



Netherlands 1953 Air Mail 25c stamp featuring a crow (Corvus corone). A 12 ½c version had been released in 1938. Both were for use only on special flights (Scott C-12).

## “As Straight as the Crow Flies”

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“The Spaniard, if on foot, always travels as the crow flies, which the openness and dryness of the country permits...”. Francis Carter, *A Journey from Gibraltar to Malaga (1777)*.



Austria 1950 Air Mail 60g featuring a crow (Corvus frugilegus). One of eight pictorial definitive air mail stamps featuring birds (Scott C-54).

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More metaphor than fact, “as straight as the crow flies” means taking the most direct path between two points.

Most airmail stamps feature airplanes, but in the 1950s Austria and the Netherlands issued stamps depicting crows in flight.

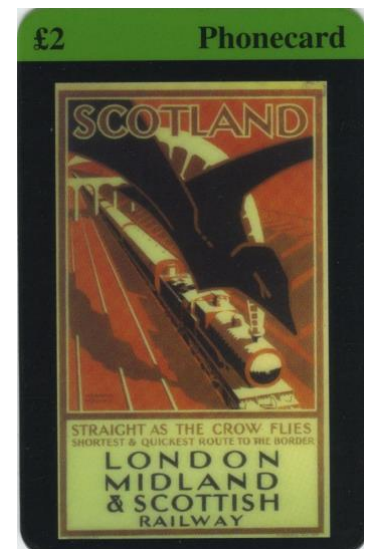
As well as air postage, the stamps were used on balloon post envelopes. Crows also featured in advertisements for other modes of transport such as trains.



Austria 1950 Air Mail 60gr on 1951 Charity Event Balloon Post Cover from Austria to the Netherlands with special cancel (size reduced to 61%).



Netherlands 1953 Air Mail 25c on 1960 cover commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KLM's first flight from Amsterdam to London (size reduced to 45%).



London Midland & Scottish Railway 1923-1947 poster reproduced on a 1990s phonecard. Note the slogan “Straight as the Crow Flies” (size reduced to 68%).