

1978 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Issued 16 August, 1978

When this issue was released there was some anticipation that this would be the last definitive issue under the name “Rhodesia”. An internal settlement had been signed by the Smith led government with three internal African parties. As part of the agreement the actual change over to the new name of “Zimbabwe Rhodesia” would not take place until mid-June 1979. Until then there would be an interim Government with a sharing of the responsibilities of Government.

The new “Zimbabwe Rhodesia” came into existence on 1st June, 1979, but no new stamps were issued to show the change in name of the country. Indeed “misgivings about the inability of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Post Office to issue a set of Rhodesia definitives overprinted with the new name of the country were expressed in the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Parliament on 2nd August (1979). However, Mr P K van der Byl, Minister of Posts, said ‘the overprint of the present stamps with the name Zimbabwe Rhodesia on it will be forthcoming in the very near future’. Furthermore, a whole new definitive set of stamps would be coming later in the year”.¹

The September 1979 issue of Magnify suggested that there was a rumoured release date of a new definitive on 21st November, 1979. There had also been rumours that the stamps had already been printed, and destroyed (this was however considered unlikely)². With the talks of Lancaster House happening at the time, the PTC probably took a cautious approach to await its outcome. The result of which was that Zimbabwe Rhodesia was never to have any postage stamps.

Never-the-less, it can be reasonably assumed that at the time this definitive was issued it would not have a long life (about 20 months) before the post offices stopped selling these stamps.

The 1978 definitive

The issue as with the previous definitive issue had no particular theme and was divided into three sections, gemstones for the low values, large mammals for the middle values and waterfalls for the high values.

*(Source PTC Bulletin No 2 of 1978)*³

The low values – Gemstones

1 cent — Morganite (hardness 7½)

Since 1911, pink beryl has been named Morganite after J. P. Morgan, an American banker, who built up an outstanding mineral collection, which is now in the American 'Museum of Natural History in New York. Morganite is a pegmatite mineral found in Rhodesia but fine specimens have also been found in Brazil, Madagascar and Mozambique.



3 cents — Amethyst (hardness 7)



The Amethyst is the most attractive variety of the Quartz group and its colour ranges from a rich violet down to pale mauve. Its name originates from the Greek word *Amethystos* (not drunk) and Amethysts were worn on armlets in ancient times supposedly to prevent intoxication. It is found in Rhodesia in beautiful geodes and graces many collections. Other important producing countries are, Uruguay, Brazil, Zambia and Madagascar

4 cents — Garnet (hardness 7½)

The group of the Garnets consist of six different members of which the red *Almandine* member is the most common in Rhodesia. Plinius called this gemstone *Carbuncle*, as it glows like burning coal.



5 cents — Citrine (hardness 7)



The yellow Quartz, properly known as Citrine is often sold under the misnomer *Topaz*. Fine crystals of gem quality Citrine come from the Marandellas district in Rhodesia. Citrine grades into the dark brown *Cairngorm* or the smoky *Morion*.

7 cents — Blue Topaz (hardness 8)

In nature Topaz is most often colourless, though frequently found in shades of yellow and less commonly of blue and pale green. Rhodesia has produced magnificent Blue Topaz and many a fine gem has been cut from these crystals. Blue Topaz has also been found in Brazil.



The middle values – Large Mammals

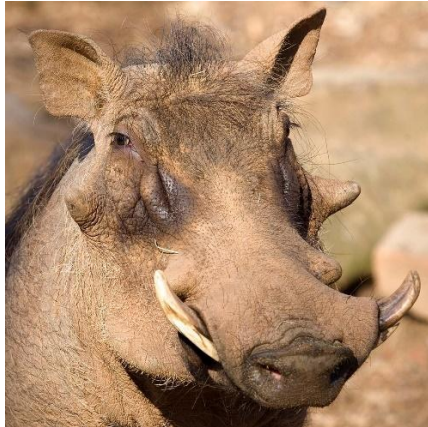
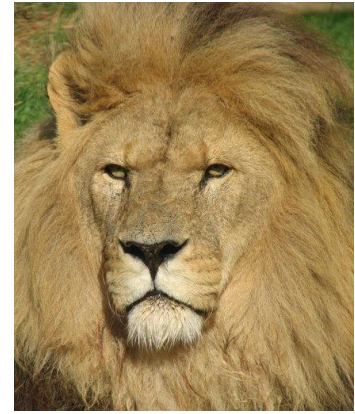


9 cents — Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*)

A large herbivorous mammal weighing between 1000 and 1500 kg, the Black Rhinoceros is, despite its bulk, extremely agile. It is an ill-tempered animal and may charge without provocation, galloping at speeds of up to 48 kph. Its main feature, two fibrous horns protruding from a narrow muzzle, make it a dangerous adversary. Its poor eyesight but sense of smell and hearing are acute.

11 cents — Lion (*Panthera leo*)

The male Lion, when fully grown, can measure up to 3,5 m in length (excluding tail) and weigh 220 kg. It is a powerful flesh eater, and usually kills by breaking the neck of its victim, followed, by strangulation. Warthog, giraffe, zebra, buffalo and large antelope are its favourite prey. It is a silent hunter relying on excellent sight and hearing rather than sense of smell.



13 cents — Warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*)

Ugly and piglike, with elongated body and enormous head, the Warthog is gregarious by nature and is found mostly in family groups. It has a flattened face with flared muzzle, two pairs of large warts, the upper immediately below the eyes and the lower between eyes and tusks. Its skin is greyish black in colour with bristles on the back of the neck and shoulder. Essentially a grazer, it feeds on short grasses and herbs, going down on its horny knees to do so.

15 cents — Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)

Easily identifiable by its elongated neck, the Giraffe is the tallest animal in the world and a fully-grown male may reach 6 m in height. This great height enables it to browse on the succulent leaves and twigs of a large variety of tall trees especially *Leguminosae* its principal diet. The colour pattern is chestnut brown cut into patches by a network of light buff lines, variable in shape and size.



17 cents — Zebra (*Equus burchelli*)

The Zebra's most distinguishing feature is its colour markings of white or buff with dark broad stripes. The head, face and body are horse like in appearance but with no dewlap. Highly sociable and found in herds of up to 20 head, the Zebra is mainly a grazer, and is able to subsist in areas with poor or coarse grass. However, it is very dependent upon water, and will never wander far away from a known supply.

High values – Waterfalls

21 cents — Odzani Falls

The substantial Odzani Falls lie 1,5 km off the Inyanga-Penhalonga-Umtali road, just 16 km south of the Watsomba turnoff. Fringed with heavy vegetation, including palm trees, the falls are just one attraction in an area that includes Lake Alexander with its fine facilities for sailing and trout fishing. Odzani means a tributary of the Odzi, which in turn means "mist" — indicating the origins of the river in the cloud-wreathed mountains of Inyanga, which lie 60 km to the north.



25 cents — Goba Falls



The Goba Falls are the first of a picturesque two-kilometre stretch of waterfalls and rapids on the Ruzawi River near where it is crossed by the Wedza to Rusape road. It is here that the Ruzawi River passes through a range of hills that rise 180 metres above the flat countryside. The Ruzawi River forms the border between the Wedza and Chiduku Tribal Trust Lands, and flows on to join the Macheke River which in turn flows into the Sabi, one of the country's major rivers. The name Goba is of uncertain origin, some believing it to be a corruption of "gova", meaning loamy soil.

30 cents — Inyangombe Falls

Flowing through Rhodesia's upland area of Inyanga, the Inyangombe River here plunges over granite rocks in a series of foaming cascades. The name comes from the African word for cattle and means, "this is where cattle may be heard". The footpath, which leads to the 27-metre-high falls from the access road, provides views over countryside that still carries African cattle and where round thatched, tribal huts can be seen.





\$1 — Bridal Veil Falls

The Bridal Veil Falls are 6 kms. from the village of Melsetter, which faces the white-quartzite peaks of the Chimanimani Mountains, in the Southern Eastern Highlands. Here a tributary of the Nyahodi River falls 48 metres down an almost sheer face of rock, the strange horizontal formation of which causes the white water to resemble a lace wedding train—hence its apt name.



\$2 —Victoria Falls

The Victoria Falls is one of the largest and most beautiful waterfalls in the world, and certainly the most accessible. At this point the Zambezi River widens to 1 700 metres and plunges into a vertical chasm varying from 70 to 108 metres deep.

The force of the falling water — 545 million litres per minute during the flood season — sends clouds rising 500 metres, vividly illustrating the African name for the Falls — *Mosi oa Tunya*, "the smoke that thunders".

THE ISSUED STAMPS



Catalogue listings

SG	RSC ⁴	Value	Description
555	728	1c	Morganite
556	729	3c	Amethyst
557	730	4c	Garnet
	a.		Imperforate pair
558	731	5c	Citrine
559	732	7c	Blue Topaz
560	733	9c	Black Rhinoceros (SG states White Rhinoceros - incorrect)
561	734	11c	Lion
	a.		Imperforate pair
562	735	13c	Warthog
563	736	15c	Giraffe
564	737	17c	Zebra
565	738	21c	Odzani Falls
566	739	25c	Goba Falls
567	740	30c	Inyangombe Falls

568	741	\$1	Bridal Veil Falls
569	742	\$2	Victoria Falls

Technical details

Due to the short duration of this issue there is no variation to the basic details of the stamps issued, unlike the previous definitive issue there is no intention to study the individual stamps. The only real item to study is the number of reprints of some of the values and print numbers.

Stamp size:	1c to 7c	28 x 22 mm
	9c to 17c	30 x 26 mm
	21c to \$2	35 x 30 mm
Sheet Size:	1c to 7c	100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps) two panes per printed sheet
	9c to \$2	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
Artist:	Gemstones and animals:	Neil O Pederson
	Waterfalls:	David N Myles
Paper:	Type 13 – white fluorescent paper, gum with greenish tinge, slight sheen	
Print colours:	All values – cyan, yellow, magenta & black	
Perforations:	1c to 7c	Comb perf: SG 14½, RSC 14¼ Left margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate
	9c to 17c	Comb Perf: SG 14½, RSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate
	21c to \$2	Comb perf: SG 14, RSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate
Printer's Imprint:	1c to 7c	Type PI 10, bottom margin below columns 4 to 7
	9c to \$2	Type PI 10, bottom margin below columns 2 to 4
	All values	Imprint printed in black
Cylinder numbers:	Cyls. 1A & 1B bottom margin under R10/1 (1c to 7c) or R5/1 (9c to \$2), colours reading across from left – cyan, yellow, magenta, black for all values	
Colour register:	Type TL 4 – round boxed - left margin opposite R10/1 (1c to 7c) or R10/1 (9c to \$22), colours reading down – cyan, yellow, magenta, black for all values	

Sheet Value:	Bottom margin, below R10/10 (1c to 7c) or R10/5 (9c to \$2), all printed in black
Sheet Number:	Type SN 4 with 'PTC' prefix, right margin opposite R10/10 (1c to 7c) or R10/5 (9c to \$2), reading downwards.
Print numbers:	See section below
Issue date:	16 th August, 1978
Withdrawal from sale:	17 th April, 1980 (last day prior to Zimbabwe Independence)
Demonetisation:	16 th October, 1983 (Postal Notice 21/83) ⁵

Printings and print numbers

The main area of debate in respect of this issue is the number and size of the various printings of the stamps issued, most of it is straight forward save when it comes to the 4c and 5c values.

The PTC Bulletin No 2 or 1978³ gave the quantities printed, these are shown in the table below under the heading of "Initial Print Nos – stamps". The numbers were largely confirmed in the Mashonaland Guide⁶.

Value	Printing	Date of release	Initial Print Nos - stamps	No of Sheets ordered (1A + 1B)	Top sheet number	Sheet Serial Nos	Final No. of Sheets (1A + 1B)
			Related to original printing				
1c	Original	16-Aug-78	3,000,000	30,000	15,000	001-14500	29,000
	Second	6-Jan-79				14501-29400	29,800
	Third	14-Feb-79				29401-51100	43,400
3c	Original	16-Aug-78	3,000,000	30,000	15,000	001-14800	29,600
	Second	14-Feb-79				14801-29000	28,400
4c	Original	16-Aug-78	22,000,000	220,000	110,000	See below	
5c	Original	16-Aug-78	32,000,000	320,000	160,000	See below	
7c	Original	16-Aug-79	4,000,000	40,000	20,000	001-19800	39,600
	Second	14-Feb-79				19801-40700	41,800
9c	Original	16-Aug-79	648,000	12,960	6,480	See below	
11c	Original	16-Aug-79	1,750,000	35,000	17,500	001-17200	34,400
13c	Original	16-Aug-79	1,500,000	30,000	15,000	001-14500	29,000
15c	Original	16-Aug-79	1,500,000	30,000	15,000	001-15800	31,600
17c	Original	16-Aug-79	3,000,000	60,000	30,000	001-30300	60,600
21c	Original	16-Aug-79	1,200,000	24,000	12,000	001-12200	24,400
25c	Original	16-Aug-79	1,500,000	30,000	15,000	001-15900	31,800
	Second	23-Jan-80				15901-19100	6,400
30c	Original	16-Aug-79	2,250,000	45,000	22,500	001-22700	45,400
\$1.00	Original	16-Aug-79	800,000	16,000	8,000	001-8100	16,200
\$2.00	Original	16-Aug-79	800,000	16,000	8,000	001-8200	166,400

If these numbers can then be used to calculate the number of sheets printed, both 1A and 1B, simply by dividing the 1c to 7c by 100 and the rest by 50, these being the number of stamps per sheet. The resulting number can then be divided by 2 to give the highest sheet number for each stamp (the sheet numbers are replicated in both 1A and 1B sheets). These calculations are shown in the orange shaded areas in the table above.

According to Mike Amos – “the printers are authorised to operate on a delivery quota of plus or minus 5 to 10% of orders”⁸. When comparing the final number of sheets released (last column) with the calculated number, there are small differences - all within the permitted tolerances.

The above table also shows reprints released on 6th January 1979 (1 cent), 14th February 1979 (1c, 3c and 7c) and 23rd January 1980 (25 cents).^{9,10}

It is however with three of the stamps issued, 4c, 5c & 9c, that there appears to be some debate about numbers printed and reprints. Firstly, on a general note, the release of the 1978 definitive issue coincided with an increase in postal rates. The local letter rate increasing from 4c to 5c for the first 20 gms, and printed matter from 3c to 5c for the first 50 gms. The 4c and 5c stamps therefore would have had a high usage rate, and this could be a reason for some confusion.

4 cents

The Bulletin and the Guide both indicate that the initial print run was 22 million stamps, giving us 220,000 sheets with the highest sheet number being 110,000. There is, however, confusion on what constituted the original printing and subsequent reprints arising from various pieces of information:

- Magnify in March 1979 suggests the sheet numbers for the original printing were 001 to 60,000⁹.
- Darrell Dale in June 1981 confirmed that he understood that the initial printing was for sheet numbers 001 to 60,000, and that he was subsequently told that “the second printing issued on 28th January 1980 ran to 129,800. There was no mention of a third printing”⁷
- Darrell Dale subsequently received clarification from the PTC head office that the correct figures are – “4c – original 1 – 109,100 A & B. Reprint 109,101 – 129,800 A & B”.⁷
- Mike Amos was subsequently attempted to clarify. Initially he stated that the figures extracted from the PTC ledgers in the case of the “4c were 8,000,000, i.e. 001 – 40 000”.⁸ Which is another number!
- Mike Amos continues by saying that the Bulletin (No 2 of 1978) showed the order as 22 million stamps, but the order ledger showed a quantity of 23 million. This meant that the revised order was for 230,000 sheets with the highest sheet number being 115,000.
- Mike Amos adds “The fact that the order was executed in dribs and drabs is borne out by the 001 – 60 000 first quoted to Darrell Dale by the PTC, the 001-40 000 as earlier extracted from the records by me and the figure of 001 -82 000 given by the PTC in April 1981”. All very confusing.

From the extracts above, it would appear that the original printing was 218,200 sheets with sheet numbers 001 to 109,100. This number being within the accepted tolerances for delivery whether for 22 or 23 million stamps.

In some unsourced references it is stated that the first printing was for numbers 001 – 82,000 (see figure above), and second printing from 82,001 to 109,800. It is, however, noted that no date is shown for the release of this “second printing”. This is probably incorrect.

What is unknown with all of the above is whether the full 218,200 sheets were printed by Mardon at the same time and only delivered in dribs and drabs, or whether the original order was printed at different times to ultimately meet the order.

What, however, is not contested is that there was a further printing of the 4c stamp of 82,800 sheets (Nos 109,001 to 129,800) which was released on 28th January 1980.

5 cents

The Bulletin and the Guide both indicate that the initial print run of 32 million stamps, giving us 320,000 sheets with the highest sheet number being 160,000. Again, the situation appears to be confusing.

- Magnify in March 1979 suggests that the original printing sheet numbers were 001 to 106,000⁹
- In the same article, it states that there was a reprint of the 5c released on 14th February with sheet numbers 106,001 to 125,000.⁹ As the 5c is the main local letter rate, why did the second printing only have a total of 38,000 sheets?
- The March 1979 RSC Journal states that Don Mitchell reports reprints of certain values of the 1978 definitive. Although he gives numbers for the other values, he says the numbers for the 5c released on 14th February 1979 are “not known”.¹⁰
- In the RSC journal of March 1980, Glenn Thomas states that he received a 5c reprint block described as being released on 16th May, 1979. After making an enquiry, he received a letter dated 12th October 1979, in which the PTC.... states “that this and the reprinting mentioned in RSCJ 105/34 are the only ones so far”. This appears to indicate that there were two printings as of October 1979.¹¹
- Darrell Dale, in his 1981 article, states that his information was that the original printing was for sheet numbers 001-106,000, and queries where the information came from that there were two printings for these sheets. He also confirmed the second printing as 106,001 to 125,000, and that there was third printing released on 15th May 1979.⁷
- Mike Amos, in his November 1981 article, confirms that the Bulletin No 2 of 1978 records 32 million stamps ordered, the order ledger however stated 33 million. The revised order would therefore be for 165,000 sheets.⁸
- Mike Amos continues to suggest that the 5c was delivered on an “as required basis”. Mike does not indicate whether the printer’s delivery as “dribs and drabs” is the same as delivery on an “as required basis”.⁸
- Mike Amos also suggests that as 5 million 5c stamps for the Powered Flight issue (released 18th October 1978) were ordered there was no need to have an additional printing of the 5c towards the end of 1978.⁸ Mike however neglects to mention that 3 million 4c stamps were also released for the Powered Flight issue.
- There is a table circulated of unknown origin that gives the first printing as 113,600 sheets (Nos 001- 56,800) and second, undated, printing as 98,400 sheets (Nos 56,801 to 106,000). Clearly this is incorrect as these numbers tie up with what is referred to above as the first or original printing.

From the available evidence, it would be fair to say that the original order of 33 million stamps was probably reduced to 21.2 million stamps, or Mardon failed to deliver 11.7 million stamps. Although small, the second printing of 38,000 is acknowledged as being released on 14th February, 1979, with a third printing of 283,400 sheets released on 16th May 1979.

9 cents

The reason for highlighting this value is mainly because many of the numbers do not add up, not that there were any subsequent printings.

- Bulletin No 2 of 1978 states 648,000 stamps were to be issued, i.e. 12,960 sheets, with the highest sheet number being 6,480.³
- The Mashonaland Guide gives this figure as 3,648,000, i.e. 72,960 sheets, with highest sheet number of 36,480.⁶
- Magnify of March 1979 states that the sheet number for the 9c were 0001 – 15,000, which would indicate 30,000 sheets or 1.5 million stamps.⁹
- A sheet number 29,463 was purchased by Darrell Dale, thus indicating that there were indeed more than 30,000 sheets.⁷
- The generally accepted listing of sheet numbers indicates that the 9c had a single printing sheet numbers 001 to 32,500, this giving a total of 65,000 sheets or 3.25 million stamps.

Conclusion

The table above for these three values should be: (# indicates adjusted original printing numbers)

Value	Printing	Date of release	Initial Print Nos - stamps	No of Sheets ordered (1A + 1B)	Top sheet number	Sheet Serial Nos	Final No. of Sheets (1A + 1B)
			Related to original printing				
4c	Original	16-Aug-78	22,000,000	220,000	110,000	001-109100	218,200
	Second	23-Jan-80				109001-129800	41,400
5c	Original #	16-Aug-78	21,200,000	212,000	106,000	001-106000	212,000
	Second	14-Feb-79				106001-125000	38,000
	Third	16-May-79				125001-266700	283,400
9c	Original #	16-Aug-79	3,250,000	65,000	32,500	001-32500	65,000

Listed varieties

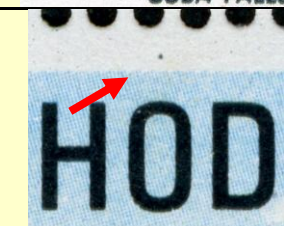
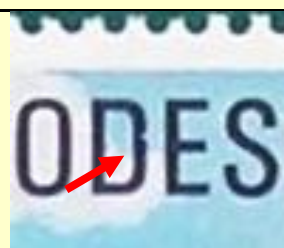
Below are varieties documented or seen for each of the values, starting with the listed varieties within the Mashonaland Guide¹, and those listed in the RSC², shown in yellow shaded tables.

In studying this issue under magnification, a 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 never-the-less the ones illustrated below. Within Magnify's October 1978 edition is a comprehensive list of small "spots and dots", for completeness I attach as Appendix 1 that listing.

Value	Cyl	Row	Col		
	No major constant flaws were noted, but some random "blobs" were seen, also some batch flaws usually in the shape of coloured spot				
1c	1A & 1B	5	9	A small pink dot to the right of the stone	
		9	2	A pink lump on the left of the stone	
		10	9	A small pink dot to the right of the stone	
	1A	3	6	A red circle between 'A' and 'I' of Rhodesia	
	5	6	Two small red dots to right of stone		
	5	6	A red circular mark under 'E' of Rhodesia		
3c	1A	3	5	A blue dot on the stone at right	
	1B	8	10	Two small dots in top left of D of Rhodesia	
4c	1B	4	6	Small white dot on top of stone under 'SI' of Rhodesia	
		9	9	Reddish blob under 'P' of Postage	
	RSC 730a Imperforate pair				
5c	1B	6	3	A faint pale spot above the word 'Citrine'	
7c	1A	4	5	A red spot on a front facet of the stone	

Value	Cyl	Row	Col	
9c	1B	4/5	1	Some red dots, probably not constant, on neck
11c	1B	1	1	A black dot in the left hairline (right on stamp) and a black mark right of the mouth
	RSC 734a Imperforate pair <i>(Source: eBay)</i>			
13c				Nil
15c	1B	2	1	A faint diffused area below the arch of the neck (batch)
17c	1B	4	5	Tiny dots below ear at left
		7	4	Tiny dots left of face, level with 'D' of Rhodesia
21c	1A	3	4	A white spot between the top of 'I' and 'A' of Rhodesia
	1A	5	4	Minute blue dot in cloud between 'Rhodesia' and value
	1B	1	1	Faint white dot below left leg of A of Rhodesia

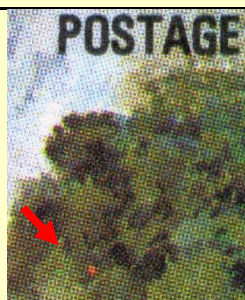
Value	Cyl	Row	Col	
		2	4	Tiny nick out of centre of right leg of 'D' of Rhodesia. (May not be constant).
		9	4	Faint moon over the waterfall - this one is not constant, but is nice to have. (Not a ring-flaw)
25c	1A	4	4	Red or orange spots may be seen in the water by the far bank but are probably not constant.
	1B	1	1	A dot in the top margin over 'O' of Rhodesia
30c				Nil
\$1				The wording sometimes merges into the background so that "Postage" may appear camouflaged.
	1A	6	2	A red dot in the lower leg of H of Rhodesia.
		7	5	A faint pink blob in water at left foot of falls
	1B	6	2	A red dot in the lower leg of H of Rhodesia.



Value	Cyl	Row	Col	
		8	1	A red dot in right margin well below Postage



\$2	1A	The following may not all be constant			
		1	1	Pink spot in green trees well above 'OR' of Victoria	
		2	4	Black spot among islands under 'H' of Rhodesia	
		2	5	Black dot in top margin above '1A'	
		4	5	Dark spot on top edge of design over 'O' of Rhodesia	
		6	3	Dark dot in top margin over 'R' of Rhodesia	
		8	4	Red dot in left margin to left of islands under 'R' of Rhodesia. Together with dot on bottom left of 'O' of Rhodesia, giving a reversed 'Q'.	

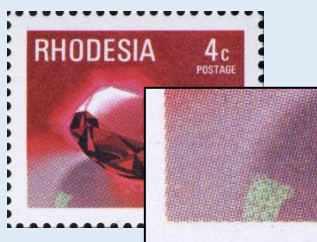
Value	Cyl	Row	Col	
	1B	1	1	Pink spot one-third way down on right in green trees well below PO of Postage. 
		2	5	Black dot in top margin above '1A' of Rhodesia 
		3	1	Dark dot in gorge left of right-hand promontory 
		4	5	The first 'L' in Falls is sometimes broken, but the extent of the break varies and the L can be intact

Unlisted varieties

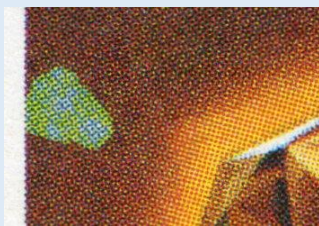


Movement of perforation down.

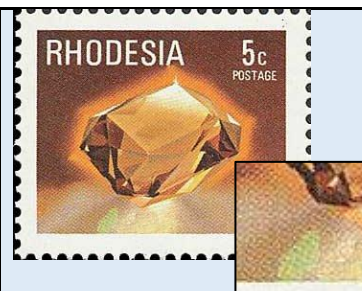
(Source Mike Jelbert)



Probable dry run of magenta over part of stamp.



Probable dry run or water on magenta and black plates



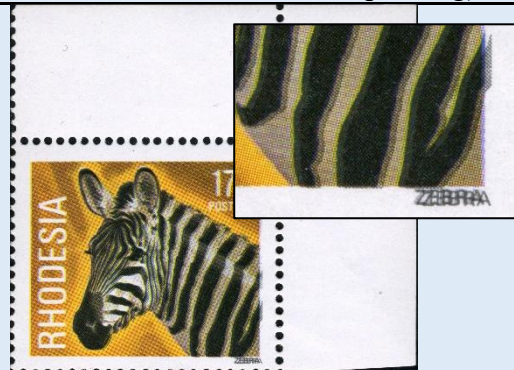
Probable dry run or water on magenta plate
(Source rhodesia.co.za)



Smudged cyan through top of row. (Cyl 1D Row 9, sheet no. PTC 106282, second printing)



Double black with slight move to left, see inset picture (Source *Dave Cooper*)



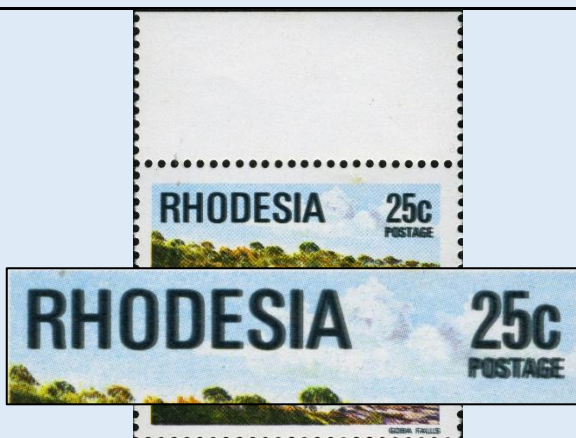
Double black with slight move to the right, see inset picture.



17c: complete issued sheet imperforate. Not a proof sheet, note sheet number
(Source Philatelic Friends auction December 2025)



Progressive double black from left to right



Double black printing



Double black with slight movement to right.

(Source Dave Cooper)

30c, additional strike of the perforator through the middle of the top row of sheet. This variety probably occurred with 3 or 4 sheets, across both 1A and 1B cylinders. Potential therefore for 30 or 40 stamps being affected.

Seen two examples on cover postmarked Cranbourne 2 FEB 79.

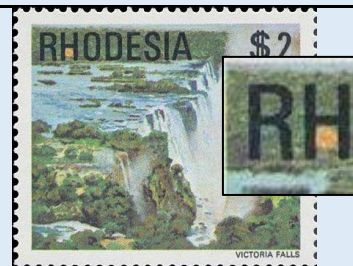
Also See RSC Journal No 245, December 2012, where a double top row is pictured.



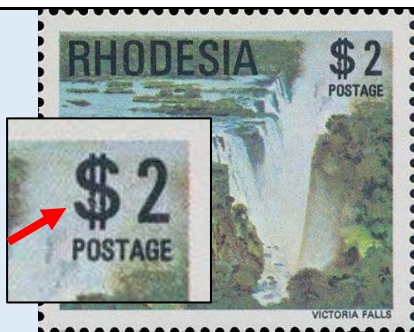
30c: complete issued sheet imperforate. Not a proof sheet, note sheet number
(Source Philatelic Friends auction December 2025)



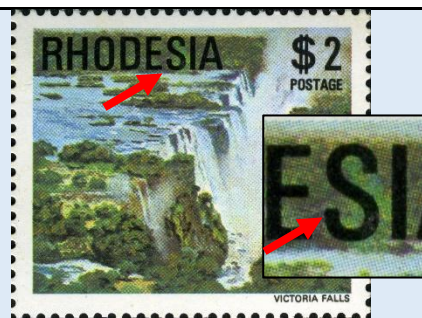
Solid ink on cyan plate
(Source: rhodesia.co.za)



Probable water on cyan plate.
(Source: rhodesia.co.za)



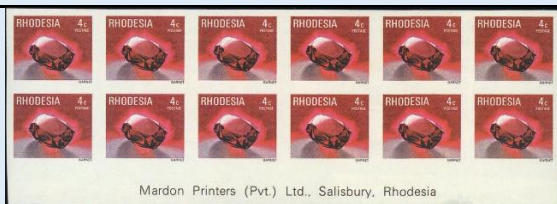
Cyl 1A R4/4 – malformed £ with dots in the lower part of the downstroke
(Source: rhodesia.co.za)



Lack of magenta behind 'S' of Rhodesia giving light green vegetation behind

Imperforate stamps

The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue only lists the 4c and 11c values as being imperforate, subsequently examples of 9c, 17c and 30c imperforate have surfaced. Stanley Gibbons does not list them at all.



(Source: Spinks April-May 2014 auction)



(Source: Spinks April-May 2014 auction)



(Source: Spinks April-May 2014 auction)



(Source: Spinks April-May 2014 auction)



(Source: Stephen Welz & Co Auction May 2009)

First Day Covers

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

For the first time the PTC designed a special canceller for use on first day covers produced by the Philatelic Bureau. This canceller clearly states that it was for use on the “4th definitive issue of 16th August, 1978.

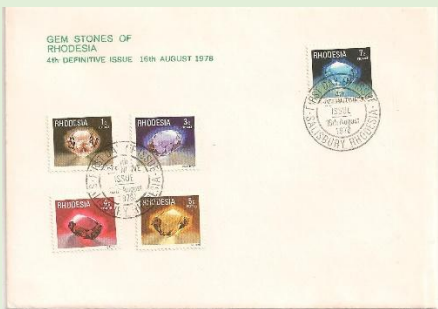


Cover 73.1 (PTC)



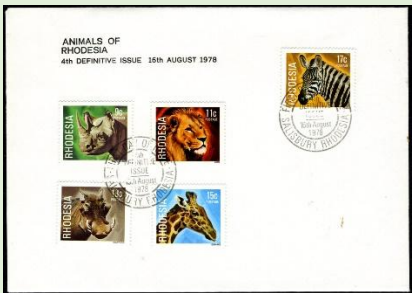
232 x 150 mm

Cover 73.2.1



162 x 115 mm

Cover 73.2.2



162 x 115 mm

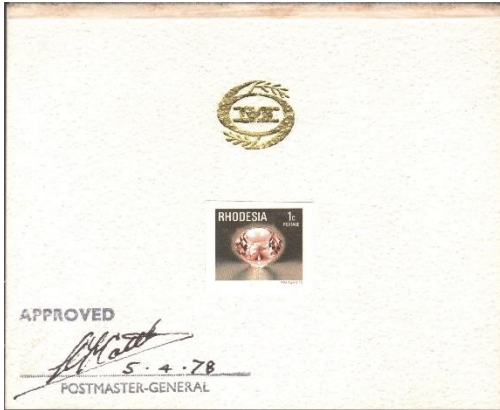
Cover 73.2.3



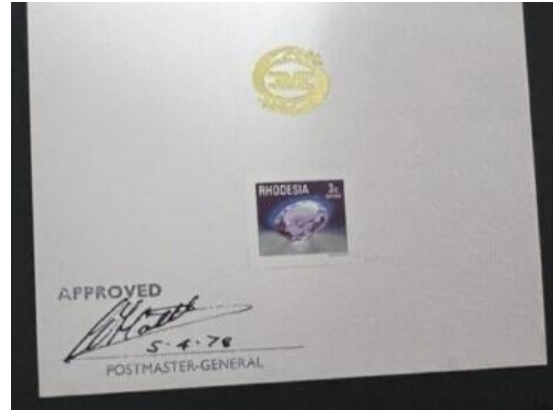
162 x 115 mm

Related Material

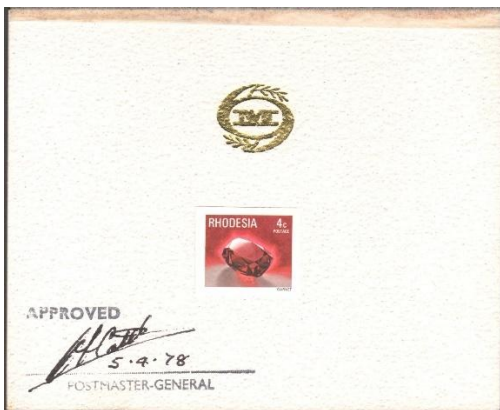
Collection of approval cards signed by the Postmaster-General, W F Cattle, mounted in black folders with Mardon logo in gold. Cards all dated differently *(All courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)*



1c, dated 5 April 1978



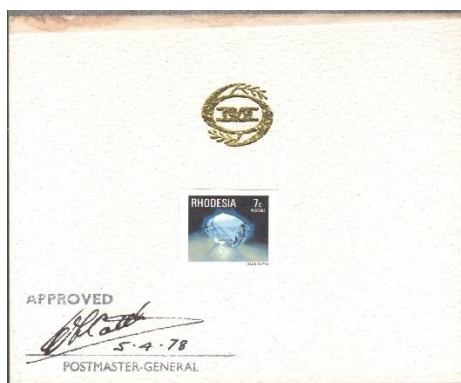
3c, dated 5 April 1978
(Courtesy of Shane Wheeler)



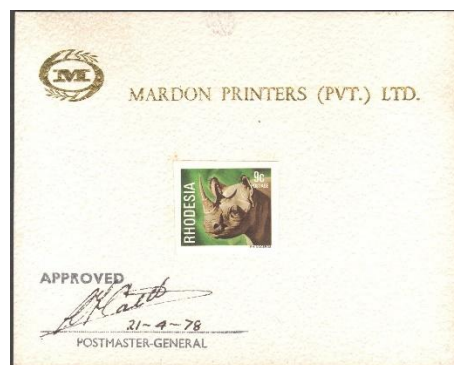
4c, dated 5 April 1978



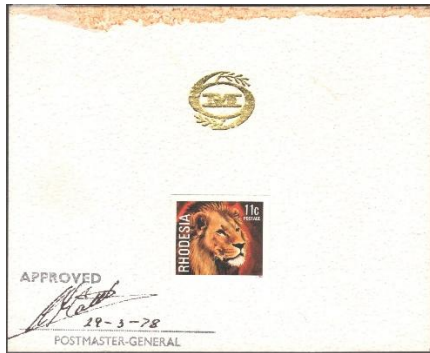
5c, dated 5 April 1978



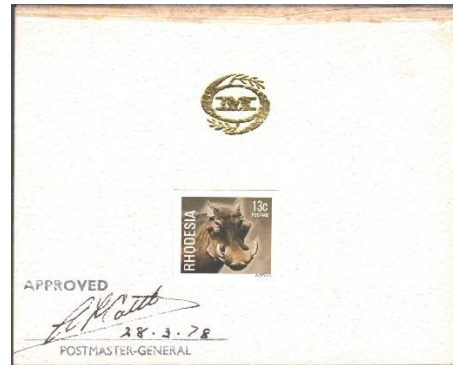
7c, dated 5 April 1978



9c, dated 21 April 1978



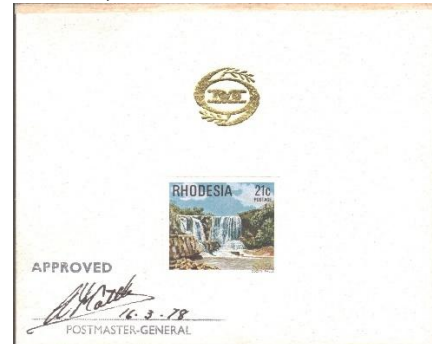
11c, dated 29 March 1978



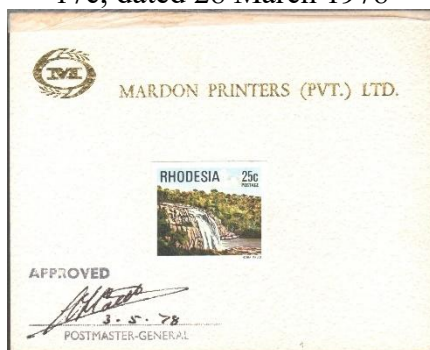
13c, dated 28 March 1978



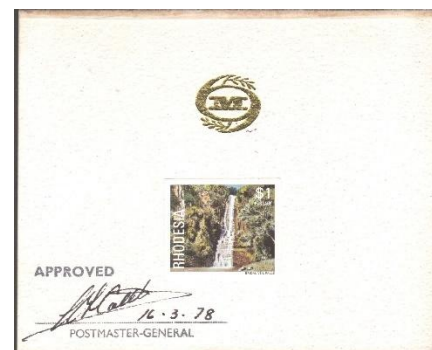
17c, dated 28 March 1978



21c, dated 16 March 1978



25c, dated 3 May 1978



\$1, dated 16 March 1978



\$2, dated 16 March 1978

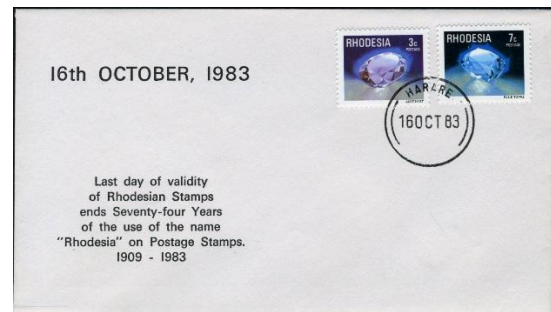
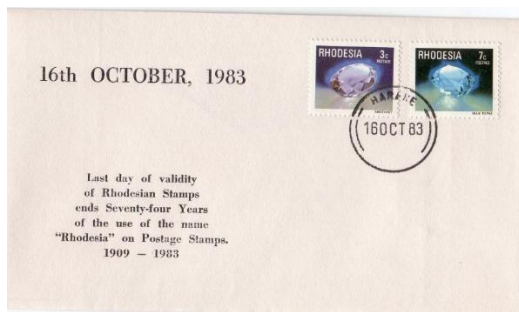
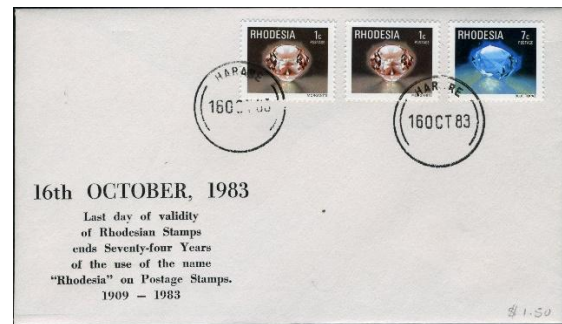


Presentation card with PTC logo and name in gold, with set of issued stamps.
(Source: rhodesia.co.za)

Validity of Rhodesian stamps

A series of covers were produced by the Zimbabwe Stamp Co, to commemorate the last day of validity of the 1978 definitive issue on 16th October 1983. In effect this represented the last day of validity of Rhodesian stamps.

The four covers all saying the same thing but the covers differ in both font and settings.

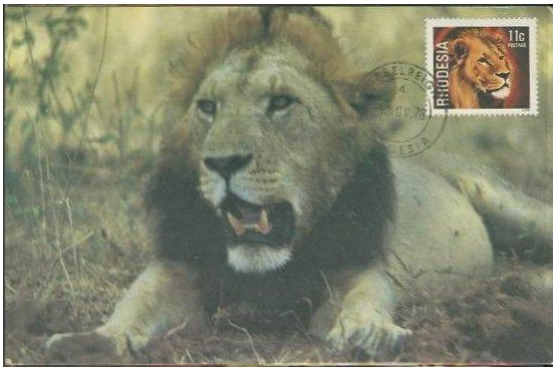


(Source eBay download)

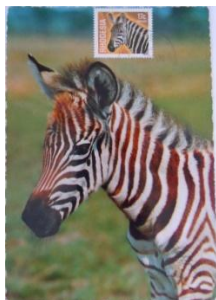
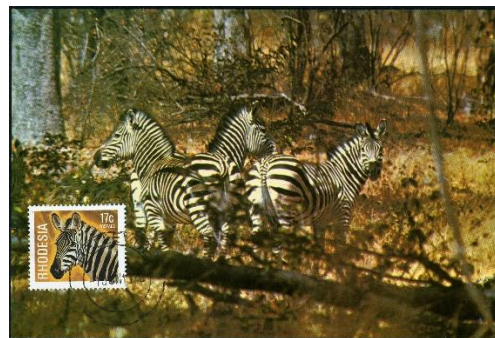
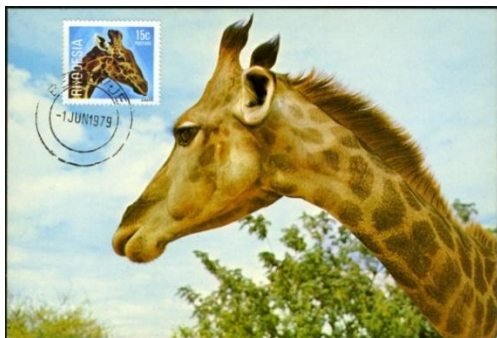
Postcards

A series of postcards illustrating the animals and waterfalls shown on the 1978 definitive issue were philatelically used with the appropriate picture and stamp. Many of the cards below were postmarked Bellevue 1 June 1979, which also happens to be the first day of Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

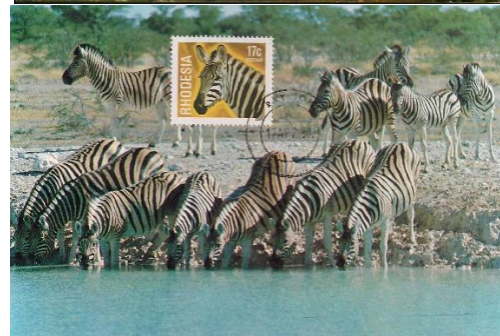
So far, a postcard with Goba Falls (25c) has not been found.



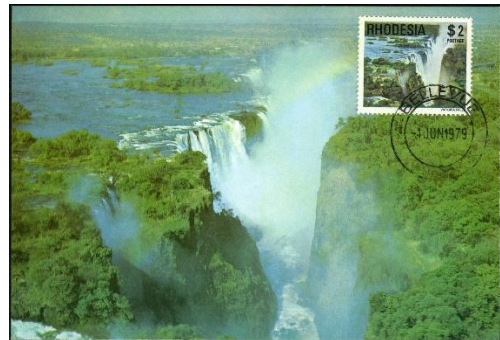
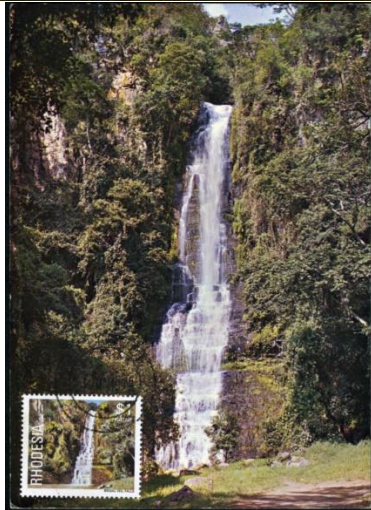
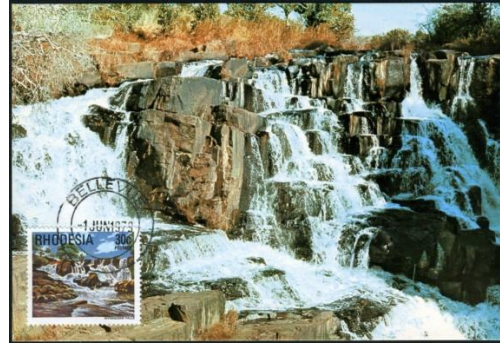
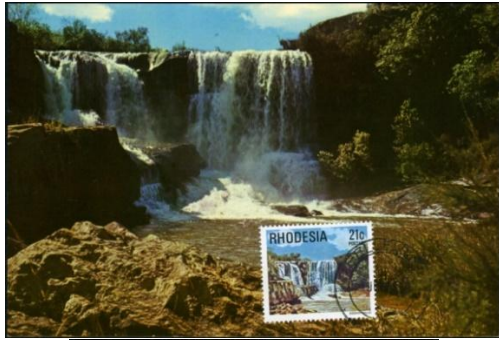
(Image supplied by James Gavin)



(Image supplied by James Gavin)



(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



Bibliography

1. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, December 1979, No 108, page 156.
2. Magnify, September 1979, vol 10 No 6 (No 112), and November 1979, vol 10 No 8 (No 114)
3. Post & Telecommunications Corporation Bulletin No 2 of 1978, published by the Philatelic Bureau
4. "The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue", 1983/84, published by Salisbury Stamp Company
5. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, September 1986, No 135, page 98
6. "A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia", supplement No 5, issued 1978, published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group
7. "Printings of the 1978 Definitive set sheet serial numbers", D E C Dale, Magnify, June 1981, vol 12 n0 3 (129)
8. "New Printings of the 1978 Definitives", M Amos, Magnify, November 1981, vol 12 no 8 (134)
9. "Bureau News", March 1978, Magnify, page 158
10. "Rhodesia – the fourth definitive issue", Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, March 1979, No 105, page 34
11. "Rhodesia's fourth definitive issue", report from Glenn Thomas, March 1980, RSCJ 109 page 15

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2022	12 approval cards signed by Postmaster-General
8/2023	3c presentation card
4/2026	17c & 30c complete issued sheets imperforate

Appendix 1

The Fourth Definitive Issue

Magnify, October 1979, pages 92 to 94

Value	Cyl	Row	Col	
1c	1A	3	8	Small dot centre of stone
		5	9	Orange dot right of stone
	1B	1	10	Black dot on 'H' and 'O' of Rhodesia
		5	9	Green circle over 'M' of Morganite (probably litho flaw)
		9	4	Dot about 4 o'clock on stone
		10	4	Pink dot, top margin, left
3c	1A	2	3	Blue spot over 'HY' of amethyst
		3	5	Blue spot right of stone face
		4	1	Ring flaw 3mm below 'RH' 1A of Rhodesia
		4	2	Blue spot bottom left corner
		8	5	Small horizontal red line top of 'S' in Rhodesia
				The yellow 1A is thicker than the others
	1B	8	1	Red spot under 'R' of Rhodesia
		9	10	Red spot over 'R' of Rhodesia
4c	1A	4	5	Small red dot left tip of stone
		7	5	Small red dot left tip of stone but higher up
	1B	1	1	Small green dot right of stone, left of frame
		1	6	Small green patch bottom frame line, left
		1	10	Small red dot left of stone's base
		2	5	Green patch on facets right of stone
		4	10	An oblique in right frame – centre
		10	4	Yellow spot 2 o'clock of stone's edge
5c	1A	10	3	Green dot 3mm below 'R' of Rhodesia
	1B	3	6	Reddish patch under 'C' and over 'age' of postage, also green circle lower
		3	9	Black spot above bottom frame line, centre
		5	9	Light spot just left of stone - centre
7c	Slight colour shift on left of sheets giving value and postage a reddish tint and red line to frame, left top. Seen later on right of sheets			
	1A	4	5	Red spot about 4 o'clock of stone's centre
		4	7	Large pink circle surrounding darker blue patch below 'SI' of Rhodesia
		7	2	Yellow spot bottom left corner
		8	1	Small dark patch on stone's face
	1B	1	7	Light patch at 4 o'clock on stone

Value	Cyl	Row	Col	
		9	6	Pink circle surrounding darker blue spot near stone below 'P' of postage
9c	1A	1	7	Orange dot S of Rhodesia
		9	5	Red ring flaw on 'cheek'
		10	3	Black dot 'I' of Rhodesia
	1B	10	4	Black squiggle 'F' in frame before Rhinoceros
11c	1A	3	4	Black dot on jaw line
		9	2	Red spot on forehead
	1B	9	4	Red dot on nose
		10	5	Small black dot on neck to right of 'H' and small blue dot on bottom frame line almost below
13c	1A	4	3	Small green spot over '3' of 13
		8	4	Ring flaw under 'R' of Rhodesia
		10	3	Green ring on snout
	1B	3	5	Small green dot midway in right of frame
		9	4	Small green dot right of snout above frame line
		10	1 & 2	Small green dots near bottom frame line left of 'W' of warthog. Bottom row is a paler colour.
15c	1A	6	4	Ring flaw top right corner
		9	5	Black spot bottom left corner in margin
	1B			"Giraffe" doubled in top right corner stamps
17c	1A	4	3	Blue spot on nose
	1B	9	2	Small dot between ear and 17c and a yellow oblique before 'P' of postage
21c	1A	2	4	Small nick in right of 'D' of Rhodesia, also on 1B
		7	4	Small red dot right of falls at left of stamp
		9	2	Small dot under '1' of 21
	1B	2	4	Small nick in right of 'D' of Rhodesia, also on 1B
		7	1	Small cloud under 'A' of Rhodesia.
25c	1A	3	3	Pink spot mid river right
	1B	1	5	Circled black dot on the bottom of 'D' of Rhodesia
30c	1A	7	1	Red line about 11 o'clock from 'O' and a pink vertical curved line inside 'D' of Rhodesia
		7	4	Small dot 'over centre bar of 'E' of Rhodesia
	1B	7	5	Top right corner of 'R' in Rhodesia broken
		8	1	Small dot over 'A' of postage

Value	Cyl	Row	Col	
\$1	1A	5	1	Red dot on ‘H’ of Rhodesia
	1B	5	4	Small black dot 1½ mm from top margin 3mm from left margin
		8	1	Red spot in right margin
\$2	1A	2	4	Black dot in water under ‘H’ of Rhodesia
		2	5	Black dot in top margin above ‘IA’ of Rhodesia
		4	4	The vertical lines in the lower half of ‘\$’ have dots on them
		8	4	The ‘O’ of Rhodesia has small mark protruding at about 7 o'clock forming a reversed ‘Q’, and a red dot in top left margin
		9	4	Orange "circle" under R of Rhodesia
	1B	2	1	Black dot in inlet centre left of river
		10	2	Ring flaw ‘DE’ of Rhodesia
		10	3	Ring flaw in ‘Rain Forest’