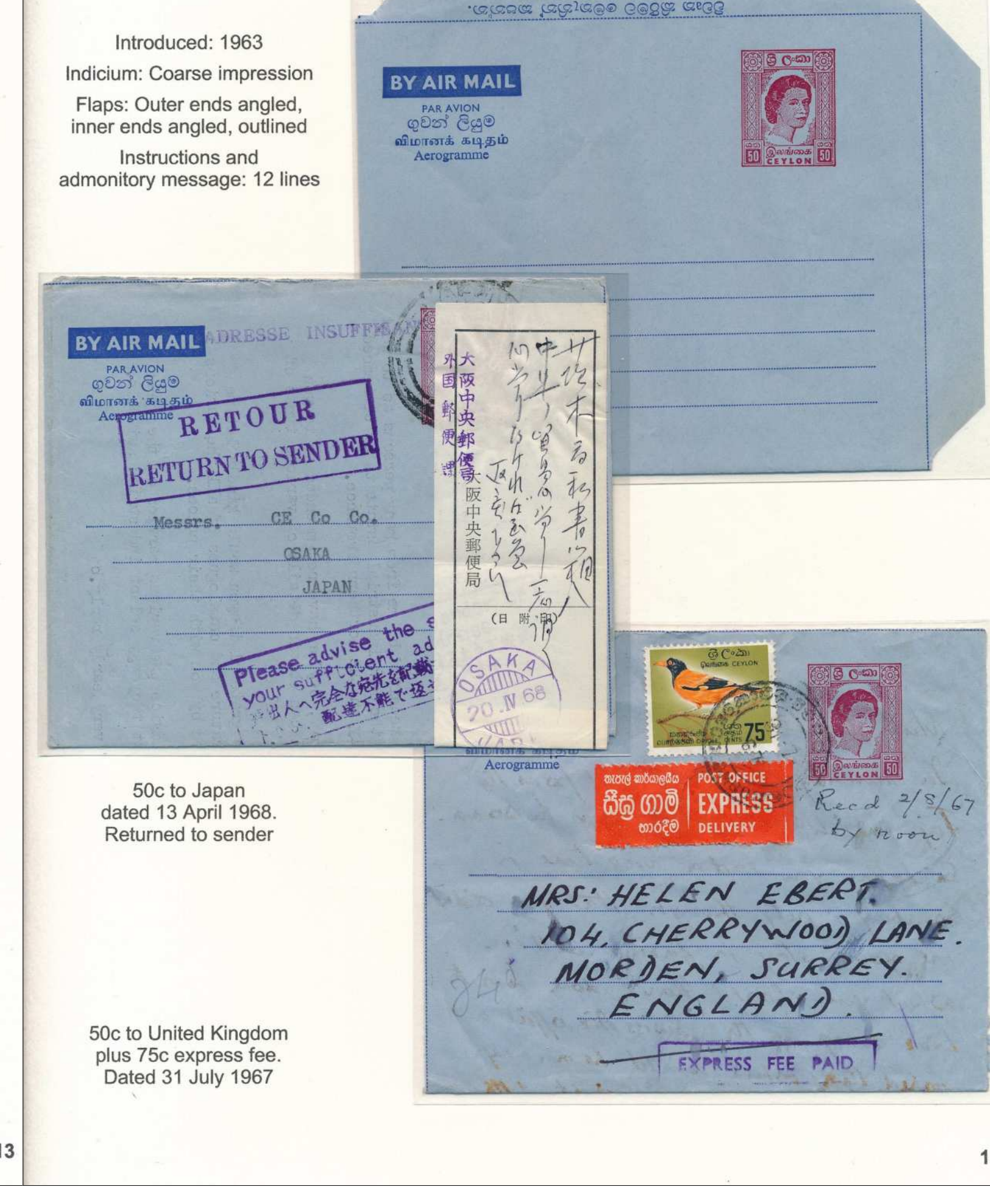
50c to Ethiopia dated 20 May 1961



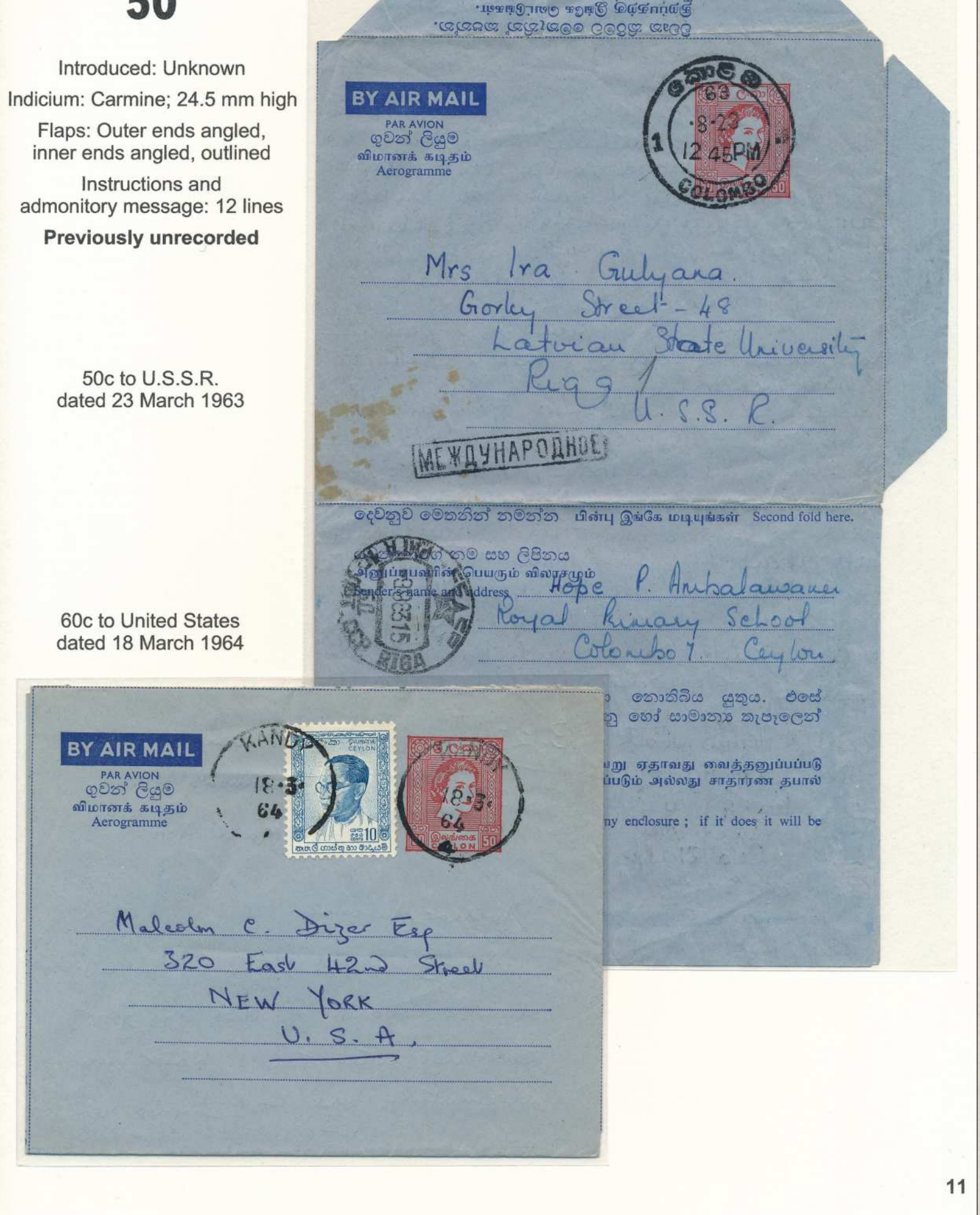
50c to United States, underpaid by 10c, dated 5 September 1961



50c to West Germany plus 50c registration fee dated 23 July 1960



50c to Japan dated 13 April 1968, Returned to sender



50c to U.S.S.R. dated 23 March 1963



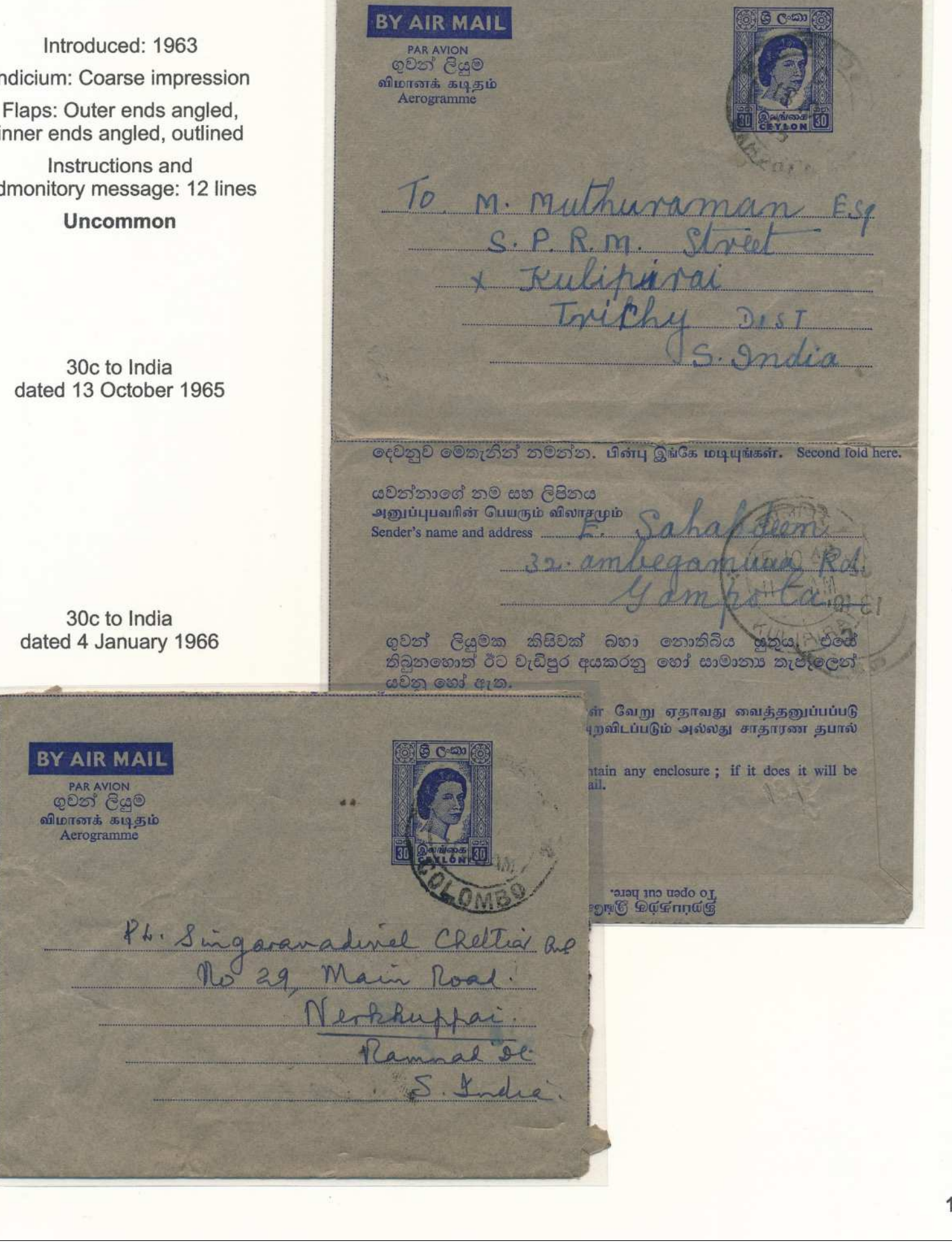
50c to Afghanistan dated 8 December 1964



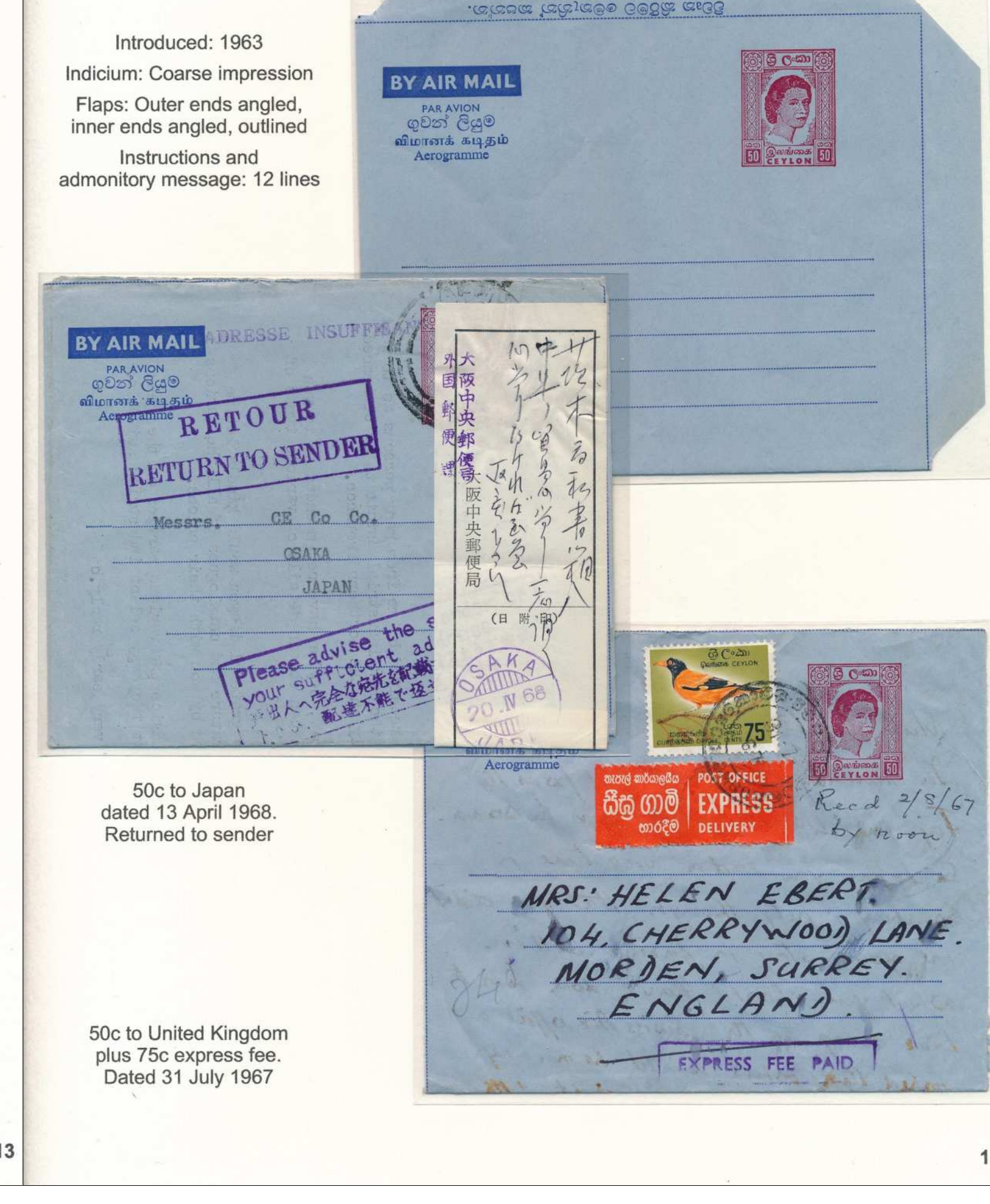
50c to Singapore dated 3 July 1964



30c to India dated 6 December 1964



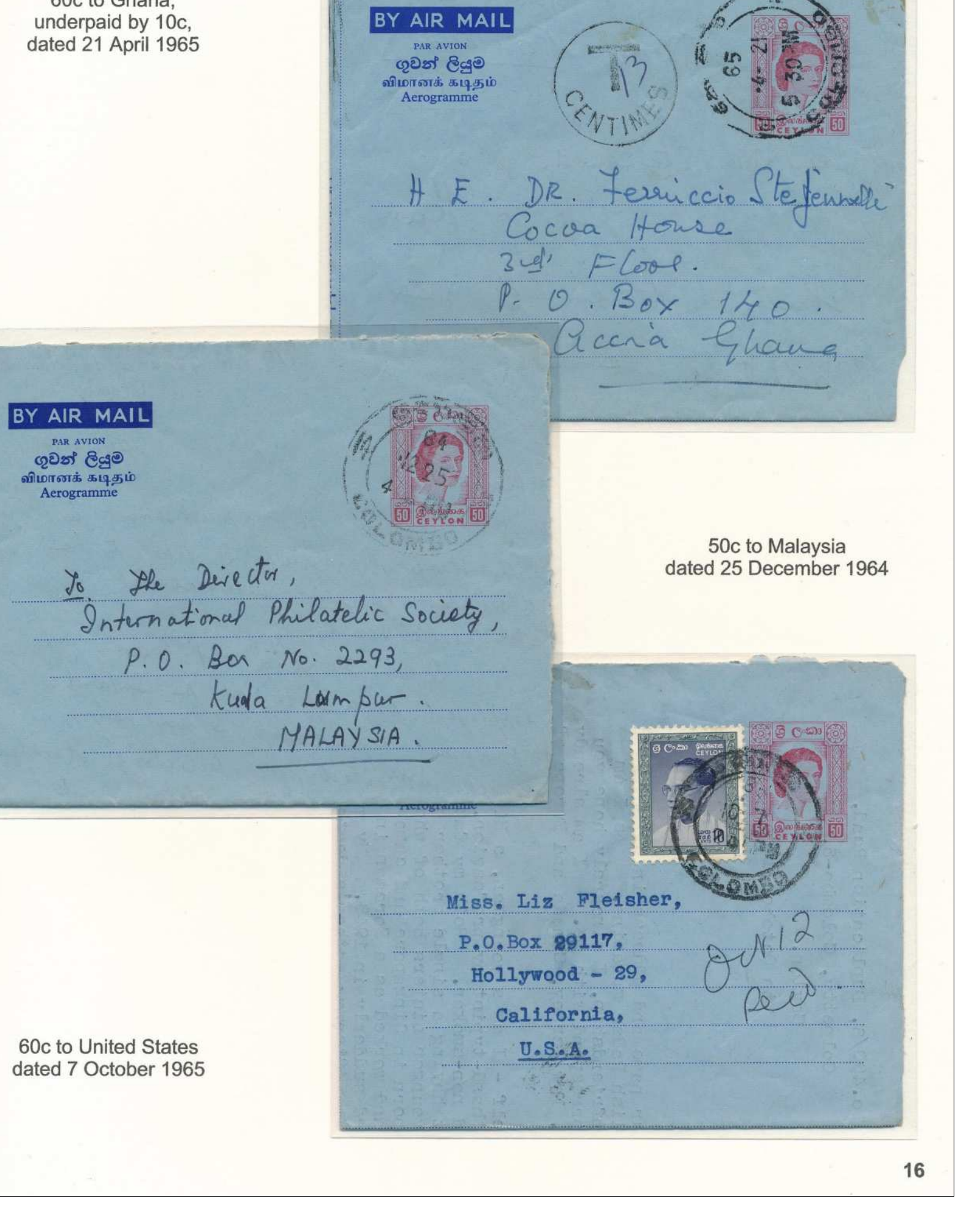
30c to India dated 13 October 1965



50c to United Kingdom plus 75c express fee, Dated 31 July 1967



50c to Canada plus 50c registration fee plus 75c express fee, Dated 24 June 1965



60c to Ghana, underpaid by 10c, dated 21 April 1965

30c to India dated 4 January 1966

50c to Malaysia dated 25 December 1964

60c to United States dated 7 October 1965

60c to United States dated 7 October 1965

# QUEEN ELIZABETH II AEROGRAMMES OF CEYLON

This exhibit concerns the Ceylon aerogrammes with indicia including a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and their use. The twelve types are presented in the order of their introduction.

An air letter sheet or aerogramme is a sheet of thin, lightweight writing paper of a standard size that can be folded into four and sealed with gummed flaps. Because of its size, weight and lack of enclosures, it can be sent via airmail at a special, low rate. The first ones needed postage stamps to be applied (formular type), but later ones bore an official postage stamp imprint (indicium).

The use of the term *aerogramme* was officially endorsed at the 1952 Universal Postal Union Congress in Brussels. Thereafter, the term *air letter* went out of use.

As in other countries, aerogrammes were introduced in Ceylon before World War II but became very popular as a result of that war. As a rapid means of communication between military personnel and their families, they were relatively cheap and offered the needed privacy.

In addition to the denomination, the Ceylon forms differed in the colour of the paper, the colour and/or definition of the indicium, whether the outer ends of the flaps were scalloped, angled or curved, whether the flaps were outlined or not, and how many lines of text there were on the back.

General and military formular aerogrammes, i.e., ones without indicia, were in use but are outside the scope of this exhibit.

The rates for the period of use of the Ceylon Queen Elizabeth II aerogrammes were as follows:

Years	India/Pakistan	Rest of Asia	UK	Europe	North America
1954-59	20 cents	40 cents	40 cents	40 cents	50 cents
1960-68	30 cents	50 cents	50 cents	50 cents	60 cents

As a consequence of the rate changes in 1959-60, the 20c and 40c aerogrammes were replaced by 30c and 50c ones. When the North America rate was 50c, there were no 50c aerogrammes and when it increased to 60c, no 60c aerogrammes were produced. Hence, examples used to North America always had to be uprated.



*Registered general formular aerogramme addressed to the U.S.A.*

*"Approved by P. M. G., CEYLON."*

*Dated 15 November 1957. Franked at 80c (50c postage plus 30c registration).*

*Registered aerogrammes are not common.*

## Bibliography

CSC Bulletin, The Ceylon Study Circle of Great Britain, various issues  
 The Postal History of Ceylon, Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., 2006, ISBN 1872465390

Rodrigo's Catalogue of Ceylon/Sri Lanka Postal Stationery Part I - Air Mail Letter Sheets, Dr. Chandra Rodrigo, 2008

The instructions and admonitory message on the back differ in the language(s) used and the number of lines of text, as follows:

English: 2 lines

English: 3 lines

Sinhalese, Tamil and English: 13 lines

Sinhalese, Tamil and English: 12 lines

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: .....

.....

.....

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER  
MAY BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: .....

.....

.....

AN AEROGRAMME SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

දෙවනුව මෙතනින් නමන්න. பின்பு இங்கே மடியுங்கள். Second fold here.

යවන්නාගේ නම සහ ලිපිනය  
අනුப்புච්චාරීන් පෙයරුම ඩිලාසරුම

Sender's name and address .....

.....

ගුවන් ලියුමක කිසිවක් බහා නො  
තිබුනහොත් ඊට වැඩිපුර අයකරනු හෝ  
යවනු හෝ ඇත.

இந்த விமானக் கடிதத்தினுள் வேறு ஏத  
மாயின் மேலதிக கட்டணம் அறவிடப்படும்  
மூலம் அனுப்பப்படும்.

An Aerogramme should not contain any enclosure; if it does it will be surcharged or sent by ordinary mail.

දෙවනුව මෙතනින් නමන්න. பின்பு இங்கே மடியுங்கள். Second fold here.

යවන්නාගේ නම සහ ලිපිනය  
අනුப்புච්චාරීන් පෙයරුම ඩිලාසරුම

Sender's name and address .....

.....

.....

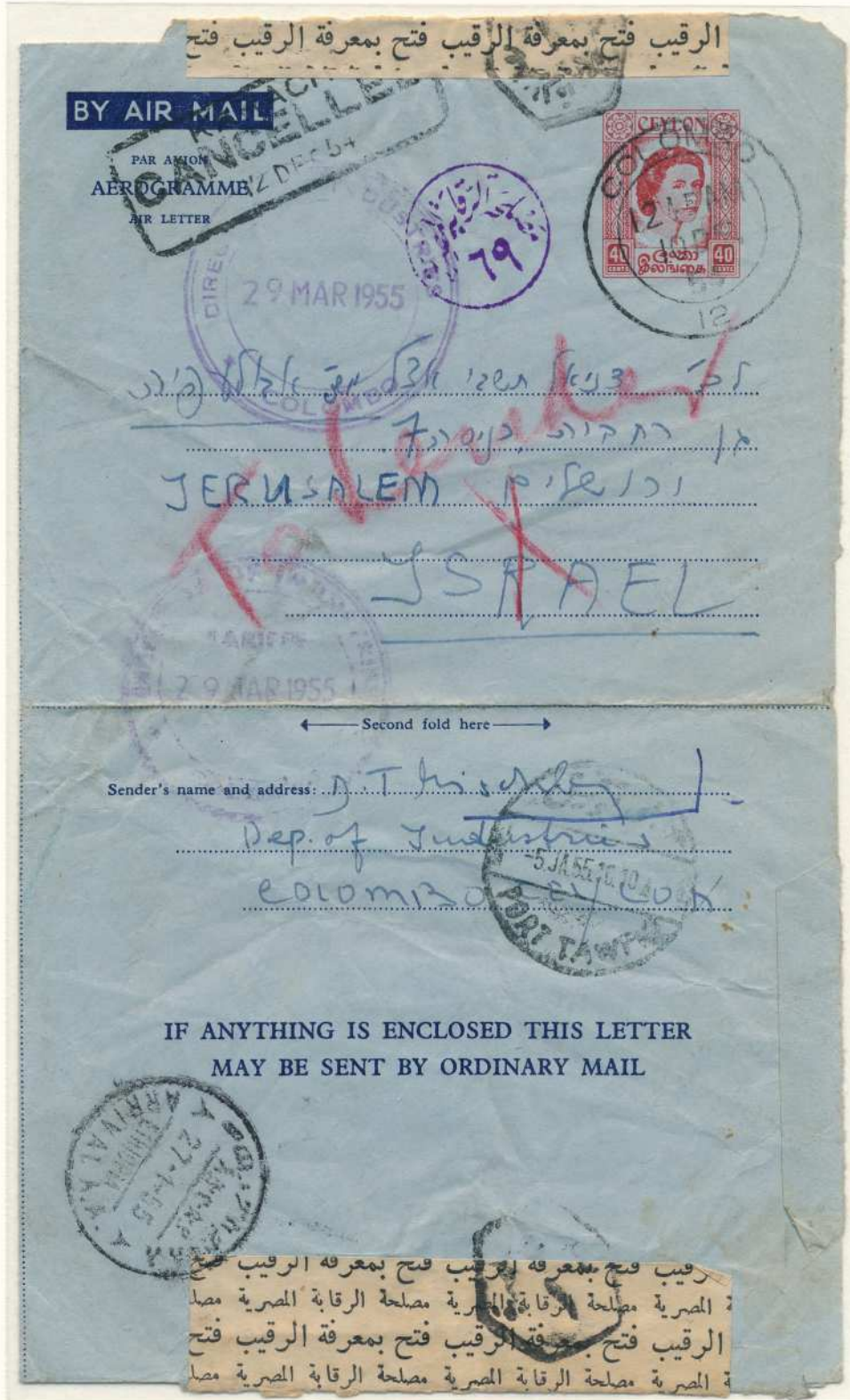
ගුවන් ලියුමක කිසිවක් බහා නොතිබිය යුතුය. එසේ  
තිබුනහොත් ඊට වැඩිපුර අයකරනු හෝ සාමාන්‍ය තැපෑලෙන්  
යවනු හෝ ඇත.

இந்த விமானக் கடிதத்தினுள் வேறு ஏதாவது வைத்தனுப்பப்படு  
மாயின் மேலதிக கட்டணம் அறவிடப்படும் அல்லது சாதாரண தபால்  
மூலம் அனுப்பப்படும்.

An Aerogramme should not contain any enclosure; if it does it will be surcharged or sent by ordinary mail.

ජේ. ඇන්. ආර් 27044 (11/58) ලංකාණ්ඩුවේ මුද්‍රණ

The first Ceylon aerogramme bearing a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II issued and used in 1954.  
 Written in Hebrew and sent from Colombo to Jerusalem on 10 December 1954.



Flown to Egypt via Pakistan, where it received a boxed marking reading "KARACHI/CANCELLED/12 DEC 54". At the time, Egypt was boycotting all mail to Israel via a country with no postal relations with Israel, which Pakistan did not have. Thus, the Egyptian authorities seized, opened and censored the aerogramme. "To Sender/X" was written on the front and it was returned to Ceylon by surface. First, it went via the Suez Canal to Ethiopia, receiving a backstamp on the way at Port Tawfik on 5 January 1955. It was backstamped again at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 27 January 1955 before continuing by surface back to Ceylon. On arrival back at the Department of Industries in Colombo, it was opened and datestamped "29 MAR 1955".

40

CENTS

Introduced: 1954

Flaps: Outer ends angled, inner ends scalloped, not outlined

Admonitory message: 2 lines



40c to France dated 9 August 1954



50c to United States, dated 19 February 1955

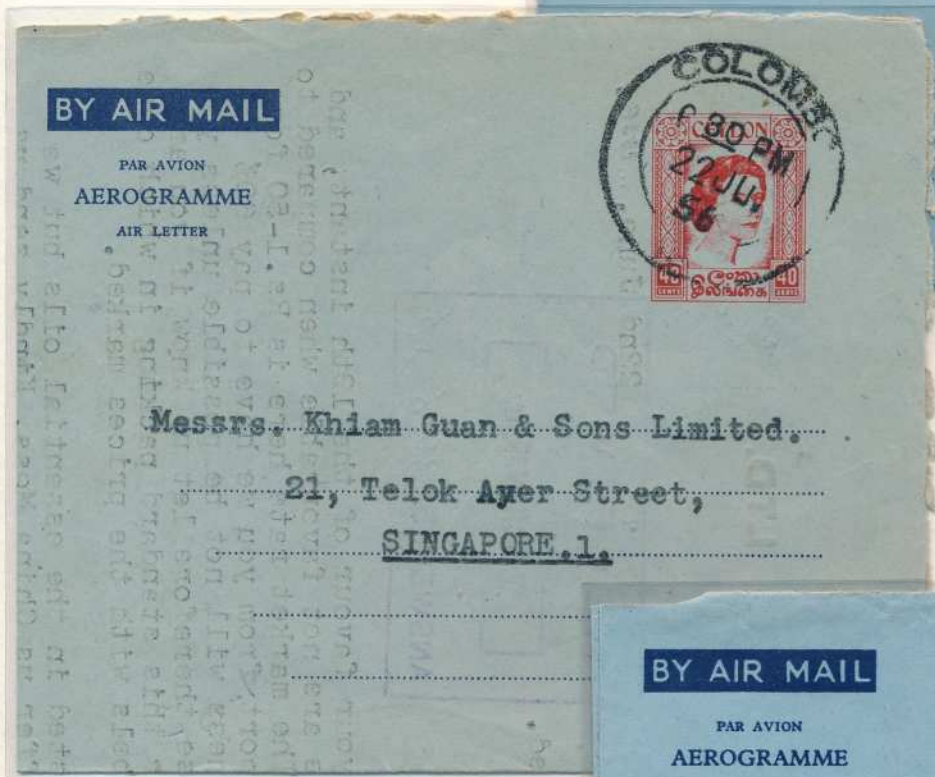
40

CENTS

Introduced: 1955

Flaps: Outer ends curved, inner ends scalloped, not outlined

Admonitory message: 2 lines



40c to Singapore dated 22 June 1956



40c to United Kingdom dated 23 May 1957

20

CENTS

Introduced: 1957

Flaps: Outer ends curved, inner ends scalloped, not outlined

Admonitory message: 3 lines



20c to India  
dated 8 June 1958



40c to Singapore  
dated 1 April 1959

40

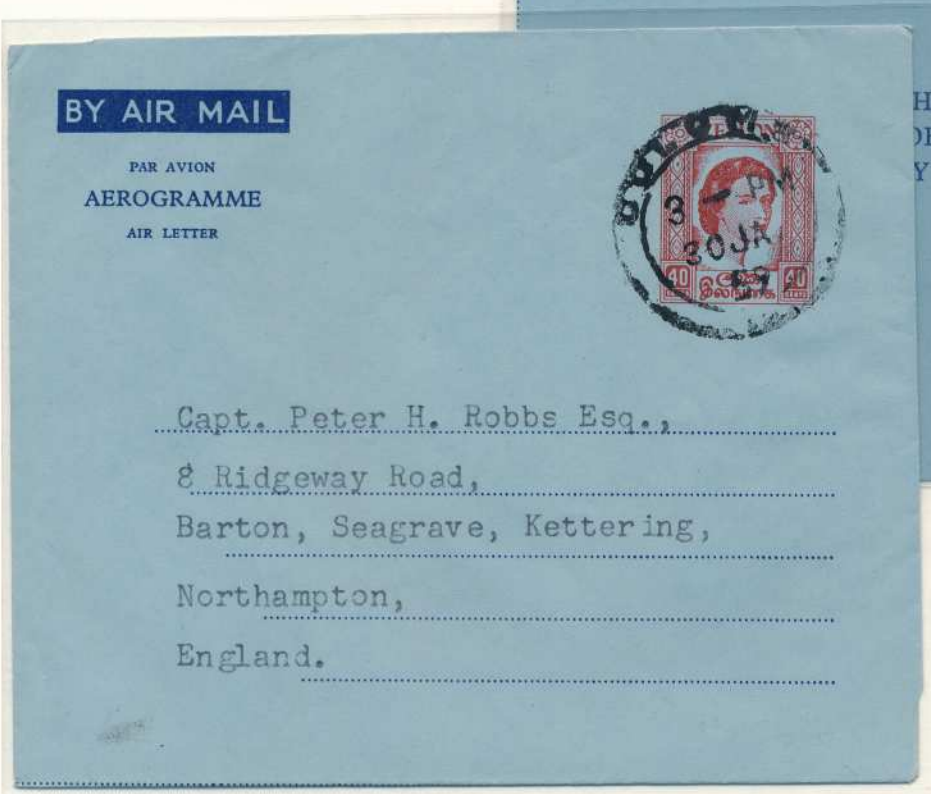
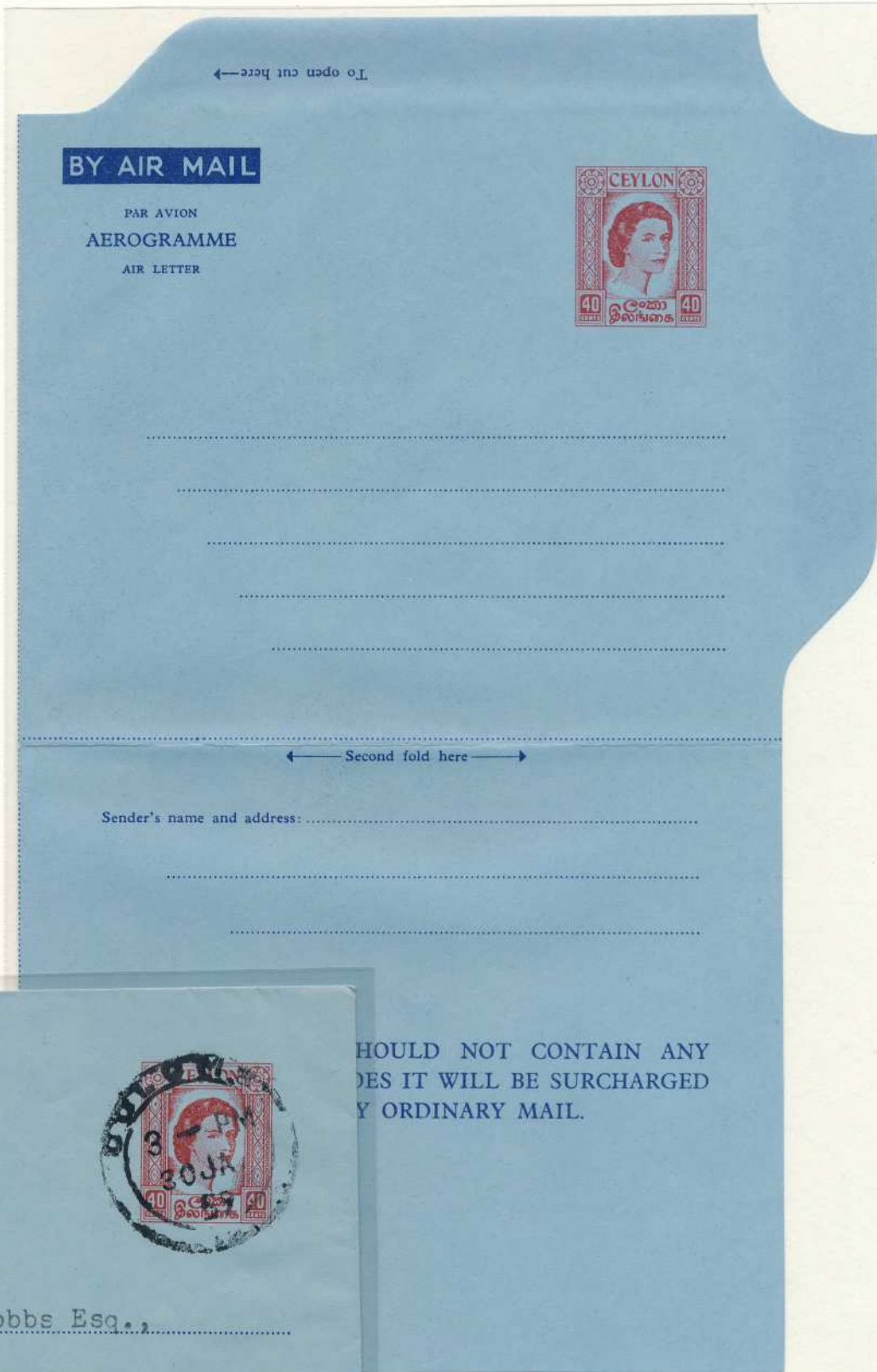
CENTS

Introduced: 1958

Flaps: Outer ends curved, inner ends scalloped, not outlined

Admonitory message: 3 lines

40c to United Kingdom dated 30 January 1959



SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
IF IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
BY ORDINARY MAIL.

# 20+10

Introduced: 1960

Flaps: Outer ends curved, inner ends curved, not outlined

Instructions and admonitory message: 13 lines



30c to Pakistan dated 26 February 1960



30c to India dated 10 April 1960

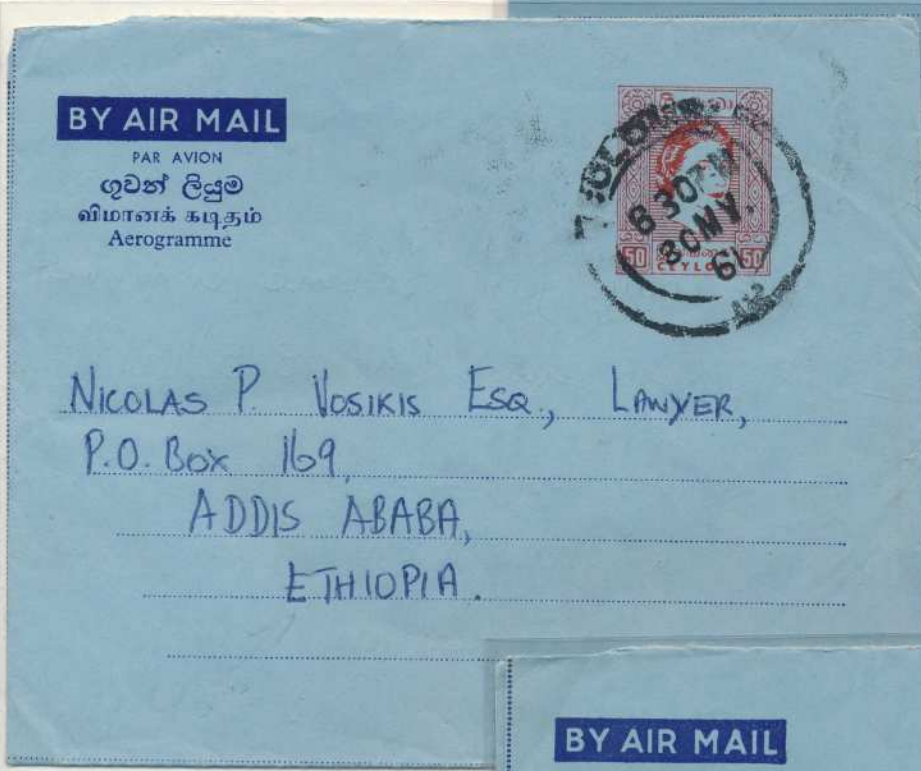
50

Introduced: Unknown

Indicium: Red; 25mm high

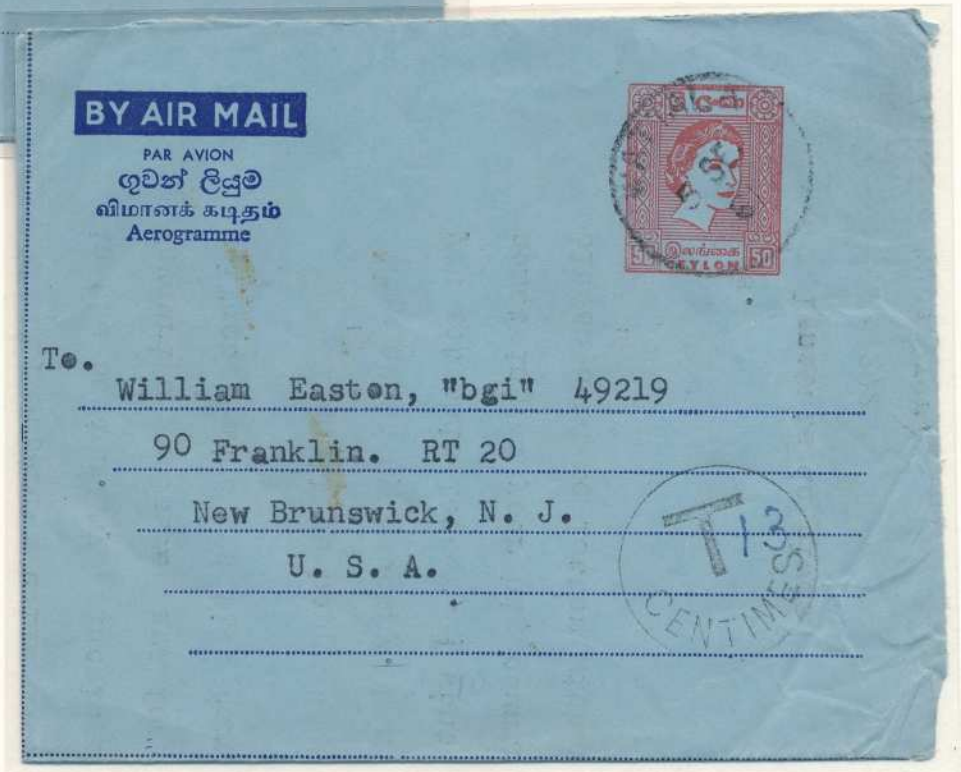
Flaps: Outer ends curved, inner ends curved, not outlined

Instructions and admonitory message: 12 lines



50c to Ethiopia dated 20 May 1961

Backstamped Ethiopia/6 June 1961



60c to United States, underpaid by 10c, dated 5 September 1961

50

Introduced: Unknown

Indicium: Carmine; 24.5 mm high

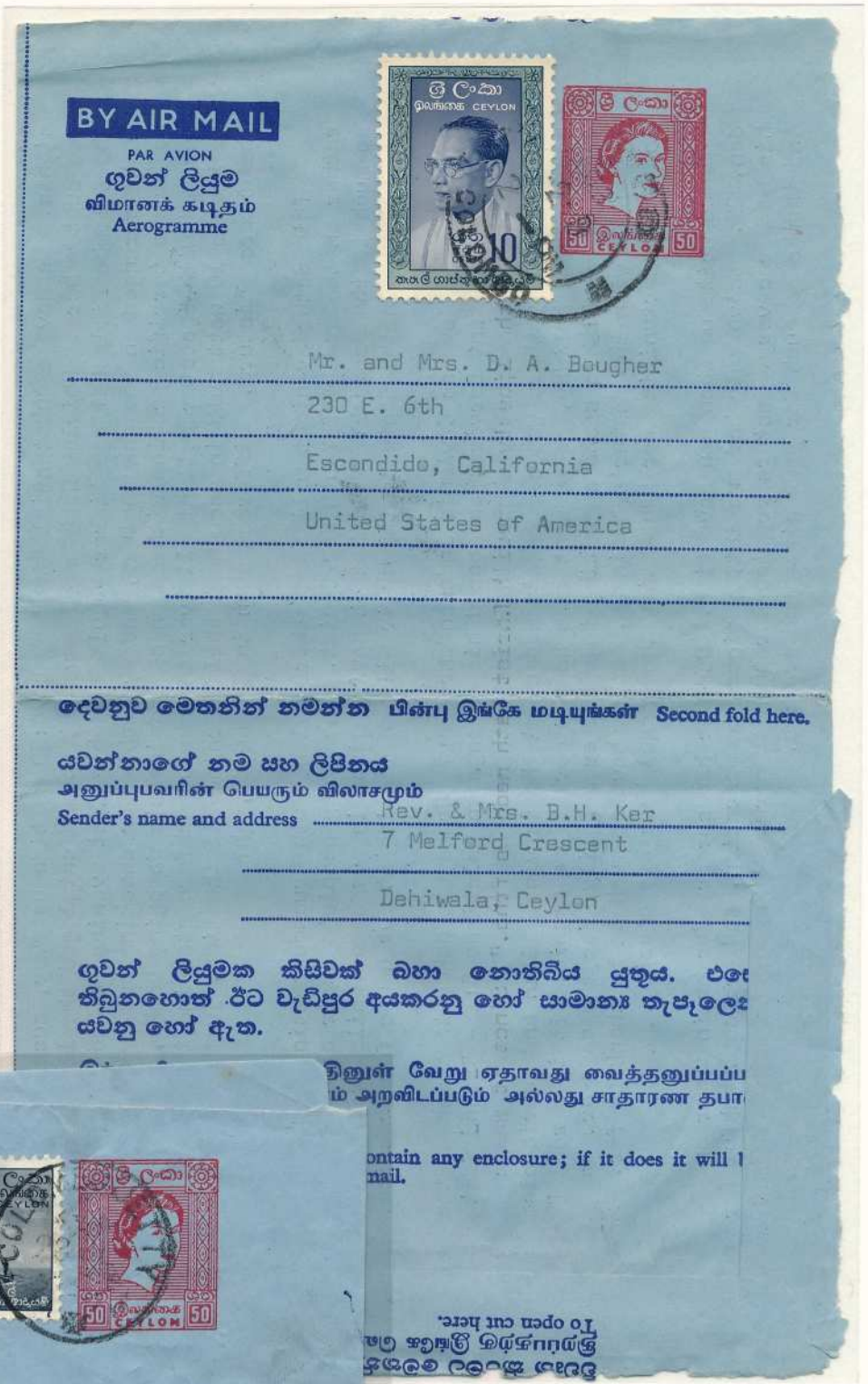
Flaps: Outer ends curved, inner ends curved, not outlined

Instructions and admonitory message: 12 lines

Uncommon

60c to U.S.A.  
dated 9 February 1963

50c to West Germany  
plus 50c registration fee.  
dated 23 July 1960





# 30

Introduced: 1962

Indicium: Sharp impression

Flaps: Outer ends curved, inner ends curved, not outlined

Instructions and admonitory message: 12 lines



50c to Singapore dated 3 July 1964

Strong impression



30c to India dated 6 December 1964

30

Introduced: 1963

Indicium: Coarse impression

Flaps: Outer ends angled,  
inner ends angled, outlined

Instructions and  
admonitory message: 12 lines

Uncommon

30c to India  
dated 13 October 1965

30c to India  
dated 4 January 1966

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION  
ஒலன் டீஸ்டு  
விமானக் கடிதம்  
Aerogramme



To M. Muthuraman Esq  
S.P.R.M. Street  
x Kulipurai  
Tirichy Dist  
S. India

தேவதுவெ லெனுகின் தலென். பின்பு இங்கே மடிபுங்கள். Second fold here.

யலென்லென் தலெ ஙக லெனெய  
அலுபுபுலலின் லெயலும் விலலசலும்  
Sender's name and address

E. Sahasram  
32. Ambegamuna Rd.  
Yampala  
Tamil Nadu

ஒலன் டீஸ்டுலக கிஙிலக் லலா தலெகிலெய ஙுலக லென்  
கிஙிலலென் லெ லெலெலுர லெகலரு லெ ஙலலலல தலெலென்  
லெலல லெ லெல.

ள லெலு லுதலலது ஙலததலுபுபுபு  
லுலலெலெலெலும் அலலது சலதலரல தலல

tain any enclosure ; if it does it will be  
ail.

லலு லல லலெ லெ  
லலு லெ லலு லலு

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION  
ஒலன் டீஸ்டு  
விமானக் கடிதம்  
Aerogramme



Pb. Singaravadivel Chettiar Esq  
No 29, Main Road  
Nerkuppai  
Ramanal St  
S. India

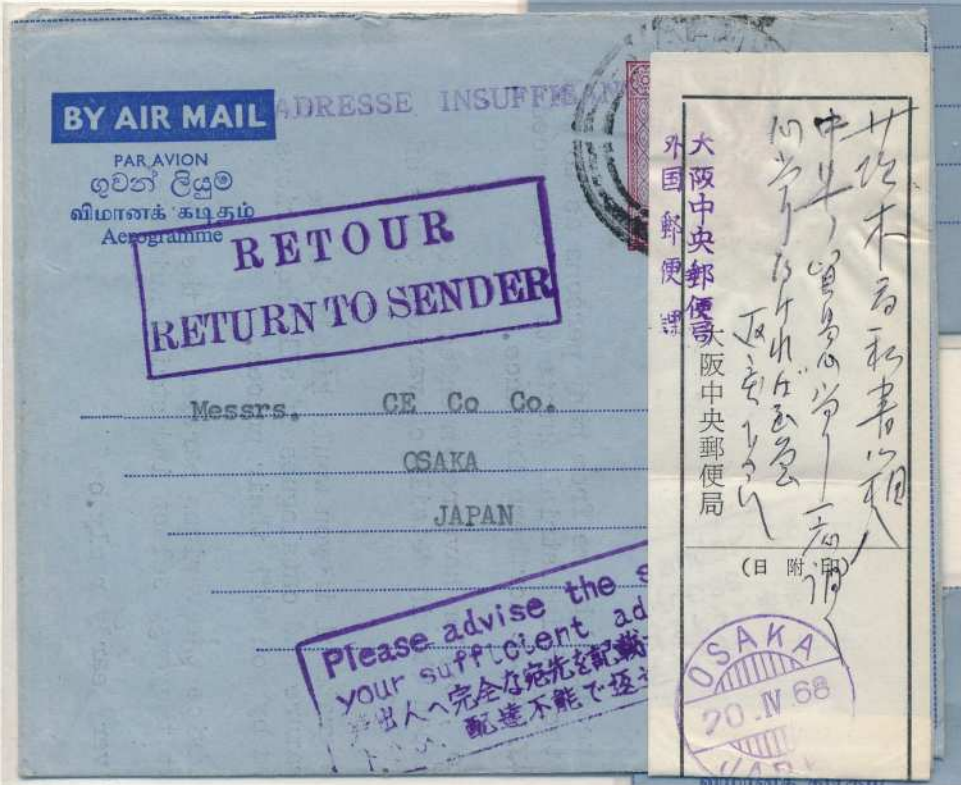
50

Introduced: 1963

Indicium: Coarse impression

Flaps: Outer ends angled,  
inner ends angled, outlined

Instructions and  
admonitory message: 12 lines



50c to Japan  
dated 13 April 1968.  
Returned to sender



50c to United Kingdom  
plus 75c express fee.  
Dated 31 July 1967

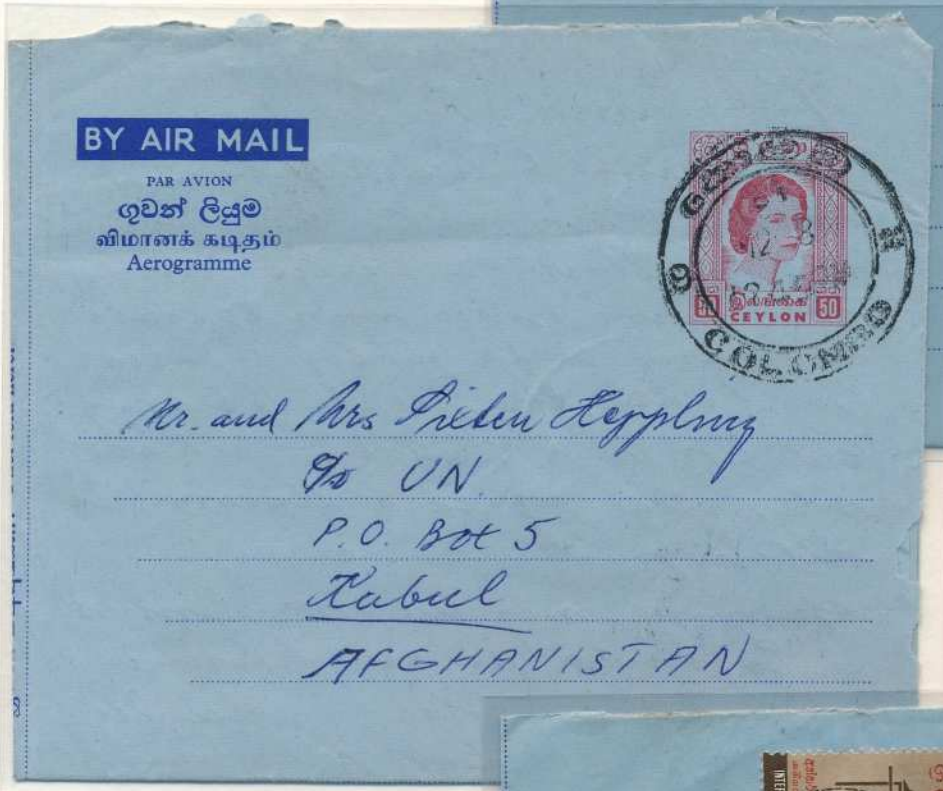
50

Introduced: 1964

Indicium: Sharp impression

Flaps: Outer ends curved, inner ends curved, not outlined

Instructions and admonitory message: 12 lines



50c to Afghanistan dated 8 December 1964

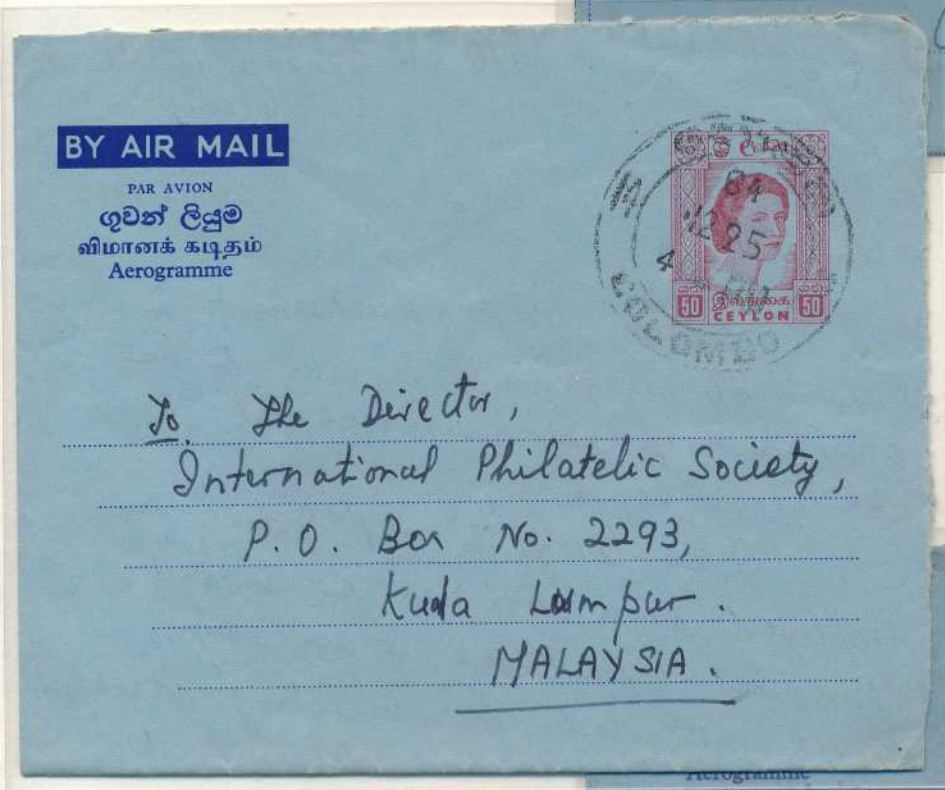
Backstamped: Kaboul/ 18 December 1964



60c to Canada plus 50c registration fee plus 75c express fee. Dated 24 June 1965

Backstamped: Montreal/26 JUN 1965 Victoria/JUN 27 65

60c to Ghana,  
underpaid by 10c,  
dated 21 April 1965



50c to Malaysia  
dated 25 December 1964



60c to United States  
dated 7 October 1965