

# 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERATION

Unissued

(Extracts from R C Smith's book "Rhodesia – A Postal History")<sup>1</sup>

The Federal Government decided that a special set of postage stamps would be issued to mark the tenth anniversary of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and that they would be issued in October 1963. The set was to comprise of five stamps, with values of 3d., 4d., 6d., 1sh 3d. and 2sh6d., and would be approximately 41 by 27 mm. in size.

Designs were to be by open competition and the public was invited to submit sketches, which were to be in black and white or in not more than three colours. Sketch designs were to be on stiff paper measuring 12 in. by 8 in. A prize of £25<sup>2</sup> was offered for each design accepted.

The designs had to illustrate the development that had taken place since Federation in various fields, such as Agriculture, Health, Mining, Education, Power, Industry, Communications and Conservation of Natural Resources. Designs could be either scenic or symbolic.

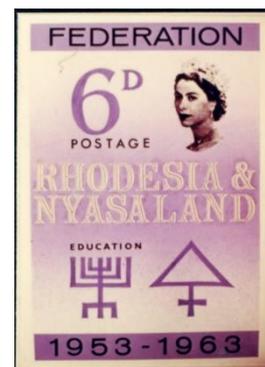
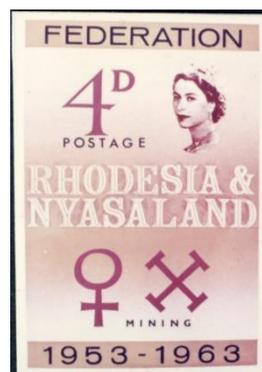
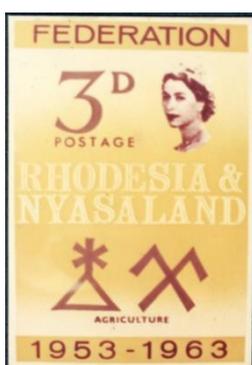
Stamp designs numbering 170 were received from as far afield as Britain and the Far East for the competition. The designs ultimately accepted were those submitted by Mr. D. G. Barrington of Umtali. Mr. Barrington decided on symbolic designs for his series and it took him nearly three months of investigation and study to find the authentic symbols for his purpose.

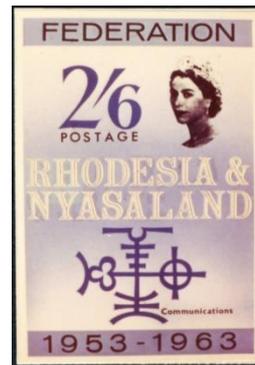
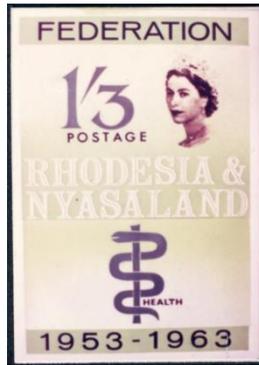
He obtained a photograph of the Queen from a London agency, which incidentally was taken by Lord Snowden. Agriculture was symbolised on the 3d stamp which was in two colours - golden yellow of tobacco was chosen as a background with dark green symbols and borders.

The 4d design (runes) symbolised mining and the 6d stamp, a pale violet in colour, symbolised education. Mr. Barrington chose an interesting combination of two very ancient symbols for education -the seven-branched candelabra (from the Old Testament) which is the basis of all learning, and the symbol of Pallas, the Greek goddess of wisdom, to represent wisdom through knowledge.

The 1sh3d denomination, denoting health, was a green-coloured stamp bearing the familiar medical staff and serpent.

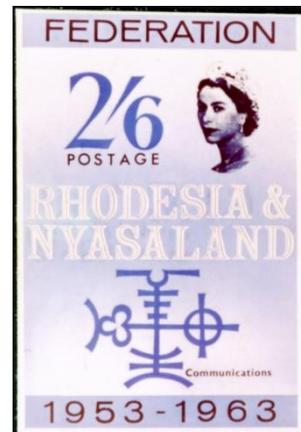
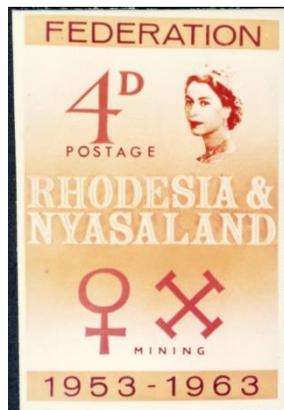
Communications were represented on the 2sh6d stamp with a symbol derived from an old rhumb-card to represent the four corners of the earth, linked together. The colour was blue.





The images above are photographic copies of the artwork for the designs submitted by D G Barrington. In R C Smith's book, he referred to the portrait of the Queen as having been derived from one taken by Lord Snowden. But in his letter to Lt. Col, Preece he stated that the original artwork had the image taken by Dorothy Wilding, similar to the previous Federation issues. It is evident that these copies of the artwork have the latter portrait.

In R C Smith's letter, he referred to the original colours being as follows: 3d – orange, 4d brown, 6d purple, 1sh3d green & 2sh6d blue. These colours appear to match up with the images above.



It is possible that there were other colours used in the artwork prior to being photographed. It is uncertain whether this applied to all the designs or just the two shown above, where the 4d has changed to orange and the 2sh6d to another shade of blue

In the final stages on the designs for this issue, the portrait of the Queen was changed from the Dorothy Wilding photo to the "Annigoni" portrait. In addition, the themes of the denominations were changed, as follows.<sup>3</sup> Regrettably there is no information on the final colours of the accepted artwork.

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Original duty</u>	<u>Revised duty</u>
Agriculture	3d	1sh3d
Mining	4d	2sh6d
Education	6d	6d
Health	1sh3d	3d
Communications	2sh6d	4d



These appear to be the final designs, with the “Annigoni” head.  
 (Source: *Rhodesia – A Postal History*)<sup>1</sup>

The normal motions of purchasing the stamps were put in train and an order placed with Harrison and Sons of London for the production of the required quantity.

Political storm clouds were beginning to gather on the horizon and the Federation's future was in doubt. Confirmation to the printers to go ahead was withheld until September 1962 when instructions were given to proceed with the printing. In view of the delay that had occurred the stamps had to be shipped by passenger steamer to Cape Town not later than the following July.

But in the meanwhile, political events regarding the Federation's destiny overtook the issue and the Federal Cabinet decided to cancel the order in January 1963. In December the Federation formally came to an end.

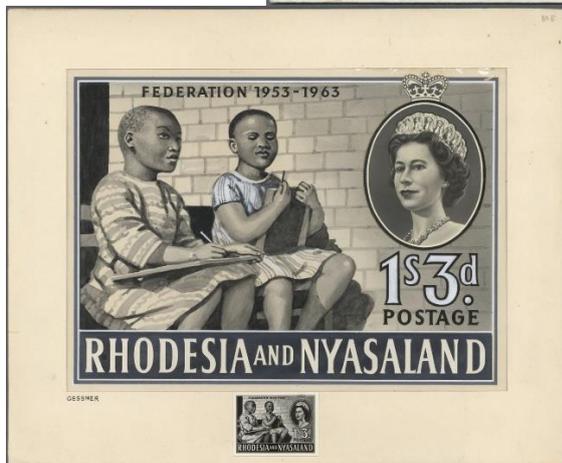
Art work had reached an advanced stage and plate production had already commenced, but no stamps or die proofs had as yet been produced. Transparencies of the art work were made and the designs are reproduced.

### Comment

The purpose of the issue, as stated by R C Smith, was to celebrate the first ten years of the Federation. There is nothing in this artwork that gives any indication of the achievements of the Federation. All that appears to have been approved is a number of symbols that would be largely meaningless to the vast majority of the public, and, probably, philatelists. When one looks at other submissions that have survived, there is more of a sense of achievement.

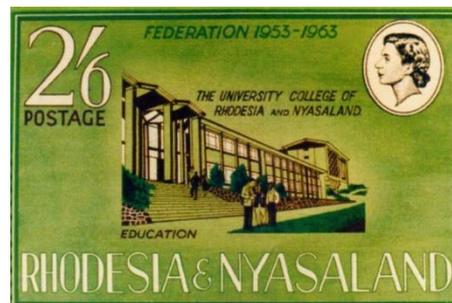
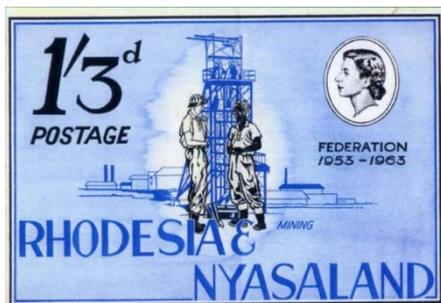
Notable achievements could have included the construction of Kariba, opening of the University of Rhodesia & Nyasaland and the expansion of agriculture, aviation, industry and mining.

**Other surviving submissions**



Above and to left is artwork that appears to have been submitted under the name "Gessner". These are pictorially more suitable for a commemorative issue, that could fulfil the brief of celebrating achievement.

*(Source RSC website)*



Part of a submission by an unknown artist  
*(Source RSC Journal No 70, front cover)*

## **Bibliography**

1. “Rhodesia – A Postal History”, R C Smith, published in 1967 pages 410 – 412
2. “Another Federation commemorative Issue”, RSC Journal, page 2
3. Letter from R C Smith to Lt. Col. G F Preece of Bulawayo dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 1971