

SIR WILLIAM HENRY MILTON

Issued 15th January, 1969

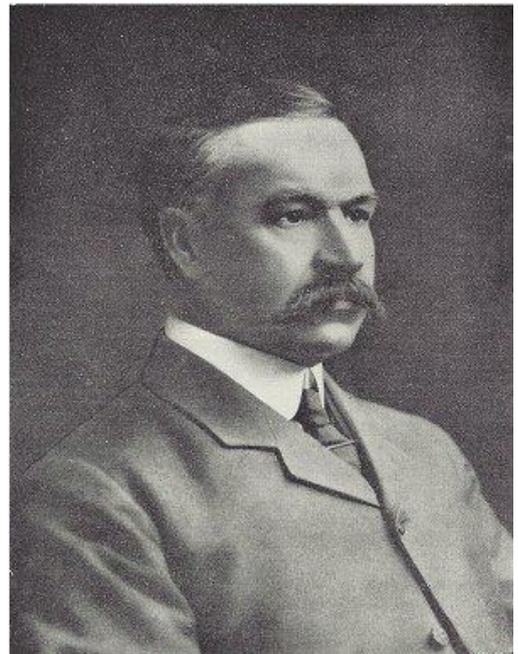
“The third figure included in the historical personality series of postage stamps, was Sir William Milton, another of Rhodes' lieutenants, who was chosen because of his natural organising ability, to administer the newly acquired territory of Rhodesia.

The son of a clergyman, William Henry Milton was born in England in 1854, and was educated at Marlborough. He later emigrated to South Africa where he joined the Cape civil service in 1878. Apart from being appointed as Rhodes' private secretary, he later became permanent head of the Department of the Prime Minister and of Native Affairs.

Milton was an outstanding sportsman. He represented England once at Rugby before coming to South Africa; he also played a useful game of cricket, in which field he became an administrator. (*The South African second test captain against England in 1891/92*) Amid much opposition he was responsible for the transfer of cricket in Cape Town to Newlands, which has been its home ever since. Rhodesia has him to thank for the setting aside of many sporting fields which succeeding generations have been able to appreciate in spite of the encroachment of the 'concrete jungle', into what was, in Milton's day, virgin bushland. He was also a keen tennis player and served on the Rhodesian Lawn Tennis Association for a number of years.

The early citizens of Salisbury therefore had perhaps more reason to applaud Sir William than most, for not only did he administer the country from Salisbury for many years, but he and his wife took a very keen and wide interest in every aspect of the city's life.

He was also known as the father of the Rhodesian Civil Service. Prior to his coming in 1896, he was, through his contact with Rhodes in the Cape Administration, able to acquire a wide degree of experience in Colonial affairs. Rhodes had complete confidence in him and asked him to come to Rhodesia and take over after the arrest of Dr. Jameson, following the ill-fated raid into the Transvaal. Milton accepted this challenge and brought with him a number of other Cape Civil Servants who were to assist him in his task. He was autocratic, but a good judge of men and soon eliminated the misfits. He was a man who gathered as much power unto himself as he could. This was manifest in his early days as Administrator, when he was very reluctant to grant power to the local authorities, and consequently he had many encounters with the Municipality of Salisbury over what they considered, constituted their responsibilities.



Sir William H Milton

Milton arrived in Rhodesia at a time when the country was beginning to develop, and the rough and ready methods of the past were proving to be inadequate for the proper administration of the country. It was necessary to introduce reforms and proper procedures if the advance was to be maintained. His first appointment was as Acting Administrator, and in 1897, he became Senior Administrator. While the country was under his guidance it entered into a time of stability and continuity which it had hitherto lacked. He grouped the various civil service departments into administrative divisions. Progressively such posts as Collector of Customs, Medical Director, Treasurer, etc., were introduced and became the foundation of the Service for many years to come - in fact the Service still bears many characteristics of those early years.

Milton was also responsible for the appointment of the first full-time Postmaster-General, Mr. George Henry Eyre, who arrived in Rhodesia by stage coach in 1897.

Milton was also to witness political evolution in the country. More and more settlers were entering Rhodesia and were demanding a voice in affairs. They were no longer prepared to accept everything the British South Africa Company told them. Progressively the Legislative Council was enlarged to incorporate more and more elected members, until 1911, when the elected members formed the majority, a situation which lasted until the granting of responsible government in 1923.

His services in Rhodesia were recognised by the award of a knighthood in 1903, and he was further honoured in 1910 by the award of the K.C.V.O. after the visit of the Duke of Connaught. Salisbury honoured him by naming one of its most beautiful avenues after him—an avenue which is unequalled in its beauty when the jacarandas are in bloom. A residential suburb also bears his name, and, in recognition of his work as a civil servant, so does one of the main government buildings in Salisbury. In Bulawayo, Milton School honours his name.

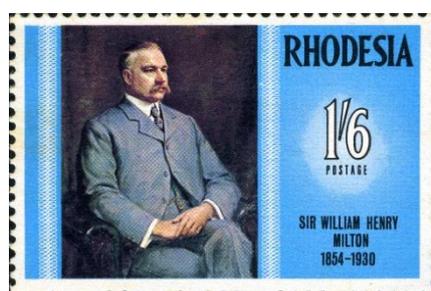
Sir William was succeeded as Administrator by Sir Drummond Chaplin, who began his term of office at a very difficult time as the Great War of 1914-18 had just broken out. After the war Sir William retired to Cannes in France, where he died on 6th March, 1930.

In the Rhodesian Parliament there is a plaque to his memory which reads:

"To the memory of Sir William Milton, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., Administrator of Southern Rhodesia 1898-1914, a wise president of our councils, true friend of the public and of the service, lover of many pastimes and leader of many, a worthy disciple of our founder, this tablet is devoted by men who honoured and esteemed him."

(Extract from "Supplement to – Rhodesia – A postal History", by R. C. Smith, Published 1970)¹

ISSUED STAMP



Catalogue Listings

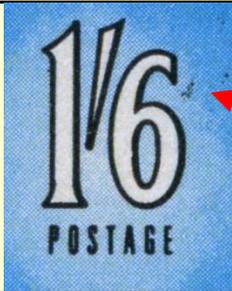
SG ²	RSC ³	Value	Description	Print colours
430	C94	1s6d	Sir William Henry Milton	Magenta, yellow, cyan & black

Technical details

Stamp size:	42 x 28 mm
Sheet Size:	60 stamps (6 rows of 10 stamps), two panes within printed sheet
Artist:	Artwork based on a portrait by Sidney Kendrick that hung in the Rhodesian Parliament. ⁴
Paper:	Type 10 - Chromo, creamy/brown gum
Print colours:	Magenta, yellow, cyan & black
Perforations:	Comb perf: SG 14½, RSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through Side margins: Two perf holes Bottom margin: Imperforate
Printer's Imprint:	Type 6a, bottom margin, below columns 5 & 6
Cylinder numbers:	Cyl 1A bottom margin under R6/1, colours reading across from left – black, cyan, yellow, magenta
Colour register:	Type TL 4 – round boxed - left margin opposite R6/1, colours reading down - black, cyan, yellow, magenta
Sheet Value:	Bottom margin, below R6/10, black printing
Sheet Number:	Type SN 3, right margin opposite R6/10, reading down
Print numbers:	300,000 (5,000 sheets)
Issue date:	15 th January, 1969 (notice No 19 of 1968)
Withdrawal from sale:	30 th April, 1969
Demonetarisaton:	1 st May, 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. However having examined a complete sheet, many of the varieties listed, including those in bold, are not present, and therefore should be considered batch flaws.

Row	Col		
Multipositives		White spot in blue column on left near top and blue dot to left of '1' of value. 1/1, 1/6, 4/1, 4/6	
		White dot halfway between 'O' of Postage and William. 1 /2, 1/7, 4/2, 4/7	
		White dot to right of lacework near bottom. 1/3, 1/8, 4/3, 4/8	
		White dot in blue column on left near bottom. 1/4, 1/9, 4/4, 4/9	
		Pink spot on knee on right. 1/5, 1/10, 4/5, 4/10	
		White dot below 'DE' of Rhodesia. 2/1, 2/6, 5/1, 5/6	
		White curved hair mark from top of design to top of 'H' of Rhodesia. 2/2, 2/7, 5/2, 5/7	
		White spot to right of '6' of 1/6d. 2/3, 2/8, 5/3, 5/8	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White mark halfway between 'O' of postage and 'LL' of William. • Pink spot on shoulder on left 3/1, 3/6, 6/1, 6/6	
		Green nail on index finger of hand on right. 3/3, 3/8, 6/3, 6/8	
1	2	Black smudge to right of top of '6' of value.	
1	3	White dot to right of '0' of 1930.	
1	6	Pink hair across crease in trousers on leg on left.	
1	10	White spot in line with postage to right of lace	
2	4	Red dot left side of head above ear	
2	8	Large white spot above hyphen of 1854 - 1930.	
3	2	Large white mark on right hand next to index finger of left hand	
5	1	Pink spot on arm on left just above biceps.	
6	4	White horizontal line touching top of D of Rhodesia	
6	9	Weak entry on top of letters of 'Postage'.	

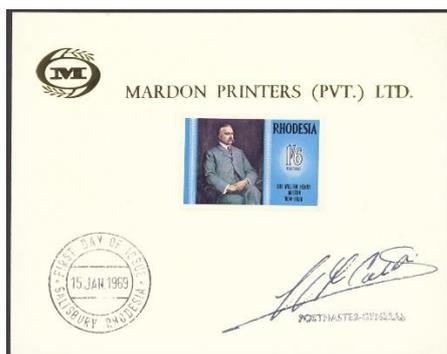
FIRST DAY COVERS

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear



Related material

The Post Office photographed stamps that had been, or were about to be, issued. The enlarged black and white photographs were then sent to philatelic publications, or the local papers, for publicity purposes.



Mardon presentation card with final stamp, imperforate. With First day of Issue postmark dated 15th January 1969, the day of issue. Signed by Postmaster-General, Mr Cattle

(Source: Spink auction April 2021)

Bibliography

1. "Supplement to Rhodesia – A Postal History" by R.C Smith, published 1970, pages 26 to 28
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 card