

RHOPHIL 72

Issued 28th August, 1972

The Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, through the Mashonaland Philatelic Society held an exhibition of stamps in the Beit Hall, Girls High School, Salisbury from 28th August to 2nd September, 1972. The combined events were given the name "Rhophil 72".

Owners of recommended collections were invited to exhibit material from a wide international field. The exhibition, hoped to attract displays containing the gems of collections which may not have been shown before, while at the same time, award winning collections could be viewed; the aim being to illustrate some of the many popular facets of philately of both general and specific interest.

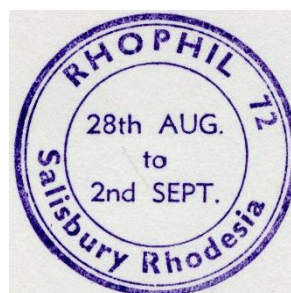
The souvenir sheets produced by the PTC for this occasion were similar to those used in the 1970 stamp booklet but with the selvages printed with details of the event. Eighteen souvenir sheets were cut and perforated on a full sheet 762 x 508mm, with space for the selvages between the blocks of four stamps. Their final size was 66 x 78mm.

(adapted from the PTC's Bulletin No 4 of 1972, published by the Philatelic Bureau)³

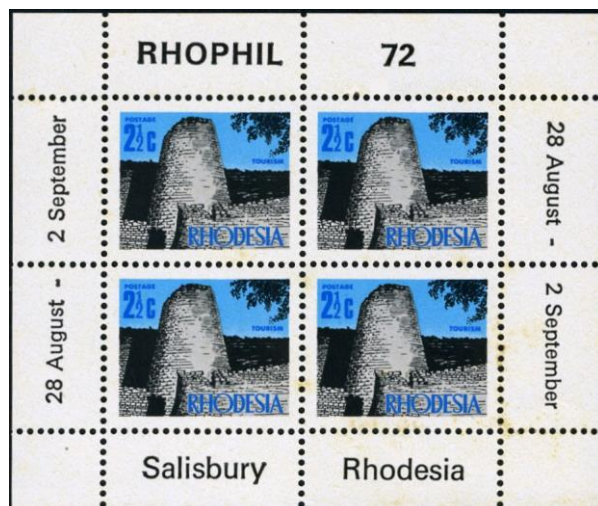
The history of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa dates back to 1928, when an international stamp exhibition was staged at Durban. Representatives of seven philatelic societies in Southern Africa (Natal, Durban, Rhodesia, Cape Town, East London, Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg) met on the 4th July to draw up rules and regulations for the South African Philatelic Congress as it was then called. The original idea was to hold meetings every two or three years but, in 1932, it was decided to hold the Congress annually.⁴

At the 9th Congress held at Pretoria in 1939 the name was changed to 'The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa' and the composition of the executive committee was broadened so as to permit affiliated societies to be represented. Since then its constitution has been broadened to allow Philatelic Societies which are not in Southern Africa but whose interests lie in the area, e.g. the Anglo-Boer War Society of Great Britain, to become associated members of the Federation. No congresses were held during the war years, 1940 to 1945, but thereafter they became annual events. The Congress held in Salisbury was the 34th and the third to be held in Rhodesia.⁴ The previous congresses being at the Rhodes Centenary Exhibition in 1953 and Rhopex in 1966.

The miniature sheets were only available for sale at the Rhophil 72 Exhibition and at the Philatelic Bureau.³ First Day Covers produced and sold at the Exhibition had the Rhophil 72 cachet applied in violet. Note covers from the Exhibition have the Salisbury postmark, not the "First Day of Issue" postmark that was applied at the Philatelic Bureau.



THE ISSUED STAMPS



Catalogue listings

SG	RSC	Value	Description	
MS474		1c	Harvesting wheat	
MS475		2½c	Great Zimbabwe	
MS476		3½c	Commerce	
	C.MS9A	1c	Type A	Harvesting wheat
	a.			Paper 1, brown gum
	C.MS10A	2½c	Type A	Harvesting wheat
	C.MS11A	3½c	Type A	Harvesting wheat
	a.			Paper 1, brown gum
	C.MS9B	1c	Type B	Harvesting wheat
	a.			Dot between 'T' & 'A' of Postage
	b.			Paper 1, brown gum
	C.MS10B	2½c	Type B	Harvesting wheat

C.MS11C a.	3½c	Type B	Harvesting wheat Paper 1, brown gum
C.MS9C a.	1c	Type C	Harvesting wheat Paper 1, brown gum
C.MS10C a.	2½c	Type C	Harvesting wheat Broken Wall variety
C.MS11C a.	3½c	Type C	Harvesting wheat Paper 1, brown gum
C.MS9D a. b. c.	1c	Type D	Harvesting wheat Malformed dot variety Dot between 'T' & 'A' of Postage Paper 1, brown gum
C.MS10D a.	2½c	Type D	Harvesting wheat Malformed dot variety
C.MS11D a. b.	3½c	Type D	Harvesting wheat Malformed dot variety Paper 1, brown gum

Technical details

The Rhophil 72 miniature sheets were basically an adaption of the booklet panes produced for the 1970 definitive issue, which themselves were an adaption of the printing sheets for first printing of the sheet stamps (see section on the 1970 definitive issue). These panes were then overprinted with wording on the side panels as follows:

Top panel:	Rhophil 72
Side panels:	28 August – 2 September, reading up on the left panel and down on the right panel.
Bottom panel:	Salisbury Rhodesia.

At the Exhibition, the PTC displayed a complete printed sheet of each value from which A S Annett took notes in order to reconstruct the printed sheets, with which he was able to provide a plating of each sheetlet for each value. The exhibited printed sheets are believed to have been destroyed after the Exhibition.

Papers used

Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue² – describes as follows:

Two types of paper were used:

1. A paper with a dark brown gum, similar to that used for the 1970 booklet panes.
2. A paper with a cream or lighter brown gum.

1 cent Pane Between 20 and 30 large panes are believed to have been printed on paper 1. On the basis of a calculation of 20 large panes of this scarce printing on this paper there would have been, after cutting, 20 - 30 x "A" type sheets, 40 - 60 "B", 100

- 150 x "C" and 200 - 300 x "D" sheets. These 1 cent sheets on Paper 1 are easily identified from the normal on Paper 2 as apart from the darker gum they resemble the 1 cent booklet panes with their solid darker blue colour while the normal panes have a much lighter blue colour with a screened appearance.

2½ cent Pane Believed to have been printed only on Paper 2.

3½ cent Pane Printed on both papers in unknown proportions. Panes printed on paper 1 have darker blue colour similar to booklet

The Mashonaland Guide¹ – describes as follows:

The Printers have stated that the paper is white coated gummed. However, the gums appear as white, pale yellow and deep yellow, while under the ultraviolet light there appear to be three types of paper. These have been resolved as follows: -

1c. Three types of paper. Two types of paper are common with either white or pale-yellow gum; the shade is unrelated to the gum. The third type of paper is related to the deep yellow gum: of this shade there were approximately 30 sheets only.

2½c. Two types of paper with either white or pale-yellow gum and the paper white or blued. The types of paper are unrelated to the gums or the blueing.

3½c. Similar to the papers of the 1c. stamp

The descriptions by these two sources are clearly at odds with what the colour of the gums were for this issue, but there is agreement that one of the papers used for the 1c and 3½c values was different and limited in numbers.

The type 10 chromo paper, which was used from the 1966 Mardon definitive printings through to the 1974 definitive, is generally a poor quality paper with a tendency to fox. The gums for this paper also varies from light to dark brown, as in this issue. This variation can also be found in other printings of both definitive and commemorative stamps.

Marginal notations:

For obvious reasons, the printer's imprint, colour register cylinder numbers, sheet value and sheet number are absent from the miniature sheets. Below is a reconstruction of the 1c printing sheet, showing the 18 sheetlets produced.

Perforations: comb perf SG 14½, RSC 14½

	1	RHOPHIL	72	B	2	RHOPHIL	72	B	3	RHOPHIL	72	A
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
		Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia	
	4	RHOPHIL	72	D	5	RHOPHIL	72	D	6	RHOPHIL	72	C
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
		Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia	
	7	RHOPHIL	72	D	8	RHOPHIL	72	D	9	RHOPHIL	72	C
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
		Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia	
	10	RHOPHIL	72	D	11	RHOPHIL	72	D	12	RHOPHIL	72	C
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
		Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia	
	13	RHOPHIL	72	D	14	RHOPHIL	72	D	15	RHOPHIL	72	C
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
		Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia	
	16	RHOPHIL	72	D	17	RHOPHIL	72	D	18	RHOPHIL	72	C
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			imperf. top	28 August - 2 September			28 August - 2 September
		Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia			Salisbury	Rhodesia	

The printing of the 1970 definitive issue for the lower values was in sheets of 100 for both 1A and 1B cylinder. The description in the Rhodesian Study Catalogue states that the printing plates of the first printing of the three values were created by “blanking out” some of the stamps, so that there were nine sheetlets for each cylinder. The effect was that columns 1 & 2 and rows 9 & 10 were blanked out.²

After the printing of the sheets, the whole sheet was then perforated, so that the area between the two cylinders was also perforated through. However, it is unknown what the distance between the two cylinders was, although it had to be equal to two or more stamps in height.

This is an attempt to reconstruct the printing sheet showing the 18 sheetlets produced, - 1 x type A, 2 x Type b, 5 x type C and 10 x Type D.

Each sheetlet has a red letter in the top right corner of the reconstructed printing sheet depicting the type of sheet as described in references. The type of sheet is determined by the marginal perforations, as

- Sheet A: Imperforate to top and right margins, perforated to bottom and left
- Sheet B: Imperforate to top margin, other margins perforated
- Sheet C: Imperforate to right margin, other margins perforated
- Sheet D: All margins perforated.

Also on the reconstructed sheet is a blue number showing the position of the miniature sheet in the printing sheet. This will become relevant when attempting to position the sheetlet from the information of flaws noted in the Mashonaland Guide, see below.

Quantities Printed: 3,000 large printed sheets for each value, giving
 3,000 Type A sheetlets
 6,000 Type B sheetlets

15,000 Type C sheetlets
 30,000 Type D sheetlets

Issue date: 28th August, 1972

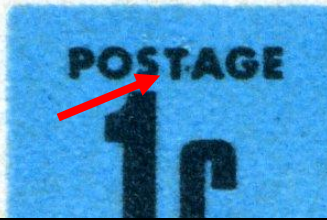
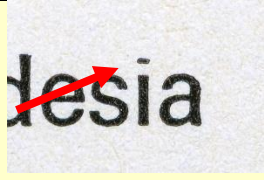
Withdrawal from sale: as with 1970 definitive - 3½c – 1st July, 1973, others 14th February (this could only be from the Philatelic Bureau)


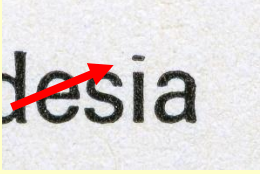
Demonetarisaton: as with the 1970 definitive – 1st July, 1978.

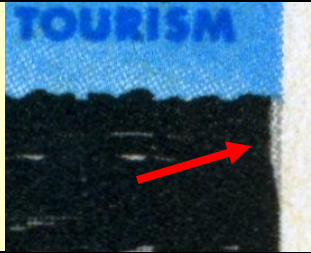
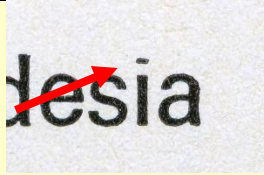
Listed varieties

Below are varieties documented or seen for each of the values, starting with the listed varieties within the Mashonaland Guide¹, and those listed in the RSC², shown in yellow shaded tables. The varieties listed in bold are considered by the authors of the Guide to be more important.

The plating of each sheetlet is from the work undertaken by A S Arnett

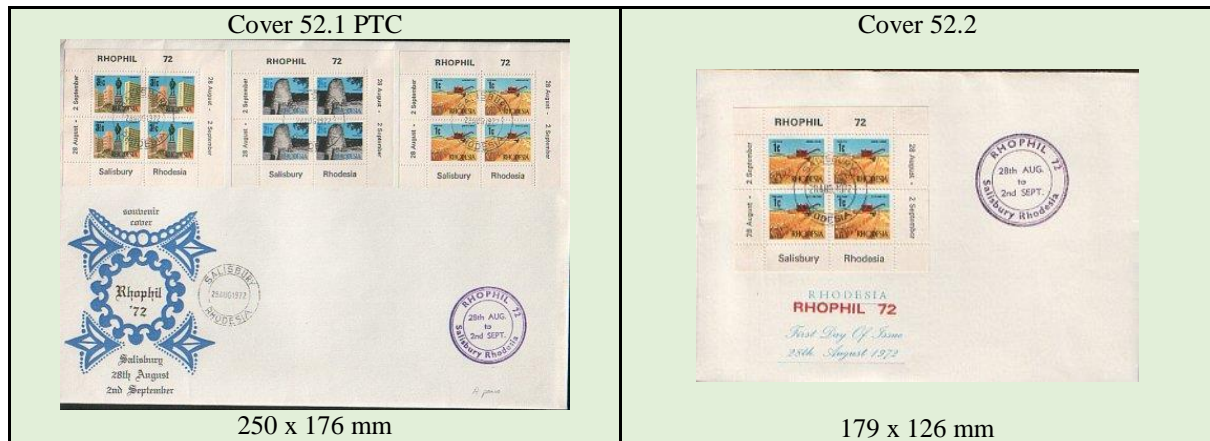
S'let	Type	Row	Col		
1 cent – Harvesting wheat					
1	B	1	1	Green dot in furrow near machine.	
2	B	2	2	Black dot between 'T' and 'A' of Postage RSC C.MS9A a.	
3	A			No need for indication as perms indicate this sheet.	
4	D	2	2	Nick on top of 'R' of Rhodesia.	
5	D			Flat dot on 'T' of Rhodesia in bottom selvedge RSC C.MS9D a. 'Malformed dot'	
6	C	1	2	Blue dot in selvedge above 'S' of Postage.	
7	D	2	1	Red dot above and to right of man's head.	
8	D	1	2	Black dot between 'T' and 'A' of Postage	
9	C	2	2	White dot in sky to left of machine and black vertical dash in line with top of wheat in right selvedge.	
10	D	1	1	Green dot on right edge in line with top of 'A' of Rhodesia.	
11	D	1	1	White dot at mouth of harvester	

S'let	Type	Row	Col	
		1	2	<p>Black dot between 'T' and 'A' of Postage</p> <p>RSC C.MS9D b.</p> 
12	C	1	1	Red dot in the middle of top selvedge.
		2	2	White dot to left of machine.
13	D	2	1	Faint white dot at join of kopjes on right
		2	2	Red dot in right selvedge in line with mouth of harvester.
14	D	2	1	White dot above peak of green kopje on right.
15	C	1	2	Top of S slightly indented and also red dot in upright of 'D' of Rhodesia
		2	1	White dot just right of peak of dark kopje on right
16	D	2	1	Minute white dot on top of left leg of first 'U' of Agriculture
17	D	2	2	Blue dot in sky to right of 'C' in value.
18	C	1	2	White dot to left of machine. (Note: 3/3, and 4/3 are in stamp 2/2).
2½ centre – Great Zimbabwe				
1	B	2	1	Blue dot in selvedge above 2' of value.
2	B			No flaws.
3	A			No need for indication as perfs indicate this sheet.
4	D	1	1	Faint grey dot in bottom selvedge to right of 2 nd perf from the left.
5	D			<p>Flat dot on 'I' of Rhodesia in bottom selvedge</p> <p>RSC C.MS10D a.</p> <p>'Malformed dot'</p> 
6	C	1	1	Minute grey dot in selvedge immediately under 'H' of Rhodesia
7	D			Blue dot under 'O' of RHOPHIL in top selvedge (above perfs).
8	D	1	1	Variable black dot/dash above 'G' of Postage.
9	C			Blue dot under 2 of 2 September in left selvedge
10	D			Blue under and to right of 'O' of RHOPHIL in top selvedge (above perfs).
11	D			Blue dot in selvedge above right corner.
12	C	2	2	Blue horizontal stroke on right edge of selvedge in line with 'T' of September.
13	D	2	1	Blue dot in top selvedge above tower.
14	D	2	2	White dot in bottom leaves of tree on far right.
15	C	2	2	Blue dot in top selvedge immediately above topmost leaf of tree.
16	D	2	2	Minute grey dot in selvedge immediately under 'A' of Rhodesia.
17	D	1	1	Black dot in middle of left selvedge.

S'let	Type	Row	Col		
18	C	1	2	<p>Grey vertical mark at right end of black wall.</p> <p>RSC C.MS10Ca</p>	
3½ cent Commerce					
1	B	1	1	Blue dot in selvedge above Rhodes' head.	
2	B	1	2	Large black dot on fifth balcony down on yellow building.	
3	A			No need for indication as perfs indicate, this sheet.	
4	D	1	2	Vertical black dash in sky in line with corner of orange building.	
5	D			<p>Flat dot on 'I' of Rhodesia in bottom selvedge</p> <p>RSC C.MS11D a.</p> <p>'Malformed dot'</p>	
	C	1	2	Brown dot under left side of fourth window down on building on right.	
7	D	1	1	Minute black dot in selvedge above Rhodes, and black dot under third lot of windows on orange building.	
8	D	1	2	Minute black dot to left of fourth window down on yellow building.	
9	C			Blue diagonal line through 'G' of August in right selvedge.	
10	D	1	1	Black dot under third lot of 3 windows on orange building	
11	D	1	1	Brown stroke on pink roof of left	
		1	2	Minute black dot to left of fourth window down on yellow building.	
12	C	2	2	Minute blue dot above 'S' of Postage in top selvedge.	
13	D	1	2	Black dot to right of '½' of value.	
14	D	2	1	Red dot to left of fifth, window down on yellow building	
15	C	1	2	Black dot in sky to right of 'C' of value	
		2	2	Minute blue dot in selvedge to right and above Rhodes.	
16	D	1	1	Blue dot in centre at top of orange building	
17	D	2	2	Red dot under fourth window on yellow building.	
18	C	1	2	Blue dot above 'M' of Commerce in selvedge	
		2	2	Brown dot under fourth window down on building on the left.	
<p>NOTE: The black dot above the '8' of '28 August' in left selvedge is so variable in intensity that it cannot be used as a guide.</p>					

First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear



Bibliography

1. "A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia", supplement No 4, issued 1972, published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group
2. "The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue", 1983/84, published by Salisbury Stamp Company
3. Post & Telecommunications Corporation Bulletin No 3 of 1972, published by the Philatelic Bureau
4. "Rhodesia in Stamps", second supplement to Rhodesia – a Postal History", by R C Smith, published by Salisbury Stamp Company, 1978