



Lot nr.: L244430

Country/Type: Africa

Specialized collection, BIAFRA, with variety of overprints. Very high catalog value.

Price: 1350 eur

[Go to the lot on [www.sevenstamps.com](http://www.sevenstamps.com) ]

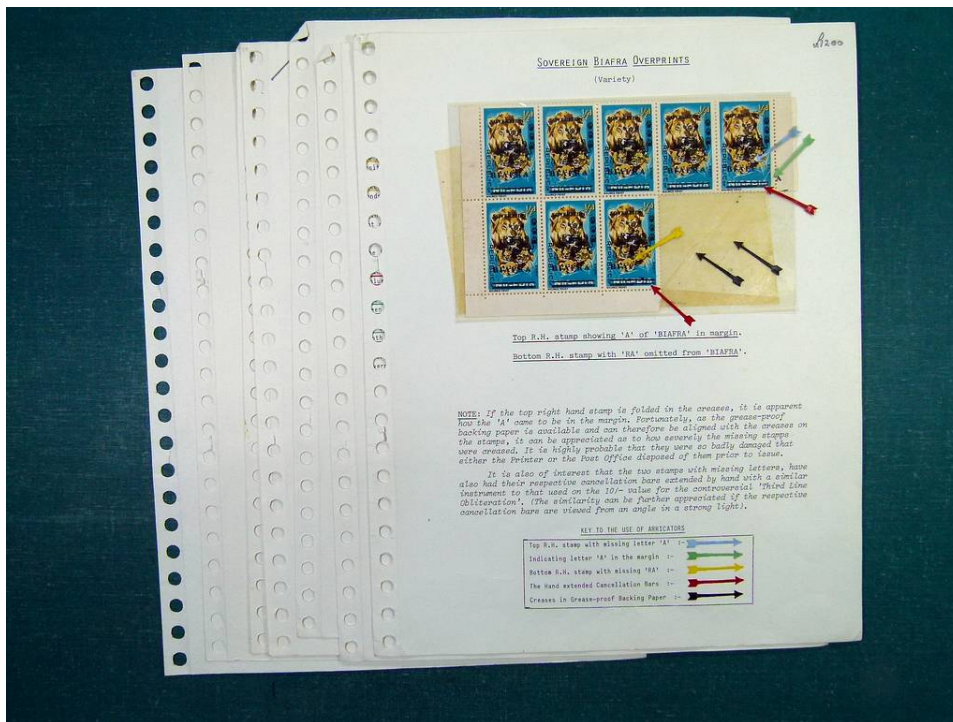




Foto nr.: 2

(Variety)



Top R.H. stamp showing 'A' of 'BIAFRA' in margin.

Bottom R.H. stamp with 'RA' omitted from 'BIAFRA'.

NOTE: If the top right hand stamp is folded in the creases, it is apparent how the 'A' came to be in the margin. Fortunately, as the grease-proof backing paper is available and can therefore be aligned with the creases on the stamps, it can be appreciated as to how severely the missing stamps were creased. It is highly probable that they were so badly damaged that either the Printer or the Post Office disposed of them prior to issue.

It is also of interest that the two stamps with missing letters, have also had their respective cancellation bars extended by hand with a similar instrument to that used on the 10/- value for the controversial 'Third Line Obliteration'. (The similarity can be further appreciated if the respective cancellation bars are viewed from an angle in a strong light).

#### KEY TO THE USE OF ARRICATORS






Top R.H. stamp with missing letter 'A' :-	
Indicating letter 'A' in the margin :-	
Bottom R.H. stamp with missing 'RA' :-	
The Hand extended Cancellation Bars :-	
Creases in Grease-proof Backing Paper :-	





Foto nr.: 3

## FRANCE FRIENDSHIP 1968 (Varieties)

### STUDY NOTES: (Confirmation)

The Top row overprints are not aligned with the position of the two sets of overprinting in the bottom four rows. This tends to confirm that they may have been overprinted row by row and not all 5 rows together in one printing process.

The 'Oblique Stroke' is visible on both of the printings in the Fourth column broken thus: 5 / -

The small 'Hook' can be seen to occur on the lower obliteration bars in the 5th column, on both of the overprints, except where a complete overlap of the two overprintings occur.





Foto nr.: 4

## WHY SO MANY POOR QUALITY OVERPRINTS AND DAMAGED STAMPS ?

£100

### STUDY NOTES

In late August 1967 the Biafran Forces made a big counter-attack in the Mid West Region, advancing to about 40 miles from the Federal capital of Lagos. The timing (*The start of the Rainy Season*) took the Federal Forces completely by surprise.

*The Banks and Post Offices were high on the list of priority objectives and the sum of £4 million is estimated to have been seized within 1 hour of arriving in BENIN.*

The Biafran troops with careless handling, bad transportation and in torrential rain, damaged numerous sheets of stamps en-route to Port Harcourt (*Where the overprinting was carried out*). As a result, sheets of stamps sticking together had damaged gum and much surface damage; These were sometimes overprinted over the damage. In addition some sheets were overprinted with creases present, resulting in some unusual varieties.

### OVERPRINTED ON TOP OF SURFACE DAMAGE



Surface Damage on 2 Right Hand stamps probably caused by sheets of stamps sticking together due to tropical humidity, or slight exposure to rain during transit.

### OVERPRINTED OVER DIAGONAL CREASES



The bottom 2 stamps of this block of 4 show extensive distortion of the overprints, due to Diagonal Creases being present during the overprinting process.

### OVERPRINTED OVER HORIZONTAL CREASE



The bottom stamp of this marginal pair shows extensive distortion of the Coat of Arms and to the 'B' in BIAFRA, due to a Horizontal Crease being present at the time of the overprinting process.

### OVERPRINTED OVER VERTICAL CREASES



A gap on the Left Hand side of the 'Coat of Arms' due to a big Vertical Crease being present at the time of overprinting.



Foto nr.: 5

FRANCE FRIENDSHIP 1968 (Varieties)

Variation in the overprinted dates

S.G.16c



*The incorrect 'setting-up' of the overprinting block has resulted in some apparent variation of the 1968 date on many of the stamps. They can be read as 1358, 1368, 1938, 1958, 1963, 1965 etc. (The correct date should read 1968).*





Foto nr.: 6

Sheet f2000

FRANCE FRIENDSHIP 1968 (Varieties)

STUDY NOTES:

It can be observed that the 'Oblique Stroke' in the 5/- on all 5 stamps in the 4th. column is broken thus:- 5 / -

This error is constant, i.e. it occurs in the 4th column of all the relevant sections of sheets examined to date.

This variety is also to be seen on both 'Double Overprint' examples and full sheet No. 179,820.

A small 'Hook' can be seen to occur on the lower of the 2 cancellation bars through the word NIGERIA on all the 5 stamps in the end or 5th column.

This hook error has been observed to be present in the same position on all the relevant pieces and sheets inspected to date. e.g. Missing Value, Double overprint, Double Overprint (One Inverted) also on sheet No.179,820.

The 3rd. or Centre Row cancellation bars do not completely obliterate the word NIGERIA.

This also applies in a similar way to sheet No. 179,820 where in each case one of the rows has an uneven line of the obliteration bars. This tends to point out that there is a possibility that the overprinting was done row by row and not all 5 rows together.

NOTE:- Full sheets No's 179916; 179970 & 179971 have also been seen and photocopied to confirm.





Foto nr.: 7

## SOVEREIGN BIAFRA OVERPRINTS

(Varieties)

S.G.10



£100

This variety consists of a piece of adhesive label being affixed to the reverse side of the Backing Paper with the word 'BIAFRA' in 4mm high lettering printed in the area level with the bottom of the stamp margin. The size of type used on the face side of the 9d. value is only 2½mm in height for the 'BIAFRA' section of the overprint

It is of interest that the normal use of the 4mm type was restricted to the 6 high value stamps only i.e. 1/- to £1 and none of these values had the word 'BIAFRA' in their stamp margins.

*As enquiries made so far have not produced any Official explanation, it is thought that the reverse printing was either a Printer's Test Piece or done for some form of sheet identification and was carried out during the Overprinting Process.*

S.G.10

Variety caused by the overprinting being carried out whilst diagonal folds were present in the sheet of stamps being overprinted.

*The Bottom stamp in the vertical strip of three is normal apart from the overprint being slightly lower than is usual.*

*The Top and Middle stamps have got diagonal gaps across sections of their respective Coats of Arms.*

*In addition the Middle stamp shows distortion to the 'B' and 'I' in 'BIAFRA'. There is also a diagonal gap and variation of alignment in the two cancellation bars that obliterate the word 'NIGERIA'.*





Foto nr.: 8

