

TREES OF RHODESIA

Issued 17th November, 1976

There are over 700 species of trees indigenous to Rhodesia. The four species depicted in this issue have been chosen because of the economic value of their timber.

***Brachystegia spiciformis* (4 cents)**

Msasa

This handsome, briefly deciduous, woodland tree is dominant over extensive areas of eastern tropical Africa and is one of the commonest trees in Rhodesia, except at low altitudes. The colourful red flush of the young leaves in August or September is spectacular.

Habitat: Woodland.

Distribution: From Kenya southwards to Angola, Zambia, Rhodesia and Mozambique

Timber: Brown with a twisted rather coarse grain. Its main use is for railway sleepers, mining timbers and general outdoor heavy-duty lumber work. It makes a good fuel



***Khaya nyasica* (6 cents)**

Red Mahogany

A large evergreen tree of up to 40 m or more in height with a clear bole of many metres frequently buttressed at the boss. The famous Big Tree in the forest at Mount Selinda, in the Chipinga District, belongs to this species.

Habitat: In riparian forest at low to medium altitudes.

Distribution: It occurs in Zambia, Malawi, Rhodesia and Mozambique extending as far north as Zaire and Tanzania.

Timber: Heartwood brownish red. It is used for high-class furniture as a stand-in for West Indian mahogany or as a veneer. It is not readily available in commercial quantities.

(This species has now been re-directed as *Khaya anthotheca*)

Pterocarpus angolensis (8 cents)

Mukwa

A deciduous tree of up to 20 m or more in height. The flowers are yellow and usually appear while the tree is still leafless. The distinctive large, bristly fruits remain on the tree after the leaves have fallen.

Habitat: In most types of Woodland.

Distribution: From southern Zaire and Tanzania south to South West Africa, Botswana, the Transvaal and Swaziland.

Timber: The heartwood is deep to light brown with a creamy sapwood. It is used for furniture, veneer, panelling and parquetry and is one of the most stable woods in the world.



Baikiaea plurijuga (16 cents)

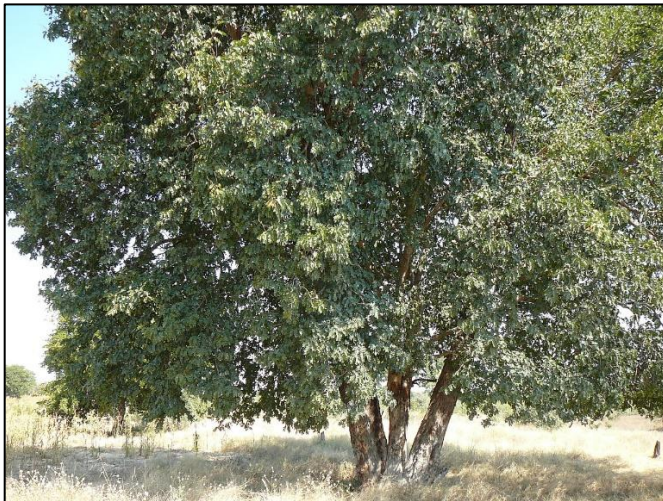
Rhodesian Teak

A semi-deciduous tree of up to 20 m in height with a dense rounded crown and dark, glossy green leaves.

Habitat: Confined to Kalahari Sand.

Distribution: Widespread from Bulawayo to Victoria Falls and in north-eastern Botswana, the Caprivi Strip, eastern Angola and western Zambia,

Timber: The heartwood is reddish brown and the sapwood light brown, it is much sought after for parquetry and strip flooring, not only because of its pleasing colour and grain but because of its ability to resist abrasion. Its durability and strength make it ideal for railway sleepers.



(Source: PTC Bulletin No 3 of 1976)

THE ISSUED STAMPS



Catalogue listings

SG	RSC ²	Value	Description
533	C157	4c	<i>Brachystegia spiciformis</i> - Msasa
534	C158	6c	<i>Khaya nyasica</i> - Red Mahogany
	a.		Red “berry” in tree – (Cyl 1A R5/6)
	b.		Red line across branch – (Cyl 1B R3/8)
535	C159	8c	<i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i> - Mukwa
536	C160	16c	<i>Baikiaea plurijuga</i> - Rhodesian Teak

Technical details

Stamp size:	28 x 42 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes within printed sheet
Artist:	Nancy Abrey
Paper:	Type 11 – white paper, white/clear gum, non-fluorescent
Print colours:	All values – cyan, yellow, magenta & black
Perforations:	Comb perf: SG 14, RSC 14¼ Left margin: Perforated through Top, right and bottom margins: Imperforate
Printer’s Imprint:	Type 6a, bottom margin, below columns 4 to 7 – black printing
Cylinder numbers:	Cyls. 1A & 1B bottom margin under R5/1, colours reading across from left - cyan, yellow, magenta, black (all values)
Colour register:	Type TL 4 – round boxed - left margin opposite R5/1, colours reading down - cyan, yellow, magenta, black (all values)
Sheet Value:	Bottom margin, below R5/10, black printing

Sheet Number: Type SN 4 with 'PTC' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading downwards.

Print numbers:

4c -	4,000,000 stamps (40,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
6c -	800,000 stamps (8,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
8c -	600,000 stamps (6,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
16c -	400,000 stamps (4,000 1A & 1B sheets each)

Issue date: 17th November, 1976

Withdrawal from sale: 17th August, 1977

Demonetisation: 16th August, 1980

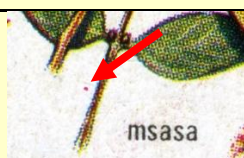
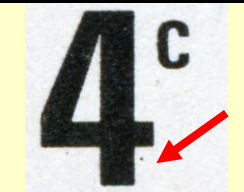
Listed varieties

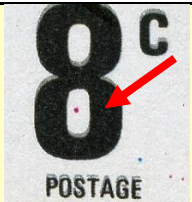
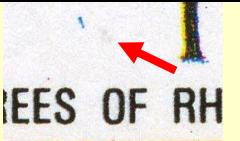
Below are varieties documented or seen for each of the values, starting with the listed varieties within the Mashonaland Guide¹, and those listed in the RSC², shown in yellow shaded tables. The varieties listed in bold are considered by the authors of the Guide to be more important.

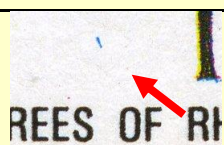
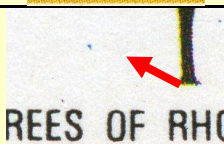
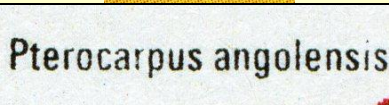
In studying this issue under magnification, a vast range of other dots and specks will be noted. Some of these varieties are constant whilst others will be batch flaws. The varieties listed by the Mashonaland Guide are not necessarily the most spectacular of these dots and specks, but are nevertheless the ones illustrated below.

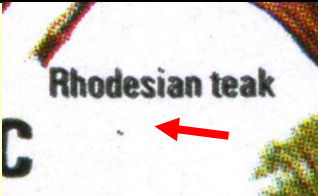
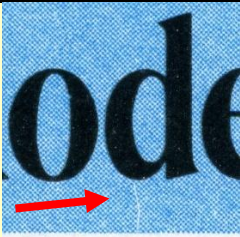
There are also many examples of a double printing of the black ink, this is particularly noted with the text on the stamp. Most are fairly minor movements or doubling of the text and are not worth listing here, but should be noted by collectors.

Cyl	Row	Col	
4 cents - Msasa			
1A	1	6	A vertical scratch above the 'E' of large Rhodesia
	2	6	A pale blob over the 'O' of large Rhodesia
	3	7	A pale blob in the loop of the 'D' of large Rhodesia

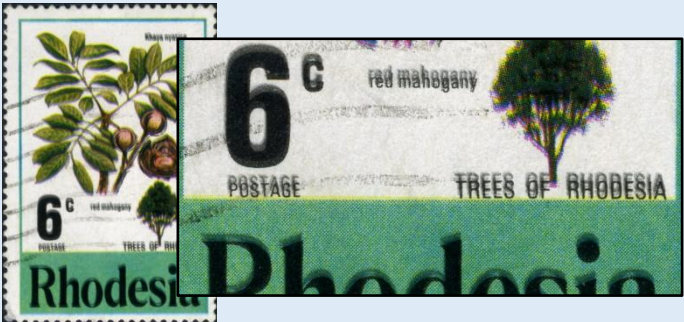
Cyl	Row	Col		
	5	3	Red spot between centre and right stems at top	
1B	2	7	Large dark dot left of lowest leaf on left side	
	3	10	Small cyan spot between upper leaves on right. (Guide states green dot)	
	4	10	Small dot at upper right and small dot under tail of '4'	
6 cents – Red Mahogany				
1A	2	5	Dots between base of fruit and right-hand border	
	4	3	White dot between 'D' and 'E' of large Rhodesia	
	4	8	Green dot in '6' and green dash at right of tree	
	5	6	Red dot at right centre of tree RSC C158a – Red berry in tree	
	5	8	Small cyan dot level with lowest leaf on right (Guide states green dot)	

Cyl	Row	Col		
1B	1	10	Dot over fourth leaf down on right side of left stem at top	
	2	2	Small dot between fruit, stem and top of tree	
	3	2	Dot above fourth green leaf from bottom on left	
	3	8	Short red oblique line in branches above fork RSC C158b – Red line across branch	
8 cents - Mukwa				
1A	1	9	Magenta dot in bottom of '8' (and cyan dot above 'E' of Postage)	
	3	3	Cyan vertical line above top left of stem	
	3	8	Spur on bottom of 'D' of large Rhodesia	
1B	2	2	Blue spot above 'GO' of botanical name (not constant)	
	3	3	Cyan dash to left of tree	

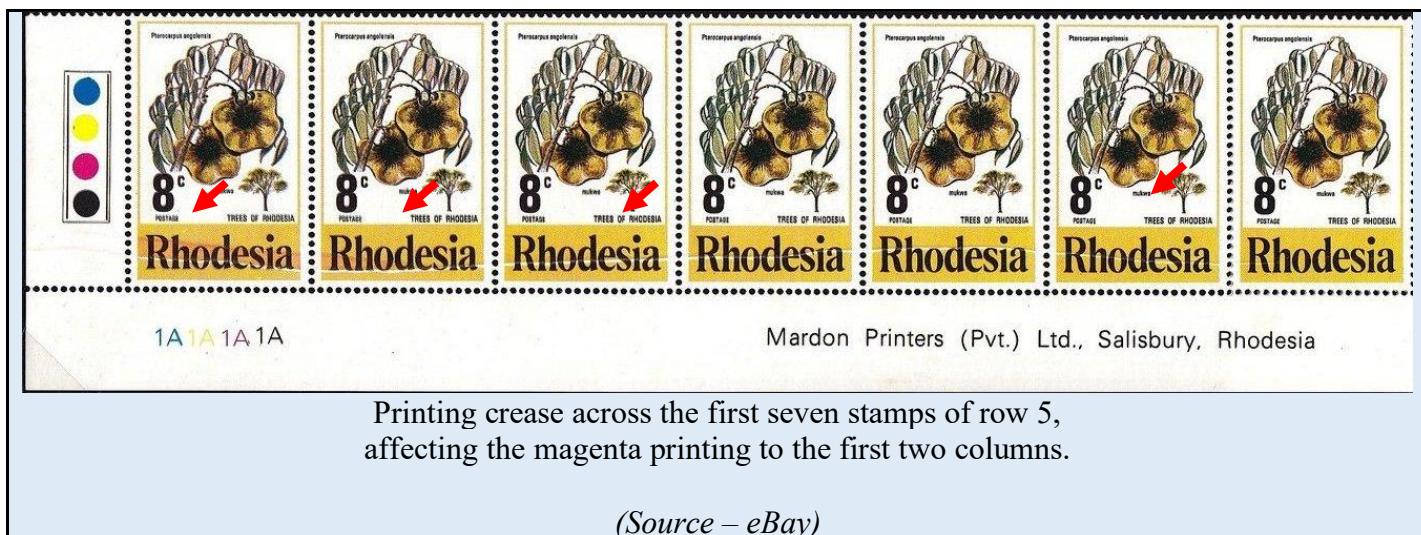
Cyl	Row	Col		
	3	4	Cyan dash to left of tree	
	3	8	Red spot under 'SI' of large Rhodesia	
	3	10	Cyan spot to left of tree	
	4	10	Cyan spot to left of tree	
	5	3	Small dot over 'E' of large Rhodesia	
	5	9	Faint printing of botanical name, especially second 'R'	
	5	10	Cyan spot to left of tree	
	NOTE		The cyan dots to the left of the tree in cylinder 1B R3/3, R3/4, R4/10 & R5/10 is almost the same in each stamp. There is also a magenta dot above the 'ESS' of Trees	
16 cents – Rhodesian Teak				
1A	4	1	Two blue spots over 'O' of large Rhodesia	
	4	3	White spot over 'E' of large Rhodesia	

Cyl	Row	Col		
	5	6	Small dot under 'D' of Rhodesian Teak	
	5	7	Dot to right of and above right-hand bud	
1B	1	7	Vertical white stroke below 'D' of large Rhodesia	

Unlisted varieties

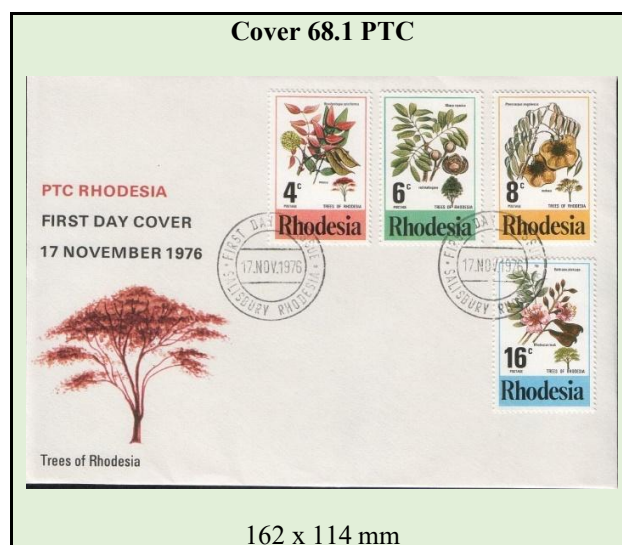
 6c: Possible constant flaw, Cyl 1B R1/9, yellow dot on leaf above right pod	 6c: Double Black
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This is a variation that has been seen several times, but is not constant. It probably comprises a scratch through the plate which affects the text on each of the stamps. The stamps are from the cylinder 1A sheet and those affected are in column 4, rows 1 to 3. (note listed variety to R2/5 confirms the sheet)	R1/4 ‘R’ of Red Mahogany missing, and right half of ‘O’ to large Rhodesia faded R 2/4 ‘gan’ of Mahogany missing, ‘TR’ of Trees missing, and parts of ‘E’ to large Rhodesia faded R3/4 ‘R’ of small Rhodesia missing, and ‘I’ of Rhodesia partly missing and faded.	
 Two stripsstrip of three, probably from the same sheet. Area on one stamp with no ink at all, probably water of the paper, with stamps to rights showing streaks of missing ink, alo rpbably waater on paper. (Courtesy of Gordon Atkinson)		



First Day Cover

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear



Related material



Presentation card with PTC logo and name in gold,
With set of issued stamps.
(Source: Rhodesia.co.za)

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2023	9c double black printing
12/2025	6c showing possible water on paper, lack of ink.

Bibliography

1. “A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia”, supplement No 5, issued 1978, published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group
2. “The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue”, 1983/84, published by Salisbury Stamp Company
3. Post & Telecommunications Corporation Bulletin No 3 of 1976, published by the Philatelic Bureau