

1970 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

(First decimal issue)

Issued 17th February, 1970

Rhodesia decimalised its currency on 17th February 1970, replacing the old Rhodesian pounds, shillings and pence (£sd) with the Rhodesian dollar and cents (\$c). The decimalisation of the old British imperial currency units had taken place in all Commonwealth countries that still had the pound (Australia in 1966, New Zealand in 1967). The United Kingdom finally followed in February 1971. South Africa did so in 1961, but that was more to do with becoming a Republic. As with other countries, the former Rhodesian 10 shillings became the dollar, with the pound becoming \$2. This was a much easier method of decimalisation than occurred in the UK, where the pound stayed the same and 10 shillings became 50p.

The Ministry of Posts issued a bulletin (No 1 of 1970), which gave the following reasoning behind the theme of the stamps and their contents. No apologies are made for the terminology used in the publication, this is how the Government saw the world at that time.¹

“The astonishing development achieved in less than 100 years in what was virgin country is portrayed in a wide cross-section of activities ranging through the three themes of Land, Air and Water. The sweat and toil involved in this progress was necessarily supplemented with healthy recreation. This has not been overlooked in the new issue which includes coverage of sport, tourism and wild life.

THE STAMPS

Land—Lower values

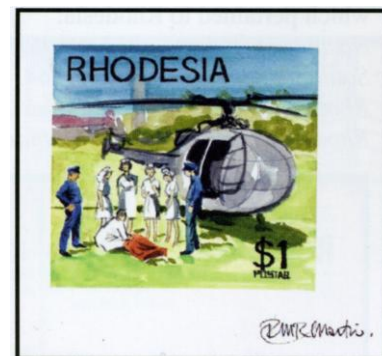
- 1c Agriculture has consistently been a major contributor to the economy and the subject of this stamp, "Wheat Harvesting", fittingly pays tribute to the dramatic break-through in wheat production in the last three years. From almost nothing to self-sufficiency in less than a decade is the ambitious programme now enthusiastically and energetically under way.
- 2c Industry is represented by this stamp, which depicts the pouring of molten metal. Rich in iron ore reserves, Rhodesian industry stands poised to take its place among the giants of Africa.
- 2½c Tourism, which is rapidly expanding, is represented by this illustration of the controversial Zimbabwe Ruins. The conflicting opinions of archaeologists, attributing the origin of the ruins either to the indigenous Bantu people or to a bygone Arab or Phoenician civilization, serve only to heighten the mystery of the ruins and their attraction to visitor and resident alike.
- 3½c Commerce is symbolized in this stamp by a complex of buildings with a statue of the Founder, Cecil John Rhodes, in the foreground. The first government in Rhodesia was provided by a commercial organisation, the British South Africa Company, and Rhodesia's modern history can be said to date from 1899 when, in a commercial transaction, Rhodes signed a contract with Major Frank Johnson for £90,000 to bring the Pioneer Column into what is now Mashonaland to take up the concession granted by Lobengula, King of the Matabele.
- 5c Mining—the country's first industry and now a major economic undertaking—is the subject of this stamp, which depicts simply a mine headgear. Rich in numerous minerals, Rhodesia's mining industry is now experiencing an exciting resurgence with new discoveries of deposits ranging from gemstones to nickel.

Water—Middle values

- 8c Tourism is featured again in this stamp, which depicts the Devil's Cataract at the Western extremity of the famous Victoria Falls. The Falls need no introduction to the international traveller. Some interesting statistics: Peak flow of water (April) 75,000,000 gallons per minute; minimum flow (October) 4,000,000 gallons per minute; mean height 304 feet; greatest height (Rainbow Falls) 355 feet; width of Falls 1860 yards. Discovered by Dr. David Livingstone on the 16th November, 1855, the Falls are today almost exactly as they were when he first saw them.
- 10c Recreation is represented by this stamp. With its abundant sunshine Rhodesia is ideally situated for outdoor recreation of all kinds all the year round. The stamp depicts yachting on Lake McIlwaine.
- 12½c Wild Life is the subject of this stamp, which shows a hippopotamus lazing on the surface of a river. Rhodesia is among the leading countries in the world in wild life conservation and her National Parks and Game Reserves provide a secure home for her rich fauna.
- 15c Power, the life blood of all development, is featured on this stamp, which shows the great Kariba Dam. This is one of the world's finest technological achievements. From its enormous transformer and generator halls spreads a vast network of more than 9,500 miles of power lines. The double-curvature concrete arch dam, 420 feet high and 2,025 feet long, carries a 40-foot-wide road along its crest. There are six massive flood-gates to control the flow from the 170-mile-long and 20-mile-wide man-made lake.
- 20c Irrigation is the theme of this stamp, which depicts a typical irrigation canal in the Low Veld. Rhodesia has deservedly earned a high reputation in the field of water conservation. Vast areas of almost barren virgin bush are being transformed into green productive agricultural lands making significant contributions to the economy and providing employment, food and social services to many who in the past existed at subsistence level.

Air—Higher values

- 25c Bird Life is typified in this stamp by the Bateleur Eagle. This is perhaps one of our most beautiful eagles and was adopted as the insignia of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force. Rhodesia is fortunate in the extent and variety of its bird life, of which more than 620 species have been recorded. It is virtually an ornithologist's paradise that shows no signs of diminution in numbers of species.
- 50c Communications is the subject of this stamp, which portrays a modern radar antenna over which has been "ghosted" an Air Rhodesia Vickers Viscount aircraft. Salisbury International Airport has one of the longest runways in the world and is capable of accepting any aircraft now in service. This stamp is symbolic of the high level of communications in all spheres of activity required to keep pace with the spectacular growth of the country.
- \$1.00 Social services in the fields of health, education and welfare are represented by this stamp, which illustrates one of the many services provided. The subject is "Air Rescue" and the illustration shows an air rescue helicopter of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force.



*Rejected essay for \$1 value
RSCJ 244 – Rod Kantor⁸*

\$2.00 This stamp depicts the national flag of Rhodesia. It is representative of all the peoples of Rhodesia, who in little more than 75 years have together transformed a wild undeveloped country into a modern progressive state.”

All the stamps, save the 12½c, were designed by Rose Martin. The 12½c design with a hippo, was taken from a colour photograph.

THE STAMPS



SG ²	RSC ³	Value	Description	Print colours
439	676	1c	Wheat Harvesting	Black, magenta, cyan & yellow
	a.		Dot between 't' and 'a' of postage	
440	677	2c	Pouring of molten metal	Black, orange, yellow and grey
441	678	2½c	Great Zimbabwe	Dark blue, black, grey and light blue
	a.		Broken wall (booklet)	
	b.		White gummed paper	
442	679	3½c	Statue of Cecil Rhodes	Black, magenta, cyan & yellow
443	680	5c	Mine headgear	Black, pale blue green, ochre and yellow
444	681	8c	Devil's Cataract, Victoria Falls	Black, magenta, cyan & yellow
445	682	10c	Yachting on Lake McIlwaine	Black, magenta, cyan & yellow
446	683	12½c	Hippo	Black, magenta, cyan & yellow
447	684	15c	Kariba Dam	Black, magenta, cyan & yellow
448	685	20c	Irrigation canal in Lowveld	Black, magenta, cyan & yellow
449	686	25c	Bateleur Eagle	Black, pale black, red and grey

450	687	50c	Radar antenna and Vickers Viscount aircraft	Ultramarine and pale turquoise blue
451	688	\$1.00	Air Rescue	Bluish violet, pale turquoise blue, black and light blue
452	689	\$2.00	Republic of Rhodesia flag	Black, magenta, cyan & yellow

Technical Details

After experimenting with the printings of the 1966 definitive, Mardon had settled down to a much more consistent format for the printing of the stamps. Throughout the period that these stamps were printed there was largely a consistency of the marginal notations, with a few exceptions. The individual values of the stamps will be dealt with below, but there seems little point in repeating information where this is not necessary.

All the stamps, save for the \$1, were reprinted during the period until the 1974 definitive was released. For the most part, there is little to distinguish the different printings apart from the sheet numbers. There were some exceptions, these will be pointed out when examining the individual values.

There are good records of the numbers of stamps printed in each printing, and a record of the sheet numbers for each printing. The sheet numbers therefore represent about the only method of distinguishing the individual printings. When each value is studied the print numbers will form the core of the stamp description.

The following technical details therefore cover the main features of the stamps, where there are differences these will be dealt with under the individual values.

Stamp sizes:	Low values – 1c to 5c – 26 x 22 mm Middle values – 8c to 20c – 30 x 26 mm High values – 25c to \$2 – 35 x 30 mm
Sheet Sizes:	Low values – 1c to 5c – 100 stamps, 10 rows x 10 columns Other values – 8c to \$2 – 50 stamps, 10 rows x 5 columns
Printing plates:	Two sets of printing plates were produced for each value, being cylinders 1A and 1B. Both sets of printing plates were used side by side on the same printing sheet, these were later separated. It is probable that with the larger printing volumes of the lower values and some middle values that additional sets of printing plates were produced.
Papers & Gums:	The Mashonaland Guide describes the papers used as “White coated paper. Brown cream gum. The paper varies considerably, not only from value to value, but within the run of one value” ⁴ The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue merely states the paper to be “white with brown gum” ³ This is the Chromo paper with brown gum, which is non-fluorescent both back and front. (Type 10)

There was, however, an exception of the 2½c second printing, which has a white fluorescent paper with cream gum (Type 10A). This was a limited printing (89,600 sheets), it is probable that this was an experiment as to whether this paper was suitable for the lithographic process. A similar paper was later introduced with the printing of the 2½c value of the 1974 definitive.

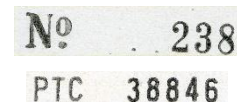
Imprint Type & position Lower values – 1c to 5 - Type PI 7 bottom margin below columns 4 to 7 (4 values)
Other values – 8c to \$2 – type PI 8 bottom margin below columns 2 to 4 (3 values)

Cylinder numbers and position All values Type CN 6, bottom margin below R10/1

Colour indicators and position All values Type TL 4, round within box, left margin opposite R10/1

Sheet Value and position All values, Type 3.
Lower values – 1c to 5c, bottom margin below R10/10
Other values – 8c to \$2, bottom margin below R10/5

Sheet Numbers Type SN 4 –the original printing and some of the reprints
Type SN 5 – majority of reprints



Sheet number positions Lower values – 1c to 5c, right margin opposite R10/10
Other values – 8c to \$2, right margin opposite R10/5

Perforations All values – SG14½, RSC 14½

Perforating direction Lower values from right to left (exception of 5c second printing from left to right)
Other values from bottom to top
Side margins all have one extension perf hole

Margins	Top	Right	Bottom	Left
Lower values	One perf	Imperforate	One perf	Perforated
Other values	Perforated	One perf	Imperforate	One perf

Issue date: 17th February, 1970, with subsequent printings issued on different dates, see individual values

Withdrawal from sale: 3½c, 8c and 15c withdrawn 1st July, 1973, with all other values on 14th February, 1975

Demonetarisation: 1st July, 1978

Sheet Numbers

The range of sheet numbers shown for each of the printings have been included within the technical details of each value. It should be pointed out that none of the reference material indicate these sheet numbers, although a schedule of the individual printings with their sheet numbers has been circulated. It is not known whether this was a result of some research or whether these numbers tie up with the known number of sheets/stamps printed for each printing. More research appears to have been undertaken on the 1970 Postage Due labels, and discrepancies have been found. From this work, it does appear that Mardon did try to keep the number sequence flowing from one printing to the next for each value.

It is therefore suggested that the sheet number range for each printing should be treated as only indicative.

It should also be noted that each number was applied to both the 1A and 1B, resulting in two sheets of stamps with the same number but with different cylinder numbers.

Dates of issue of reprints

The date of issue of the reprints are those shown in the Mashonaland Guide⁴ and Don Mitchell's articles⁵. The additional values were released on 1st January, 1973, which is an unusual date for the release of the stamps as this was a public holiday in Rhodesia. This would have meant that some or all post offices would have had to open. From first day covers, so far seen, only postmarks from Salisbury, Bulawayo and Gwelo have been identified, so it is probable that only limited services were available on this date. A number of reprints of this definitive are also stated to have been released on this day, it is not known whether they were available or not.

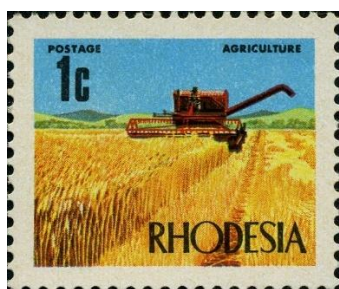
Observations on the paper used

Apart from the known different paper for the 2½c seconding printing, all the stamps were printed on Chromo paper with brown gum. However, it was noted by Terry Cowlard that under ultraviolet light many of the papers reacted in different ways from being dull, mottled or brighter. It is probable that this is not a fluorescent reaction to the UV light, but an inconsistency with the paper manufacturing. In some cases, parts the stamps are dull, whilst other parts are mottled or brighter. Comparison of number blocks from the same printings show variations in the reaction to UV light. In one example of the 2c 3rd printing, part of the stamp is dull whilst the other part is bright with a clear definitive line between the two areas.

There is also an inconsistency in the colour of the gum, which varies from brown, to dull brown or cream

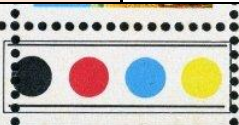
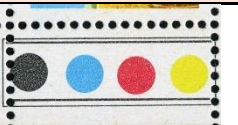
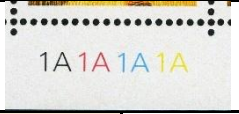
It has always been recognised that the Chromo paper is a cheap and nasty paper, but it was the only one available in quantity to Mardon due to international sanctions. No reliance can be made solely by looking at the paper and gum for any particular printing.

1 cent – Wheat Harvesting



There were three printings of this value. The first set of printing plates were used for the first printing only, as these were also used to print the booklet panes (see under booklets). A second set of plates needed to have been produced for the second printing. A third set of plates was produced for the third printing, as evidenced by the swop around of the cyan and magenta colours in the colour indicators and cylinder numbers.

Both the second and third prints were numbered with type SN5 numbers, with the prefix of “PTC” instead of “N^o”.

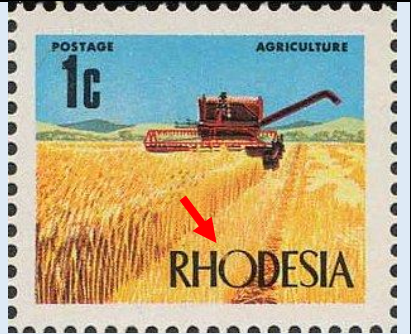
	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing
Issue date:	17/02/1970	17/01/1972	01/01/1973
Colour indicators, reading down	Black Magenta Cyan Yellow	Black Magenta Cyan Yellow	Black Cyan Magenta Yellow
			
Cylinder numbers reading left to right	Black Magenta Cyan Yellow	Black Magenta Cyan Yellow	Black Cyan Magenta Yellow
			
Sheet numbers	Type SN 4 Reading down	Type SN5 Reading down	Type SN5 Reading down
Sheet numbers	001 – 38,700	38,701 to 53,100	53,101 to 77,100
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	77,400	28,800	48,000
Number of stamps	7,740,000	2,880,000	4,800,000

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties:⁴

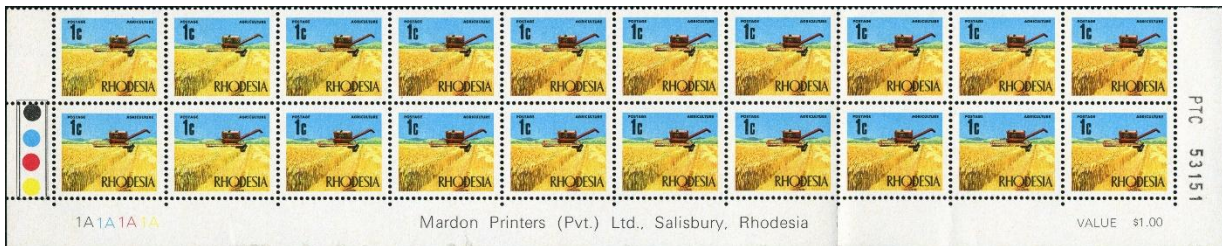
Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A	-	-	-
		Multipositive		Not listed in the Mashonaland Guide. RSC 676a – Dot between ‘T’ & ‘A’ of postage. (unknown positions). As these appear in booklet panes, due to the method of creating the booklet panes, they must appear in the first printing of sheet stamps. (see booklets below One position that can be confirmed is R2/7 Cyl 1A and R1/7 Cyl 1B) 
	1B	3	1	Blue spot in furrow opposite front wheels of Machine
		3	3	Blue spot on edge of reaped portion of field
		7	6	Small brown spot over light green hill on right
		8	1	Two white spots over ‘I’ and ‘A’ of RHODESIA (R8/1?)
2 nd printing	1A	6	5	White dot under first ‘U’ of AGRICULTURE
		8	1	Green dot on top of and by edge of wheat just below machine
	1B	3	1	Blue blob in furrow opposite front wheels of machine - as First Printing.
		6	7	White dot under first ‘U’ of AGRICULTURE
		6	8	White dot in sky under ‘P’ of POSTAGE
3 rd printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			

Unlisted varieties

Broken ‘O’ of Rhodesia. (Source Rhodesia.co.za)	
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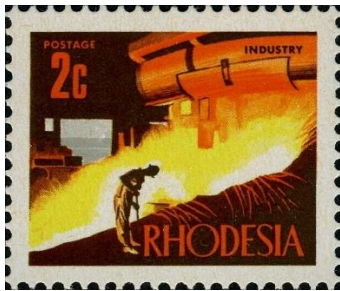
Colour changes

It is often suggested that the third printing had a colour change, particularly in the colour of the wheat. Indeed, a first day of issue cover was produced to indicate this. But as can be seen from the example below of a double bottom row from the 3rd printing, the colour varies considerably from one side of the sheet to the other.



(Source Dave Trathen)

2 cents – Pouring of molten metal



There were five printings of this value. It is possible that the plates used changed with each printing. The first set being used only for the first printing, and then adapted for the booklet panes. The second printing has an easily detected flaw in Cyl 1A which is sometimes referred to as “large red bird in doorway” on R10/8 (see scan below). This is very distinctive and should have been present in subsequent printings if these plates were re-used. At least one further set of plates could have been used for the third to fourth printings. But having said that, the multipositive flaws for the 2nd to 4th printings as noted by the Mashonaland Guide appear to be much the same (see below)

Both the second to fifth printings were numbered with type SN5 numbers, with the prefix of “PTC” instead of “N^o”. However, the second printings number reads up instead of down unlike the others.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing	4 th printing	5 th printing
Issue date:	17/02/1970	10/05/1971	4/10/1971	27/3/1972	1/01/1973
	Colour indicators reading down – dark brown, orange, yellow, grey				
	Cylinder numbers reading left to right - dark brown, orange, yellow, grey				
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 up	Type SN 5 down	Type SN 5 down	Type SN 5 down
Sheet numbers	001 – 131,500	131,501 – 165,800	165,801 – 217,800	217,801 – 266,300	266,301 – 362,400
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	263,000	68,600	104,000	97,000	192,200
Number of stamps	26,300,000	6,860,000	10,400,000	9,700,000	19,220,000

New plate production

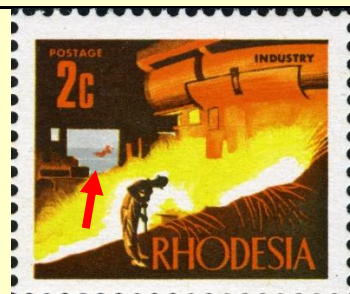
With there being five printings of this duty, it is likely that new plates were produced. Examination of the cylinder numbers indicate that more than one plate was produced by comparing the position of the cylinder numbers with the stamp’s duty, as shown below. Without the rest of the double row with the sheet number it is not possible to say which these printings are. Thanks to Terry Cowland for these scans



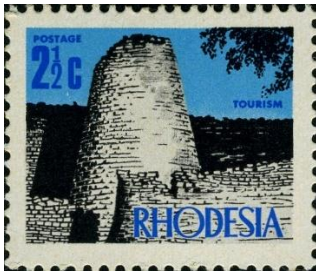
Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties:⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A	-	-	-
	1B	10	2	Small black spot in front of man's head on edge of yellow
		10	5	Small black spot in right side of doorway where light and dark grey meet
2 nd printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		Small black dot over head of man near top edge of frame. 5/1, 5/6, 10/1, 10/6
	1A	10	8	Red mark in doorway ('Bird in door' or 'Fire in doorway')
	1B	1	9	Small white dot by '2' of value
		8	1	Black streaks near edge and into selvedge
		10	1	Black line near door
		10	6	Black line near door
3 rd printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		Small black dot over head of man near top edge of frame. 5/1, 5/6, 10/1, 10/6
	1A	3	6	Weak entry to right of value
	1B	-	-	-
4 th printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		Small black dot over head of man near top edge of frame. 5/1, 5/6, 10/1, 10/6
	1A	-	-	-
	1B	2	9	Brown spot in white molten metal towards RH margin.
		7	4	White retouch in middle of doorway cutting horizontal grey line.
5 th printing	1B	7	5	Red mark at top of yellow molten metal towards RH margin.
		-	-	-



2½ cents – Great Zimbabwe



There were five printings of this value, but there is some confusion within the references regarding the five printings.

The Mashonaland Guide⁴ lists the application of colours as dark blue, black, grey and light blue, presumably these were noted from the first printing of this value. It does not indicate whether this application refers to the colour indicators or traffic lights, or the sequence of colours in the cylinder numbers, or both. The Guide then states that in the third printing the colour register (presumably the traffic lights) has “grey above the light blue”.

The second reference is the work of Don Mitchell published in Magnify⁵, where he states that the first printing plate number sequence (the cylinder numbers) as black, grey, blue, blue. In his notes, he states that with the second printing “*another interesting factor is that the colour spot sequence is not the same as the plate number sequence. This is the only time this occurs in this issue*”. But he does not state what they are.

Examination of the double bottom lines of the various printings, shows:

Two sequences in the traffic lights (reading down) –

- A. Ultramarine (dark blue), black, grey, cyan (light blue)
- B Ultramarine (dark blue), black, cyan (light blue), grey

Three sequences in the cylinder number sequence (reading from the left) –

- 1 Black, grey, cyan (light blue), ultramarine (dark blue)
- 2 Black, ultramarine (dark blue), cyan (light blue), grey.
- 3 Ultramarine (dark blue), black, grey, cyan (light blue)

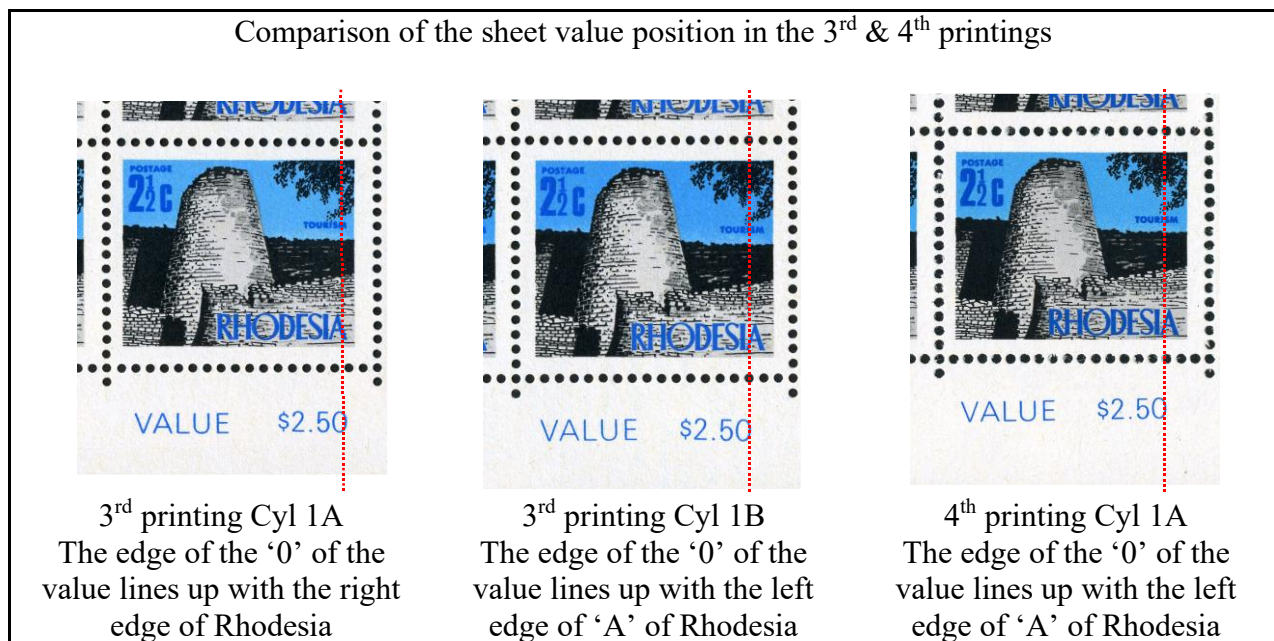
For each of the printings the following was noted

- 1st printing – traffic lights – A, with cylinder numbers – 1
- 2nd printing – traffic lights – A, with cylinder numbers – 1
- 3rd printing – traffic lights – B, with cylinder numbers – 2
- 4th printing – traffic lights – B, with cylinder numbers – 2
- 5th printing – traffic lights – A, with cylinder numbers – 3

It would appear, therefore, that there are at least five sets of printing plates:

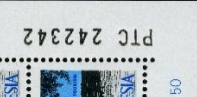
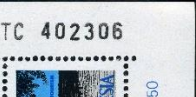
- 1st set these plates were used for the original printing, and were later adapted for printing the panes of stamps for the booklets. The adaption of these plates would therefore render them useless for any subsequent sheet printings of this value.
- 2nd set these plates have the same traffic light and cylinder number sequences, but as the first set had been adapted for the booklet panes, they must be a new set. Interestingly, this printing on white fluorescent paper only produced 89,600 sheets. The question arises as to whether these plates were also adapted for subsequent printings of the booklet panes.

- 3rd set the third printing had a completely different sequence of traffic lights and cylinder number sequences, and therefore new plates would have had to be produced. It is important to note that the positioning of the sheet value of the 1A plate is further right than with the fourth printing, thus indicating a separate set of plates. This does not appear to be present with the 1B sheet value. (see below)
- 4th set the same as for the 3rd set, save for the positioning of the sheet value (see below)
- 5th set as with the 3rd set, the traffic light and cylinder number sequencing were changed again. Although the traffic lights were the same as for the 1st and 2nd sets, the cylinder number sequence is different.



The second to fifth printings were numbered with type SN5 numbers, with the prefix “PTC” instead of “N^o”. However, the second printings number reads up instead of down unlike the others.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing	4 th printing	5 th printing
Issue Date:	17/02/1970	10/05/1971	20/09/1971	27/03/1972	1/01/1973
Paper/ gum	Chromo/ brown	White fluorescent/ Clear - cream	Chromo/ brown	Chromo/ brown	Chromo/ brown
Colour indicator s reading down	Ultramarine Black Grey Cyan	Ultramarine Black Grey Cyan	Ultramarine Black Cyan Grey	Ultramarine Black Cyan Grey	Ultramarine Black Grey Cyan

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing	4 th printing	5 th printing
					
Cylinder numbers reading from left	Black Grey Cyan Ultramarine	Black Grey Cyan Ultramarine	Black Ultramarine Cyan Grey	Black Ultramarine Cyan Grey	Ultramarine Black Grey Cyan
					
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 up	Type SN 5 down	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 down
Sheet numbers	001 – 242,000	242,001 - 286,800	286,801 – 402,100	402,101 – 520,300	520,301 – 703,400
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	484,000	89,600	230,600	236,400	366,200
Number of stamps	48,400,000	896,600	23,060,000	23,640,000	36,620,000

Gums

The second printing of this stamp is generally stated in references to be “clear”, recent examination of multiples of this stamp has shown that the gum colour can vary from clear to cream. The front of the stamps clearly differentiates this printing of all others of this issue by being fluorescent, this clear differentiation probably meant that the gum colour was not as extensively examined.

The gums of the other printings of this value, and others within this issue, simply say that it is “brown”. But this masks the fact that there are also differences in the shade of brown. This chromo paper was in use from the 1967 Jameson through to the 1976 Telephone Centenary issues, including the 1970 and 1974 definitive issues. Again, the poor quality of the paper makes it easy to distinguish from other papers from the front and under UV. Studies have been carried out to subcategorise the gums, but it was found that the gum colour could vary within the same issue or reprint.

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties:⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A	2	5	Thin white line between middle branches of tree.
		5	4	White line like three-pronged "lightning flash" through
	1B	1	4	White spot over 'S' of TOURISM.
		2	4	White mark in second bunch of leaves from right
2 nd printing	1A	-	-	-
	1B	-	-	-
3 rd printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		White line (sometimes faint) between middle branches of tree, refer 1A. 2/5 of First Printing 2/5, 2/10, 7/5, 7/10
	1A	2	5	"Misplaced stone" - small black dot on black wall under 'IS' of TOURISM
	1B	3	10	"Sunrise" - retouch above wall to right of tower.
4 th printing	1A	10	5	"Moon over tower". NOTE: Ring flaws have been noted on various stamps giving the impression of a moon above the wall.
5 th printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			

Unlisted varieties

Pair on piece showing shift of perforations to the right and slightly upwards. Regrettably unable to date usage.	
Smudging of cyan across two rows of stamps. This example is from a block of 40 stamps, being the top four rows, with the smudging across row 3 & 4, more pronounced to the left. (Courtesy Dave Trathen)	

Second example of smudging from a different sheet across both rows of stamps.

(Courtesy Dave Trathen)



Pre-printing crease along bottom row

(Source eBay)



Block of 9 stamps with the progressive double printing of the ultramarine.

Progression from top right to bottom left.

Scnas above with top right stamp on right and bottom left stamp of left, with closeups of text

(Courtesy of Dave Cooper)

3½ cents – Statue of Cecil Rhodes



Two sets of plates were probably produced for this value. The first set of plates were used for the first printing, they were then adapted to form the booklet panes for the 48c booklet (see booklets below). This adaptation of the printing plates meant that a second set of plates would have been produced. Given the low printing numbers for this value, it is likely that the second set of printing plates were used for the second to fourth printings.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing	4 th printing
Issue Date:	17/02/1970	15/07/1971	8/11/1971	27/03/1972
Colour indicators reading down	Black Cyan Magenta Yellow	Black Cyan Magenta Yellow	Black Cyan Magenta Yellow	Black Cyan Magenta Yellow
Cylinder numbers reading from left	Black Magenta, Cyan Yellow	Black Magenta, Cyan Yellow	Black Magenta, Cyan Yellow	Black Magenta, Cyan Yellow
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 30,050	30,501 – 41,050	40,051 – 49,600	49,601 – 64,600
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	60,100	20,000	19,100	30,000
Number of stamps	6,010,000	2,000,000	1,910,000	3,000,000

New plate production

With there being four printings of this duty, it is likely that new plates were produced. Examination of the cylinder numbers indicate that more than one plate was produced by comparing the position of the cylinder numbers with the stamp's duty, as shown below. Without the rest of the double row with the sheet number it is not possible to say which these printings are. The example below is pencilled as being the first printing. Thanks to Terry Cowlard for these scans



Varieties

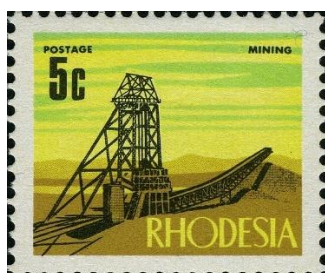
The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties:⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A	3	3	Small blue spot in RH margin level with end of top balcony.
		6	6	Small blue spot at top of RH building on end wall
	1B	Multipositive		Small black spot between first two windows at top of centre building 3/3, 3/8, 8/3, 8/8
		4	3	Small black spot on fourth balcony from top right hand building
2 nd printing	1A	1	7	Black spot near top window of right hand building
		3	3	Small blue spot, as in First Printing
		3 /4, 5/4		Black spot to right of 'A' of Rhodesia
		4	10	Two dark spots in margin under 'A' of Rhodesia
		5	9	Black mark on 8th balcony from top in right hand building
		5	10	White dot to left of '3' in value
		6	2	Black speck left of top window in right hand building
		6	5	Break in 'S' of Rhodesia
		6	6	Blue dot in top right hand of right hand building
		8	7	Blue dot on 5 th balcony from top in right hand building
	1B	4	3	Small black spot on balcony, as First Printing
		4	6	White dot in sky to right of value
		5	9	Black dot on top balcony of right hand building
		6	2	Blue dot on 5 th balcony from top in right hand building
		6	10	Black dot in sky left of shoulder of statue
		10	9	Black dot by lower windows of tall tower of left hand Building
3 rd printing	1A	1	7	Pink mark in centre stone of plinth immediately below foot of pedestal
		2	9	Minute black dot to left side of windows of right hand building just below 3rd window from top
		4	4	Weak entry in sky (like white smudge) where top of right hand building cuts edge of design
		10	6	Minute black dot on side of right hand building on right of 7 th window from top
	1B			Note upward shift of grey lines and black printing on left-hand side of sheet only
		4	5	Red hair mark on 3rd row of windows from top on right hand building
		5	4	Blue vertical dash on top part of orange building
4 th printing	1A	4	4	White smudge, as in Third Printing



Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
	1B	10	6	Brown spot on yellow building, at second window Down
		2	8	White specks to left of top of pedestal
		5	3	Blue spot on right hand building above 'E' of Rhodesia
		5	9	Blue spots outside margin below 'A' of Rhodesia

5 cents – Mine headgear



It is probable that only one set of plates were produced for this value, the multipositive flaw being found in all printings. The Mashonaland Guide suggests that the “pale blue-green replaced by light green” for the second printing.⁴ Don Mitchell states that the first printing is on “paper off white, gum creamy; with second printing “the paper is white and gum clear”; with the third printing “the paper is whiter still”.⁵

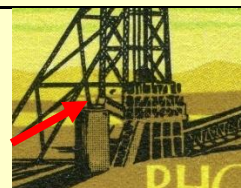
The third printing is also distinguishable with the direction of the sheet perforating being from left to right, the only low value stamp perforated in this manner. This results in the left margin being imperforate and the right margin perforated through.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing
Issue Date:	17/02/1970	24/08/1970	1/01/1973
	Colour indicators reading down – black, light green, light brown, yellow		
	Cylinder numbers reading from left - black, light green, light brown, yellow		
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 13,000	13,001 – 38,700	38,701 – 52,800
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	26,000	51,400	28,200
Number of stamps	2,600,000	5,140,000	2,820,000
Marginal perforations:			
Perforating direction	Right to left	Right to left	Left to right
Top & bottom margins	One perf extension	One perf extension	One perf extension
Right margin	Imperforate	Imperforate	Perforated
Left margin	Perforated	Perforated	Imperforated

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties:⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		In all vertical rows 4,5,9 and 10 there is a black spot in the bottom frame of the left side of headgear
	1A	4	6	Black spot in '0' of Rhodesia
2 nd printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		In all vertical rows 4,5,9 and 10 there is a black spot in the bottom frame of the left side of headgear
	1A	10	3	Black dot at base of 'D' in Rhodesia
		10	8	Black dot in rounded part of 'D' in Rhodesia
3 rd printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			

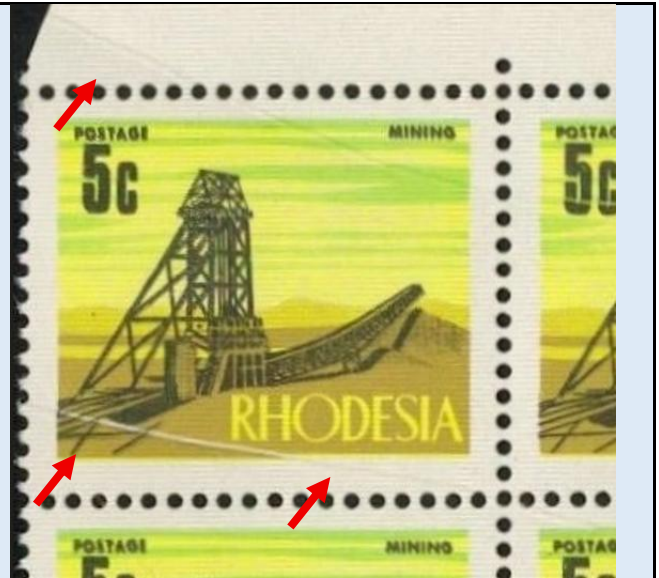


Unlisted varieties

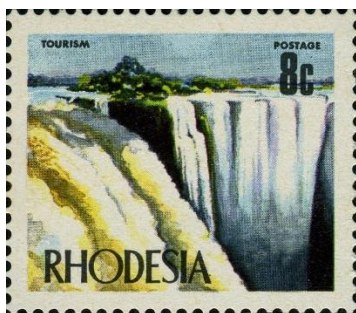
Double printing of the black, this is most noticeable with "Postage", "Mining and the value. The yellow plate also appears to have dropped	
Double printing of black with a very clear upwards shift. Together with double printing of the yellow, see country's name (Source: rhodesia.co.za)	

Paper crease from left downwards to right, fold
cause of while line

(Source eBay March 2026)



8 cents – Victoria Falls



Single set of plates only for this value which was only printed once

	1st printing
Issue Date:	17/02/1970
Colour indicators reading down – black, cyan, magenta, yellow	
Cylinder numbers reading from left - black, cyan, magenta, yellow	
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 33,700
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	67,400
Number of stamps	3,370,000
Withdrawn from sale	1/07/1973

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties:⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing		Multipositive		Normal blue dot below TOURISM is missing in column 1 stamps, rows 1 to 10, column, also on 2/5, 3/3, 5/5, 6/3, 8/5.
	1A	2	1	Black dot in line with the top of 'A' of Rhodesia and to the right of it
	1B	9	3	Normal blue dot below TOURISM is missing

10 cents – Yachting on Lake Mchilwane



The multipositive varieties listed by The Mashonaland Guide suggest that the same plates were used for all four printings of this value. The blue line flaw indicted by the Guide is found on all printings of this value.

Although many other varieties were also noted, these could, however, be batch flaws

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing	4 th printing
Issue date:	17/02/1970	12/10/1970	27/03/1972	1/01/1973
	Colour indicators reading down – black, cyan, magenta, yellow			
	Cylinder numbers reading from left - black, cyan, magenta, yellow			
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 16,000	16,001 – 26,000	16,001 – 38,200	38,201 – 52,800
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	32,000	20,000	24,400	29,200
Number of stamps	1,600,000	1,000,000	1,220,000	1,460,000

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties:⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		There is a white dot between the E of RHODESIA and the white flag of the small yacht. 2/1, 5/1, 8/1
				A large black "tear" like inverted 'L' in the red sail 2/2, 5/2, 8/2
		1	2	A brown spot to left of bottom point of red sail
		9	4	Blue spot near left hand edge above trees and in line with bottom of red sail
	1A	2	2	Weak 'P' in POSTAGE
		10	1	Small red dash to right of red sail about 2 o'clock
	1B	7/3, 10/3		Large yellow dot at bottom of red sail

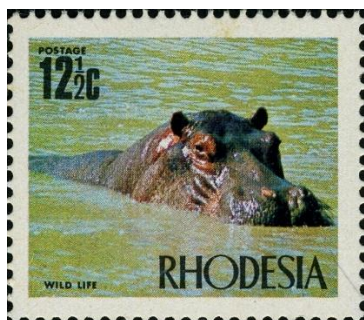
Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
2 nd printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		A small blue line enters from left on the white sail. 1 /2, 4/2, 7/2, 10/2 # 
				A large black "tear" like inverted 'L' in the red sail 2/2, 5/2, 8/2
	1A	2	2	Weak P in POSTAGE, as in First Printing
		4	4	Large black dot to left of left figure.
		7	2	White star to right of yellow sail.
		9	2	White mark in top of 'S' of Rhodesia.
		10	4	White dot in sky by lower part of red sail
	1B	3	3	Black dot in middle of red sail
		3	4	Yellow dot in bottom of red sail
		5	3	Yellow dot above fold in red sail
		6	5	Yellow smudge half-way down port side of red sail and white dot in bar of 'T' of Postage
		7	1	Yellow dot in middle of red sail
		7	3	Large yellow dot at bottom of red sail, as in First Printing
		8	3	Yellow dot in yellow sail by second red line
		8	5	Yellow scratches in lower right part of red sail
		9	3	Yellow dot in middle of red sail
		9	5	Star in sky to lower right of flag on yellow boat
		10	5	Blue dot in top margin above 'O' of Rhodesia
3 rd printing	1A & 1B	Multipositives		A small blue line enters from left on the white sail. 1 /2, 4/2, 7/2, 10/2 # 
				A large black "tear" like inverted 'L' in the red sail 2/2, 5/2, 8/2
	1A	2	2	'P' of Postage badly damaged
		2	5	Blue spot half-way up on left edge of stamp
		3/3, 7/5, 8/4		Normal yellow nick in bottom of red sail is missing
		10	5	Red spot in bottom margin under 'I' of Yachting
	1B	1	3	Diagonal double line on red sail, from bottom left to top centre
		2	5	Blue spot at edge of red sail
		5	1	White spot in centre of red sail
		7/3, 10/3		Yellow spot near bottom of red sail at centre
4 th printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			

- blue line flaw noted on all printings

Unlisted varieties

Doubling of black printing, the lettering of “Yachting” is almost unreadable. Other elements of the black printing have “shadows”	
‘Yachting’ almost omitted from right stamp. (Source: Rhodesia.co.za)	
Magenta “smudge” through column 2 stamps. Does not appear to be a smudge of the magenta ink from the stamp, too consistent. Possibly from a roller that moves the printing sheet through the printing press, which had had an accidental coating of magenta ink.	

12½ cents – Hippo

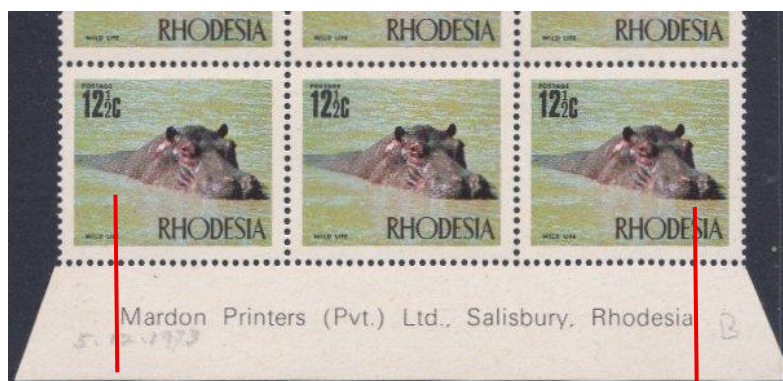


This value was printed three times all of which appear to be from the same set of plates. The multipositive listed by The Mashonaland Guide is found on all three printings on stamp R10/5. There is, however, a distinction in the length of the imprint, with the 1st printing having a length of 83.5 mm, and the latter two printings 73mm. See images below.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing
Issue date:	17/02/1970	13/08/1973	5/12/1973
	Colour indicators reading down – black, cyan, magenta, yellow		
	Cylinder numbers reading from left - black, cyan, magenta, yellow		
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 12,700	12,701 – 18,700	18,701 - 23,000
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	25,400	12,000	10,400
Number of stamps	1,270,000	600,000	520,000



Imprint 1st printing – length 18.5 mm



Imprint 2nd and 3rd printings – length 73 mm

Whilst the imprint of other middle values were not available, studying the value/number blocks do not show a change in the length of the imprint between the different printings. The positioning of Rhodesia beneath column 4 remaining constant.

Many thanks to Terry Cowland for pointing this out.

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		Green dot at centre top, growing smaller as it goes down the column. 1/5, 4/5, 7/5, 10/5
	1A	9	2	Dot between legs of 'A' in Rhodesia
	1B	6	4	Blue dot by 'E' of Rhodesia
		9	2	Two small dots under hippo
2 nd printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			
3 rd printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			



5 cents – Kariba

 Two printings, both likely to be from the same set of plates. Oblique scratch in water above left bank present in both printings at R9/1.		1st printing	2nd printing
	Issue date:	17/02/1970	1/01/1973
		Colour indicators reading down – black, cyan, magenta, yellow	
		Cylinder numbers reading from left - black, cyan, magenta, yellow	
	Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 Down
	Sheet numbers	001 – 28,000	28,001 – 30,000
	Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	56,000	4,000
	Number of stamps	2,800,000	200,000
	Withdrawn from sale	1/04/1973	

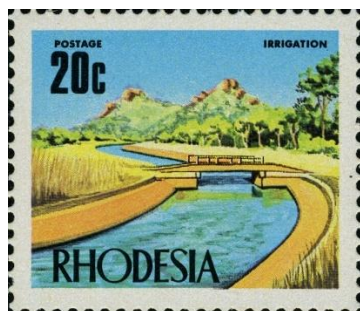
Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A & 1B	Multipositives		White horizontal line jutting out from structure on left bank, level with top of dam wall. 1 /2, 4/2, 7/2
				Oblique scratch in water opposite flood-gates. 2/5, 5/5, 8/5
				Oblique scratch in water above left bank; also, black dot on fourth vertical line of right hand wall of dam. 3/1, 6/1, 9/1
	1A	2	3	Blue spot on wall above furthest RH flood-gate
		8	3	Black dot above and between 'I' and 'A' of Rhodesia
		9	2	Black spot before '15' of value
	1B	2	1	Blue spot in white water below RH flood-gate.
		5	3	White vertical mark in water at top LH corner.

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
2 nd printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			

20 cents – Irrigation canal in Lowveld



Four small printings, each likely to have been from the same set of printings plates, although the varieties listed in the Mashonaland Guide does not suggest this. The first multipositive flaw listed is found in all printings on stamp R10/1, suggesting only one set of plates were used.

Don Mitchell⁵ only lists three printings of this value, with the last one released on 13/08/1972. However, The Mashonaland Guide lists a third printing that was released on 17/01/1972.⁴ The other two release dates concur with each other. The second printing was released about six months after the initial release of the definitive stamps. If Don Mitchell is to be believed, then there was a two-year period before additional stamps of this value was required. Narendhra Morar has a plain cover with the 20c postmarked on 17th January in Salisbury, the cover is believed to have been produced by R Pollitt.

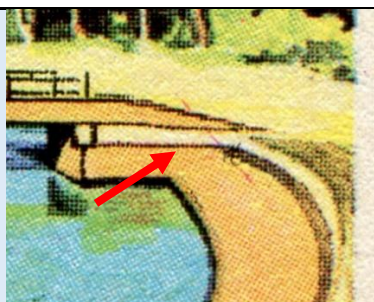
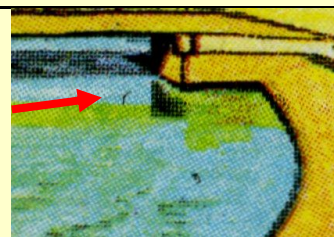
An interim printing between August 1970 and August 1972 is therefore likely. This analysis suggests that there were four printings with the third being on 17/01/1972, as stated by the Mashonaland Guide.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing	4 th printing
Issue date:	17/02/1970	24/08/1970	17/01/1972	13/08/1972
	Colour indicators reading down – black, cyan, magenta, yellow			
	Cylinder numbers reading from left - black, cyan, magenta, yellow			
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 3,800	3,801 - 8,800	8,801 - 13,000	13,001 - 20,500
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	7,600	10,000	8,400	15,000
Number of stamps	380,000	500,000	420,000	750,000

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		Cluster of fine black dots on right hand side of water furrow below bridge. 1/1, 4/1, 7/1, 10/1
	1A	Multipositive		Black dot above 'I' of Rhodesia
2 nd printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		Small red horizontal line in grass on left bank. 2/2, 5/2, 8/2, 3/1, 6/1, 9/1
				Small black horizontal line in grass on left bank. 3 /4, 6/4, 9/4
				Blue inverted 'V' on right bank. 1/5, 4/5, 7/5, 10/5
	1A	1	1	White dot in middle of stamp 1mm from top.
		4	2	Vertical white stroke in bottom of 2 of value
3 rd printing	1A & 1B	Multipositives		- Black crescent under bridge to left of shadow, and black dot in water below shadow of abutment. - Black line touching bank in water above 'D' of Rhodesia.
				1/1, 4/1, 7/1, 10/1
				Black dot above 'I' of Rhodesia. (See also First Printing) 2/1, 5/1, 8/1
				White dots at 3 o'clock from right hand peak. 2/5, 5/5, 8/5
				Small black horizontal line in grass on left bank. (as in Second Printing). 3/ 4, 6/4, 9/4
		Multipositives		- White spot in water above 'S' of Rhodesia - White dot in river above bridge
				3/5, 6/5, 9/5
	1A	8	2	White dot in sky between peaks.
4 th printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			



Red line through right bank
(Courtesy Gordon Atkinson)

25 cents – Bateleur Eagle



Three small printings, each likely to have been from the same set of printings plates. The same multipositive varieties are noted by The Mashonaland Guide for the first two printings. The small black dot below the eagle has been noted on all printings at R10/4.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing
Issue date:	17/02/1970	27/03/1972	13/08/1973
	Colour indicators reading down – black, dark grey, red, light grey		
	Cylinder numbers reading from left - black, dark grey, red, light grey		
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 7,150	7,151 – 11,950	11,951 – 18,850
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	14,300	9,500	7,800
Number of stamps	715,000	475,000	390,000

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		
			Black spot below large eagle. 1 /4, 4/4, 7/4, 10/4	
			Small black line over right wing of eagle. 2/2, 5/2, 8/2	
			Black dash in lower part of 'I' of Rhodesia. 2/3, 5/3, 8/3	

	1A	1	5	Red dash in brown sky to left of wing in RH corner	
2 nd printed	1A & 1B	Multipositive		Black spot below large eagle. 1 /4, 4/4, 7/4, 10/4	
				Small black line over right wing of eagle. 2/2, 5/2, 8/2	
				Black dash in lower part of 'I' of Rhodesia, as in first printing. 2/3, 5/3, 8/3	
	1A	1	5	Red dash in brown sky left of wing in right corner, as in First Printing	
		2	1	Red scratch in same place as above	
	1B	4	4	Two red spots widely separated on leading edge of wing	
3 rd printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide				

50 cents - Radar antenna and Vickers Viscount aircraft



Three small printings, each likely to have been from the same set of printings plates. The same multipositive varieties are noted by The Mashonaland Guide for the first two printings.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing
Issue date:	17/02/1970	24/08/1970	1/01/1973
	Colour indicators reading down – ultramarine, turquoise		
	Cylinder numbers reading from left – ultramarine, turquoise		
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 2,900	2,901 – 5,400	5,401 – 7,500
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	5,800	9,600	7,200
Number of stamps	290,000	480,000	360,000

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁴

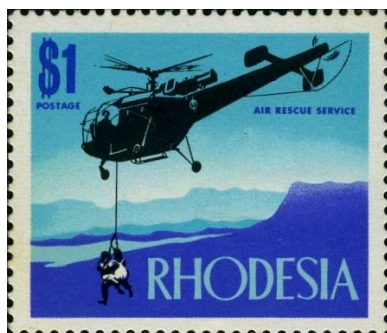
Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive	Blue dot at bottom right of 'O' of Rhodesia. 2/5, 5/5, 8/5	
2 nd printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive	Blue dot at bottom right of 'O' of Rhodesia. 2/5, 5/5, 8/5	
	1A	1	4	Black dot in left leg of 'H' and flaw in bottom of 'O' of Rhodesia
		3	1	Flaw in bottom of 'D' of Rhodesia
		3	5	Flaw in bottom of 'O' of Rhodesia
		7	4	Black dot in 'E' of Rhodesia
		7	5	Flaw between 'H' and 'O' of Rhodesia
		10	3	White spot between 'I' and 'A' of RHODESIA

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
	1B	10	5	Black dot between 'A' of Rhodesia and Postage
		1	3	Black dot in 'D' of Rhodesia
		1	4	White dot between aeroplane and Rhodesia
		3	1	White dot between 'E' and 'S' of Rhodesia
		8	3	White dot near wing-tip and two brown marks on Plane
		9	1	Dent in leading edge of left wing
		10	1	White dot on left side of stamp near top
		10	3	Black dot in 'O' of Rhodesia and black mark on centre of plane.
3 rd printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			

Unlisted varieties

 Offset of ultramarine (Courtesy Dave Trathen)	 Partial dry run of ultramarine in column 5 (compare strength of printing in values). With number of small ultramarine splashes along right side of stamps.
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One dollar – Air Rescue service



Two printings, both likely to be from the same set of printing plates

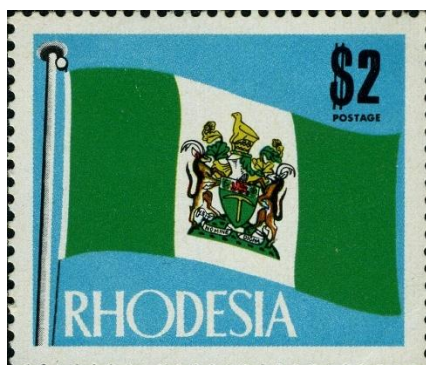
	1 st printing	2 nd printing
Issue date:	17/02/1970	1/01/1973
	Colour indicators reading down – ultramarine, turquoise, black, pale blue	
	Cylinder numbers reading from left - ultramarine, turquoise, black, pale blue	
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 2,800	2,801 – 5,200
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	5,600	4,800
Number of stamps	280,000	240,000

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		Oblique white scratch in front of helicopter (fainter on B Sheet) 2/5, 5/5, 8/5
		1	4	Blue dot in top selvedge to right of centre
	1B	3	3	Black dot in water near left hand border
		1	1	Small black spot in middle of water above head of right hand man
		2	4	Black spot on mountain below body of helicopter
		4/3, 5/3		Two green vertical dashes in white border between 4/3 and 5/3
		10	1	Vertical white dash in purple running down into 'DE' of Rhodesia
2 nd printing	Not recorded by Mashonaland Guide			

Two dollars – Republic of Rhodesia flag



Single printing

	1 st printing
Issue date:	17/02/1970
Colour indicators, reading down	Black Cyan Yellow Magenta
Cylinder numbers reading from left	Black Cyan Yellow Magenta
Sheet number types	Type SN 4 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 2,800
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	5,600
Number of stamps	280,000

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁴

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A & 1B	Multipositive		Thin red line between right foreleg and left hind leg of left hand supporter of Coat of Arms
	1A	4	3	White dot after '2' of value
		6	3	Black dot on white of flag
	1B	7	5	White mark above flag near pole
The last three varieties above may not be constant				

ADDITIONAL VALUES

Issued 1st January, 1973

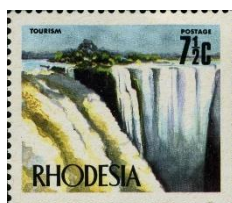
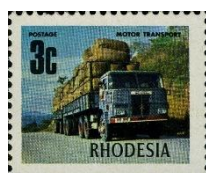
To cater for changes in postal rates which came into effect of 1st January, 1973, five new values were introduced. Three of the values were repeats of existing designs, these being:

4c	as with the 3½c – Rhodes Statue
7½c	as with the 8c – Victoria Falls
14c	as with the 15c – Kariba

Two new designs were added, these being

- 3c - Road Transport: The stamp showed a Rhodesia Railways Road Motor Services (RMS) truck conveying a load of cotton to one of the cotton gins.⁶
- 6c - Water Transport: The Hydrofoil “Seaflight”³ was launched on Lake Kariba, this was one of a kind in Rhodesia. It had been imported secretly, its transportation from the coast to Kariba had presented many challenges. It has an ill-fated career, not long after its arrival it struck an underwater obstacle and was badly damaged. After extensive repairs, it was brought back into service again, but the loss of revenue and the expense of the repairs caused financial problems. The boat was eventually sold in South Africa.⁶

THE STAMPS



SG ²	RSC ³	Value	Description	Print colours
441c	690	3c	RMS Truck	Black, magenta, yellow & cyan
442c	691	4c	Statue of Cecil Rhodes	Black, magenta, yellow & cyan
443b	692	6c	Hydrofoil	Black, magenta, yellow & cyan
	a.		Red line through frame line	
443c	693	7½c	Victoria Falls	Black, magenta, yellow & cyan
446a	694	14c	Kariba	Black, magenta, yellow & cyan

Technical Details

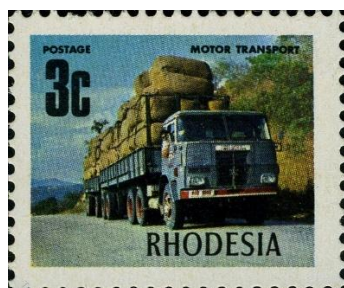
Stamp sizes:	Low values – 3c & 4c – 26 x 22 mm Middle values – 6c, 7½c & 14c – 30 x 26 mm			
Sheet Sizes:	Low values – 3c & 4c – 100 stamps, 10 rows x 10 columns Other values – 6c, 7½c & 14c – 50 stamps, 10 rows x 5 columns			
Printing plates:	Two set of printing plates were produced for each value, being cylinders 1A and 1B. Both sets of printing plates were printed side by side on the same printing sheet, these were later separated.			
Papers & Gums:	The Mashonaland Guide describes the papers used as “White coated paper. Brown cream gum. The paper varies considerably, not only from value to value, but within the run of one value”⁴ The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue merely states the paper to be “white with brown gum”³ This is the Chromo paper with brown gum, which is non-fluorescent both back and front. (Type 10)			
Imprint Type & position	Lower values – 3c & 4c - Type PI 7 bottom margin below columns 4 to 7 (4 values) Other values – 6c, 7½c & 14c – Type PI 8 bottom margin below columns 2 to 4 (3 values)			
Colour indicators and position	All values Type TL 4, round within box, left margin opposite R10/1, all reading down – black, magenta, yellow, cyan			
Cylinder numbers and position	All values Type CN 6, bottom margin below R10/1, see individual values			
Sheet Value and position	All values, Type 3. Lower values – 3c & 4c, bottom margin below R10/10 Other values – 6c, 7½c & 14c, bottom margin below R10/5			
Sheet Numbers	Type SN 5 – reading down PTC 38846			
Sheet number positions	Lower values – 3c & 6c, right margin opposite R10/10 Other values – 6c, 7½c & 14c, right margin opposite R10/5			
Perforating direction	Lower values from right to left Other values from bottom to top Side margins all have one extension perf hole, except for 3rd printing of 3c			
Margins	Top	Right	Bottom	Left
Lower values	One perf	Imperforate	One perf	Perforated
Other values	Perforated	One perf	Imperforate	One perf
Issue date:	1st January, 1973, with subsequent printings issued on different dates, see individual values			

Withdrawal from sale: 14th February, 1975

Demonetarisaton: 1st July, 1978

Sheet numbers and dates of release – see comments below technical details for main issue.

3 cents – RMS Truck



Three substantial printings of this value were undertaken during 1973. In view of the size of the printings it is likely each printing had a separate set of printing plates made. No evidence is forthcoming, at present, that this was the case.

The third printing however brought a variation to the marginal perforations, for the first time the one perforation hole extension to the top and bottom margins was excluded.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing	3 rd printing
Issue date:	1/01/1973	7/05/1973	5/12/1973
	Colour indicators reading down – black, magenta, yellow, cyan		
	Cylinder numbers reading from left – cyan, yellow, magenta, black		
Sheet number types	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 114,600	114,601 – 243,300	243,301 – 308,300
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	229,200	257,400	130,000
Number of stamps	22,920,000	25,740,000	13,000,000
Marginal perforations:			
Perforating direction	Right to left	Right to left	Right to left
Top & bottom margins	One perf extension	One perf extension	<i>No extension hole</i>
Right margin	Imperforate	Imperforate	Imperforate
Left margin	Perforated	Perforated	Perforated

New plate production

With there being three printings of this duty, it is likely that new plates were produced. Examination of the cylinder numbers indicate that more than one plate was produced by comparing the position of the cylinder numbers with the stamp's duty, as shown below. Without the rest of the double row with the sheet number it is not possible to say which these printings are. In the case of this 3c duty, the 3rd printing can be identified as the printing does not have a perf extension in the bottom margin. Thanks to Terry Cowlard for these scans.



3rd printing

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁵ (Note: The Guide does not mention the additional printings of this value, therefore the varieties listed below are in respect of the first printing only)

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A	3	3	Dot under 'OT' of Motor

Unlisted varieties

 Red flare to right of stamp, number found including on R9/2 of third printing	 Red/orange fare to right of truck	 Red marks below windscreen in front of driver
Double printing of black. This was taken from a double row of 20 stamps, where the doubling gets progressively stronger from right to left.		
Colour variation between stamps, cyan appears to be lighter in column 10, resulting in a light blue sky and less greenery in trees to right. <i>(Courtesy Dave Trathen)</i>		

4 cents – Cecil Rhodes Statue



Single printing

	1st printing
Issue date:	1/01/1973
Colour indicators, reading down	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan
Cylinder numbers reading from left	Cyan Yellow Magenta Black
Sheet number types	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 39,300
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	78,600
Number of stamps	7,860,000

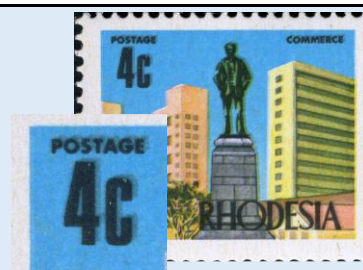
The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁵

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A	1	9	White dot left of head
		6	6	Black scratch across balcony on right-hand building
		8	3	White line cutting right arm of statue
	1B	1	9	White dot left of head

Unlisted variety

Double black printing giving impression of a shadow to all black printing

(Courtesy Dave Trathen)



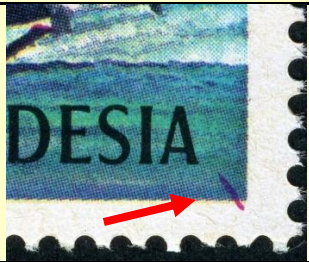
6 cents – Hydrofoil



Single printing

	1 st printing
Issue date:	1/01/1973
Colour indicators, reading down	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan
Cylinder numbers reading from left	Cyan Yellow Magenta Black
Sheet number types	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 39,900
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	79,800
Number of stamps	3,990,000

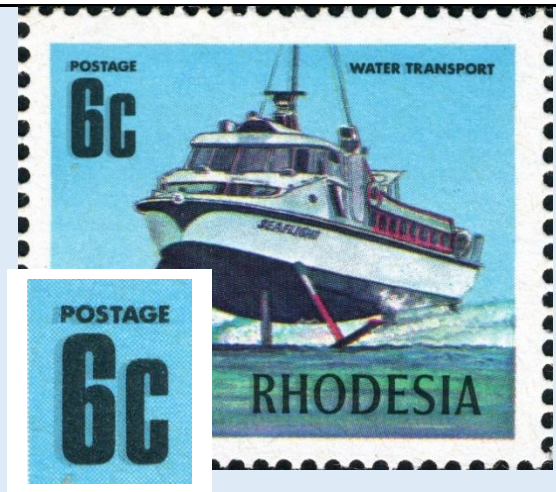
The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁵

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A	1	4	Two black dots on white portion of the hull before the name "Seaflight"
		5	3	Red dash in bottom right-hand corner RSC 692a red line through frameline 
		9	1	Red dot to the right of the mast
	1B	10	2	Red vertical mark on the white portion of the hull

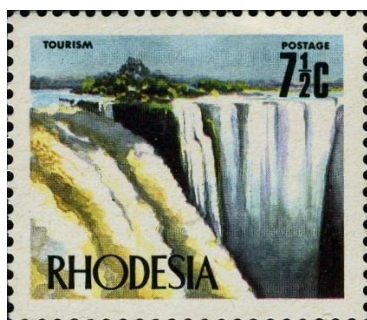
Unlisted varieties

Double black printing giving impression of a shadow to all black printing

(Courtesy Dave Trathen)



7½ cents – Victoria Falls



Two printings, probably
from same set of printing
plates

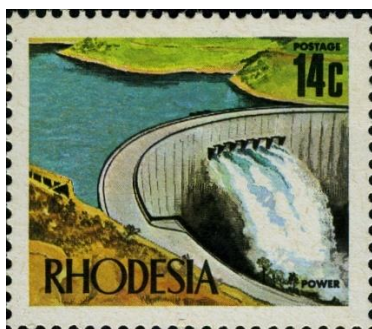
	1 st printing	2 nd printing
Issue date:	1/01/1973	1/02/1973
Colour indicators, reading down	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan
Cylinder numbers reading from left	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan
Sheet number types	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 7,600	7601 – 22,700
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	15,200	30,200
Number of stamps	760,000	1,510,000

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁵ (Note: The Guide does not mention the additional printings of this value, therefore the varieties listed below are in respect of the first printing only)

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A	1	2	Black dot attached to top of 'D' of Rhodesia

14 cents – Kariba



Two printings, probably from same set of printing plates.

	1 st printing	2 nd printing
Issue date:	1/01/1973	13/08/1973
Colour indicators, reading down	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan
Cylinder numbers reading from left	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan	Black Magenta Yellow Cyan
Sheet number types	Type SN 5 Down	Type SN 5 Down
Sheet numbers	001 – 15,500	15,501 – 21,000
Number of sheets, 1A & 1B	31,000	11,000
Number of stamps	1,550,000	550,000

Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide listed the following varieties.⁵ (Note: guide does not mention the additional printings of this value, therefore the varieties listed below is in respect of the first printing only)

Printing	Sheet	Row	Col	
1 st printing	1A	6	5	Black dot before '14' of value

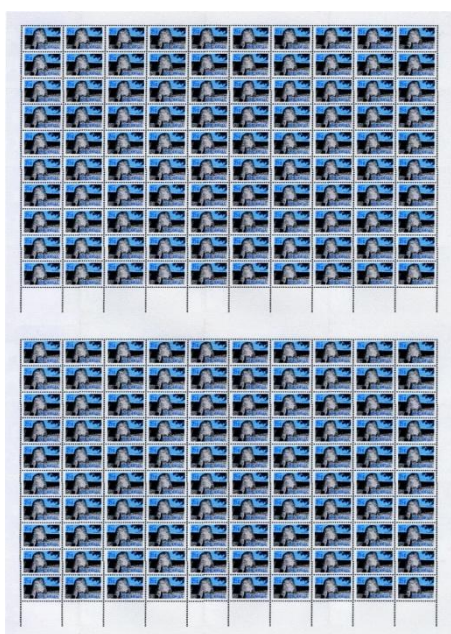
BOOKLETS

1970, 1972 & 1973 booklets

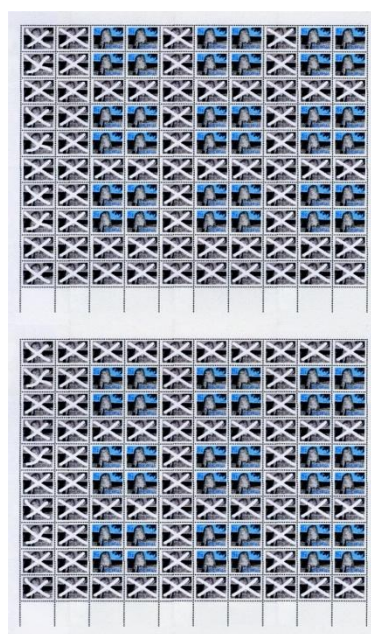
The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue states the following:

“A method of production was devised using the normal film positives (A & B cylinders combined), and blanking out the areas between each group of four stamps. The remaining blocks of four stamps were then printed and perforated as a whole sheet and the sheet was cut into 18 booklet panes. The result was four different types of perforated booklet panes.”³

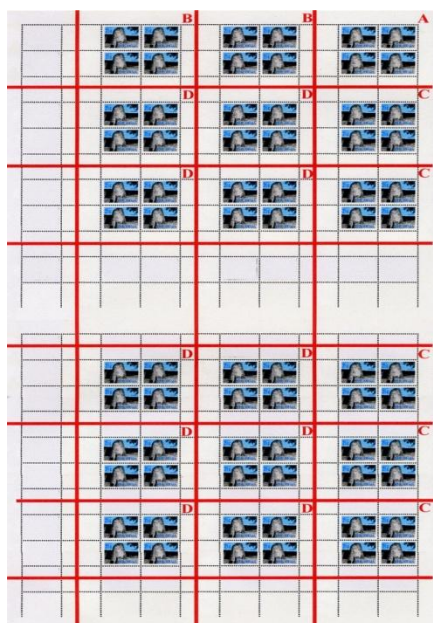
The following illustrates how the Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue suggests the booklet panes were produced.



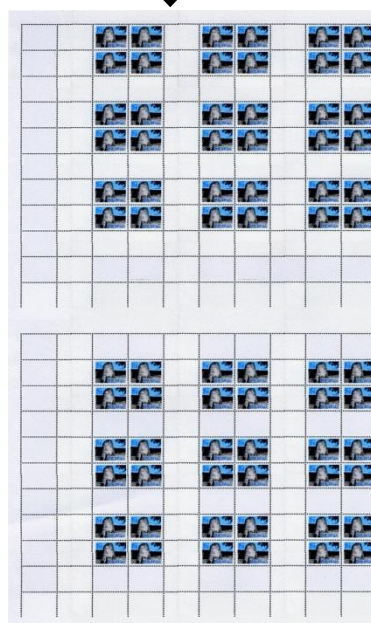
A normal printed sheet with two panes



The intermediate stamps "blanked out"



The cut lines for the booklet panes.



The printed sheet with booklet panes

The result of the cutting of the printing sheets was that each sheet would provide one booklet pane “A” (margins top and right not perforated through); two booklet panes “B” (top margin not perforated through); five booklet panes “C” (right margin not perforated through); and ten booklet panes “D” (all margins perforated through).

The Mashonaland Guide did not attempt examine the booklet panes for varieties, indeed apart from a basic description of the booklet they were ignored. However, the Guide did, through A S Arnott record the varieties when the Rhophil miniature sheets were released, and indeed recorded the position of each sheetlet in the printed sheet. If varieties are required for the booklets, it is suggested that the varieties shown for the Rhophil 72 issue be examined. But it is pointed out that some of the varieties listed may be due to the additional “overprinting” sheet.

46 cent Booklet



Front cover of first issued booklet, with production crease below the staple

Main Postage Rates for Letters			
Surface	1st oz.	Add. oz.	
Rhodesia	2½c	2c	
Malawi, Zambia	2½c	2c	
S. Africa	2½c	2c	
Botswana			
Mocambique	2½c	2c	
Britain	5c	3½c	
Europe, Asia	5c	3½c	
Americas	5c	3½c	
Australasia	2½c	2c	
Air	1st oz.	Add. oz.	Aero-gramme
Rhodesia	2½c	2c	2½c
Malawi, Zambia,	3½c	2½c	2½c
S. Africa, Botswana, Mocambique			
Britain, Europe	15c	8c	
Australasia, Asia	20c	10c	
Americas	25c	10c	

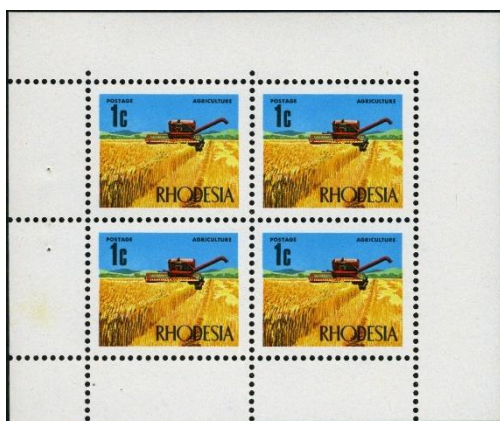
Inside front cover



Front cover to second issued booklet, without production crease

SG ²	RSC ³	Value	Description
SB9	B12A	46c booklet	Booklet with type A panes
	B12B		Booklet with type B panes
	B12C		Booklet with type C panes
	B12D		Booklet with type D panes
439a	BP 16A	1c booklet pane of 4	Type A
	BP 16B		Type B
	a.	Dot between 'T' & 'A' of Postage (1 st printing only)	
	BP 16C		Type C
	BP 16D		Type D
	a.	Dot between 'T' & 'A' of Postage (1 st printing only)	
441a	BP 17A	2½c booklet pane of 4	Type A
	BP 17B		Type B
	BP 17C		Type C
	a.	Broken wall (1 st printing only)	
	BP 17D		Type D

- 442a BP 19A 3½c booklet pane of 4 Type A
 BP 19B Type B
 BP 19C Type C
 BP 19D Type D



Booklet pane type A with imperforate right margin and single perforation hole to top margin.



Booklet pane type B with top margin having single perforation hole



Booklet pane type C with imperforate right margin



Booklet pane type D with all margins perforated

Technical details

- Issue date First printing – 17th February, 1970
 Second printing – 16th July, 1971
- Booklet size: 66 x 77 mm

Cover design Yellow plain cover with wording “Postage Stamps 46c” to outside front and back covers, printed in red

First printing front cover with production crease below staple, back cover without crease.

Second printing front and back covers without creases.

Front inside covers for both printings with postage rates printed in red. Little difference noted between printings.

Contents: Panes of 4 –
 3 x 1c (SG439, RSC 676)
 2 x 2½c (SG441, RSC 678)
 1 x 3½c (SG442, RSC 679)

Pane margins:	Sheet	Top	Right	Bottom	Left
	A	One perf	Imperf	Perforated	Perforated
	B	One perf	Perforated	Perforated	Perforated
	C	Perforated	Imperf	Perforated	Perforated
	D	Perforated	Perforated	Perforated	Perforated

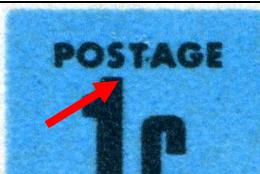
Number issued: First printing: 36,600 booklets
 Second printing: 7,200 booklets

Booklet printer's marks See section below for detailed study

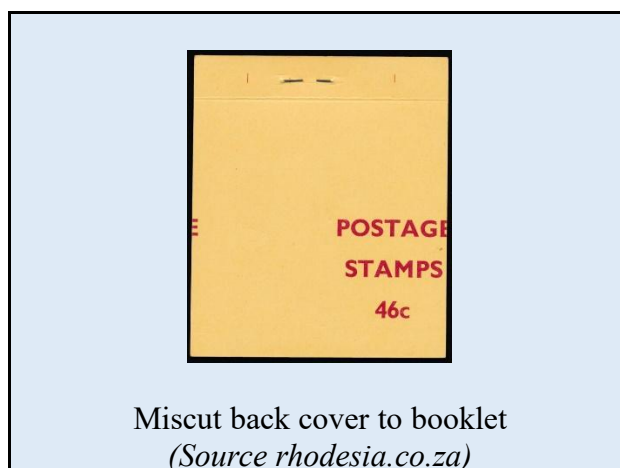
Withdrawn from sale: 3rd June 1973

Demonetarised: 1st July, 1978

Listed varieties

1c – dot between ‘T’ & ‘A’ of Postage. RSC676a, BP16Ba, BP16Da		2½c – Broken Wall RSC 678a, BP17Ca	
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Unlisted variety



Plating study of the 1970 46c booklet

Phil Clarke asked a question about various red markings he had observed on the covers of two of his 46c 1970 booklets. Both booklets had different positions for these red dashes. There was little doubt that these were printer's marks on the covers, but the question arose of why the red dashes were different on the pages. With the help of more booklets from various collections, it is possible to give an authoritative insight in these markings and to be able to "plate" the majority of the booklets.

Compiling the booklets.

In studying the booklets, the first aspect of note was how well the booklets were produced. Unlike previous booklets none of the panes appear to have been miscut, and all booklets lined up with the booklet pane contents. This led to the conclusion of how the booklet were put together and guillotined.

The booklet panes were printed with the two panes compiled, as shown in the complete printing sheet, once perforated, as illustration below. The front and back covers of the booklets were also printed. It has been noted that the red printer's marks on the front cover were exactly mirrored for the back cover. With the first printing, the front cover had a production fold introduced to the top of the booklet, which easily distinguishes it from the second printing. The booklet cover sheets were printed in landscape format, so as to tie in with the format of the booklet panes.

Once all printing was completed, the little printed sheets of stamps were assembled, in the right order with 3 sheets of 1c panes, 2 x 2½c and 1 x 3½c. Whilst assembling them sheets of glassine paper were placed on the gum side of each stamp pane. Once this was assembled the front and back booklet covers were added to the assembly. It is then likely that the individual booklets were stapled, before the complete assembly of sheets were guillotined. Whilst the majority of the booklets were stapled correctly, there is evidence of double and/or misplaced staples, that were removed.

Examining markings on booklets

The booklets are best examined with the front cover of the booklet in landscape format with the staple on the left. The exercise could also be conducted from the back with the staple to the right, the markings being a mirror image of the front cover. The booklets are described below with reference to the type of booklet pane within, i.e., as A, B, C or D booklets.

In general terms, the booklets with markings are on the top and bottom edges with three red dashes. From left to right, the first dash is placed at about the line of the production crease; the second is central in line with the top of the word “POSTAGE”; and the third on the right close to the edge of the booklet.

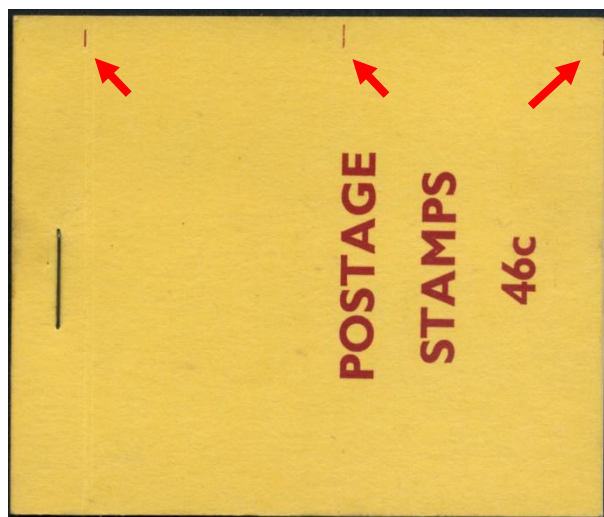
There are, also, the markings on the left of the booklet, again with three red dashes, although one is not always used. The first is close to the top of the booklet; the central is central; and the third towards the bottom (but is not always present). With all booklets, there are no red dashes on the right side of the booklet. Finally, there are booklets without red dashes, these are with C & D booklets only.

First printing of the 46c booklet

Booklet A

All A booklet have these three dashes to the top booklet edge. This is a key booklet as there is only one booklet produced for each printed sheet.

On the printed sheet, this is therefore in Row 1, Column 3

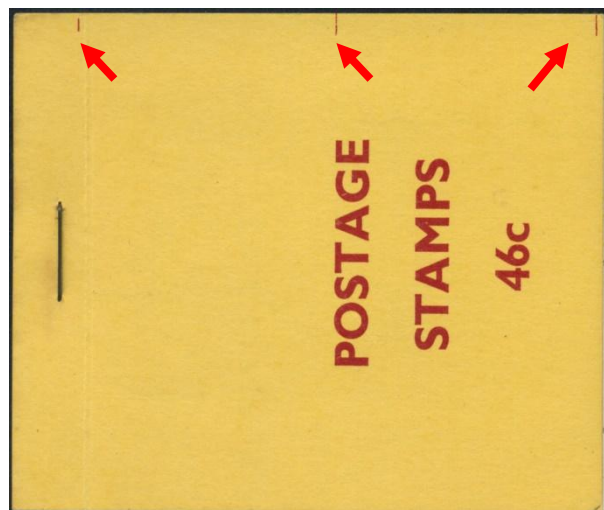


Booklet B

This booklet comes in two forms, the first with dashes as with the A pane.

Position Row 1 column 2

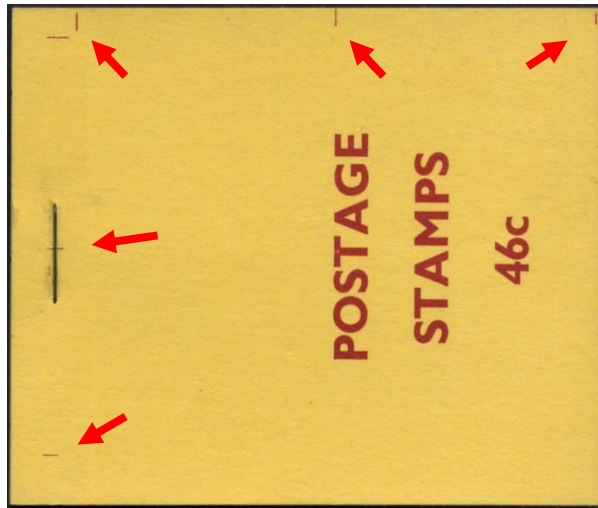
It is in this booklet that the dot between 2” & “A” of postage variety can be found, in Row 2 column 2 of the pane.



Booklet B

This booklet has red dashes on both the top and left side. The top dashes are the in the same locations as with the A Pane. On the left side there is a dash to the top, which with the left dash of the top margin, makes it look like a sheet corner.

Due to the edge corner dashes this places this booklet at Row 1 Column 1



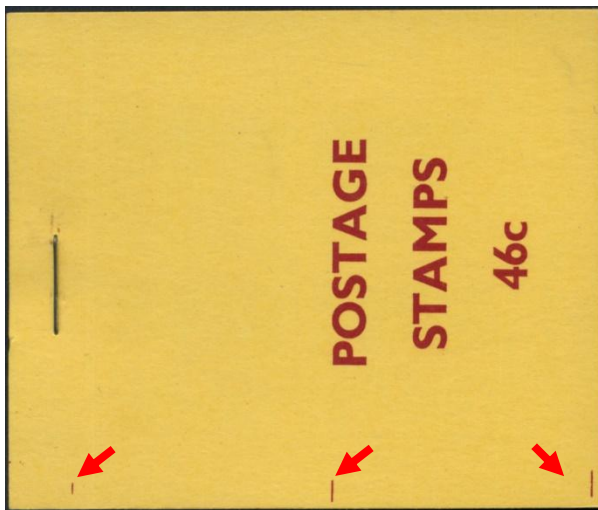
Booklet C

One of the C Booklet has the three red dashes that are a mirror image of the A booklet, with three dashes on the bottom edge rather than at the top.

This booklet is likely to be from position row 6 Column 3

Other C booklets have no markings, and thus likely to be from Column C Rows 2 to 5.

It is within this booklet that the “Broken Wall” variety can be found on both booklet panes.

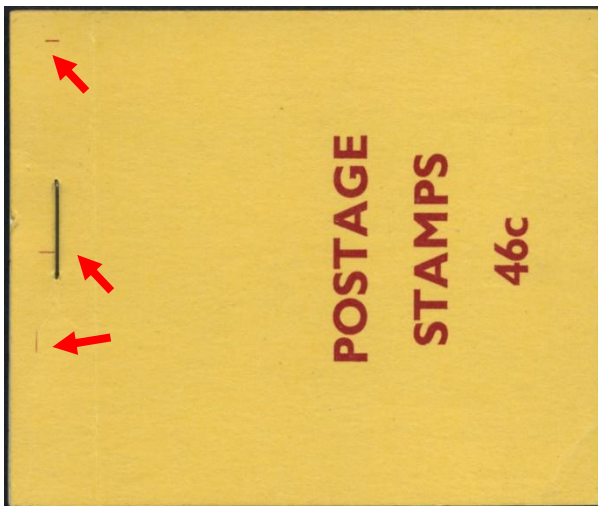


Booklet D

The D booklet comes from Columns 1 and 2, rows 2 to 6. (Total of 10 booklets).

Some D booklet come without any markings, which are presumed to be from column 2, rows 2 to 5.

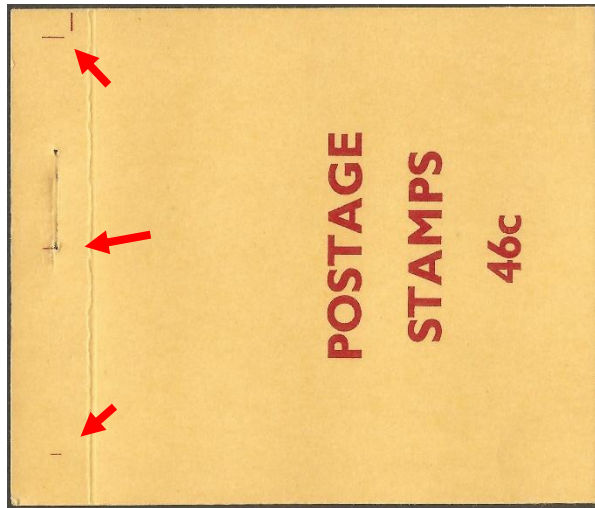
The booklet opposite has two horizontal red dashes, with one close to the top and the other central. There is, in addition, a third vertical dash in the lower part of the booklet. This booklet is likely to come from Column 1 Row 2 or 4.



Booklet D

The booklet opposite has four dashes. In the top left corner are both horizontal and vertical dashes indicating a sheet corner. In addition, there is a central dash and one at the bottom

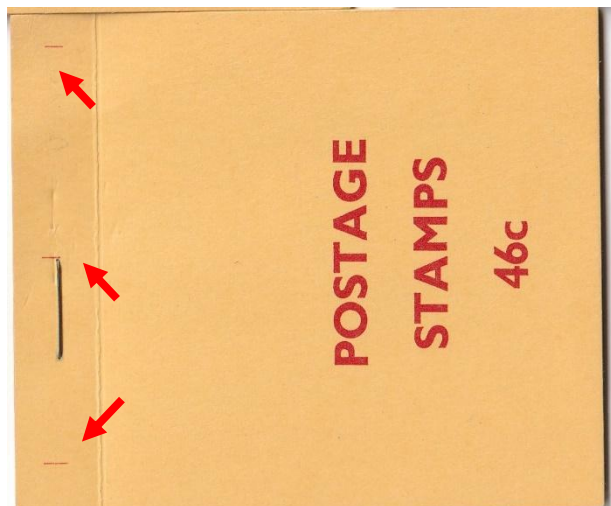
Due to the “corner” marking this booklet is likely to come from column 1 Row 4



Booklet D

The booklet opposite has three dashes to the left side

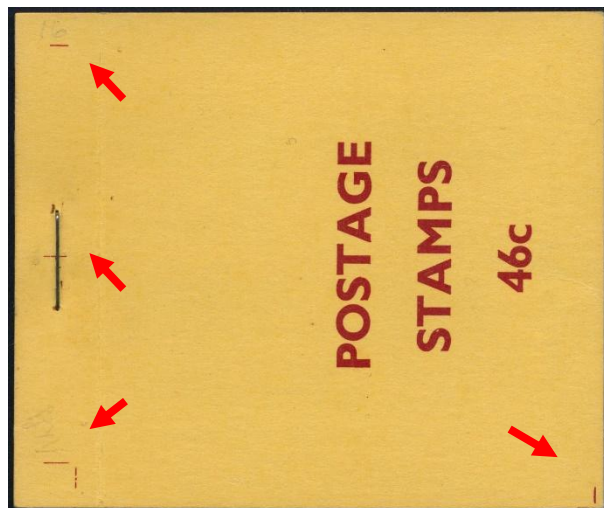
This booklet is likely to come from Column 1 Row 2 or 4.



Booklet D

The booklet opposite has the three dashes to the left side, with two vertical dashes to the bottom, two of which forms the “corner” marking. Below the dash to the bottom left is an additional horizontal dash, although much lighter in colour

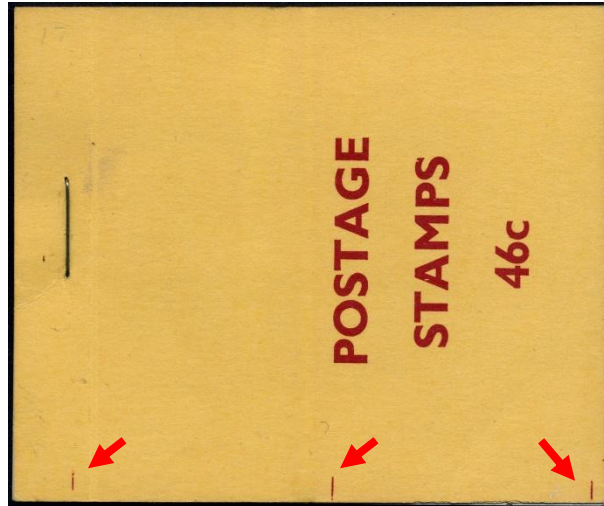
This booklet is likely to come from position Row 6 Column 1



Booklet D

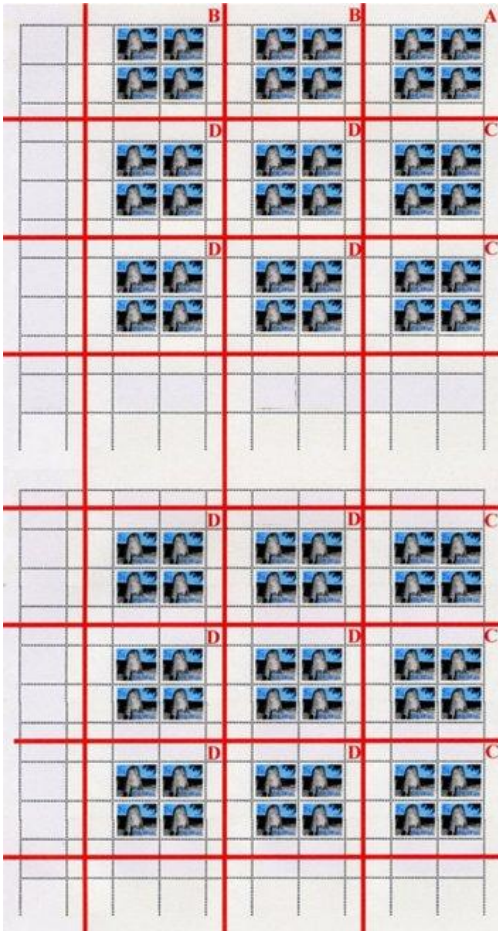
The booklet has three vertical dashes to the bottom.

The booklet is likely to come from Row 6 Column 2



Of all the material made available for this study, it was remarkable that the D booklets had the least number to study even though there were more of these booklets produced than the other three. From this study, it is suggested that there are possible one other D booklets not seen. The first would be from position R3/C1, which is likely to be similar to the R6/C1 booklet but without the right-hand vertical dash. Further information required.

Below is a summary of the location of all the red dashed, where is can be seen that the red dashes are along all the edges of the sheets, save that on the right.



B	B	A
D	D	C
D	D	C

(Gap between panes)

D	D	C
D	D	C
D	D	C

Production errors of the booklet.

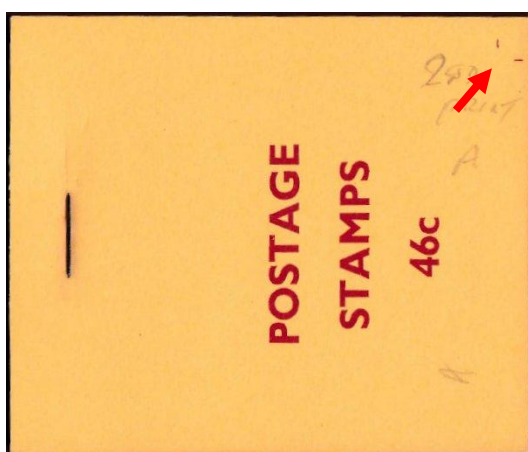
Jefferson Ritson reported that he possessed a D booklet with a double front cover.

Second Printing of 46c booklet

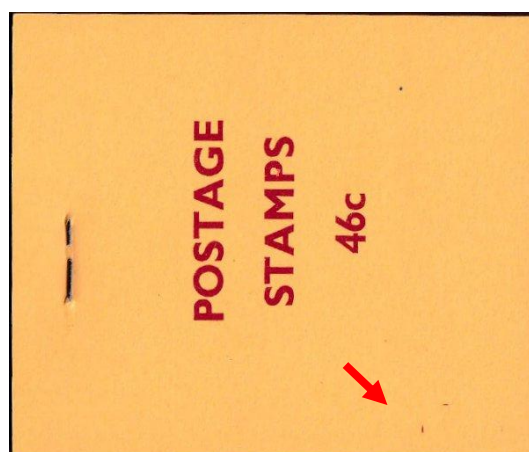
The second printing of this booklet is easily distinguishable from the first printing, in so far as there is no production crease to the front page. Examination of the second printing booklets shows that the red dashes have been largely eliminated.

However, the red dashes do appear on these booklets, to date these have been found on all booklet pane types, where most dashes appear to be in the corner positions. The dashes are in the same locations as the 1st printing booklets, with the B booklet has both horizontal and vertical dashes. But what is different to the first printing is that the dashes on the back of the booklets are not mirror images of the front but are very different

The only D booklet seen to date appears to have the same markings as for the first printing in position Row 6 column 2, which is unusual. Other D booklets examined have no markings, but the dashes could exist on booklet from column 1.



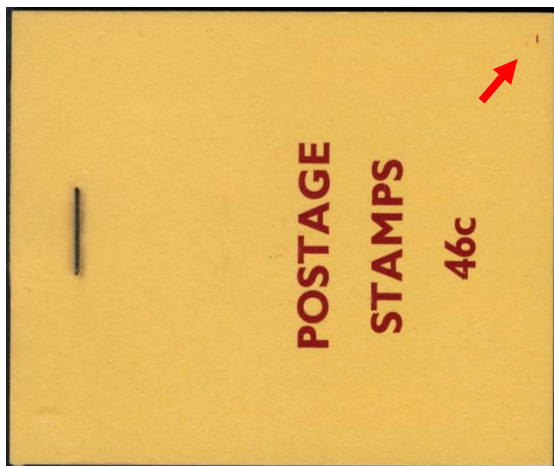
Booklet A (R1/C3) front



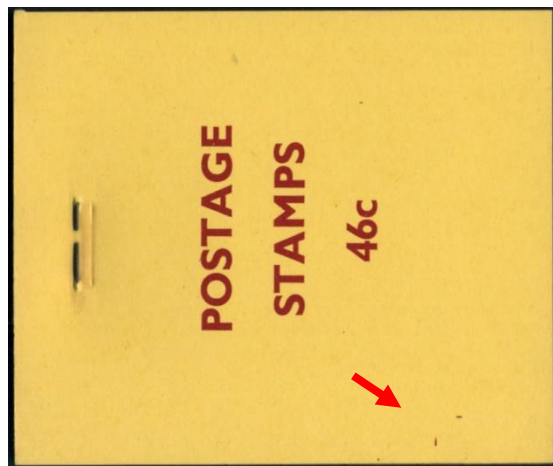
Booklet A (R1/C3) back

A pane booklet with both the front and back covers having the double 'corner' dashes, but in different positions. On the front the dashes are in the bottom left, whilst the back has the dashes on left side away from the bottom corner.

(Courtesy of Dave Trathen and Keith Harrop)

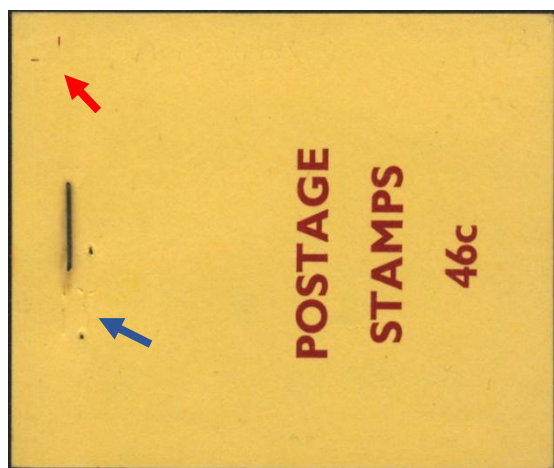


Booklet A (R1/C3) front

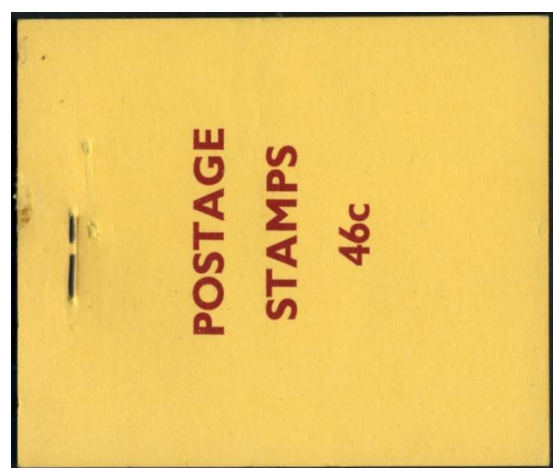


Booklet A (R1/C3) back

A pane booklet, with front having a single red dash of the front to bottom right, whilst the back of the booklet has a double 'corner' dashes towards the left corner. The difference between this booklet and the one above is that there were slightly different cuts, resulting in the single dash on the front.

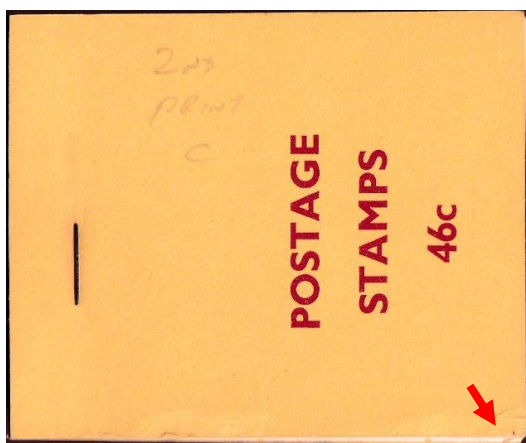


Booklet B (R1/C1) front

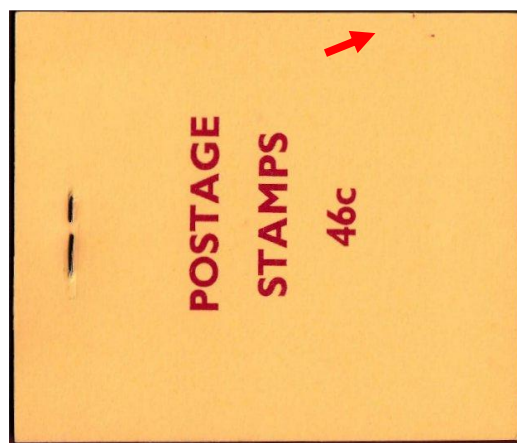


Booklet B (R1/C1) back

B pane booklet with the double 'corner' dashes to the front top right corner, but there are no dashes found on the back of the booklet

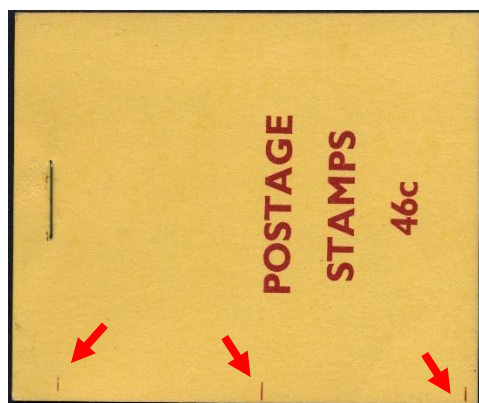


Booklet C (R6/C3) front

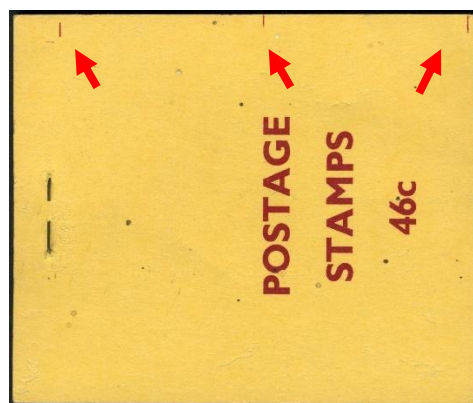


Booklet C (R6/C3) back

C pane booklet with a single dash to bottom left of front, and double 'corner' dashes to the right side away from the bottom corner
(Courtesy of Keith Harrop)



Booklet D (R6C2) front



Booklet D (R6C2) back

D pane booklet with three dashes to the bottom on front, and three dashes to top on back. This appears to be the same as for the first printing booklet for position Row 6 column 2 but without the production crease to the front

The number of second printing booklets examined were however small in number, which is not surprising given that only 7,200 booklets were produced, compared to 36,600 for the first printing.

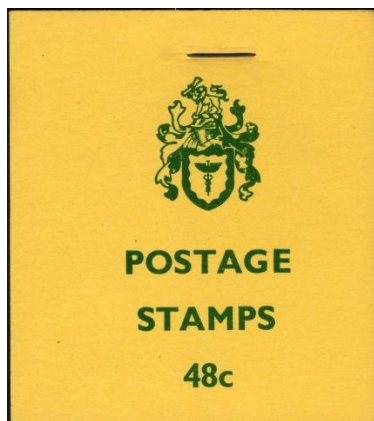
With the B Booklet above, it was noted that it has been double stapled (blue arrow), with the staple penetrating through all panes.

The broken wall variety is not evident in the above C booklet, nor is it evident that the 'dot between 'T' & 'A' of 'Postage' variety has been found in any B booklet examined. It is probable that the stamp panes in the second printing booklets was recreated.

Thanks go to Phil Clarke, Narendhra Morar, Jefferson Ritson, Dave Trathen and Keith Harrop for supplying scans of the booklets in their possession. Further information was found on rhodesia.co.za and eBay.

It was thought that the above research was not previously undertaken, but there was a series of articles in the Magnify newsletter of the Royal Philatelic Society of Bulawayo in November 1970, January 1974 (R L F Short) and February 1974 (Valentine Hogg) had explored the booklets and the markings. The above analysis confirms and adds to the articles produced.

48 cent Booklet



Front and back cover

Main Airmail Postage Rates for Letters

<i>Rhodesia</i>		
up to 20 g	2½c	
over 20 g up to 50 g	4½c	
over 50 g up to 100 g	6c	
over 100 g up to 250 g	14c	
over 250 g up to 500 g	25c	
each additional 500 g	15c	
<i>Botswana, Malawi, Mocambique, S. Africa, Zambia</i>		
up to 20 g	2½c	
over 20 g up to 50 g	6c	
over 50 g up to 100 g	10c	
over 100 g up to 250 g	20c	
over 250 g up to 500 g	40c	
over 500 g up to 1 kg	60c	
over 1 kg up to 2 kg	90c	
each additional 1 kg	30c	
Aerogramme each	2½c	
<i>Britain and Europe</i>		
13c per 10 g—Aerogramme	7c each	
<i>Asia and Australia</i>		
20c per 10 g—Aerogramme	10c each	
<i>North and South America</i>		
25c per 10 g—Aerogramme	10c each	

Inside front cover, showing airmail postage rates

Main Surface Mail Postage Rates for Letters

<i>Rhodesia</i>		
up to 20 g	2½c	
over 20 g up to 50 g	4½c	
over 50 g up to 100 g	6c	
over 100 g up to 250 g	14c	
over 250 g up to 500 g	25c	
each additional 500 g	15c	
<i>Botswana, Malawi, Mocambique, S. Africa, Zambia</i>		
<i>British Commonwealth and H.M. Dominions</i>		
up to 20 g	2½c	
over 20 g up to 50 g	4½c	
over 50 g up to 100 g	6c	
over 100 g up to 250 g	14c	
over 250 g up to 500 g	25c	
over 500 g up to 1 kg	40c	
over 1 kg up to 2 kg	70c	
each additional 1 kg	30c	
<i>Any other country</i>		
up to 20 g	5c	
over 20 g up to 50 g	9c	
over 50 g up to 100 g	12c	
over 100 g up to 250 g	28c	
over 250 g up to 500 g	50c	
over 500 g up to 1 kg	80c	
over 1 kg up to 2 kg	\$1.30c	

Inside back cover showing surface mail rates

SG ²	RSC ³	Value	Description
SB10	B13A B13B B13C B13D	48c booklet	Booklet with type A panes Booklet with type B panes Booklet with type C panes Booklet with type D panes
439a	BP 16A BP 16B BP 16C BP 16D	1c booklet pane of 4	Type A Type B Type C Type D
441a	BP 17A BP 17B BP 17C BP 17D	2½c booklet pane of 4	Type A Type B Type C Type D

Technical details

Issue date	10 th April, 1972
Booklet size:	66 x 77 mm
Cover design	Cover with PTC logo with wording "Postage Stamps 46c" to outside front and back covers, printed in green. Inside front cover showing airmail rates, with inside back cover showing surface mail rates, both printed in green.

Contents: Panes of 4 –
 2 x 1c (SG439a, RSC 676)
 4 x 2½c (SG441, RSC 678)

Pane margins: As with 46c booklet

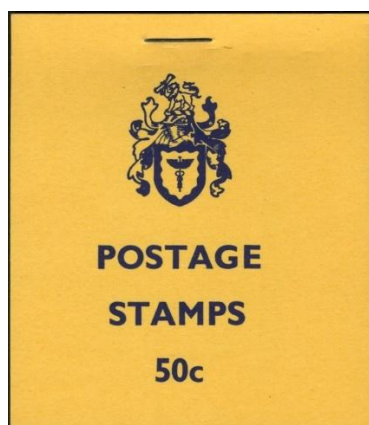
Number issued: 7,200 booklets

Booklet printer's marks: No printer's marks on booklet covers

Withdrawn from sale: 14th February, 1975

Demonetarised: 1st July, 1978

50 cent Booklet



Front & back cover

Main Surface Mail Postage Rates for Letters		
<i>Rhodesia</i>	up to 20 g	2½c
	over 20 g up to 50 g	4½c
	over 50 g up to 100 g	6c
	over 100 g up to 250 g	14c
	over 250 g up to 500 g	25c
	each additional 500 g	15c
<i>Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, S. Africa, Zambia</i>	up to 20 g	2½c
<i>British Commonwealth and H.M. Dominions</i>	up to 20 g	2½c
	over 20 g up to 50 g	4½c
	over 50 g up to 100 g	6c
	over 100 g up to 250 g	14c
	over 250 g up to 500 g	25c
	over 500 g up to 1 kg	40c
	over 1 kg up to 2 kg	70c
	each additional 1 kg	30c
<i>Any other country</i>	up to 20 g	5c
	over 20 g up to 50 g	9c
	over 50 g up to 100 g	12c
	over 100 g up to 250 g	28c
	over 250 g up to 500 g	50c
	over 500 g up to 1 kg	80c
	over 1 kg up to 2 kg	\$1.30c

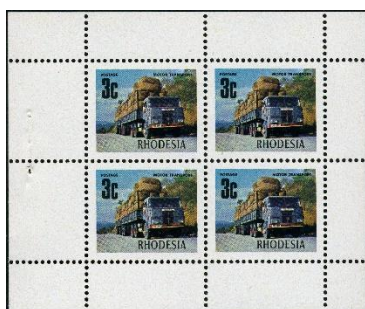
Inside front cover
showing airmail rates

Main Airmail Postage Rates for Letters		
<i>Rhodesia</i>	up to 20 g	2½c
	over 20 g up to 50 g	4½c
	over 50 g up to 100 g	6c
	over 100 g up to 250 g	14c
	over 250 g up to 500 g	25c
	each additional 500 g	15c
<i>Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, S. Africa, Zambia</i>	up to 20 g	3½c
	over 20 g up to 50 g	6c
	over 50 g up to 100 g	10c
	over 100 g up to 250 g	20c
	over 250 g up to 500 g	40c
	over 500 g up to 1 kg	60c
	over 1 kg up to 2 kg	90c
	each additional 1 kg	30c
<i>Aerogramme</i>	each	2½c
<i>Britain and Europe</i>	13c per 10 g—Aerogramme	7c each
<i>Asia and Australia</i>	20c per 10 g—Aerogramme	10c each
<i>North and South America</i>	25c per 10 g—Aerogramme	10c each

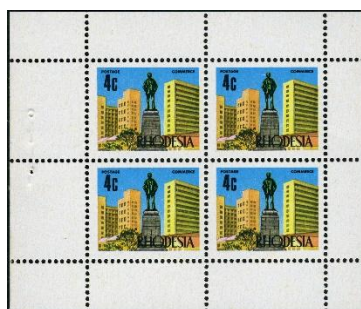
Inside back cover
showing surface mail
rates

SG ²	RSC ³	Value	Description
SB11	B143A	50c booklet	Booklet with type A panes
	B14B		Booklet with type B panes
	B14C		Booklet with type C panes
	B14D		Booklet with type D panes
441a	BP 17A	2½c booklet pane of 4	Type A
	BP 17B		Type B
	BP 17C		Type C
	BP 17D		Type D

441ca	BP18A BP18B BP18C BP18D	3c booklet pane of 4	Type A Type B Type C Type D
442ba	BP20A BP20B BP20C BP20D	4c booklet pane of 4	Type A Type B Type C Type D



3c booklet pane type D



4c booklet pane type D

Technical details

Issue date	7 th May 1973
Booklet size:	66 x 77 mm
Cover design	Cover with PTC logo with wording “Postage Stamps 50c” to outside front and back covers, printed in blue. Inside front cover showing surface mail rates, with inside back cover showing airmail rates, both printed in blue.
Contents:	Panes of 4 – 4 x 2½c (SG441, RSC 678) 2 x 3c (SG441ca, RSC 690) 1 x 4c (SG442ba, RSC 691)
Pane margins:	As with 46c booklet
Number issued:	unknown
Booklet printer's marks	No printer's marks on booklet covers
Withdrawn from sale:	14 th February, 1975
Demonetarised:	1 st July, 1978

First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue listing produced by Geoff Brakspear.

Cover 44.1



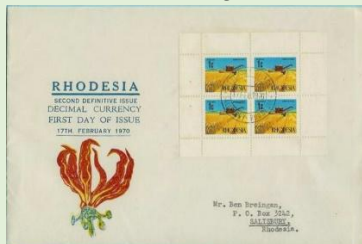
Post Office cover 193 x 128 mm

Cover 44.2



Booklet panes only. 227 x 128 mm

Cover 44.3.1



Booklet panes only. 190 x 127 mm

Cover 44.3.2



227 x 150 mm
(text close together)

Cover 44.3.3



227 x 150 mm
(Text more spaced than 44.3.2)

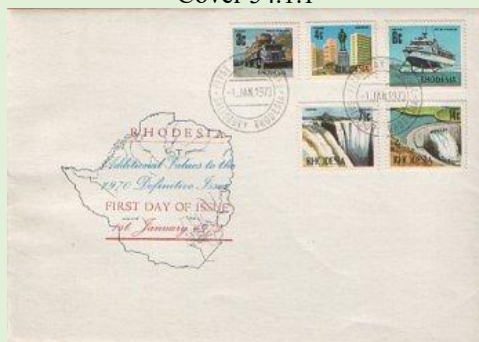
Cover 44.4



227 x 150 mm

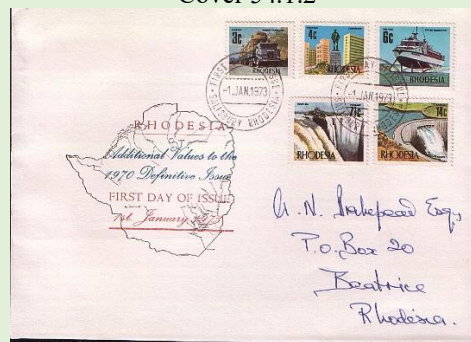
Additional Values

Cover 54.1.1



Text in red and light blue over black outline of Rhodesia.
Dated 1st January 1973. 177 x 124 mm

Cover 54.1.2



Text in red and dark blue over black outline of Rhodesia.
Dated 1st January 1973. 177 x 124 mm

Cover 54.1.3



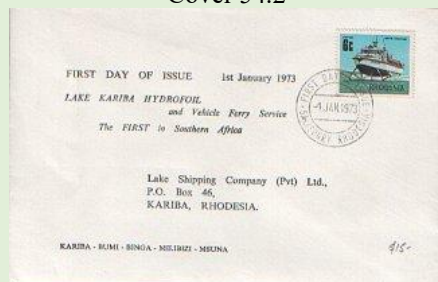
Text in light blue and red over black outline of Rhodesia.
Dated 2nd January 1973. Postmarked 1st January, 1973.
177 x 124 mm

Cover 54.1.4



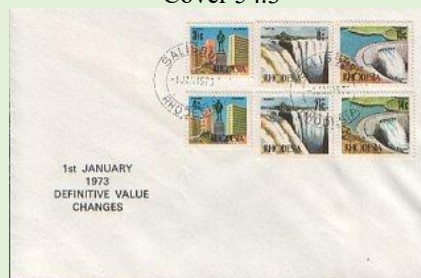
Text in black and light blue over red outline of Rhodesia.
Dated 2nd January 1973. Postmarked 1st January, 1973.
177 x 124 mm

Cover 54.2



Cover with 6c Hydrofoil only
163 x 124 mm

Cover 54.3



163 x 108 mm

Cover 54.4



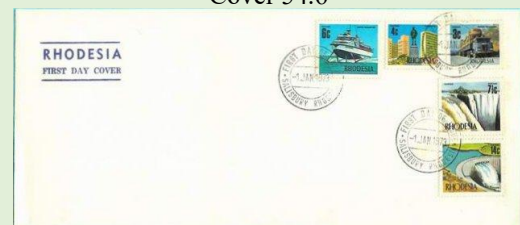
216 x 100 mm

Cover 54.5

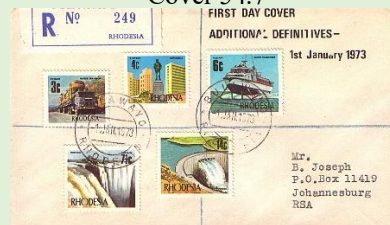


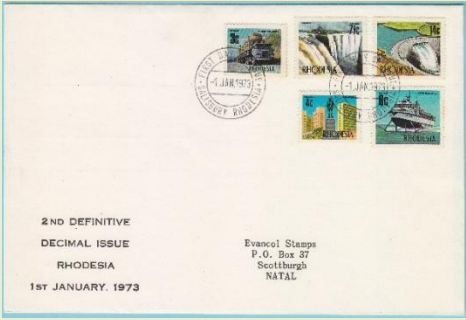
164 x 108 mm

Cover 54.6



Cover 54.7

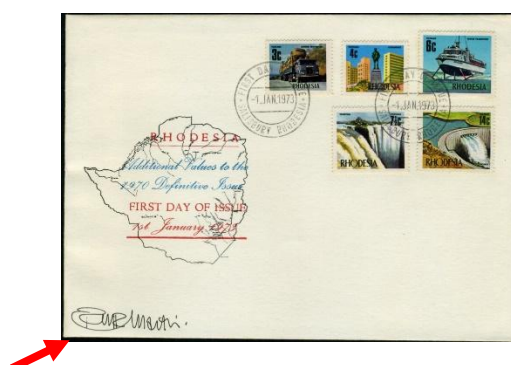


228 x 111 mm	151 x 90 mm
Cover 54.8  190 x 120 mm	
Reprints	
Only one printed cover was produced for the reprints of the 1970 definitive. Unprinted covers are rare. The printed cover to the right was in respect of the release of the third printing of the 1 cent. It was produced as it was considered that there was a change of colour. Dated 2 January 1973, 3rd printing.	Cover 54A.1  151 x 88 mm

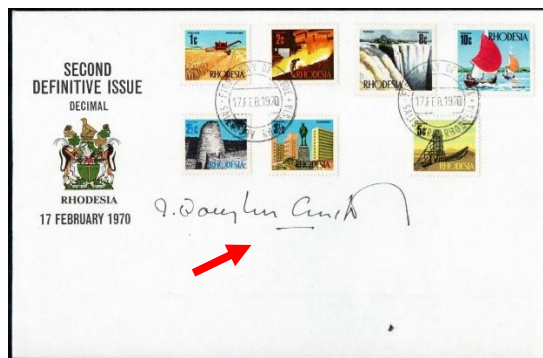
Related material



First Day Cover signed by the artist, Rose Martin

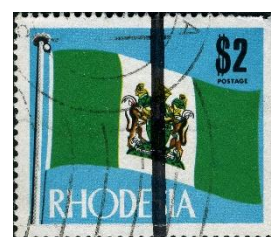
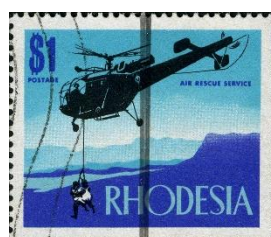
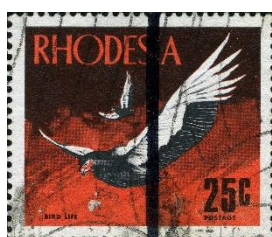


Additional values First Day Cover, signed by artist, Rose Martin



Two first day covers signed by Ian Douglas Smith, Prime Minister

(Source eBay September 2023)



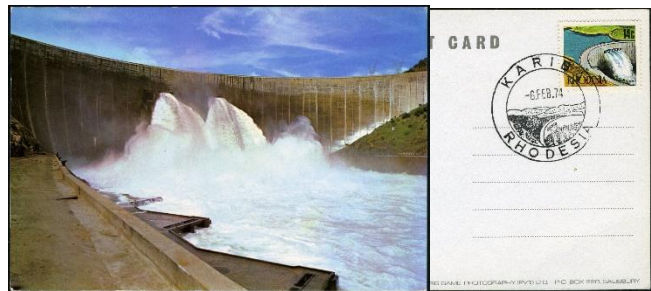
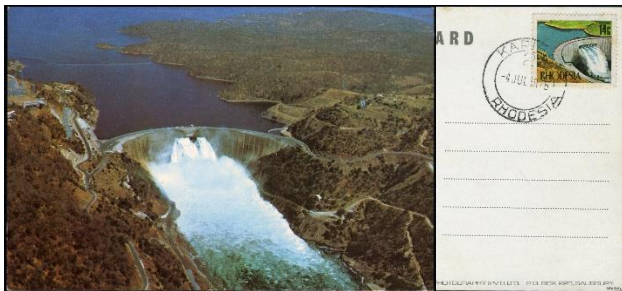
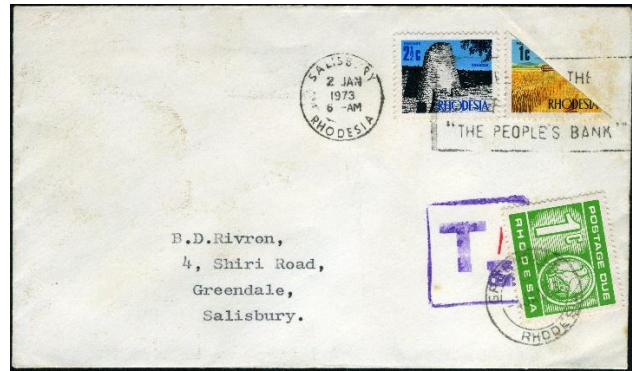
Above are four stamps that were used for training purposes at the Post Office Training School. The stamps have a single bar overprinted vertically. These stamps appear to have been postmarked with a handheld wavy line canceller. The 50c stamp has the later of the city name of (BULA)WAYO. Unusual and, probably rare.



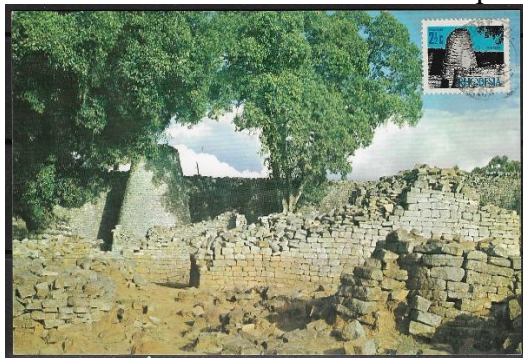
The above illustrations are part of two sheets seen on eBay. The 20c sheet had what appears to be bior drawn lines, which the 25c had a more ruled line, possible done with a felt-tipped pen. Both sheets had "Bulawayo Rhodesia" roller cancellations. Why would two sheets of stamps (with face value of \$10.00 and £12.50 respectively) be used for postage purposes? The 25c is cancelled 17.02.1970, ie on the first day of issue, if the stamps were used for postage purposes then why weren't the higher values used. It is not as if there would have been a shortage! The 20c is cancelled on 19.3.1971, which ten months before the release of the 3rd printing of this value (released 5.01.1972). These sheets are a mystery. They could be used for training purposed but why use a whole sheet for this purpose?

Postage rates increased from 2½c to 3c for local postage on 1st January, 1973. Hence the release of the additional values to the definitive set, including a 3c.

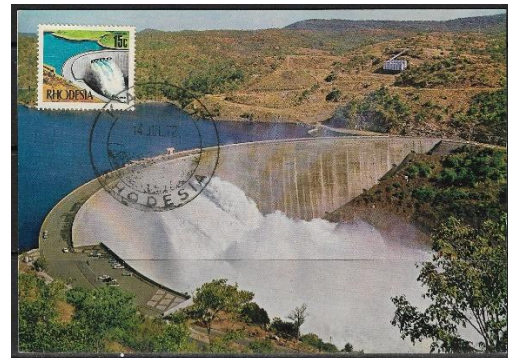
This cover was an attempt to pay the new postage rate with a 2½c stamp, plus a bisected 1c stamp. This was not accepted by the Salisbury Post Office and was taxed 1cent.



Two postcards of Kariba Dam wall, both of which have the 14c Kariba placed on the reverse with different postmarks. The left card having the normal handstamp, whilst that on the right has the pictorial postmark.



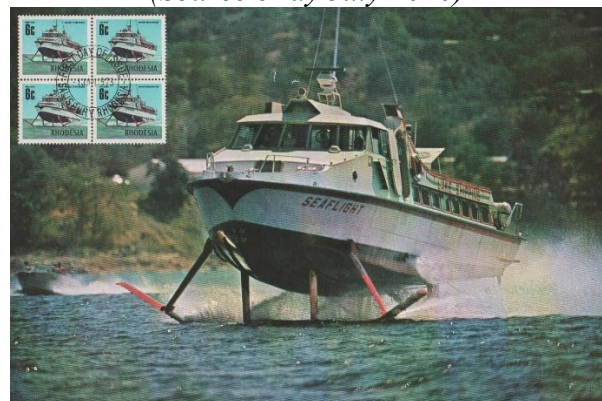
Postcard of Great Zimbabwe, with 2½c stamp on front, postmarked Fort Victoria in 1972
(Source eBay July 2020)



Postcard of Kariba Dam wall with 15c on front, with Kariba pictorial postmark dated 14 Jul 1972
(Source eBay July 2020)

Postcard of Hydrofoil "Seaflight" with block of 4 6c stamps, probably using the same photo for both card and stamps. Postmarked in Salisbury on date of issue, 1st January 1973.

(Courtesy of Chris Halse and the RSC website)



Bibliography

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3. The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue, 1983/84 (last edition), published by Salisbury Stamp Company.
4. “A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia, No 4 1st January, 1968 to 31st August 1972, published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group, 1968.
5. “Rhodesia – the first Decimal Definitive Issue”, by D.A. Mitchell, Magnify, March 1979 (Vol 9 No 12 – 106) and April 1979 (Vol 10 No 1 – 107)
6. “Rhodesia in Stamps” second supplement, R.C. Smith, published 1978, page 85
7. “A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia, No 5 1st September 1973 to October 1978, published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group, 1980 Rhodesian Study Circle Journal Vol. 2 No. 3 – No 244, page 103
8. Magnify newsletter of Royal Philatelic Society of Bulawayo, articles on the 46c booklet in November 1970, January 1974 and February 1974

Surcharging Rhodesia's Mail (Phase 2)

The principal work on this subject was undertaken by D A Mitchell and H T Tring and published in their book "The Surcharging of Rhodesia's Mail". The surcharging of Rhodesia's mail can be broken down into two distinct phases, the first of which involved the use the Independence stamp and the Independence overprints to overseas destinations, this was dealt with under the 1966 Independence overprints section. The second phase relates to stamps issued in 1970, this is dealt with below

After years of negotiation the Wilson Government in the UK, could not reach an agreement to resolve the crisis caused by the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Ian Douglas Smith's Rhodesian Government on 11th November 1965. At the time of UDI, the Queen was declared to still be the Head of State, but because the declaration was not recognised there could be no formal link between the Crown and the Rhodesian Government. Indeed, during the years following UDI, the Queen was still represented by a Governor, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, who still occupied the Governor's residence at State House, although he had no influence over the Rhodesia Government. In effect, the Rhodesian Government was headed by the "Officer Adminstrating the Government", Clifford Dupont, who prior to UDI was the Deputy Prime Minister.

The legality of the Rhodesian Government was challenged in the Rhodesian Courts, where it was found that the government was not just the *de facto* but also the *de jure* government of the country. The effect of this was that all legislation passed by the Rhodesian Parliament was valid, this included the Post and Telegraphs Act, 1954 which controlled the postal services, including the issuing of postage stamps. This was replaced by the Posts & Telecommunications Corporation Act 1970. What is important here is that the British Government did not at any time prior to UDI attempt to repudiate any legislation, including the Post and Telegraphs Act.

On 20th June 1969, the Smith Government held a Referendum under which the voters (principally the white electorate) were requested to vote on two motions. The first was to approve the proposed 1969 Constitution and the second to approve the declaration of a Republic. The "Yes" vote on both issues was 74.48% and 81.01% respectively – which was hardly a surprise. The date selected for the constitutional change to republican status was 2nd March 1970.

Whilst this was going on the Government had decided to decimalise the currency and to convert all imperial measurements to metric. These conversions officially took effect from 17th February 1970, philatelically there was the release of the 1970 definitive issue and postage due labels.

If the British Government had received in any intelligence from Rhodesia, it would be incredible if had not, then it would have known about the 1969 Referendum and the date for the commencement of the Republic. If it was to any way act in respect of the posts received from Rhodesia, then it would have had plenty of notice of the changes and should have sought legal advice on the legality of surcharging Rhodesia's mail to the UK before the Republic came into existence. This is of course assuming that the British Government had control of the country as the colonial power, although it had relinquished most of its powers with the granting of self-government in 1923.

On 16th March 1970, the British Government announced that the new 1970 decimal definitive issue and any subsequent issue would be regarded as "illegal" and not valid for the prepayment of postage. The British Government's attitude, voiced by Mr. Stonehouse, was that the surcharging will "bring it home" to people that the Smith regime is illegal. The Universal Postal Union in Berne, in conformity with a British request, informed all members of this decision.

The basis of the British action stems from their view that the stamps were issued without compliance with the relevant law of Rhodesia and accordingly were not valid in the "country of origin". As a consequence, the stamps were not valid for the prepayment of postage in terms of Article 20 of the Vienna Convention of the Universal Postal Union.

Quite why this assertion was only made in 1970, when all other Rhodesian stamps issued post UDI were valid is difficult to fathom, especially the commemorative stamps issued after the release of the 1966 Rhodesia definitive issue. Perhaps because it was easier to differential the decimal currency stamps from the stamps in £sd.

Article 20 of the UPU's Vienna Convention, states that the criteria for the validity of postage stamps is that they are issued by Postal administrations only, and that the methods of payment of postage be denoted by means of postage stamps, valid in the country of origin, printed on or affixed to the postal articles, by means of impressions of franking machines officially adopted and working under the immediate control of the Postal authority, or by means of impressions made by a printing press or other process when such a system is authorised by the regulations of the Administration of Origin. Rhodesia had been in control of its own postal administration since 1892 when the British South Africa Company was in control. Again, the UK never tried to revoke this control when the country achieved Responsible Government under UK's colonial powers.

The matter was debated in the House of Lords on 26th March 1970 when it was stressed that the intention of the British Government was not to hamper postal communications between Britain and Rhodesia, but to reject the stamps in question because they were issued by what they considered to be an "illegal regime". There is however no doubt that the intention of disrupting the post from Rhodesia was political and had nothing to do with the issuing of the 1970 stamps.

In 1970 Harold Wilson, the British Prime Minister, sprang a surprise general election for 18th June, under the impression that by calling for an early election he could retain the Labour Party in power for another term. The Conservative Party was expecting the general election to be called in October 1970. Edward Heath's Conservative Party won the election with a 31-seat majority, under the slogan "Labour isn't working". It has been suggested that England's defeat by West Germany at the football World Cup on 16th June may have had an effect!

On 7th July 1970, The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Christopher Chataway, announced in Parliament that the question of surcharging Rhodesia's mail would be reviewed. Finally, on 8th October the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas Home stated in Parliament the previous order would be revoked but – "Meanwhile, we shall continue sanctions. There will be certain modifications. In several ways, the policy has inflicted severe hardship on individuals in Britain who have relatives in Rhodesia. It is intolerable that letters to relatives should be surcharged. Rhodesian stamps are invalid and will remain so, but the penalty is being paid by people in this country who bear no responsibility for their issue. We have made it clear to the Post Office that we wish this surcharge to cease, and they have agreed to remove it straightaway." This is probably a compromise statement, whilst it did not acknowledge that the stamps were valid under the Vienna Convention, at least the surcharge was lifted.

There may have been another agenda, the Conservative Party wanted to get talks under way on the Rhodesian question, with many in the party in sympathy with the Rhodesian regime. At least by getting rid of this irritation, it could be shown that the new administration was trying to move forward. It is interesting that the Foreign Secretary made the announcement, not the Minister of Posts. There is no doubt that many secretive discussions did take place before the Foreign Secretary's trip to Rhodesia on 15th November 1971, which resulted in proposals for a settlement on the 24th November.

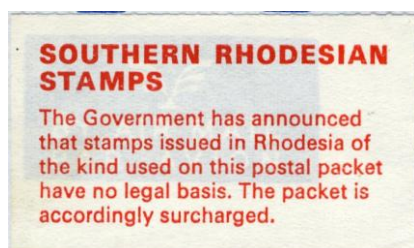
Surcharged Mail

British Post Office

The top cover opposite is one sent from Rhodesia on 11th March, 1970, which reached the UK before the imposition of the surcharge, these are relatively scarce covers.

The following two covers have both received the British Post Office sticker, illustrated below. Some of the covers have a post office cachet whilst others do not. In the case of the cover opposite it reads “More to Pay”, this cover is also interesting as it bears a “10p To Pay” label almost a year before British decimalisation.

The surcharged amounts also vary for a standard letter, the middle cover is for a 3sh6d and the one below for 1sh 9d. There was a general inconsistency in the surcharges.



The cover opposite is interesting in two respects. Firstly no stamps were used for this parcel, prepayment of the postage is shown on the Parcels label. There are other instances where no stamps have been used, but the cover was never-the-less surcharged.

Secondly the surcharge is stated in the large customs label, which also include large “Charge” cachets.

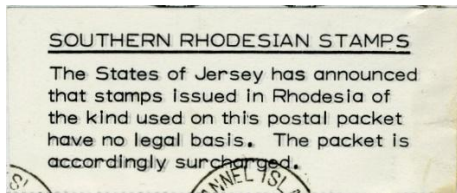
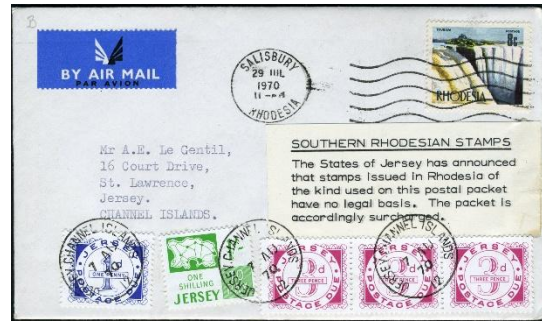
Channel Islands

Both Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey obtained their postal administrations in 1969, and therefore any mail that was surcharged in the first phase of surcharge (1965-66) would have been under the British Post Office control. However, this was not the case in 1970, although both postal administrations followed the British lead, probably because the UK is responsible for their foreign affairs

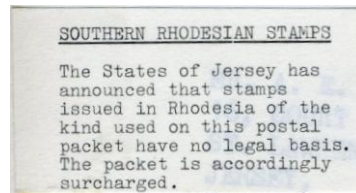


Jersey

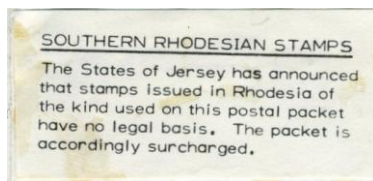
This Post office produced a label with similar wording to that of the British Post Office, four variations of the label have been identified, shown below (using Mitchell & Tring's numbering). The surcharge amounts seen was 1sh10d for airmail letters and 7d for surface mail.



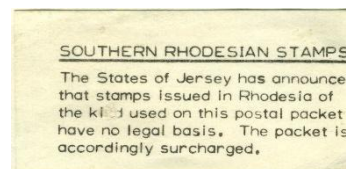
Type B
65mm x 24 mm



Type C
40 mm x 22 mm

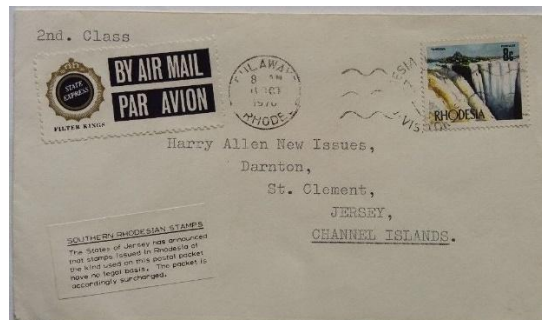


Type D
47 mm x 17 mm



Type E
39 x 14 mm

The cover opposite was posted in Bulawayo on 13th October, 1970, after the withdrawal of surcharging by the British Post Office. However, this cessation may not have applied to Jersey immediately, with this cover a type D label was added but it has not been surcharged. (Source – eBay)



Guernsey

This postal administration did not produce information stickers, but used a cachet saying "To Pay/ Posted/ Unpaid". The amount surcharged appears to be 1sh10d, although this cover appears to be more philatelic with the use of the postage due labels.



Other countries

Following the advice of the British Post Office to the Universal Postal Union, with a request to advise other postal administrations, a few other countries also surcharged mail coming from Rhodesia. These were Zambia, Malawi, India and Mauritius. Although it should be pointed out that other countries had ceased receiving mail from Rhodesia completely

Bibliography

1. “The Surcharging of Rhodesia’s Mail 1965-1971” by D A Mitchell & H T Tring, published in Bulawayo in 1978
2. “Rhodesia in Stamps, the second supplement to Rhodesia, a Postal History”, by R C Smith published by the Salisbury Stamp Company in 1978
3. The 1979 Referendum – www.africanelections.tripod.com/zw.html
4. Unpublished notes and research by Mike Hughes

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2022	Miscut 46c booklet cover
12/2022	Study of 46 booklet, and changes to existing script on this subject
3/2023	Additional study material of 46c booklet, second printing
	Plate renewal and positions of cylinder numbers – 2c, 3½c & 3c
	Commentary added on the Chromo papers
8/2023	Additional information of 48c D pane booklets
12/2023	Minor corrections
	Correction to inside covers of 50c booklet
	Two FDCs signed by Ian D Smith
4/2026	5c with folding crease
8/2026	12½c imprint blocks different lengths
	3c positioning of the cylinder blocks below column 1