

## 1969 - Orchids of Malawi

An issue of stamps depicting orchids found in Malawi will be released on 9th July, 1969. The orchids shown on the stamps are: 4d White fringed ground , 9d Red Ground, 1/6d Leopard tree, Blue Ground.

Souvenir Sheets of the stamps will be available together with First Day Covers.

The printing of the above stamps has been carried out by Bradbury Wilkinson on Malawi Cockerel Watermarked paper, from designs prepared by John Waddington Staff Artists.

We are grateful to Professor Binns of the University of Malawi for the back-ground information she has provided on this issue. ("Stamp News June 1969").



### 4d White-Fringed Ground *Holothrix Longiflora*

There are about fifty species of this genus, found in Africa. They have a pair of basal leaves and a slender spike of yellowish or creamy flowers with fringed edges. The most handsome of these is *H. longiflora* which has a short pink-tipped spur at the back of each flower, and a strikingly fringed spike of white flowers. The genus is found on the high mountain regions from Blantyre in the South to Karonga in the North of Malawi.



### 9d Red Ground *Disa Ornithantha*

The red disas are world famous for their size, colour and shape, and this species from Malawi is among the more striking. Others are gentler in colour, varying from pink through cream to purple, forming tall spikes. The scarlet flowers come singly, in twos, or perhaps as many as four to a stem, and inhabit the more peaty soils of the high uplands from 3,500 ft to 7,500 ft from the Shire Highlands to the Nyika plateau.



### 1s6d Leopard Tree *Ansellia Gigantea*

Malawi specimens of this orchid differ from others of the species in having a labellum with a narrow middle lobe and by having no greenish tinge to their yellow colour. They are mainly found on the Baobab tree on which they form conspicuous colonies. They are the largest epiphytic orchids of Malawi and are found throughout the country.



### 3s Blue Ground *Disa Hamatopetala*

This *Disa* is an unforgettable blue colour, the more so because it is reputed to be a genus quite impossible to cultivate. It is sometimes assigned to a sub-genus *Herschelia* of the genus *Disa*. Its principal characteristic is its long front-facing fringed tongue or labellum. This spectacular blue *Disa* is one of three eastern tropical species of the sub-genus *Herschelia* inhabiting the high plateau of Malawi and there are about ten species in Southern Africa.



**Technical Details:**

**Date of Issue :** 9th July, 1969

**Withdrawn :**

**Designer :** John Waddington Staff Artists

**Printer:** Bradbury Wilkinson

**Process:** Lithography

**Perforation:** 13 1/2 x 13.

**Set :** 60

**Size :** 1.1"x 1.75" perf. to perf.

**Format :** Horizontal : 4d, 9d, 1/6d, and 3/-

**Colours :**

**Watermark :** Malawi Cockerel

**Souvenir Sheet Size :** 118x86mm.

**Catalogue Listings :** SG 329 - 333

FIRST DAY COVERS

