

75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCUPATION OF MATABELELAND

Issued 4th November, 1968

This issue was released to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the capture and occupation of the Matabeleland capital of Bulawayo on the 4th November, 1893.

The Rhodes' Pioneer Column of 1890 was based on the Rudd concession for the purported right to occupy the area to the north of the Ndebele kingdom and resulted in the occupation of Mashonaland. Lobengula, the chief of the Ndebele, however believed that he still had the right to raid the Mashona tribes as he and his father, Mkilikazi, had done since the 1860's. However this brought the Ndebele people into conflict with the white settlers. Following raids by the Ndebele on the Mashona people around Fort Victoria, the Administrator of Mashonaland, Leander Starr Jameson, put together an expeditionary force of 400 settlers and invaded Matabeleland.

After the significant battles at Bembezi and Shangani, Lobengula set fire to his capital city and fled towards the Zambezi River. A column of 200 men under Major Patrick Forbes set off in Lobengula's pursuit. A small detachment of 34 men under Major Allan Wilson was sent across the Shangani River, but were cut off from the main force due to heavy rains causing the river to flood. The Ndebele warriors subsequently attacked this small force and wiped it out, and so was born one of the legends of Rhodesia.

Meanwhile Jameson occupied what was left of Bulawayo and raised the flag of the British South Africa Company on 4th November, 1893. The modern city of Bulawayo was built on the site of Lobengula's kraal and has consequently become the provincial capital of Matabeleland province and Zimbabwe's second city.

This stamp issue is the second to have been released to commemorate the occupation of Matabeleland. The first issue was released on 4th November, 1943, to commemorate the 50th anniversary. Due to the Second World War the stamp that was released had to be printed in South Africa and remains the only stamp printed there.



The three stamps issued for the 75th anniversary is described from the printed stiffener included in the Post Office's first day cover, and reads:

- 3d.** This stamp depicts the raising of the British South Africa Company flag on the 4th November, 1893, near the deserted kraal of Lobengula, the last of the Matabele kings. The kraal was called Gu'Bulawayo, from which the present City of Bulawayo derives its name.
- 9d.** The main motif is the coat of arms of the City of Bulawayo superimposed over a view of modern Bulawayo. The City has lived up to its motto "Si Ye Pambile", Let us go forward, as steady progress since 1893 has led to it becoming the thriving industrial and commercial heart of Matabeleland.
- 1s6d.** This denomination depicts the equestrian figure of Allan Wilson. The illustration is taken from the frieze of the memorial to the Shangani Patrol and its leader Allan Wilson, all of whom were annihilated in an heroic engagement during the Matabele War of 1893. The memorial is situated in the Matopos Hills close by the grave of Cecil John Rhodes in a setting of stark granite hills, at a place known as the "View of the World".

The Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia held an international philatelic exhibition from 4th to 6th November, 1968, called MATAPEX 75, for which a special postmark was produced by the Post Office. (see below)

THE ISSUED STAMPS



Catalogue Listings

SG ²	RSC ³	Value	Description	Print colours
427	C91	3d	Raising the flag	Orange, magenta & black
428	C92	9d	Modern Bulawayo & City Arms	Cyan, gold, magenta & black
429	C93	1s6d	Allan Wilson frieze	Cyan, deep emerald & black
	a.		“Scar on horse’s back” flaw	

Technical details

Stamp size: 28 x 42 mm

Sheet Size: 60 stamps (10 rows of 6 stamps), two panes within printed sheet

Artist: Rose Martin, who chose a technique so far not previously used in the presentation of designs for Rhodesian stamps. As the subjects chosen did not readily lend themselves to full colour paint-work because of the great amount of detail, she prepared the art work as textured pencil drawings on a stippled board.¹

Paper: Type 10 - Chromo, creamy/brown gum

Print colours:
 3d Orange, magenta & black
 9d Cyan, gold, magenta & black
 1s6d Cyan, deep emerald & black

Perforations:
 Comb perf: SG 14½, RSC 14¼
 Top margin: Two perf holes
 Right margin: Imperforate
 Bottom margin: Two perf holes
 Left margin: Perforated through

Printer's Imprint:	Type 6a, bottom margin, below columns 3 & 4
Cylinder numbers:	Cyl 1A bottom margin under R10/1 Reading across from left 3d Black, magenta, orange 9d Black, magenta, gold, cyan 1s6d Black, deep emerald, cyan
Colour register:	Type TL 4 – round boxed - left margin opposite R10/1 Reading down – 3d Black, magenta, orange 9d Black, magenta, gold, cyan 1s6d Black, deep emerald, cyan
Sheet Value:	Bottom margin, below R10/6, black printing
Sheet Number:	Type SN 3, right margin opposite R10/6, reading down
Print numbers:	3d 390,000 (6,500 sheets) 9d 360,000 (6,000 sheets) 1s6d 240,000 (4,000 sheets)
Issue date:	4 th November, 1968 (notice No 15 of 1968)
Withdrawal from sale:	28 th February, 1969
Demonetisation:	1 st March, 1972 (post decimalisation)

Listed varieties

Below are varieties documented or seen for each of the values, starting with the listed varieties within the Mashonaland Guide⁴, and those listed in the RSC³, shown in yellow shaded tables. The varieties listed in bold are considered by the authors of the Guide to be more important.

3d – Raising the flag

Row	Col	
The orange dot in between the middle and bottom strokes of 3d. and the broken 8 of 1893 is constant on all stamps in the sheet.		
Multipositive		Minute dark orange dot behind S of Rhodesia. 5/2, 5/5, 10/2, 10/5
5	6	Black dot over 'BE' of Matabeleland.
6	2	Red dot at top of tree on right of mast.
7	2	Black dot between 'IS' of Raising.
8	2	Red dot over first 'I' of Raising.
8	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White cut on edge of printing to the left of the top of the flag mast • Black dot over 'TA' of Postage.
8	6	White dot in D of Rhodesia.

10	2	Black dot under 'T' of Matabeleland	
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9d – Modern Bulawayo & City Arms

Row	Col	
Multipositives		Black dot under Coat of Arms on left. 1/3, 1/6, 6/3, 6/6
		Blue, dot on right of skyscraper about four floors down from top. 5/15/4, 10/1, 10/4
2	4	Two red dots above 'P' of Postage
3	3	Blue spot well below Coat of Arms
5	6	Black dot below 9d, just above buildings
7	2	Broken edge of printing above 'O' of Rhodesia
7	4	Gold dot above 'E' of Rhodesia
9	3	Black dot to right of first 'E' of Matabeleland

Unlisted varieties

Splash of gold to left of 1893	
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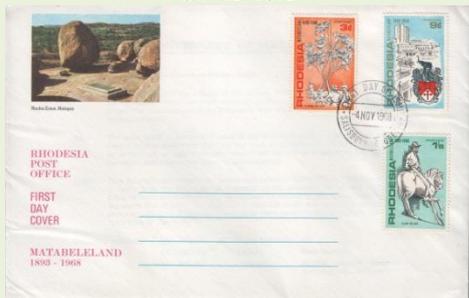
1s6d – Allan Wilson

Row	Col		
Multipositives		Nick in 'R' of Rhodesia. 2/2, 2/5, 7/2, 7/5	
		Top of 'S' of Rhodesia connected to middle by small dot. 4/3, 4/6, 9/3, 9/6	
2	1	Green dot above 'TA' of Postage.	
3	6	White mark to right of Rhodesia.	
9	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large white mark to left of shoulder. • Black dot above horse's head. 	
10	1	Black mark of horse's rump just below hand RSC C93a.	
10	2	Green smudge on top edge of stamp in line with Matabeleland.	

FIRST DAY COVERS

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear

Cover 40.1



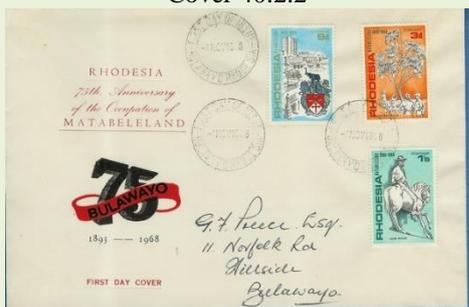
Post Office Cover
190 x 127 mm

Cover 40.2.1



Text above and below logo printed in **black**
190 x 127 mm

Cover 40.2.2



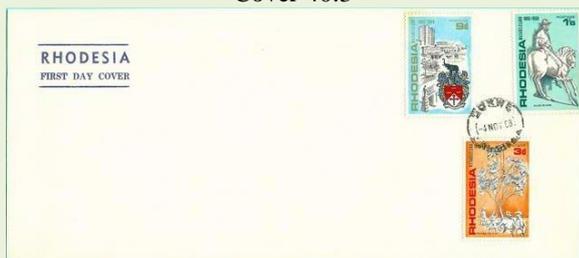
Text above and below logo printed in **red**
190 x 127 mm

Cover 40.2.3



Text above and below logo printed in **blue**
190 x 127 mm

Cover 40.3



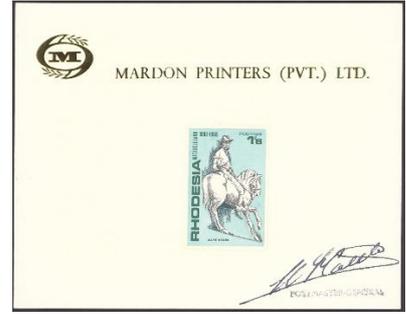
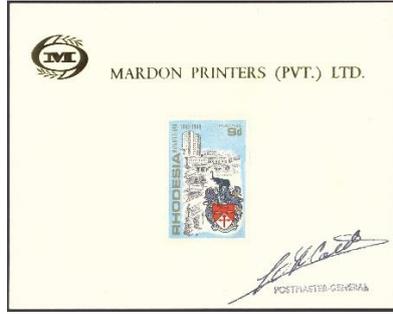
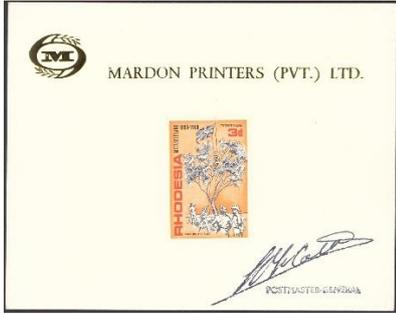
228 x 111 mm

Cover 40.4

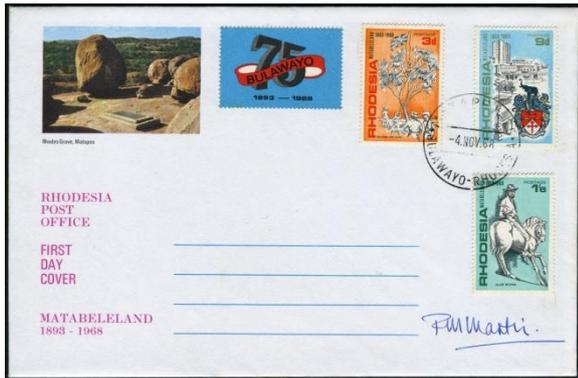


"First Day Cover" pasted slip, on Bulawayo publicity envelope,
278 x 127 mm

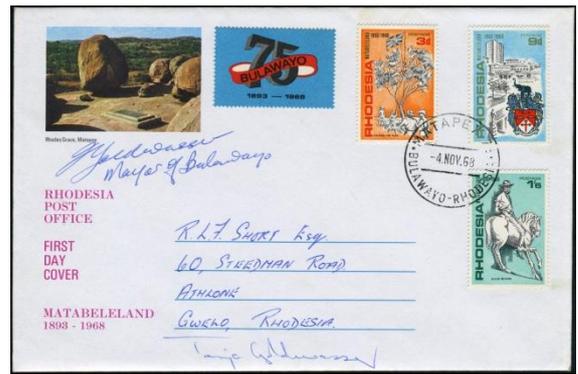
RELATED MATERIAL



Mardon presentation cards each containing one of the three stamps, imperforate.
 Cards signed by the Postmaster-General, Mr Cattle
 (Source: Spink auction April 2021)



First Day Cover signed by artist, Rose Martin



First Day Cover signed by the Mayor of Bulawayo, J Goldvasser, and the Lady Mayor, Mrs Tanja Goldvasser



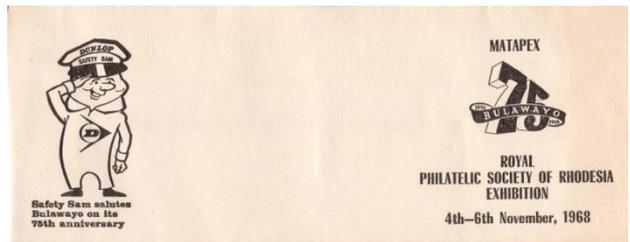
Publicity label for 75th anniversary of Bulawayo



Special postmark for the Matabeleland Philatelic Exhibition held at the same time as the release of the stamps.



Covers sponsored by Dunlop for Matapex



Bibliography

1. "Supplement to Rhodesia – A Postal History" by R.C Smith, published 1970, pages 22 to 25
2. Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, Southern & Central Africa, 2nd Edition, 2014
3. The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue, 1983/84 (last edition), published by Salisbury Stamp Company.
4. "A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia, No 4" 1st January, 1968 to 31st August 1972, published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group, 1968

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2021	Mardon presentation cards