

# WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION (W.M.O.) CENTENARY

Issue date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1973

Of all the scientific pursuits in which man has participated, meteorology almost certainly has the longest tradition of international cooperation. The reason is simply that weather is not related to national boundaries and mutual benefits accrue whenever countries exchange meteorological information with their neighbours on a regular basis.

Informal discussions about collaboration were actually held as early as 1853, but the first official congress of governmental delegates took place in Vienna in 1873 and out of this Congress grew the International Meteorological Organisation (I.M.O.) which, in turn, was transformed into the World Meteorological Organisation in 1951. The World Meteorological Organisation is thus able to celebrate a century of international collaboration.



Apart from fostering co-operation in general, the World Meteorological Organisation standardises such things as observational and recording procedures; facilitates the rapid exchange of current weather information in coded form; and promotes the application of meteorology to aviation, agriculture and many other human activities. It also encourages meteorological research, and maintains a close liaison with other geophysical organisations.

Rhodesian meteorology itself goes back nearly a hundred years; the first rainfall figures were recorded at Hope Fountain Mission (near Bulawayo) in 1878, and in 1897 a small network of official meteorological observations was organised.

A major step forward occurred in 1920 when meteorology was made the specific responsibility of the Hydrographic Branch of the Department of Agriculture. Climatological records received special attention, while weather forecasting began on an experimental basis. In 1926 meteorology became virtually a department in its own right. The number of stations was steadily increased and their altitudes were determined more accurately. Selected weather reports were obtained by telegram from South Africa, and daily weather forecasts became a feature of the rainy season.

Significant advances took place during the 1930's with the introduction of international air services. The location of Goetz Observatory in Bulawayo and that of Meteorological Headquarters in Salisbury serve as reminders of the role played in those early days by Kumalo and Belvedere Airports respectively. During the War the skeleton staff of the Meteorological Department had to be augmented to cope with the demands made by the Empire Air Training Scheme.

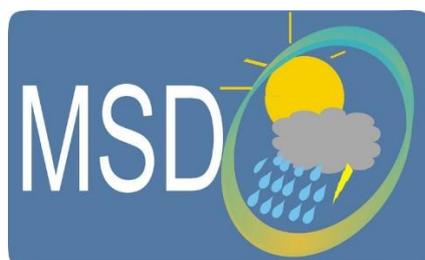
Post-war developments included the introduction of radio-sonde observations (for upper-air temperature and humidity data), and the installation of storm-detection radar equipment, a radio-facsimile network and a punch-card system for processing climatological data. The aid of facsimile equipment was subsequently enlisted for obtaining photographs from weather satellites. An automatic

wind-recording telemetry system was developed for an island station in Lake Kariba.

Aviation commitments have continued to grow and there has been a significant expansion of meteorological service to agriculture. Meteorological research has not been overlooked, and cloud-seeding experiments have featured prominently in recent seasons.

For many years, and not only during the Federal period, Rhodesia maintained a close liaison with or was actively responsible for the meteorological services in both Zambia and Malawi. Even today the meteorological office at Salisbury Airport serves as the *National* Meteorological Centre for collecting routine weather reports from our northern neighbours and these are passed on, together with our own, to the *Regional* Meteorological Centre in Pretoria, which, in turn, feeds the information into the Global Telecommunications System. The latter, together with the Global Observing System and the Global Data-Processing System, constitutes what is known as the World Weather Watch. This ‘WWW’ project is now one of the major responsibilities of WMO as it maintains the time-honoured cooperation that meteorology induces among the nations.

(Source: PTC Bulletin No 2 of 1973)



Meteorological Services  
Department - Zimbabwe

## THE ISSUED STAMPS



### Catalogue listings

SG	RSC <sup>2</sup>	Value	Description
481	C128	3c	WMO logo in yellow and green design
482	C129	14c	WMO logo in blue design
	a.		Curl between ‘W’ & ‘M’ of W.M.O. Cyl 1B R3/9
	b.		Joined leaves flaw. Cyl 1A R2/6
483	C130	25c	WMO logo in orange and yellow design

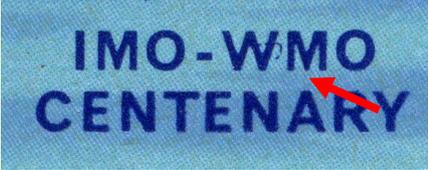
## Technical details

<b>Stamp size:</b>	28 x 42 mm
<b>Sheet Size:</b>	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes within printed sheet
<b>Artist:</b>	S J Levy
<b>Paper:</b>	Type 10 - Chromo, creamy/brown gum
<b>Print colours:</b>	3c - Ultramarine, pale blue, yellow & black 14c - Ultramarine, grey, pale blue & black 25c - Carmine-lake, orange, yellow & black
<b>Perforations:</b>	Comb perf: SG 14½, RSC 14¼ Left margin: Perforated through Top & bottom margins: One perf hole Right margin: Imperforate
<b>Printer's Imprint:</b>	Type 6a, bottom margin, below columns 4 to 7 3c & 14c - Ultramarine printing 25c - Carmine-lake printing
<b>Cylinder numbers:</b>	Cyls. 1A & 1B bottom margin under R5/1, colours reading across from left – 3c Ultramarine, yellow, pale blue, black 14c Ultramarine, pale blue, grey, black 25c Carmine-lake, yellow, orange, black
<b>Colour register:</b>	Type TL 4 – round boxed - left margin opposite R5/1, colours reading down 3c Ultramarine, pale blue, yellow, black 14c Ultramarine, grey, pale blue, black 25c Carmine-lake, orange, yellow, black
<b>Sheet Value:</b>	Bottom margin, below R5/10, 3c & 14c - Ultramarine printing 25c - Carmine-lake printing
<b>Sheet Number:</b>	Type SN 5, with 'PTC' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading down
<b>Print numbers:</b>	3c 4,000,000 stamps (40,000 1A & 1B sheets each) 14c 400,000 stamps (4,000 1A & 1B sheets each) 25c 300,000 stamps (3,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
<b>Issue date:</b>	2nd July, 1973
<b>Withdrawal from sale:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 1974

**Demonetarisaton:** 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1977

**Listed varieties**

Below are varieties documented or seen for each of the values, starting with the listed varieties within the Mashonaland Guide<sup>1</sup>, and those listed in the RSC<sup>2</sup>, shown in yellow shaded tables. The varieties listed in bold are considered by the authors of the Guide to be more important.

Row	Col		
Certain flaws occur in each of the three values. These are: -			
<b>Cyl 1A</b>			
2	6	A mark below 'SI' of RHODESIA	
2	9	A light-coloured mark to the right of upper right-hand leaves	
<b>Cyl 1B</b>			
4	9	A cluster of tiny dots around 'WMO' and 'ARY' of Centenary	
<b>14 c value</b>			
2	6	<b>A large blue dot in the upper right-hand leaves – Cyl 1A</b> <b>RSC C129b – Joined leaves flaw</b>	
3	9	<b>A hair curl between the 'W' and 'M' of WMO – Cyl 1B</b> <b>RSC C129a</b>	
Two shades of blue in the wreath of the 3c have been noted - (a) indigo and (b) a brighter blue			

**Unlisted varieties (all values)**

	<p>Left: Double printing of black – seen to the outline of ‘Rhodesia’, the star and the longitudinal lines of globe.</p> <p>(source: Rhodesia.co.za)</p>
	<p>‘Comet’ appearance behind star – caused by scratch in pale blue plate.</p>

**First Day Covers**

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear

<p>Cover 56.1 (PTC cover)</p> <p>162 x 114 mm</p>	<p>Cover 56.2.1</p> <p>176 x 126 mm 1<sup>st</sup> and last line below logo in <b>dark blue</b></p>
<p>Cover 56.2.2</p> <p>176 x 126 mm 1<sup>st</sup> and last line below logo in <b>light blue</b> These lines are also slightly further left.</p>	

## **Bibliography**

1. “A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia”, supplement No 5, issued 1979, published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group
2. “The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue”, 1983/84, published by Salisbury Stamp Company
3. Posts & Telecommunications Corp Bulletin No 2 of 1973, published by the Philatelic Bureau