

The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

The British South Africa Company, which was awarded a Royal Charter in 1889 to administer its territory, issued the 1905 Victoria Falls stamps to commemorate the opening of the Victoria Falls Bridge.

Page 1	Introduction
Page 2	Design of the 1905 Victoria Falls Issue
Page 3	The issued duties and Print Run
Page 4	Printers Specimens
Page 5	Perforation Varieties
Page 6	Perforation Varieties continued
Page 7	Complete sheet of 1d duty
Page 8	Complete sheet of 2½d duty
Page 9	Complete sheet to 5d duty
Page 10	Varieties
Page 11	Varieties continued
Page 12	Tree Flaw
Page 13	Visit of The British Association for the Advancement of Science
Page 14	Used at Gwelo
Page 15	“Maxi Cards”
Page 16	Postal use

Cecil Rhodes had ordered the construction of a railway line to link the countries under the banner of the British South Africa Company and the construction of a bridge over the Zambezi River at Victoria Falls. The railway was expected to link Cape Town to Cairo. The British Association for the Advancement of Science visited Rhodesia for the opening of the bridge.

The set of stamps was issued on 13th July 1905 from Salisbury. First day of Issue postmarks are only recorded in Salisbury (Proud D5) and are extremely rare. Printed in Recess by Waterlow & Sons, Perf: 14 (5d 14½ to 15)



Stamps were printed in sheets of 25 and the number of duties sent to Victoria Falls Post Office to cater for the “Visit” were:

288 x 1d	216 x 2½d	60 x 5d	36 x 1/-
18 x 2/6d	18 x 5/-		

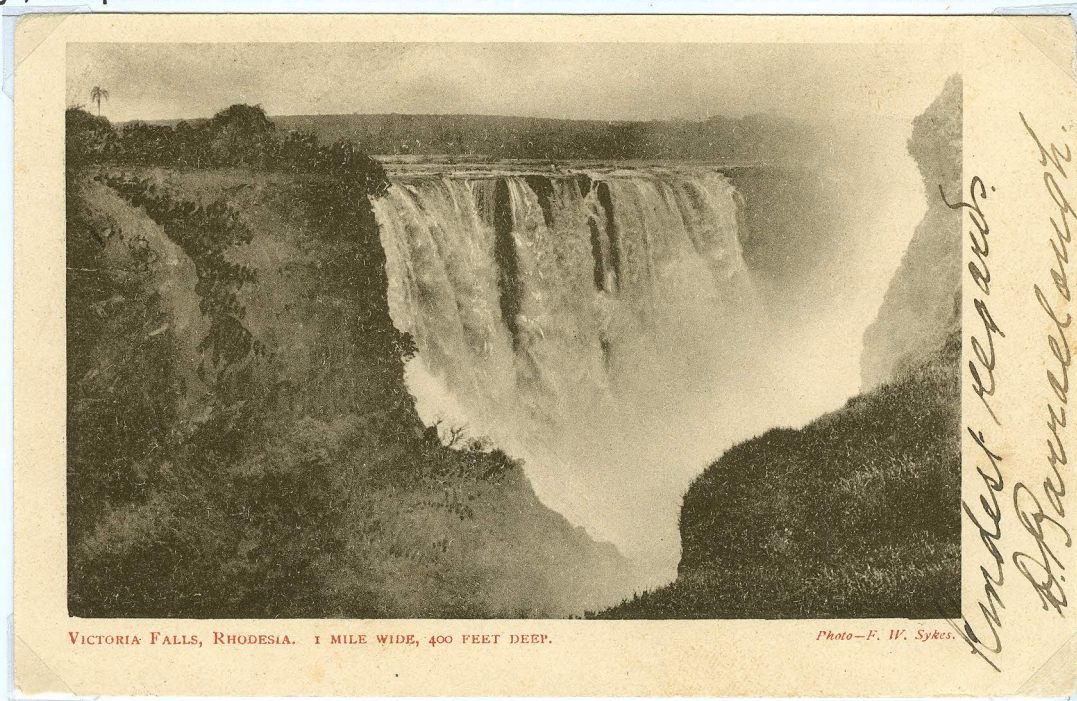
Some post offices received none at all, although most received a few sheets, but not necessarily of all values.

The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Design of the 1905 Victoria Falls Issue

There is still debate about whether an image taken by Percy Clark or F. W. Sykes was used for the design of the stamps. A picture of "The Victoria Falls From The Rainforest" by the former was displayed in the London offices of British South Africa Company. However, a postcard produced with a photograph by the latter entitled "Victoria Falls, Rhodesia. 1 mile wide, 400 feet Deep" was used as part of a set of post cards issued by Waterlow. Certainly , comparison with the card and the issued duties shows remarkable similarity.



F.W. Sykes - "Victoria Falls, Rhodesia. 1 mile wide 400 feet Deep"

The name of the Designer is unknown. There was a single printing using a single plate for each duty. Twenty five stamps per sheet with an Imprint in the bottom margin. There is no watermark



The 1d Duty

The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

The Issued Duties and Print Run

1d Rose Red to Deep Red 8000 Sheets



2½d Grey Blue to Deep Blue 2800 sheets



5d Pale Claret to Deep Claret 800 sheets



1/- Dull Green to Blue Green 1200 Sheets



2/6d Grey Black to Black 800 Sheets



5/- Dull Violet to Deep Violet 800 Sheets



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Specimens

Overprinted "SPECIMEN" (Samuel Type R6) except 5d duty which is usually Perfin. The Perfin may be reversed, inverted, reversed and inverted, and normal



Perf 14x14



Perf 14x14



Perf 14x14

Perfin SPECIMEN
Normal



Perf 14x13½
Perfin NEMICEPS
Reversed
Full Bird flaw
Position 10



Perf 14x14
Perfin NEWICEPS
Inverted & reversed
Bird Flaw
State 3
Position 15



Perf 14x14
Overprint SPECIMEN
Samuel Type R6



Perf 14x14



Perf 14x14



Perf 14x14

Varieties



Perf 14x14
Exclamation mark
over second I of
Victoria



Perf 14x14
Broken right arm
of "M"



Perf 14x14
Second E has an
apostrophe and
comma

The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Perforation Varieties

Perf 14



Perf 14½



Perf 15



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Perforation Varieties continued

Perf $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$



Perf $15\frac{1}{2} \times 14$



Perf $15 \times 15 \times 15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$

Only copy reported



Perf 14



Perf $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$



Perf $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$



The 1/- Duty is known Perf $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$

The 5/- Duty is known Perf 15

The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

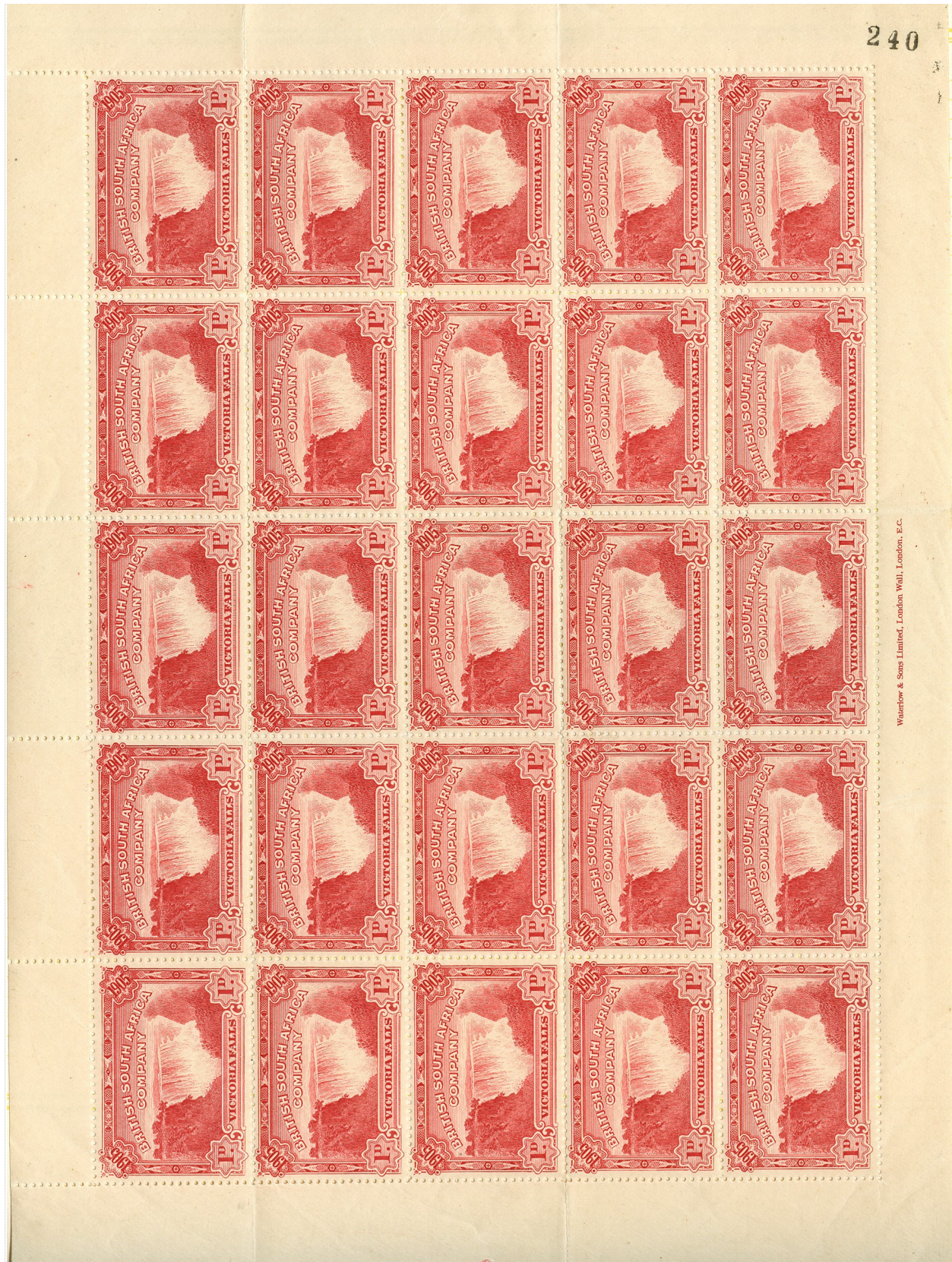
Sheet of 1d Duty Perf 14

“Man in Falls” Positions 17 and 23

“Boulder Flaw” Position 23

“Aircraft Flaw” Positions 18,19 and 20

“Large Vegetation falling” Position 18



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Complete sheet of 2½d Duty



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

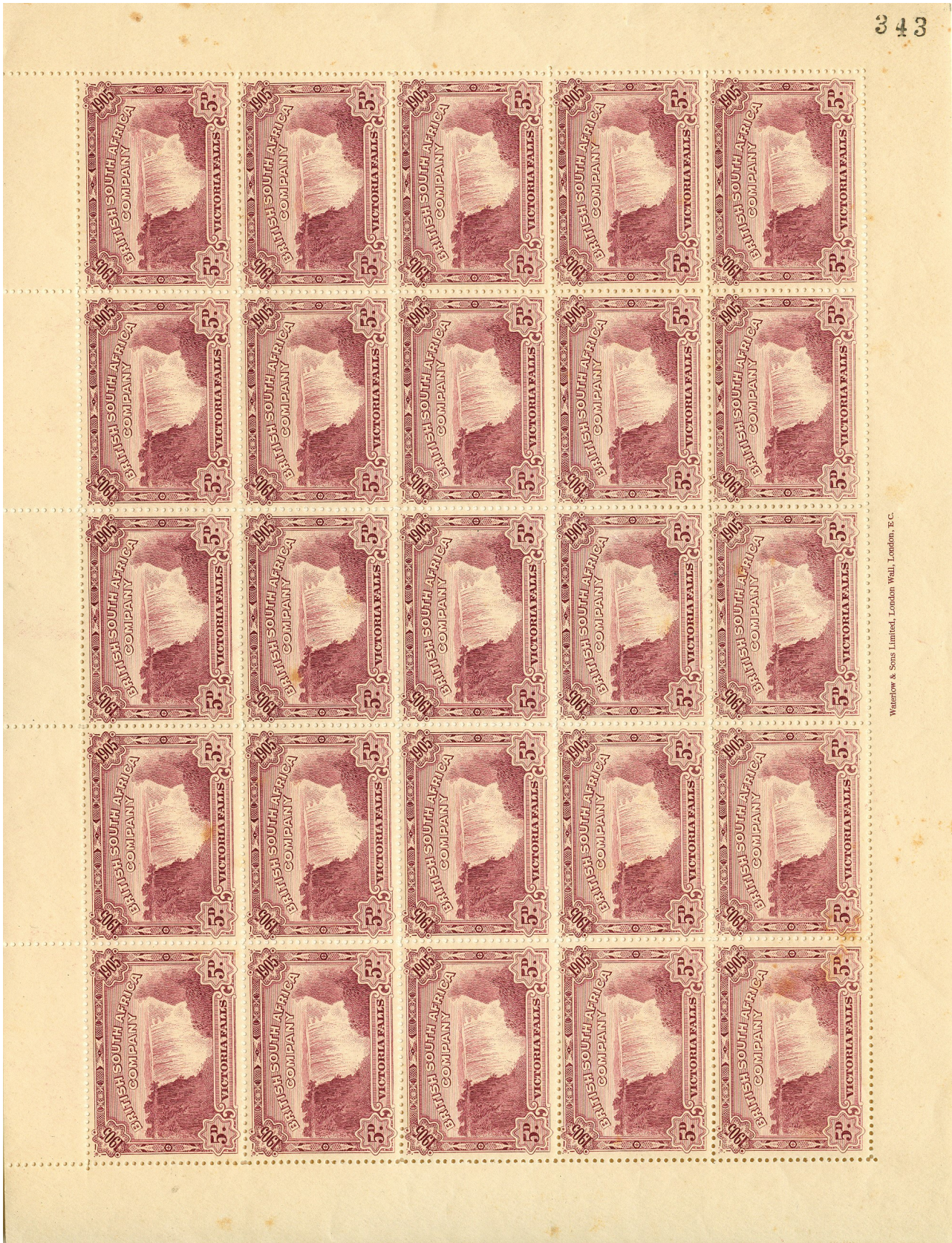
Complete sheet of 5d duty Perf 14½ - 15

"Tree Flaw": Stage 1 position 10 "Long Branch"

Stage 2 positions 11,12,13,14 "Single branch"

Position 15 "Single branch Detached"

"Man in Falls" Position 18



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Varieties 1d Duty



Boulder Flaw
Position 23
Perf 14



Man in Falls
Position 17
Perf 14



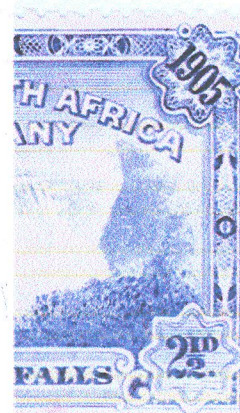
Canoe in Falls
Perf 14



Varieties 2½d Duty



Dash
Right Margin
Position 7
Perf 14



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Varieties 2½d Duty



Heavy Rain in
Forest due to
Over inked stamp



Variety 1/- Duty



Dot over TI

Position 10



Variety 2/6d Duty



Dot over RI

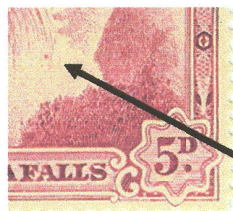


Varieties 5d Duty

Body in Falls



Position 18



Dot over AF



Position 22



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

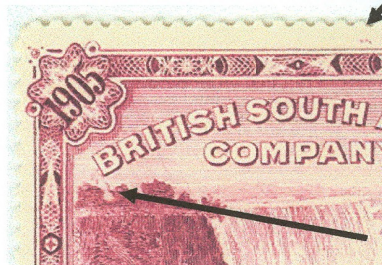
The 5d Tree Flaw Variety

Two joined curves
between trees



State 1: Position 10

Row 2 No 10



Three dots in
margin over H
of South

Tree Flaw
State 1

Dot in Margin

Tree Flaw
State 2



Dot below LVT
Dot in bottom margin
below S of Falls

State 2: Position 11

Row 3 No 1

Tree Flaw
State 2

Re-entry in LH
Value Tablet



State 2: Position 13

Row 3 No 3

Dot in Margin

Tree Flaw
State 2



Line at lower
corner

State 2: Position 12

Row 3 No 2

Tree Flaw
State 2

Small Re-entry in
LVT



State 2: Position 14

Row 3 No 5



State 3: Position 15

Row 3 No 5

Tiny dot below bottom
of B

Tree Flaw State 3
Slightly detached from
tree



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Visit of The British Association for the Advancement of Science

On Sunday 12th November 1905, Professor George Darwin (son of Charles Darwin), who was President elect of the Association, officially opened the railway bridge across the Zambezi River close to the Victoria Falls and linking Northern and Southern Rhodesia.

Members of The British Association were present to mark the occasion, and a temporary post office was opened for their two day visit. The post office was open for just two hours on the Sunday, during which time a 36mm circular BRITISH ASSOCIATION VICTORIA FALLS date stamp was used to cancel mail. The post Office was also open on Monday 13th September using the same date stamp. Stamps and Covers dated 12th September are hard to find because of the short duration of opening of the post office on the Sunday.

The set of six Victoria Falls stamps each with September 12th 1905 cancel.



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Individual duties used and cancelled

Gwelo S.Rhodesia

The cancellation is DC - Proud D5



19 JUL 1905
Perf 14



21 JUL 1905
Perf 14½



10 APR 1909
Perf 14½
Tree State 2 Pos 13



28 FEB 1906
Perf 14



13 AUG 1909
Perf 14



13 AUG 1907
Perf 14

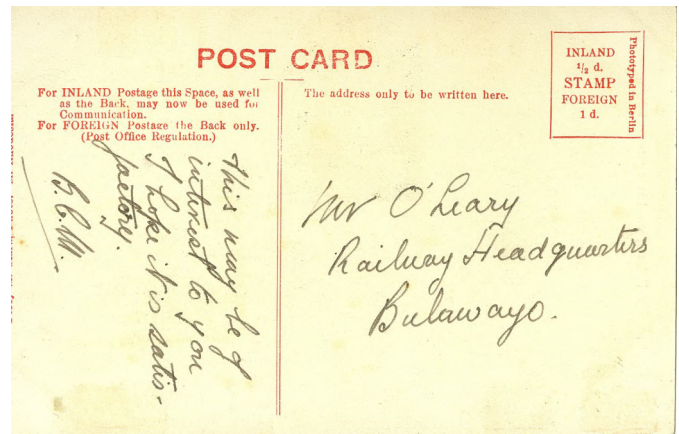
The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Maxi Cards



Reduced

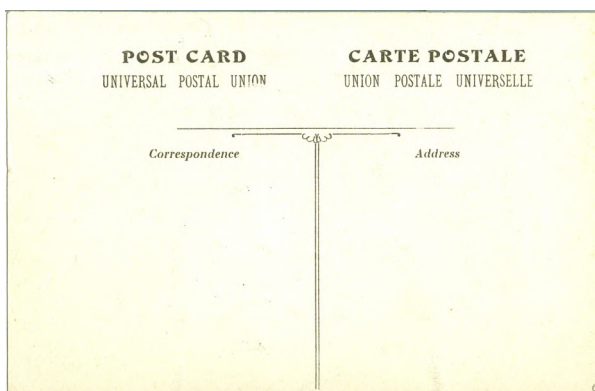


1d duty on front of "Victoria Falls from Livingstone Island" (Percy M Clark) addressed to Mr. O'Leary at Railway Headquarters Bulawayo cancelled with "The Association Visit" cancellation on SEP 13 1905

Unused postcard of "Victoria Falls from Livingstone island" with 1d duty placed on the front and cancelled with "The Association Visit" on SEP 12 1905

Possibly pre-cancelled cards were available for purchase at the Post Office

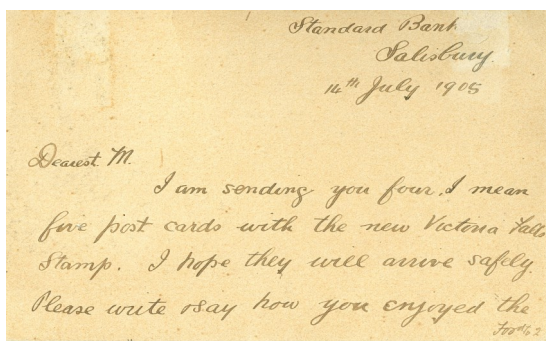
Reduced



The British South Africa Company

1905 Victoria Falls Issue

Postal Use



Stationery card with printed 1/2d duty small arms and 1d duty Victoria Falls 1905 sent to Lady Michell at 2 London Wall Bldg London EC by an unknown author (possibly Sir Lewis) from Salisbury and cancelled 14 Jul 05 12- PM. The message reads "Dearest M, I am sending you four, I mean five post cards with the new Victoria Falls stamp. I hope they will arrive safely. Please write and say how you enjoyed the food." Possibly Lady Michell had visited and been entertained. (Reduced)



Mourning letter sent to Captain H F G Hay R.N. at 1, Helena Road, Southsea

Victoria Falls 2½d duty Cancelled at Selukwe S. Rhodesia on NO 20 05 and received in Southsea on 14/12/05

There are no back cancellations or markings or writing on the back.