

# 1965 INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION CENTENARY

(Issued 17<sup>th</sup> May 1965)

The bulletin issued by the Ministry of Post in early 1965 advising of the issue of three sets stamps (ITU Centenary, water conservation and postage due labels), stated the purpose of this issue:

“Telecommunications span the world. Yet, although they easily traverse vast distances and physical obstacles, difficulty is often experienced when it comes to crossing man-made frontiers between nations.

This was clear right from the beginning, more than 100 years ago, when telegrams could first be sent from one country to another. Initially telegrams had to be physically handed across frontiers. Some kind of international agreement became necessary, and the International Telecommunication Union came into being on the 17th May 1865, with the adoption of the first Convention at a meeting of twenty countries held in Paris.

The purposes of the Union, as defined in the Convention, are –

- to maintain and extend international co-operation for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds;
- to promote the development of technical facilities and their most efficient operation with a view to improving the efficiency of telecommunication services, increasing their usefulness and making them, so far as possible, generally available to the public; and
- to harmonise the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

The members of the Union meet at intervals of normally not less than five years, at a Plenipotentiary Conference. This is the supreme authority of the I.T.U. which lays down general policy, reviews the work, done between conferences, and revises the Convention where necessary. It also elects the members who are to serve on the Administrative Council until the next conference. The Administrative Council is composed of 25 members, and normally meets for about a month each year. All aspects of telecommunication activity - radio, telegraph and telephone - are considered by the Council. Special conferences on a regional or service basis are held when necessary.

From small beginnings the International Telecommunication Union has grown to be a major international body associated with the United Nations Organisation as a specialised agency, comprising 123 members and two associate members, Rhodesia is a full member, and has been so for forty years.

Today more and more people merely lift a telephone receiver and call another country, or turn a knob and to a foreign radio programme. Without the I. T.U. the call would be impossible, and the programme inaudible.”

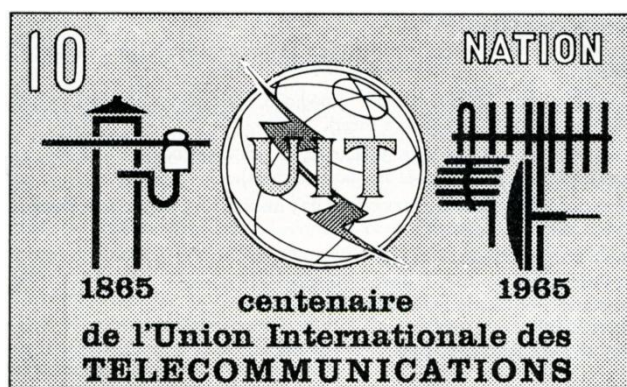
R C Smith in “Rhodesia – A Postal History” went further by describing the distribution of stamps to the I.T.U. –

“All countries which participated in these issues, made a contribution of 2,000 stamps each to the International Telecommunication Union, which they incorporated into an album. These were distributed on the basis of: One copy to the Head of State of each country, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Director-General of the Universal Postal Union. One copy to be given free of charge to each postal administration having supplied stamps for the albums. Two copies to be given free of charge to each member or Associate member of the I.T.U. The remaining albums were sold at the rate of 90 francs to various nominees under special conditions.”

## Stamp design

Official design of the ITU's Centenary, which was adopted by most countries who issued commemorative stamps.<sup>1</sup>

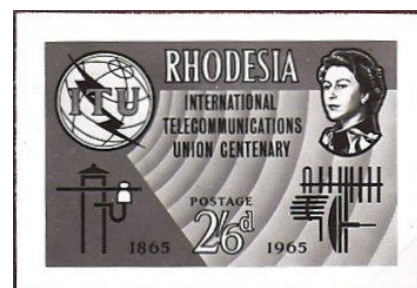
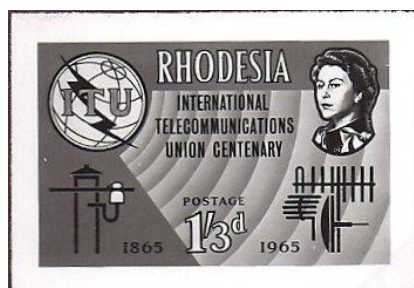
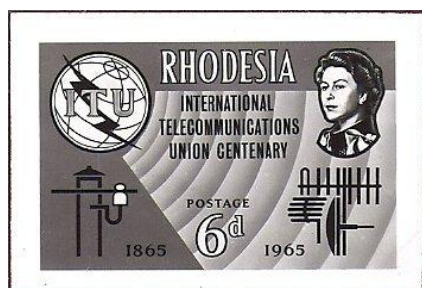
Victor Whiteley was commissioned by the Ministry of Posts to design Rhodesia's three stamps using the official design as a basis.



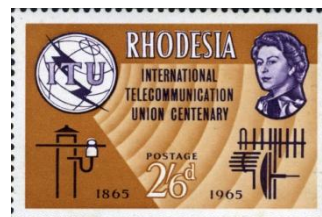
On the left is a copy of the initial artwork undertaken by Victor Whiteley, in which he incorporates the various symbols of the ITU. Interestingly the original design work was for use by "Southern Rhodesia".

Below are black and white photographic essays produced by Harrison & Sons for approval.

*(Courtesy Keith Harrop)*



## THE ISSUED STAMPS



### Catalogue Listings

| SG <sup>2</sup> | RSC <sup>3</sup> | Value | Print colours                              |
|-----------------|------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|
| 351             | C60              | 6d    | Violet and light yellow-olive              |
| 352             | C61              | 1s3d  | Violet and lilac (RSC bright lilac)        |
| 353             | C62              | 2s6d  | Violet and orange brown (SG - light brown) |

### Technical details

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stamp Sizes:</b>          | 42 x 28 mm                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Sheet size:</b>           | 60 stamps (10 rows x 6 columns)                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Artist:</b>               | Victor Whiteley of Messrs Snell & Whiteley, London                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Cylinders:</b>            | 1A on all values                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Paper:</b>                | Harrison & Sons, unwatermarked white paper with clear gum                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Print colours:</b>        | As described above                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Perforations:</b>         | Comb perforation 14¼ (SG 14½ - Mash Guide 14¾ x 14)                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Imprint block:</b>        | Bottom margin below columns 3 & 4 printed in violet                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Cylinder numbers:</b>     | Bottom margin below column 5                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Colour register:</b>      | Boxed square “traffic light” in sheet edge below column 1                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Sheet value:</b>          | Top Margin above column 1, printed in non-violet print colour                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sheet number:</b>         | Separately printed left margin opposite row 1                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Print numbers:</b>        | <div>6d            592,000</div> <div>1s3d        421,000</div> <div>2s6d        271,000</div> <div>(<b>note:</b> none of these numbers divide exactly into the number of stamps per sheet – 60)</div> |
| <b>Issue date:</b>           | 17 <sup>th</sup> May, 1965 (Notice No 2 of 1965)                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Withdrawal from sale:</b> | 16 <sup>th</sup> July, 1965 (Notice No 2 of 1965)                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Demonetisation date:</b>  | 1 <sup>st</sup> February, 1969                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Varieties

Below are varieties documented or seen for each of the values, starting with the listed varieties within the Mash Guide<sup>4</sup> (within yellow shaded tables), with those listed in the Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue<sup>3</sup> and Stanley Gibbons<sup>2</sup>. The variety descriptions in bold listed are considered by the authors of the Mash Guide to be the more important. Where possible, illustrations of the main varieties are shown.

### Six pence

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Colour variations | <p>a) Violet and light yellow-ochre</p> <p>b) Reddish-violet and light yellow-ochre</p> <p>(note both RSC and SG suggest that the secondary colour is yellow-olive)</p> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Unlisted varieties

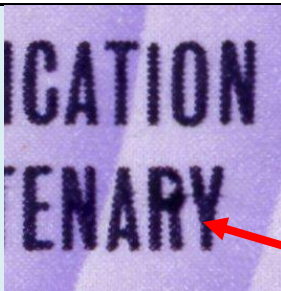
|                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                       |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Progressive plate shift<br>of violet to right                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                    |  |
| Upward plate shift of<br>violet                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                   |  |
|  <p>Olive green ink blobs to stamp R10/C, into and within margin. (downloaded image from eBay Feb 2016)</p> |  <p>Faint violet line across top of stamp(download from eBay)</p> |  |

|                                                           |                                                                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Violet spot below Queen's nose. (position unknown)</p> |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

## One shilling & three pence

| Row  | Column | Variety                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10   | 4      | Small coloured spur inside the upper curve of '3' of value                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Note |        | On some sheets there is a hollow white circle in the dark shading on the left side of the stamp, occurring once on a sheet and never quite in the same position. This flaw has so far been observed on Row 1 No. 2, Row 9 No. 3 and Row 9 No. 4. |

## Unlisted varieties

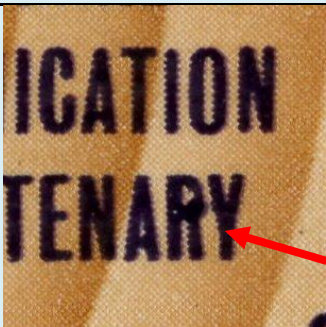
|                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
|  <p>Thickening of 'R' of Centenary.<br/>Similar variety with 2s6d<br/>(<i>Courtesy Bruce Kennedy</i>)</p> |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|

## Two shillings and sixpence

| Row | Column | Variety                                                                                                                | Stamp scan                                                                            |
|-----|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2   | 4      | Thin horizontal line across top part of the vertical lines on the right side of the design below the Queen's portrait. |  |
| 3   | 2      | Short brown line across lower part of the upright limb of 'E' of Rhodesia                                              |                                                                                       |

|    |   |                                                                                                 |                                                                                     |
|----|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9  | 6 | Vertical line and brown mark between the second and third lines on the right side of the design |  |
| 10 | 3 | White 'shadow' mark under the shillings                                                         |                                                                                     |

### Unlisted varieties

|                                                                                          |                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |  |
| Movement of violet plate to the left                                                     | Movement of violet plate to right<br>(Courtesy Bruce Kennedy)                      |
|       |                                                                                    |
| Thickening of 'R' of Centenary.<br>Similar variety with 1s3d<br>(Courtesy Bruce Kennedy) |                                                                                    |

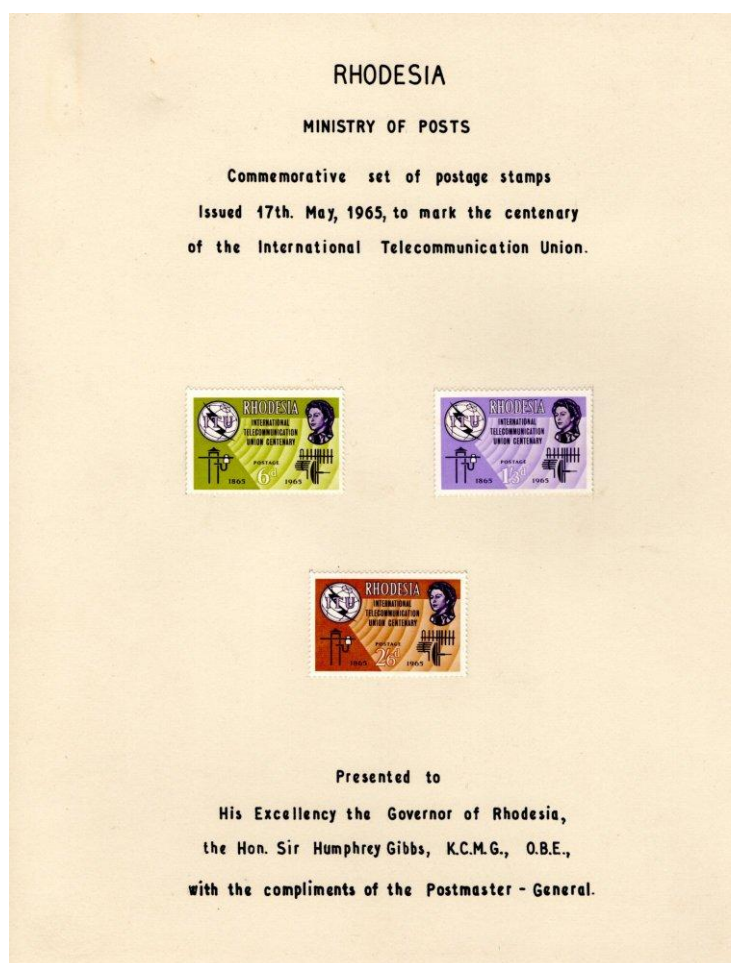
### All values

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paper variations | The issued paper is unwatermarked white paper with clear gum, under ultraviolet the front of the stamps appears white. All values have been identified with a different paper which has a dull front under UV, and with light brown or cream gum |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Presentation cards



Harrison produced presentation cards for each of the values, stamps being imperforate  
*(Courtesy Dave Cooper)*



Card with set of stamps

Presented to

His Excellency the Governor of Rhodesia  
 Hon. Sir Humphrey Gibbs K.C.M.G., C.B.E.

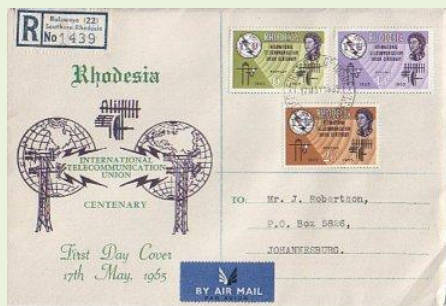
With the compliments of  
 Postmaster- General

*(Courtesy of Rod Kantor)*

## First Day Covers

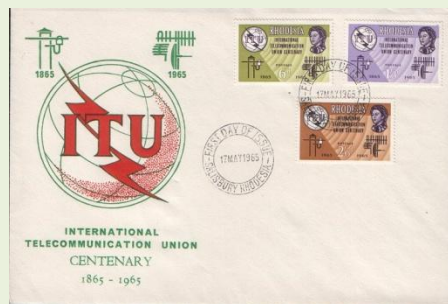
No first day covers were produced by the Post Office for this issue. The following are printed covers produced privately, some of which come in different sizes. The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear. Some of these covers are generic and used in several countries as the ITU commemoration was seen as an 'omnibus' issue.

Cover 25.1



189 x 127 mm

Cover 25.2



190 x 128 mm

Cover 25.3



228 x 102 mm

Cover 25.4



150 x 89 mm

Cover 25.5



165 x 103 mm

Cover 25.6



With Philatelic cachet in violet  
180 x 101 mm

Cover 25.7.1



153 x 89 mm

Cover 25.7.2



172 x 128 mm

Cover 25.8



228 x 102 mm

Cover 25.9



163 x 108 mm

Cover 25.10



Cover 25.11



168 x 93 mm

Cover 25.12



193 x 128 mm

Cover 25.13



195 x 92 mm

Cover 25.14 (KAY cover2)



162 x 174 mm

## Bibliography

1. “Rhodesia – A Postal History”, R C Smith, published 1967
2. Southern & Central Africa – Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2014
3. The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue 1983/84, published by Salisbury Stamp Company
4. “A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia” – No 2 (1<sup>st</sup> January 1964 – 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1966), published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group. Known as the “Mash Guide”.

## Additions/Changes since December 2020

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| 8/2026 | New fdc |
|        |         |
|        |         |