

THOMAS BAINES

Issued 12th February, 1975

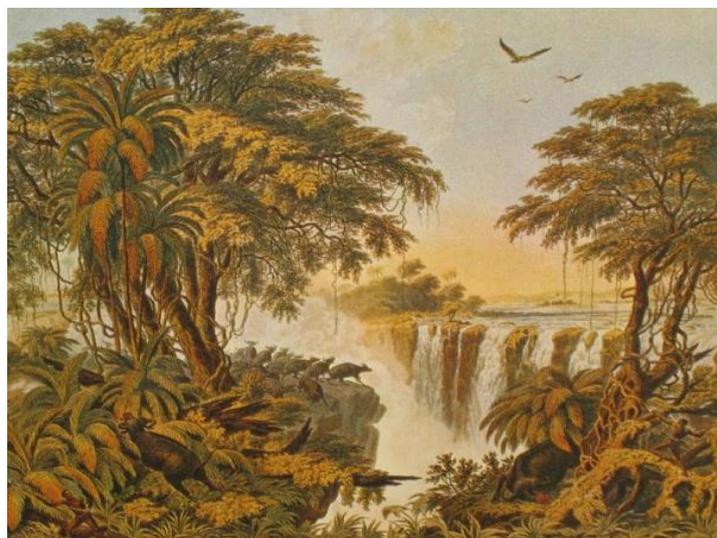
This is the ninth, and last in the “Famous Figures” series.

Thomas Baines was born at Kings Lynn, Norfolk, in 1820. After being educated to an extent commensurate with the circumstances of his parents, he was placed with a coach-builder to learn the art of heraldic painting on carriage panels, but an innate love of art soon led him to devote much of his leisure time to landscapes and other work. His desire to see foreign countries caused him to leave England in 1842 and go to Cape Town, where he taught drawing. It was in the Cape Colony and neighbouring regions of Southern Africa that he was to pass the greater part of his subsequent life, and become well known.

In 1846 he left Cape Town and went to the regions to the east of the Colony for the purpose of sketching the scenes and incidents of the War of the Axe, then being fought against the advancing Bantu tribes. He returned in 1847 but was again engaged on the frontier doing similar work during the subsequent wars of 1851-53. He painted hundreds of sketches of great vigour, and many of them were placed on exhibition, with his other works, in London and Dublin.

In 1854, at the conclusion of the war, Baines returned to England and was appointed as artist to the North-West Australian Expedition under Augustus Gregory. He distinguished himself during this expedition, and the large number of sketches in oils made by him were afterwards divided between Kew Museum and Royal Geographical Society on the termination of the Expedition. In 1856, he returned to England and was presented with the freedom of the borough of his native town.

When the Zambezi Expedition under Dr. Livingstone was organized early in 1858, Baines was selected to accompany it as artist and store-keeper, but an unhappy disagreement with Charles Livingstone, the great traveller's brother, led to Baines' dismissal. He then proceeded to the Cape but his love of exploration was as keen as ever and he accepted the invitation of his friend Thomas Chapman, an ivory trader, to accompany him on a journey from the South-West African coast to the Victoria Falls on the Zambezi.

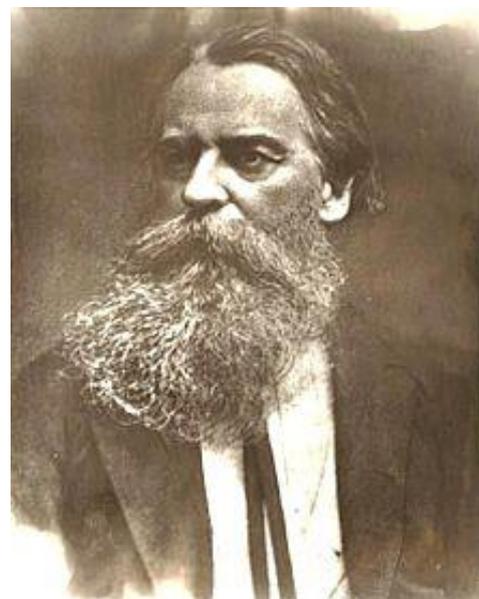


An account of this journey was published by him in 1864, on his return to England, under the title of “Explorations in South-West Africa: Being an Account of a Journey in 1861-2 from Walvisch Bay to Lake Ngami and the Victoria Falls”. Besides making a complete route survey and numerous sketches, Baines collected objects of natural history during the journey. He spent several weeks at the Victoria Falls, making drawings and measurements, and subsequently published, besides the narrative mentioned, a folio volume of coloured lithographs of the Falls.



However, nothing came of his toilsome journeys and successful diplomacy. Baines was never reimbursed for his expenditure and had, on his return to Natal, to work again as an artist to earn a livelihood. Nevertheless, the results of his explorations in the gold fields were of considerable importance; as was his practice he mapped the country and the route to it, and had wrote a description of the region.

Baines spent the years 1864-8 in England, bringing out the volume of reproductions of his works, lecturing, writing and drawing illustrations for various periodicals. At the end of 1868 he again went out to Africa, under engagement with a company to prospect for gold in Mashonaland. In 1870 he succeeded in obtaining the friendship of Lobengula and from him obtained valuable mining concessions for the company he represented. Subsequently, Baines undertook other journeys into the adjoining regions, always carefully mapping his routes and sketching scenery and people. After a visit to Port Elizabeth he planned a new journey to Mashonaland, on which he intended to travel almost alone, and to take a small quartz-crushing machine. He had prepared all his outfit and wagons for the journey when he was struck down by the old enemy of so many African travellers, dysentery, and died in Durban on 8th May, 1875.



*Source: PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 1975*³

THE ISSUED STAMP



Catalogue listings

SG	RSC ²	Value	Description
513	C140	14c	Thomas
	a.		“Damaged ‘4’ of 14c” – R2/2 Cyl 1A
	b.		“Malformed ‘N’ of Baines” – R6/3 Cyl 1A

Technical details

Stamp size:	42 x 28 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes within printed sheet
Artist:	Self portrait of Thomas Baines, aged 38 years – c 1858
Paper:	Type 10 - Chromo, creamy/brown gum
Print colours:	Cyan, yellow, magenta and black
Perforations:	Comb perf: SG 14½, RSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through Side and bottom margins: Imperforate
Printer’s Imprint:	Type 6a, bottom margin, below columns 2 to 4 – black printing
Cylinder numbers:	Cyls. 1A & 1B bottom margin under R10/1, colours reading across from left – cyan, yellow, magenta, black.
Colour register:	Type TL 4 – round boxed - left margin opposite R10/1, colours reading down – cyan, yellow, magenta, black.
Sheet Value:	Bottom margin, below R10/5, black printing
Sheet Number:	Type SN 4 with ‘PTC’ prefix, right margin opposite R10/5, reading down
Print numbers:	400,000 stamps (4,000 1A & 1B sheets each)

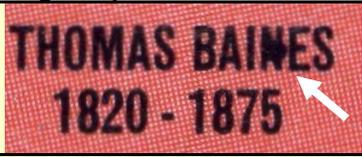
Issue date: 12th February, 1975

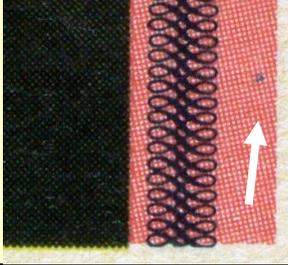
Withdrawal from sale: 10th November, 1975

Demonetarisaton: 12th November, 1978

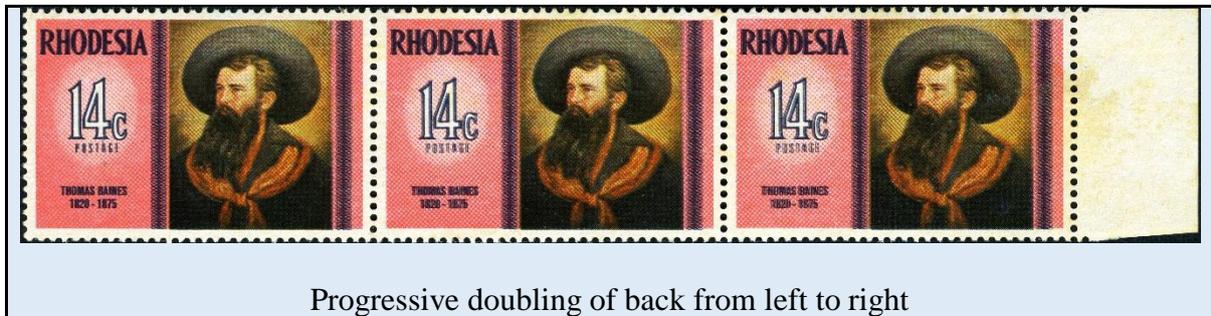
Listed varieties

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.

Row	Col	
Cylinder 1A		
2	2	<p>Three small breaks in figure '4', at top, at foot and in rear extension of crossbar</p> <p>RSC C140a "Damaged '4' of 14c"</p> 
3	3	Blue spot above number of value (and sometimes a red spot on left hat brim)
4	2	Black spot in lower left-hand corner on edge of pink colour
6	3	<p>Blob in N of Baines</p> <p>RSC C140b "Malformed 'N' of Baines"</p> 
8	2	Small black dot after 'A' of Rhodesia
10	1	<p>Small black dot under 'R' of Rhodesia</p> 
Cylinder 1B		
3	5	Blue dot on edge of frame at left, level with nose
8	1	<p>Cyan dot below 'IA' of Rhodesia in line with top of '4'</p> 

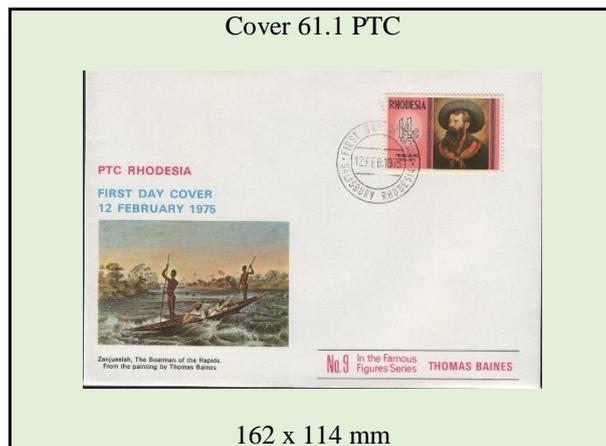
10	3	Small black dot in bottom portion of 'S' of Rhodesia	
10	4	Small black dot at bottom right-hand side	
Notes: At least three shades have been seen; the colours are not changed but the hat brim may vary from light grey to black, while the scarf comes in shades of orange-brown.			

Unlisted variety



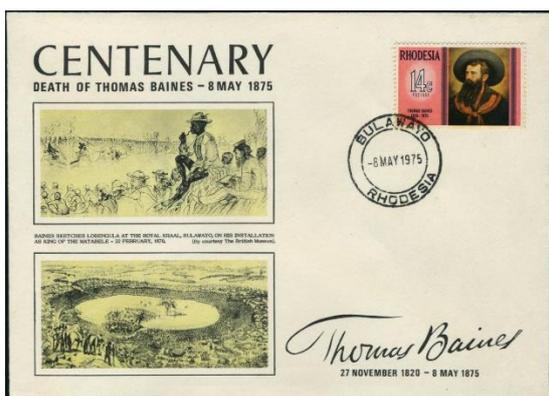
First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear

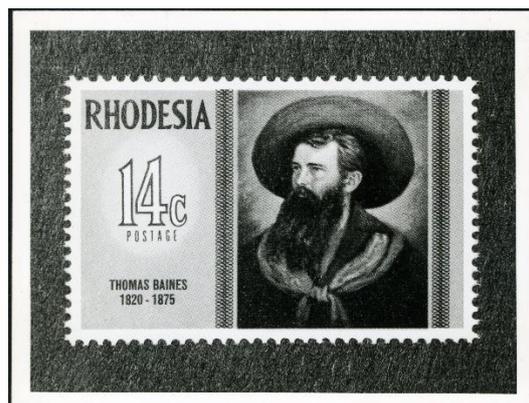


Related Material

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.

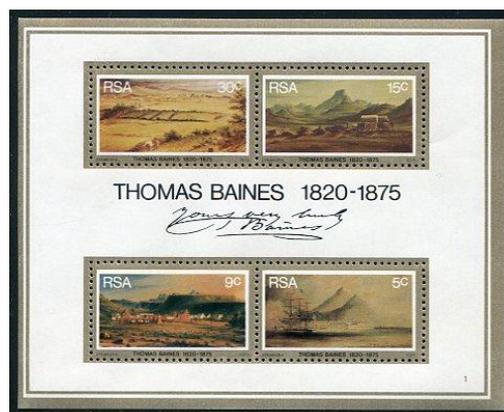


South Africa also commemorated the death of Thomas Baines with a set of 4 values, plus the miniature set opposite.



Cover produced by Books of Rhodesia Publishing Company commemorating the death centenary of Thomas Baines

Limited edition of 1150, of which 1100 were issued with silver and gold medallion sets.



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 1 of 1975, published by the Philatelic Bureau