

CHRISTMAS 1977

Issued 16th November, 1977

(Source: PTC Bulletin No 3 of 1977)

“The theme of this special Christmas Commemorative issue, the Mother and Child, symbolises the spirit of Christmas throughout the Christian world bringing with it a message of peace for all”

THE ISSUED STAMPS



Catalogue listings

SG	RSC ²	Value	Description
549	C173	3c	Madonna & child – violet background
550	C174	6c	Madonna & child – brown background
551	C175	8c	Madonna & child – green background
552	C176	16c	Madonna & child – claret background

Technical details

Stamp size:	28 x 42 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes within printed sheet
Artist:	Dianne Deudney
Paper:	Type 13– white fluorescent paper, gum with greenish tinge, slightly sheen
Print colours:	All values – cyan, yellow, magenta & black
Perforations:	Comb perf: SG 14, RSC 14¼ Left margin: Perforated through Top, right & bottom margins: Imperforate
Printer's Imprint:	Type 6a, bottom margin, below columns 4 to 7 – black printing

- Cylinder numbers:** Cyls. 1A & 1B bottom margin under R5/1, colours reading across from left - cyan, yellow, magenta, black (all values)
- Colour register:** Type TL 4 – round boxed - left margin opposite R5/1, colours reading down - cyan, yellow, magenta, black (all values)
- Sheet Value:** Bottom margin, below R5/10, black printing
- Sheet Number:** Type SN 4 with ‘PTC’ prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading downwards.
- Print numbers:**
 3c - 3,000,000 stamps (30,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
 6c - 1,000,000 stamps (10,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
 8c - 750,000 stamps (7,500 1A & 1B sheets each)
 16c - 500,000 stamps (5,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
- Issue date:** 16th November, 1977
- Withdrawal from sale:** 16th August, 1978
- Demonetarisaton:** 13th August, 1981

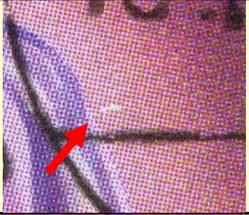
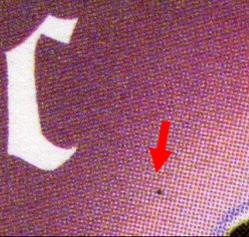
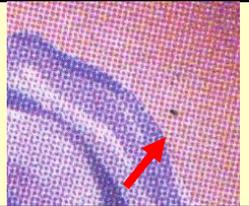
Listed varieties

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.

In studying this issue under magnification, a vast range of other dots and specks will be noted. Some of these varieties are constant whilst others will be batch flaws. The varieties listed by the Mashonaland Guide are not necessarily the most spectacular of these dots and specks, but are nevertheless the ones illustrated below.

Cyl	Row	Col	
3 cents			
1A	5	10	A small red mark in the dark shadow on the veil to the right of the child's head 
1B	1	1	A blue dot on the fourth finger of the mother's right hand (batch)

Cyl	Row	Col		
	1	8	A blue dot on the veil at right of the hair	
	2	9	Two blue marks on the right of child's robe above cuff of sleeve.	
	4	4	Red dot on veil above hair at right and black dot above left eyebrow	
	5	4	Blue dot between 'Postage' and head	
	5	6	Large black dot on sleeve above 'I' of Rhodesia (possibly not constant)	
6 cents				
1A	1	3	Tiny dot on right frame line level with top of veil	
1B	4	2	Red dot to right of 'c' of value (not constant)	
	5	3	Reddish dot to right of 'A' of Christmas	
8 cents				
1B	1	5	White spot to right of 'S' of Christmas	

Cyl	Row	Col		
16 cents				
1A	1	9	White spot to right of mother's head, close to veil	
	2	1	Black dot between 'c' of value and head	
	3	6	Small black dot to right of mother's head	
	5	10	Tiny dot in pale part of veil to right of child's head (batch)	
1B	4	2	Black dot on top of child's head.	
	5	2	Small black spot to right of 'c' of value	

Unlisted varieties



Examples of proof material. Cyan plate only to left stamp and full colour to right stamp. Imperforate.

(Source: eBay)



Cyan and magenta smudge above "R" of Rhodesia, possibly some water on cyan plate



Water on magenta printing plate after application of cyan and yellow. Black also prevented from printing



Probably water on magenta plate prevent bronze colour being produced.

(Courtesy Dave Trathen)



Bronze colour blob in top right corner with green blob below. Uncertain how this occurred.



Additional and early strike of the perforator, such that column 3 has a double perforation to the right side. The perforation to the top of the stamp in column 3 appears to be slightly lower than the other stamps due to this additional strike. This occurred on sheet No PTC 5731, cylinder 1A, this strip being from row 2.

The rhodesia.co.za website has blocks of 4 of the 3c and 16c stamps, both stated to have a doubling of the black ink. Although illustrated on the website the amount of doubling is very difficult to determine, suspected to be minor.

First Day Cover

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear



Bibliography

1. "A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia", supplement No 5, issued 1978, 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 1977, published by the Philatelic Bureau