

8th CONGRESS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA PHILATELIC FEDERATION (RHOPEX)

Issued: 2nd May, 1966

The following is extracted from R. C. Smith's book "Rhodesia A Postal History" (pages 430-432)

"The Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia applied for, and was granted the privilege of staging the 28th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa for 1966 in Bulawayo, and at the same time, of presenting the Annual Philatelic exhibition, which was called 'RHOPEX'.

The importance of this occasion was recognised by the Ministry of Posts, and an issue of stamps to commemorate the event was arranged.

The issue included, for the first time in Rhodesian philatelic history, a 'miniature sheet', which included all four stamps of the issue.

The original art work (with the exception of the 2s. 6d. stamp) was prepared from details supplied to Harrison and Sons of London, by their artist Mr. V. Whiteley. The political events following the Rhodesian declaration of independence, made it impossible for the order placed with the London printers to be executed. It was then decided to approach Mardon Printers, who had undertaken the printing of the Independence stamp, with a view to their local production. At the same time, it was decided to add a fourth stamp, and rearrange the values to round the set up to 5s for the convenience of overseas buyers who found remitting funds somewhat of a problem. The additional stamp chosen was the 2s 6d value, and it was decided to use the same background as the other values, but the main feature would be the £5 stamp used by the British South Africa Company in its first issue of 1892. A mint copy of the £5 stamp was obtained and photographed. The photograph was considerably enlarged and then retouched. The result was re-photographed and consequently the reproduction of this stamp has the appearance of almost being superior in quality to the original!

An interesting feature of this printing was the inclusion of the 'miniature' sheets on the same printing plate as the ordinary 3d and 2s 6d values. This was done so that the colour of the stamps on the miniature sheets would be identical to those of the ordinary stamps.

Twelve miniature sheets were printed at a time, and consisted of four rows of three sheets. These sheets were then perforated and later guillotined to size.

One hundred thousand stamps of each denomination were printed plus 25,000 miniature sheets. The estimated requirements were sent to the Rhopex exhibition in Bulawayo but they were sold out within the first two days, and consequently a second print of the same quantities was arranged, and even this did not finally satisfy all the outstanding orders.

The second print included a supply of a slightly different paper, which Mardon Printers had to obtain from the Government Printer. This is slightly whiter than the original paper used.

The designs of these stamps were very well received. They featured the Zeederberg Pioneer Mail Coaches (3d); Sir Rowland Hill, the originator of the postage stamp (9d); the first postage stamp (the penny black) (1s 6d); and the first Rhodesian stamp (2s 6d).

This was the first real attempt by the local printers at serious stamp production, and their success at this first effort undoubtedly established them as the future contractors to the Ministry for its stamp requirements."¹

Earlier in his book R C Smith wrote (pages 327 – 329 - extracts)

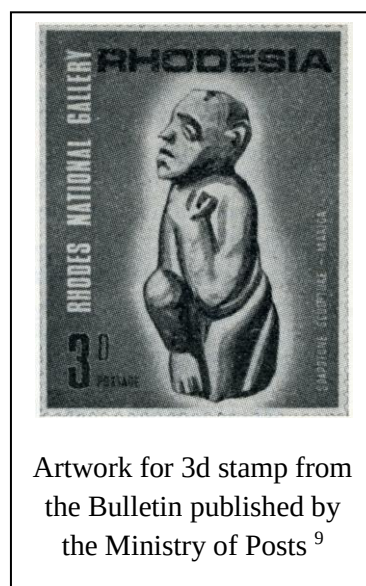
“The remainder of the philatelic programme for 1966 consisted of two commemorative issues, one of which was to mark the 28th Annual Congress of the Southern African Philatelic Federation, which was to be held in Bulawayo between 2nd and 7th May, 1966. The other was to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the country's national airline, Central African Airways.

This was to be the first occasion on which a stamp was to be issued in honour of the Philatelic Federation in Southern Africa, and it was decided to issue a miniature sheet as a souvenir of the occasion.

Mardon Printers (Pvt.) Ltd., who printed the 2s 6d Independence stamp, were commissioned to undertake the printing. It was clear that a better quality stamp would have to be produced on this occasion. A stamp perforating machine had been ordered from Europe, and arrangements were made to fly it out because of the urgency. The freight cost almost as much as the machine itself! However, it was a great success and the perforations which were of the comb variety 14½ to 2 cm were of an excellent quality.

The Rhopex stamps presented a special problem as it was essential that the stamps on the miniature sheets be identical in every respect to the ordinary ones. In order to achieve this, an ingenious idea was devised which enabled the miniatures to be produced at the same time as the ordinary sheets. However, only 12 miniature sheets were produced in conjunction with a sheet of 60 ordinary stamps. This was the reason only 25,000 miniatures were produced for the original order of 100,000 stamps of each denomination.

A brochure was prepared advertising this issue and the Central African Airways commemoratives and since the Rhopex stamps would only be on sale for a month before the C.A.A. was released, we believed that 100,000 sets would be adequate. Moreover, we had to conserve stocks of paper as this was running low and fresh supplies were not yet in sight. However, it soon became apparent that the interest in Rhodesian stamps had in no wise diminished. An offer to purchase the entire issue had been received from Spain and another from the United Kingdom to take 75,000 sets and 16,000 miniature sheets. But the main demand came from the ordinary collector. Orders poured into the Bureau at about 500 per day and again the Ministry had to cope with a difficult administrative problem.”²



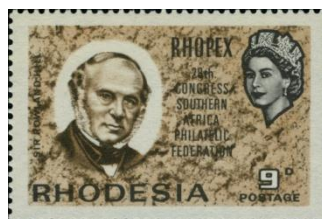
Artwork for 3d stamp from the Bulletin published by the Ministry of Posts ⁹

The total number of stamps has been queried: after all, 100,000 sheets for each of the denominations in sheets of 60, is not exactly divisible, nor are 50,000 miniature sheets printed with twelve sheetlets per printing sheet. The explanation given in a letter from D.F. Ackroyd of Mardon Printers (Pvt) Limited was "As I recall the printings we ran a full machine sheet until we had printed enough of the normal panes of stamps and then we went on to a half sheet for the extra miniature sheets, feeding the half sheet to pick up the Miniatures only. Checking back on the paper sizes used confirms this as both 23 x 36 inch and 18 x 23 inch material was used for the job.

You will realise that this is far from being normal practice. At the time, however, paper difficulties forced us to use two sizes, and, as the printing machinery was not the best for the job, we had to contend with colour matching problems as well. The method used resolved both these difficulties.”³

This however does not address the issue of the total number of stamps released but does give some explanation of how the sheet stamps and miniature sheets were printed. It would appear that the sheet stamps were printed with two panes to each printing plate. At this time both printed panes were designated as cylinder 1A, this was later to change with each pane separately designated.

THE ISSUED SHEET STAMPS



Catalogue Listings

SG ⁴	RSC ⁵	Value	Description	Print colours
388	C68	3d	Zeederberg Coach	Orange, black and blue
	a.		'Double rail' flaw	
389	C69	9d	Sir Rowland Hill	Sepia, dark grey and black
390	C70	1s6d	Penny Black	Blue and black
391	C71	2s6d	BSAC 1892 £5 stamp	Rose, green and black
	a.		'4892' flaw	From miniature sheet A

Technical details

Stamp size: 42 x 28 mm

Sheet Size: 60 stamps (6 rows of 10 stamps), two panes within printed sheet

Artist: 3d, 9d and 1s6d, Victor Whiteley
2s6d Mardon with photo of stamp using base created by V Whiteley

Paper: Toned JH3 paper, clear white gum
(Note: Both Rhodesian Stamp Catalogue⁵ and Mashonaland Guide⁶ state that the second printing was on white JH3 paper. However, unlike the miniature sheets, the RSC does not list this separately. Questionable if there are two papers for the sheet stamps, see notes below)

On the miniature sheets the difference is apparent when comparing the two types of paper. Under ultraviolet the toned paper appears dull, whilst the white paper appears brighter and has an afterglow. This difference is apparent with the sheet stamps but is not as clear cut as there is less area of white to reflect the UV.

Print colours: As described above

Perforations:	Comb perf: SG 14½, RSC 14¼ Top margin: imperforate Side margins: two perf holes Bottom margin: Perforated through
Printer's Imprint:	Type 3, bottom margin, below columns 5 & 6
Cylinder numbers:	Cylinder numbers 1A (type CN 4 within bottom margin below R6/1 3d Orange, black and blue 9d Ochre, dark grey and black 1s6d Blue and black 2s6d Rose and black (note print colour green not included)
Colour register:	Type TL 2 – square unboxed - left margin opposite R1/1 Reading down 3d Orange, black & blue 9d Brown, black & dark grey 1s3d Blue & black 2s6d Rose, black & green
Sheet Value:	Top margin, above R1/10, black printing
Sheet Number:	Type SN 2, reading down (No prefix, large lettering)
Print numbers:	1 st printing, each value 100,000 stamps 2 nd printing, each value 100,000 stamps
Issue date:	2 nd May, 1966 (notice No 4 of 1966)
Withdrawal from sale:	31 st July, 1966
Demonetarisatation:	1 st July 1969

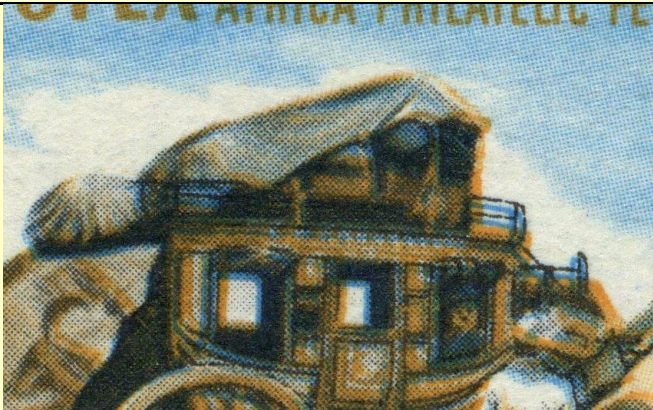
Paper differences in sheet stamps

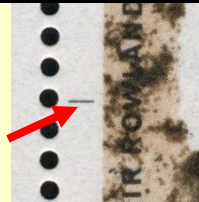
Pairs of 9d stamps has been examined from sheets 1563 and 2212, there is no discernible difference between the papers used, as can clearly be seen with the miniature sheets. If the second printing sheet numbers follow on from the first printing, then the first printing sheet numbers would be 0001 to 1667, with the second printing 1668 to 3335. On this basis, the above pairs of stamps should be from the two printings, and indicates that the sheet stamps used the same paper in both printings.

Varieties

Below are varieties documented or seen for each of the values, starting with the listed varieties within the Mashonaland Guide⁶, and the ones listed in the RSC⁵, shown in yellow shaded tables. The varieties listed in bold are considered by the authors of the Guide to be more important. Where possible, illustrations of the main varieties are shown.

Unlisted varieties are shown in the blue shaded tables.

Row	Col	
3d – Zeederberg Coach		
First Printing		
1	8	Blue spot in border of stamp above H of 28 th
3	2	Straight diagonal blue line from Queen's head, passing through 'N' of Southern. Th B10—A9. (This line is to be found on many of the subjects of each sheet, varying from strong to weak.)
5	2	Orange spot at the top of 'O' of Rhopex and an orange dot in the border above.
4	6	Black spot in right bottom corner of stamp. Th H13.
6	1	- Black dot to the right of the second man from the left, at shoulder height. Th E8. - Blue dot to the left of the head of the man on the extreme right. Th E12
Second Printing		
3	8	Yellow spot below 'A' of Africa. Th B5
5	6	Black dot above 'R' of Rhodesia. Th G1
6	9	Yellow spot in 'O' of Rhopex at 10 o'clock. Th A2
		Double Rail flaw. One normal sheet is also known to have this variety.⁵ This was probably caused by a movement of the black plate upwards, which has given the whole image a blurred appearance. Note the upper rail is black. RSC C68a (Given the number of stamps with this flaw, it is probable that more than one sheet was affected)
		

9d – Sir Rowland Hill		
Varieties common to both printings -		
2	6	- Black line behind 'ICA' of Africa. Th E8-9. - Black near-vertical line after 'N' of Federation. Th F10 - Black mark at the base of 'T' of Philatelic. Th F8
4	8	Black sloping line at the top of 'A' of Postage. Th H11
5	1	Short horizontal line in left margin of stamp, opposite 'W' of Rowland. 
6	4	Broken right leg of 'R' of Rhodesia
6	6	Short vertical line in bottom border of stamp under 'S' of Rhodesia 
6	9	Upright of second 'E' of Federation broken just below the centre bar.
1sh6d – Penny Black		
Varieties common to both printings		
1	9	Black dot between 'A' and 'F' of Africa.
2	10	Several white spots to the right of Rhodesia. Th G9
3	2	Black dot between 'E' and 'N' of Penny.
3	4	Black mark between 'A' and 'C' of Black
3	8	Blue dot in the patch of light shading under the portrait of the Queen. Th D-E 12.
4	4	'D' in Federation broken at base
4	6	Defective right leg of 'R' and left leg of 'A' in Federation
4	10	Flaw on 'S' of Postage
5	1	Two black spots between Queen's left eye and hair line. Th B12 
5	3	Two white dots above '1' of value. Th G11 
5	4	Black spot joined to right leg of 'R' of Southern 

6	3	Black mark in the white border of the 'Penny Black' above 'T' of Postage	
6	7	Black mark at the head of 'P' of Philatelic	
Note:	There is a black 'beauty spot' on the Queen's upper lip on all stamps in horizontal rows 3 and 6. Th C11		
Variety on the second printing only:			
6	1	Blue dot above 'P' of Postage.	
2s6d - BSAC 1892 £5 stamp			
First Printing			
1	5	Tiny white dot behind the Queen's head	
3	9	Small black dot under 'EX' of Rhopex. Th B9	
5	1	Small black dot above 'P' of Rhopex. Th A8	
5	6	Black mark between 'H' of Rhopex and '2' of 28th. Th B8	
Note:	A short vertical black line can be found above the top frame line of stamps 1-9 in horizontal row 1 and there is a large white mark between the letters 'O' and 'U' of Southern on all the stamps in horizontal rows 2 and 5.		
Second Printing			
1	2	White mark on the Queen's left cheek. Th C11	
2	8	Top of right arm of 'U' in Southern is damaged	
3	6	Small break in the right leg of 'R' in Federation	
3	8	Black mark at top of 'R' of Federation	
5	3	Broken 'E' of Rhopex	
Note:	The round white spot next to the right hind leg of the left Supporter is a batch flaw.		

Unlisted varieties

There are numerous litho ring flaws on all values, but is most obvious on the 1s6d		
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2s6d. Pale Queen's face variety, occurs on a large batch of stamps in R1C10 (Source <i>rhodesia.co.za</i>)	
2s6d. Shift of perforation upwards into the bottom of the image (Source <i>rhodesia.co.za</i>)	

Proofs

What was not generally known and apparently only came to light many years later is that Mardon Printers produced imperforate proof sheets. These were in the issued colours on gummed paper. Single imperforate examples were cut from these sheets and stuck onto presentation cards with a two line inscription 'Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd - Salisbury Rhodesia' with the company logo above the text.⁷

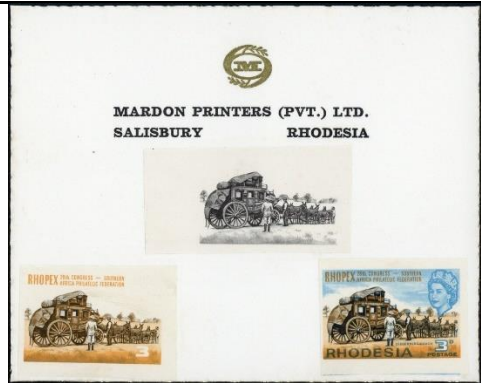
The imperforate stamps were either stuck individually to a card or in some cases a complete set was stuck onto one card.⁷ It is recorded that presentation cards were prepared for the Rhopec issue, but no examples of these have been seen at the time of writing.

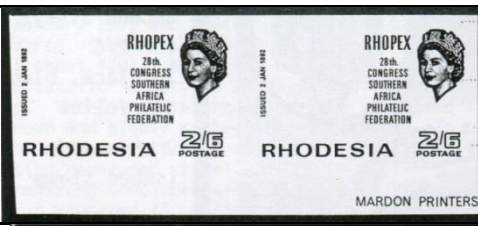
Although these presentation sets were probably earmarked for various officials, it is possible that Mardon would not find it necessary to prepare too many. Therefore, part of the original imperforate sheets would have been surplus to requirement.⁷

For this issue an excellent range of imperforate progressive proofs were included in R C Smith's collection. A large rectangular handstamp (88x41mm) inscribed 'PROOF-CUSTOMER-ACCEPTED-DATE1' was applied in violet to some of these proofs.⁸

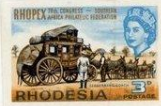
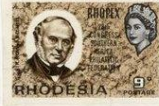
The Rhodesian Philatelist in issue No 12 of October 1996 included a comprehensive list of the imperforate stamps, many of them progressive. Unless stated otherwise the list below, and illustrations have been sourced from this publication.

3d Value		
1	Single proof strike in orange, two examples on large pieces i.e. similar to a die proof impression.	No illustration
2	Orange only in sheet format: two singles, three pairs, two blocks of four, including one with a cylinder number.	

3	Brown and orange in pair.	
4	Completed design in pair	
	In April 1990 a block of 6 appeared on the market. This was subsequently spit into 2 horizontal and one vertical pair. By nature of this item being marginal, all the pairs are thus unique. (Courtesy Dave Cooper)	
5	Single imperforates, progressive proofs stuck on a card: brown only, brown and orange and completed design.	No illustration
	Single imperforates, progressive proofs range only; black only; black and orange; and completed design (Source: Spink auction 2014)	
	Printed Mardon presentation card with imperforate progressive proofs: black only; black and orange and completed design. (Source: Spink auction 2014)	
	Block of 4 in orange only with partial 'PROOF-CUSTOMER-ACCEPTED-DATE' cachet in violet. (Source Zeboose.com)	
9d value		

1	Brown only in pair.	
2	Completed design in pair and block of four.	
	Block of 4 with partial 'PROOF-CUSTOMER-ACCEPTED-DATE' cachet in violet. (Source Zeboose.com)	
1s6d value		
1	Black only in pair.	
2	Completed design in pair.	
2s6d value		
1	Black only in part imprint block of four.	
2	Black and green, two pairs and a single.	
3	Completed design in pair.	
4	Completed design on ungummed waste being the reverse of paper used for MS proofs, two blocks of four.	No illustration

Set of Mardon presentation cards with single stamp
 (Source: Spink auction 2014)

		 MARDON PRINTERS (PVT.) LTD. SALISBURY RHODESIA 			 MARDON PRINTERS (PVT.) LTD. SALISBURY RHODESIA 
		 MARDON PRINTERS (PVT.) LTD. SALISBURY RHODESIA 			 MARDON PRINTERS (PVT.) LTD. SALISBURY RHODESIA 

THE MINIATURE SHEETS



Sheet A – Imperf top and left margins



Sheet B – Imperf top margin only



Sheet C – Imperf left margin only



Sheet D – all margins perforated

Catalogue Listings

SG⁴

RSC⁵

MS392

a.

Toned paper

White paper

CMS 1 Toned Paper – 1st printing

CMS 2 Toned Paper – 1st printing

CMS 3 Toned Paper – 1st printing

CMS 4 Toned Paper – 1st printing

CMS 5 White Paper – 2nd printing

CMS 6 White Paper – 2nd printing

CMS 7 White Paper – 2nd printing

CMS 8 White Paper – 2nd printing

Note These sheets have frequent gum creases due to the type of paper used and through bad handling.

Sheet A – imperf top and left margins

Sheet B – imperf top margin

Sheet C – imperf left margin

Sheet D – all margins perforated

Sheet A – imperf top and left margins

Sheet B – imperf top margin

Sheet C – imperf left margin

Sheet D – all margins perforated

The difference between the papers is visually apparent when comparing miniature sheets. Under ultraviolet the toned paper appears dull, whilst the white paper appears brighter and has an afterglow.

Technical details:

Sheet size:

Circa 125 x 85 mm. Due to the cutting up of the printing sheet these dimensions may vary.

Printed sheet:

The printed sheet contained 12 miniature sheets, 4 rows by 3 columns. Each printed sheet consists of:

Sheet A	x 1
Sheet B	x 2
Sheet C	x 3
Sheet D	x 6



Print colours:

In order to ensure that each stamp looked the same as the sheet stamps, the sheet had to be printed in seven colours. This would have necessitated the printing sheet having to pass through a four colour lithographic press twice.

The colours used were, in no particular order, orange, blue, sepia, dark grey, rose, green and black.

Perforations:

The printed sheet was perforated in the same way as the sheet stamps, with the perforation being SG 14½, RSC 14¼. When the sheet was guillotined the four different miniature sheets were produced.

Marginal notations:

Top margin:	Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa
Bottom margin:	28th Annual Congress – Bulawayo 2nd to 7th May, 1966
Side margins:	RHOPEX

Print Numbers

1 st printing	– 25,000 miniature sheets
2 nd printing	– 25,000 miniature sheets

Issue date:

2nd May, 1966 (notice No 4 of 1966)

Withdrawal from sale:

31st July, 1966

Demonetarisatation:

1st July 1969

Listed varieties

Three of the values have slight differences compared to sheet stamps, these are useful in identifying whether a stamp is from the sheet or miniature printings.

3d	Blue dot at foot of 'E' of Rhopex	
	Light yellow dot in the right leg of 'R' of Congress	
	Blue mark in sky below first 'E' of Federation	
	Vertical line through 'H' of Rhodesia	
1s6d	Near-vertical white line (3mm) pointing towards 11 o'clock from the top of the left upright of 'H' of Rhodesia,	
	White mark to the left of '1' of value	
2s6d	Black dot at the top of 'H' of Rhopex, between uprights	

In listing the varieties within the miniature sheets, the Mashonaland Guide was able to “plate” each of the twelve miniature sheets. The Guide identifies each sheet from A to L, but so as not to confuse this with the naming of the different miniature sheets by marginal perforations, these are now numbered from 1 to 12 (as seen in red on the mock up sheet below).



MS	Value		
All		3d Double Rail flaw. A shift causing this variety occurred on some miniature sheets, which are likely to be from the same printed sheet. This particular shift has moved the blue plate upwards, which has given the 3d a blurred appearance. The 1s6d also sees the blue movement upwards RSC C68a Points to note: • The upper rail is blue • The white line under '3^d' • Parts of the stagecoach have blue tinges • 'Rhodesia' in the 1s6d is sitting on the bottom of the picture • Faint white line above the Queen's head in the 1s6d • The top of the Penny Black image sits lower in the white background	
		3d Double Rail. As above but blue plate shifted downwards. RSC C68a Points to note: • The upper rail is black • 'Rhodesia' in the 3d is sitting on the bottom of the picture • Top of Queen's tiara in the 1s6d is touching the top of the picture • The top of the Penny Black image sits higher in the white background	
1 (A)	2s6d	The figure 1 of 1892 looks like a badly entered '4'. RSC C71a	
2 (B)	1s6d	• Very short diagonal white line extending down from the serif of the right leg of 'N' in ONE of One Penny. • White dot under the K of Black.	

	2s6d	• Small bubble flaw near top of 'I' of Rhodesia • White mark below '8' of 1892 • Break in panel line under 'O' of 'Freedom' and over 'N' of Pounds
3 (B)	9d	Black mark above and between 'LA' of Rowland
	1s6d	Short vertical white line projecting up from serif on right leg of first 'N' of Penny
	2s6d	Two small white dots situated on the right side of the '£5 stamp' opposite the white line under Company
4 (C)	2s6d	Black dot below 'H' of Rhodesia between design and perforation
5 (D)	1s6d	• Very faint, sometimes almost invisible, short oblique white line extending down from the top serif of the right leg of the 'N' of ONE of One Penny (similar to the mark in the same position in Sheet B) • There is a lightish area in the left leg of 'H' of Rhopex just below the horizontal bar. This is not present when the bubble flaw on the 2s6d value is present.
	2s6d	• Green dot in the curved part of 'D' of Pounds • 25% of 76 sheets examined have a 'bubble' break in the 'O' of Rhopex. Two additional sheets had no 'break' but did have a heavy black spot at the 'break' position. This flaw occurs irregularly and when it does occur the flaw in the H of Rhopex on the 1s6d value is NOT present.
	Margin	Top left corner: Minute blue vertical line near top edge of sheet to left of and about four perforations width from the vertical line of perforations
6 (D)	9d	Large circular flaw on Sir Rowland Hill's chin (not constant)
	1s6d	Heavy black dot with a light surround, above the Queen's ear.
	2s6d	Light mark in corner above 'S' of South on the '£5 stamp'.
	Margin	Top margin, above R of Africa. A black dot slightly above and to the left of the 10th complete perforation hole. Sometimes the dot is guillotined off in which case only part of the 10th perforation hole shows. Often, a light, almost white, area is present above the S of South on the '£5 stamp'. This sheet can also be recognised by the absence of any of the identifying marks listed for the other five D sheets with all margins perforated
7 (C)	1s6d	• White diagonal line below the Queen's chignon • Faint flaw in the top of the right leg of the first 'N' of Penny. 
	2s6d	White spot on right side of the Queen's nose
8 (D)	1s6d	Faint white diagonal line to the right of the right corner of 'N' of ONE
	Margin	Left Margin. A red smear touching the right side of H of Rhopex, also usually present, a minute red dot to the left of the 'H' and a black dot to the left of and in line with the middle of 'R' of Rhopex.
9 (D)	3d	Orange 'bubble' in the grass to the left of the base of 3d
	9d	Yellow mark on Sir Rowland Hill's left shoulder
	2s6d	• Solid green circular flaw ringed with white at the foot of the left Supporter's right hind leg. • White mark in the bottom panel under PO of Pounds
	Margin	Right Margin. Two small brown flecks both to the right of 'O' of Rhopex, one level with the top and one above.

10 (C)	3d	Large black blob on Coach, below face at window
	1s6d	Cracked top to '1' of value and faint white dot between 'N' and 'Y' of Penny
11 (D)	1s6d	• Large 'bubble' above 'E' of Penny • Left bottom corner 'E' of the 'Penny Black' - minute blue mark outside the design to the left of and level with the top horizontal bar of the letter E.
12 (D)	1s6d	• Heavy black 'bubble' below and to the right side of the Queen's neck • Minute blue dot to the left of 'K' of Black, outside the design

Unlisted varieties

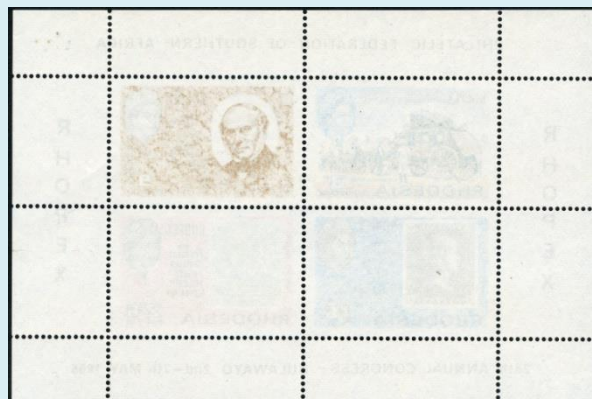
Downward movement of the blue plate. Where it has moved sufficiently as to not cause a 'double rail flaw'.

Points to note:

- 'Rhodesia' on 3d is sitting on the bottom of the picture
- The boots of the central figure has a blue shadow below.
- The value 3 is blurred
- The 'Penny Black' is sitting higher in white background
- There is a white line below the Queen's head in the 1s6d



Brown and blue offset – sheet C



Brown, with possibly light blue, offset - Sheet D

It has been noted that there is pin hole or blind perf above the 'DE' of Federation on the A sheets of the miniature sheets. This pin hole or blind perf does not appear on the other sheets. Its purpose is unknown.

(Difficult to scan in the blind perf)



Imperforate miniature sheet – only two are thought to exist. (Dave Cooper)

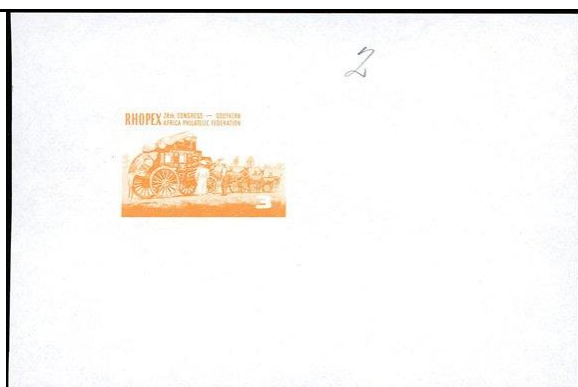
Footnote in Stanley Gibbons catalogue states that the miniature sheet exists imperforate from sheets prepared for presentation purposes.⁴



(Courtesy Dave Cooper)

Proofs

Otto Peetoom in his article in The Rhodesian Philatelist (Nov 1993 No 12), states that there were a total of eleven proofs of the miniature sheets in R C Smith's collection. He illustrates five progressive proofs, shown below with numbers 2 to 6 in top left corner. Unless stated otherwise the proofs shown below are from this article.⁸



Orange only

(Courtesy Tony Banks)



Orange and blue plates printed, note that the 9d is shown as having blue lettering; this is not evident on other proofs. Probably printer's waste.
Ungummed paper



Orange and black plates
(Courtesy Jefferson Ritson - eBay)



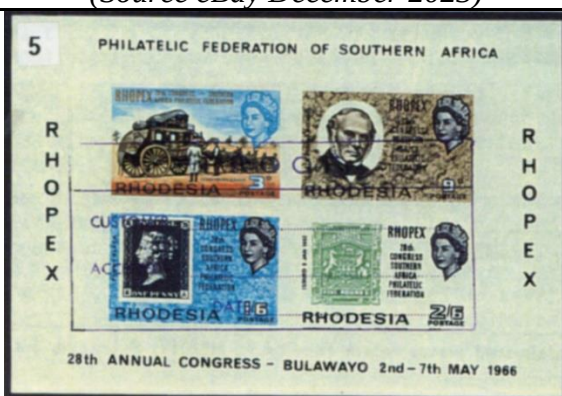
Orange, brown and black plates
(Source eBay December 2023)



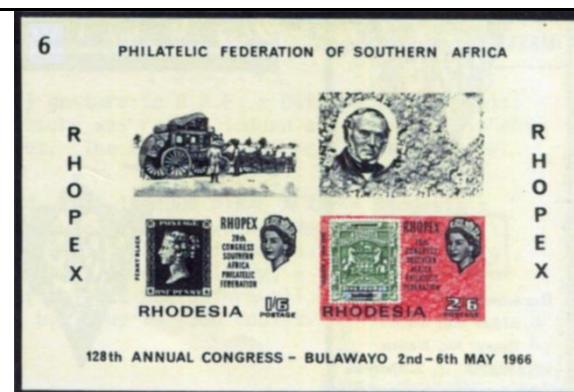
Orange, blue, dark grey and black, 'Rhopex' omitted from left margin
(Source eBay December 2023)



Orange, blue, brown, dark grey and black



All colours except the rose



Black, green and rose, with possibly dark gray to the 9d. Note the Queen is missing from the 9d.
Ungummed paper



Orange, blue, black and green, 'Rhopex' missing from left margin
(Courtesy Tony Banks)

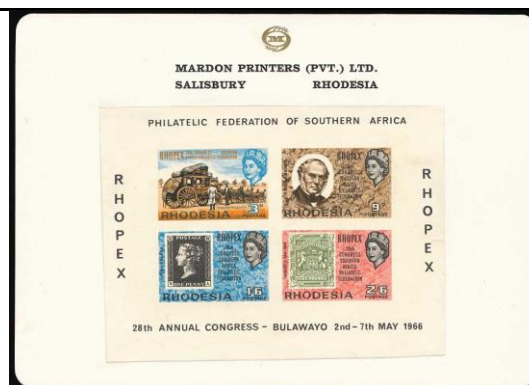


Orange, blue, black, rose and green, only brown missing. 'Rhopex' missing from left margin
(Courtesy Tony Banks)



All colours present in imperforate sheet

(Courtesy Tony Banks)



Presentation card with complete imperforate miniature sheet.

(Source rhodesia.co.za)

Otto Peetoom suggests that in addition to the proofs in the collection, there were

- Duplicate copies of 2 and 4 (note both these copies have been seen on zeeboose.com)
- Two miniature sheets close to that of 2, except that the 9d is printed completely in black
- Two further copies of 3.

Otto further states that Tony Robertson advised of four other imperforate miniature sheets, these being:

- A completed miniature sheet in all colours, imperforate (see Tony Banks example above)
- Versions 4 and 5 above
- Similar to 3 above except that 'Rhopex' reappears in the left margin and the bottom reads "128th Annual Congress" instead of "28th Annual Congress"

First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear, covers marked with a hash (#) indicate that they have been found with both sheet stamps and miniature sheets.

This special postmark was developed and applied to first day covers at the Philatelic Exhibition itself in the Small City Hall, Bulawayo. This is the first special postmark of the UDI era.



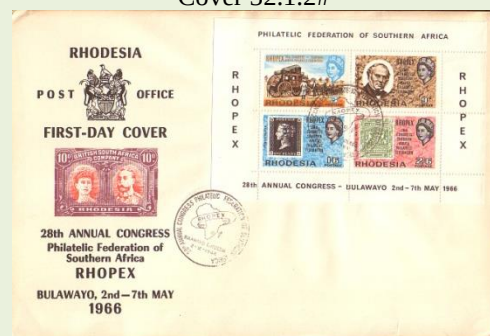
Cover 32.1.1#



216 x 140 mm

Produced by the Post Office

Cover 32.1.2#



228 x 153 mm (larger than 32.1.1)

Produced by Post Office

Cover 32.2.1



228 x 102 mm

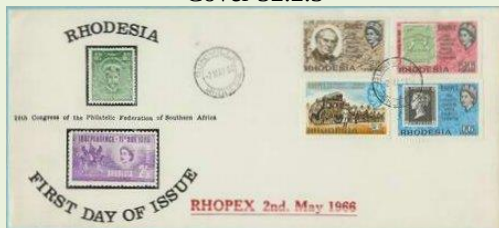
Cover 32.2.2



217 x 102 mm

With "Rhopex 2nd May 1966" added in red

Cover 32.2.3



228 x 102 mm

With "Rhopex 2nd May 1966" added in red and underlined

Cover 32.2.4#



217 x 138mm

Cover 32.3.1#



228 x 102 mm

Illustration in dark green

Cover 32.3.2#



228 x 102 mm

Illustration in light green

Cover 32.3.3



228 x 102 mm

Illustration in dark and light greens

Cover 32.4#



192 x 100 mm

32.5

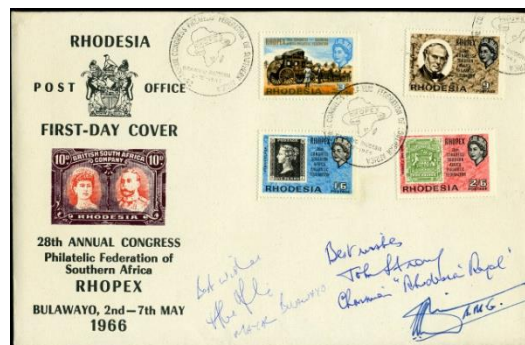


240 x 155 mm

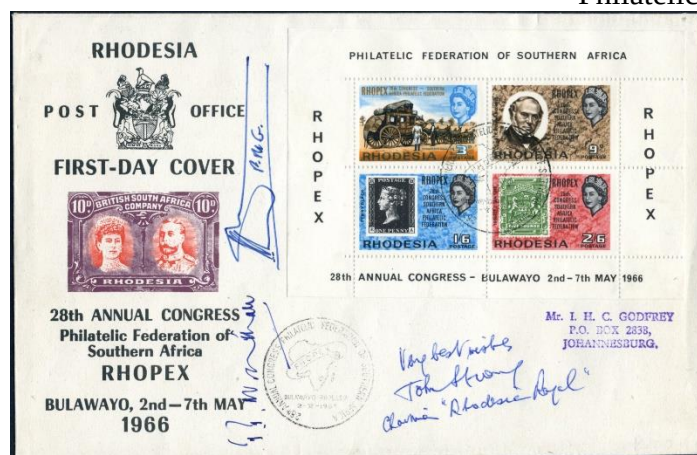
Related Material



First Day Cover signed by
Lt.Col. C R Dickenson, Postmaster General
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



First Day Cover signed by:
A Menashe, Mayor of Bulawayo.
Lt.Col. C R Dickenson, Postmaster General.
John Strong, Chairman "Rhodesia Royal" (Royal
Philatelic Society).



First Day Cover signed by:
John Wrathall – Minister of Posts
Lt.Col. C R Dickenson, Postmaster General.
John Strong, Chairman "Rhodesia Royal" (Royal Philatelic Society).

Bibliography

1. “Rhodesia a Postal History – Its Stamps Posts and Telegraphs” R. C. Smith, printed by Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd, 1967, pages 430 - 432
2. Ibid, pages 327 – 329
3. “Rhopex Issue 1966”, D J Doughty, Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, June 1972 No 78
4. Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, Southern & Central Africa, 2nd Edition, 2014
5. The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue, 1983/84 (last edition), published by Salisbury Stamp Company.
6. “A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia, No 2” - 1st January, 1964 to 31st July 1966, published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group, 1966
7. “The Rhodesian Philatelist” No 2 November 1993
8. “The Rhodesian Philatelist” No 12 October 1996
9. Ministry of Posts Bulletin No. 1/167 announcing the forthcoming issues of Dr Jameson and National Gallery

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2021	Additional proof material on 3d stamp and set of Mardon presentation cards of individual stamps
3/2022	Miniature sheet type C line 1sh6d line below Queen’s chignon
8/2023	Signed FDC including Minister of Posts
8/2024	Replacement images of miniature sheet progressive printing
	Pin hole/blind perf to Miniature sheet A