

WORLD TOBACCO CONGRESS

Issued 18th February 1963

(Extract from "An Issue is Born" from Gibbons Stamp Monthly February 1963)³

Note: It is interesting to note the GSM article was published either at the same time, if not slightly before, the issue was released by the Federal Post Office.

The tobacco industry of Rhodesia and Nyasaland started with experimental plantings in 1893. Tobacco, however, had been introduced by the Portuguese and was grown by the indigenous people in small patches near their villages.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the commercial production of tobacco for export, two international congresses were held in Salisbury in 1963. The first of these was the Third World Tobacco Scientific Congress, February 18th to 26th, sponsored by the Tobacco Research Board of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, under the auspices of CORESTA (the International Cooperation Centre for Scientific Research relative to tobacco). This was followed from March 6th to 16th, by the First International Tobacco Trade Congress, organized by TEPCORN—the Tobacco Export Promotion Council of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The attractive designs of the four new commemorative stamps issued by the Federation are, with the exception of the 3d., based on official photographs selected by the Federal Postmaster-General. Victor Whiteley prepared the finished artwork and the stamps were printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons. They are inscribed " World Tobacco Congress " and include a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen by Dorothy Wilding (Portraits) Ltd. The original design material was supplied to Gibbons Stamp Monthly courtesy and helpful co-operation of Messrs J. Snell and S. Brewer of the High Commissioner's Office in London, and of the Federal Ministry of Posts.

Striking in its simplicity, the design of the 3d stamp shows a mature tobacco plant, the emblem of TEPCORN, taken from the cover of one of the Council's export brochures (Fig. 1). This emblem is displayed on the Council's letterheads and other publications. For reproduction on the stamp, however, the artist was required to make the plant stand out in relief (accomplished by the white background) and to darken the veins of the leaves. The plant, *Nicotiana tabacum*, which originated in America, has flowers and suckers, and these are cut, if required, to strengthen the leaf, or left to promote further growth. Some species of *Nicotiana* are especially cultivated for their fragrant flowers.



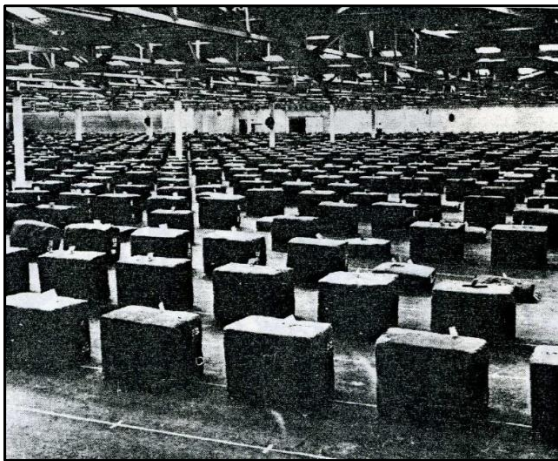
Tobacco leaves are reaped as they ripen, usually two from each plant at intervals of a week or ten days. Each full "stick" carries one hundred leaves and 800 sticks are needed to fill a curing barn. Tobacco leaf has its own characteristic green and a colour sample of the appropriate shade was furnished to the artist.



The source of design of the 6d. stamp, a tobacco field typical of the Inyazura district of Southern Rhodesia, is the middle section of an official photograph, also used (on page 21 of TEPCORN's export brochure). The Post Office instructions called for the inclusion at a point in the field "lane", marked with an "x" on the back of the photo, the figure of "a man in shorts and shirt and wearing a slouch hat". Thus, on the stamp, we see a farmer tending the crop. There was the similar figure of a planter to the left of the original photograph which was rather too large for satisfactory reproduction in the tiny stamp size.

The tobacco "belt", ranging from Salisbury across Mashonaland, via Marandellas, Headlands, and Rusape to Umtali, is high, open, picturesque country with granite subsoil, over which the richer red soil occurs at intervals. The photograph shows, in the background, the granite outcrops - huge, time-worn boulders and "balancing rocks", jutting from the scrub like ancient monoliths. The tobacco plants in the picture are 4 feet high, with fine broad leaves.

Two official photographs provided the setting for the design of the 1sh3d stamp - the view of a typical tobacco auction floor in Salisbury. The first picture, showing the long lines of tobacco bales (not unlike suitcases in a Customs shed at holiday time!), came from the Rhodesian authorities, but it was decided to introduce the human element and in fact the stamp shows officials of the Tobacco Marketing Board supervising the final arrangement of the bales prior to an auction.



These figures were derived from the second photograph (*Fig. 4*), selected from the Rhodesia House files. This shows a tobacco auction in progress and bears the number 6534 of the Public Relations Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, photographed by H. W. Mills, in April, 1961. The composite picture makes an interesting and unusual stamp design, enhanced by the aptly-chosen colours of orange-brown and indigo.

Rhodesian farmers deliver the cured and graded leaf to the floors—there are three huge auction floors in Salisbury, comprising the biggest single tobacco-selling centre in the world—in standard bales weighing up to 240 lb. each, and in a period of six months more than a million

bales are laid out in lines and sold individually. Sales are held from 7.45 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. daily from March to September. The licensed buyers stand on one side of the bales, facing the sales team on the other: the key salesmen are the starter (who quotes the starting price), the "singing" auctioneer (whose rapid, musical patter can conclude a sale in six seconds) and the ticket-marker who records the sale. As both teams shuffle along the line of bales, bids are made by a look or a nod and a halfpenny is added to the value of each pound of leaf in a bale: a bid on a bale of 240 lb. would thus be 10s. Up to 500 or more bales an hour can be sold in this fashion! But it is always an anxious time for the farmer.



The source of the last design, a "hand" of flue-cured tobacco leaf (2sh6d.), was another photograph from the official files. Again, the artist had a colour "splash" to indicate the exact golden yellow of the cured leaf, and one can see clearly how the graded leaf is bound by a twisted leaf, the end projecting through the leaf by the "haft". The hands are then baled for auction and ultimately cased for export to any one of more than fifty countries. Federal production of all kinds of tobacco now exceeds 250 million lb. a year and more than 96 per cent of it is exported.

The Stamps



Catalogue Listings

SG	RSC	Value	Description	Print colours (<i>RSC colours where different</i>)
43	C53	3d	Tobacco plant	Green & olive-brown (Deep green & olive-brown)
	a.		Serif Flaw (R2/C2)	
44	C54	6d	Tobacco field	Green, brown & blue (<i>Deep brown, deep green & blue</i>)
	a.		Spot on Queen's check (R8/C2)	
45	C55	1sh3d	Auction floor	Chestnut & indigo (<i>Orange-brown & indigo</i>)
46	C56	2sh6d	Cured tobacco	Yellow & brown

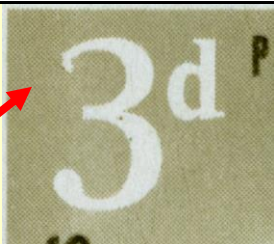
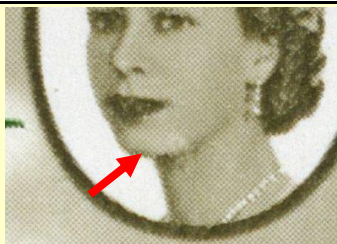
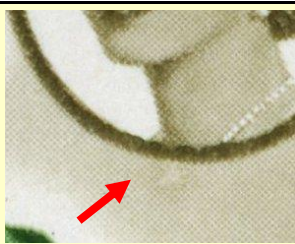
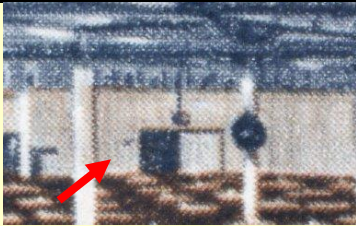
Technical details:

Stamp sizes:	27 x 40.5 mm
Sheet size:	60 stamps (10 rows of 6 stamps)
Number of panes:	One
Printers:	Harrison & Sons Ltd
Artwork:	Victor Whiteley from photographs and artwork supplied by Post Office
Paper:	White paper with colourless gum
Print colours:	See catalogue descriptions of colours
No of Panes:	One pane marked 1A
Perforations:	Comb perfs: SG 14 x 14½: RSC 14 x 14¾ 3d Left margin: Imperf Top & bottom margins: One extension hole Right margin: Perforated 6d, 1sh3d & 2sh6d Right margin: Imperf Top & bottom margins: One extension hole Left margin: Perforated
Printer's imprint:	Right margin, opposite R6&7, "Harrison & Sons Ltd London", colours – 3d Olive-brown 6d Brown 1sh3d Indigo 2sh6d Brown
Cylinder numbers	Right margin, opposite R2, colours reading from left 3d: no cylinder numbers 6d: 1A 1A 1A – brown blue, green 1sh3d: 1A 1A – indigo, chestnut 2sh6d: 1A 1A – brown, yellow
Colour register:	None
Sheet Value:	Left margin opposite R1 in same colours as imprint. 3d (15s 0d); 6d (£1 10s 0d); 1sh3d (£3 15s 0d); 2sh6d (£7 – 10 – 0)

Sheet number:	Three to five digit number in black, left margin opposite R10/6
Print numbers:	Unknown
Issue date:	18 th February, 1963 (Postal notice 1/1963)
Withdrawn:	17 th May, 1963 (Postal notice 3/1963)
Demonetarised:	1 st September 1964 – S Rhodesia (Postal notice 3/1964)

Listed Varieties

The Mashonaland Guide lists a number of varieties for this issue, these are all minor and difficult to see with the naked eye. The Guide itself acknowledges that many of those varieties listed may not be constant. The complete listing is shown in the annexure attached. Listed are varieties to every 3d stamp! Where possible, only those varieties shown in bold are illustrated here, as these were considered to be important to the compilers.

 3d: “Serif flaw” RSC C53a, R2/C2	 3d: Retouch on the Queen's neck and cheek. R4/C5	 3d: Retouch below Queen's neck, outside oval
 6d: “Sparkling earring flaw” R3/C4	 6d: Spot on Queen’s jaw R8/C2	 6d: “Torn trousers flaw” R10/C1
 1sh3d: “Extra rooflight flaw” R1/C3	 1sh3d: “Light switch flaw” R6/C6	

Unlisted varieties

Three Pence



Dry print run of olive-brown affecting rows 3 to 5 of column 1. Note end of dry print through "Rhodesia &" in row 3 (*Source eBay*)



Dry print of olive-brown ink affecting row 1, affect top left section of stamp
(*Source Spink auction archive 2016*)



Used example of partial dry run of green ink



Green smudge to left margin of stamp on right



Partial brown line through Queen's portrait,
Could be remains of doctor blade



Shift of green plate upwards



Green vertical smudge



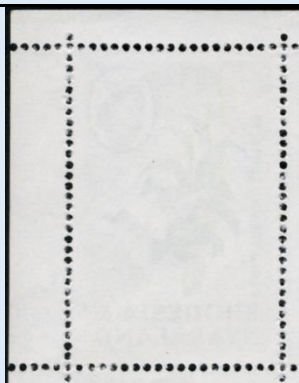
Additional light green area above tobacco plant



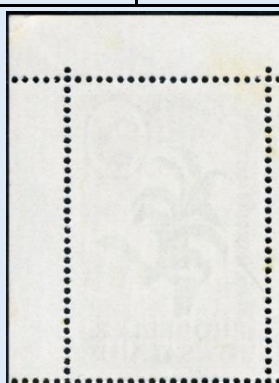
Vertical green smudge
(Source eBay)



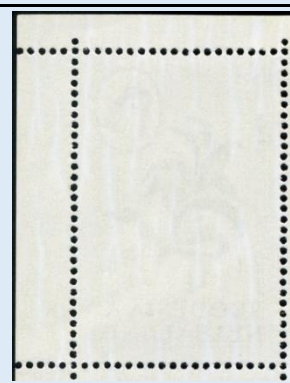
Vertical doctor blade flaw
(Source rhodesia.co.za)



No gum



Normal



Ribbed gum

Gum varieties: All above scans are from the top right hand corner of the sheet, with the usual whitish gum. On the left there is no gum, while on the right the gum is thicker and ribbed.

Six Pence



Shift of green plate to right,
giving image a 'fuzzy'
appearance



Blue line across stamps



Blue line across stamps (slightly lower)



Shift of blue plate right

Two Shillings & Six Pence



Pre-printing paper crease

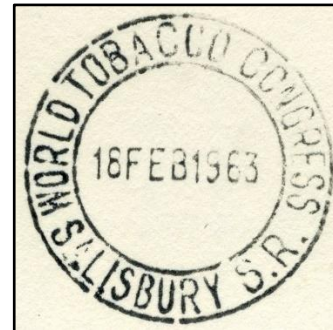


Smudged brown lines through top of stamps,
including Queen's portrait

First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear. No first day covers were produced by the Post Office.

The Post Office, however, produced a special World Tobacco congress postmark, which was used at the temporary post office at the University of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The post office was open from 18th to 26th February 1963. Salisbury registration labels were, however, used.¹ The opening of this post office was for the Tobacco Congress.

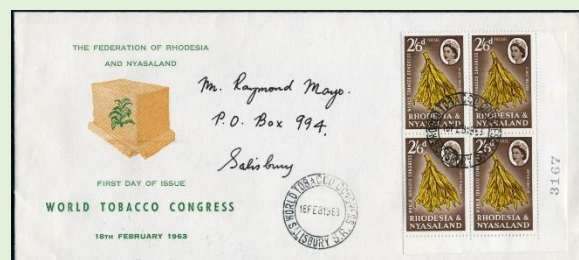


Cover 21.1.1



Cover with printed registration lines
228 x 102 mm

Cover 21.1.2



Cover without registration lines
228 x 102 mm

Cover 21.2 (Ndola Philatelic Society) #



189 x 127 mm

Cover 21.3 (possibly Official Congress cover)



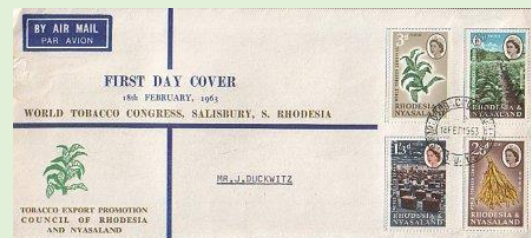
228 x 102 mm

Cover 21.4 (Rothmans)



228 x 102 mm

Cover 21.5 (Tobacco Export Promotion Council)



228 x 102 mm

Cover 21.6



186x 89 mm

Cover 21.7 (London Assurance)



Only seen with 2sh6d stamp
157 x 126

Cover 21.8



164 x 92 mm

Cover 21.10



164 x 92 mm

Cover 21.9 (Lusaka Philatelic Society) #



This is a special card produced by the Lusaka Philatelic Society for this issue.
The inside of the card contains a Menu for five course meal, plus cocktails and coffee.
Postmarked on day of issue at Woodlands, Lusaka, post office

230 x 155 mm

Cover 21.11 (Philatelic Society of Rhodesia) #



228 x 102 mm

Territories producing these first day covers, or at least where they appear to have been postmarked. (* possibly used in other territories)

Northern Rhodesia Cover numbers 21.2, 21.9 & 21.11 (marked #)

Nyasaland: None (marked @)

Southern Rhodesia All remaining covers

Related Material



This cover was specifically produced for the First World Trade Tobacco Congress, which ran from the 6th to 16th March 1963. The special World Tobacco Congress canceller appears to have also been used during this later Congress. Cover has been seen with postmark dated 6 March.

Bibliography

1. "Rhodesia – A Postal History" by R C Smith, published in 1967, pages 406 to 408
2. "A Guide to the Postage Stamps of the Rhodesias & Nyasaland 1888 - 1963" published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Society 1965, pages 130 - 133
3. "An Issue is Born – World Tobacco Congress, 1963"; Gibbons Stamps Monthly February 1963 pages 70 to 72

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
12-2022	6d – varieties in Appendix – R3/3 & R10/2
	3d – vertical doctor blade flaw

ANNEXURE

This is the complete list of varieties shown in the Mashonaland Guide.²

As can be seen from the varieties listed for the 3d, one for every stamp on the sheet, the schedule is comprehensive. Only those varieties shown in bold have been illustrated in the main text above.

Row	Col	Description
THREEPENCE		
1	1	White dot in left leg of second 'A' of Nyasaland
1	2	Brown mark under 'N' of Congress
1	3	Two coloured dots at 5 o'clock from 'd' of value. Th B3
1	4	Variable flaw in and near the ball of '3' Th B1 a. three brown dots in a line, the middle one being in the centre of the ball and having a smaller green dot below it; or b. only the brown dot in the ball and the small green dot ABOVE it; or c. two brown dots and one green dot in a line, no green dot in the middle.
1	5	Hairline in left margin of stamp and a small dent in the top of the last letter of Nyasaland. Th L7
1	6	White spot under the Queen's chin. Th D7
2	1	Brown spot between 'A' and 'C' of Tobacco. Th G1
2	2	Serif flaw (top of 3 curves down). Th A1
2	3	a. Coloured dot under 'P' of Postage (Th.AS) b. White dot above 'G' of Congress (Th. D1)
2	4	Brown hairline through the second leaf on the right (Th D/E4)
2	5	a. White mark on Queen's face (Th. C/D7) b. Coloured double dot in right margin (Th. F/G9)
2	6	a. Brown dotted line from Oval to second leaf, proceeding halfway down to third leaf then turning back towards the Oval (Th.D5). b. Dot in 'O' of Postage gives a 'C' (Th.AS)
3	1	White dot below the Oval, at 7 o'clock (Th..E6)
3	2	White dot between Queen's eyebrows (Th.C6) and one on the left eyelid. (Th.C7)
3	3	a. White dot on Queen's forehead (Th.B6) b. White dot at the lower corner of her left eye. (Th.C7). c. Small brown stroke and a white dot above 'Y' of Nyasaland (Th.L2)
3	4	Hairline in right margin and two white dots on the Queen's neck. (Th.D7)
3	5	Retouch under left serif of second N of Nyasaland (Th.L6)
3	6	a. White drops at top of stamp and over Queen's face b. Dots in the margin above 'TA' of Postage
4	1	Retouch on right edge of design. (Th. 1/8)
4	2	a. White dot midway between Oval and edge of design (Th.D5) b. White dot below 'OR' of World (Th.J1)

Row	Col	Description
4	3	a. Nearly vertical green line between second and third leaves from top, on right (Th.ES) b. Two dots between third and fourth leaves from top, also on the right (Th.F6)
4	4	Green spot below the Oval. (Th.E7)
4	5	Retouch on the Queen's neck and cheek (Th. D7)
4	6	Two white dots on Queen's cheek (Th.C7) and one on her neck (Th.D7)
5	1	a. Small white dot near edge of design opposite value (Th.B1) b. Dent in top of 'D' of Rhodesia (Th.K4) c. Retouch between 'A' and 'N' of Nyasaland (Th.L6)
5	2	a. White dot outside right leg of first 'A' of Nyasaland. (Th.L5) b. White dot outside Oval at 1.30 o'clock (Th.AS)
5	3	a. White dots in shaded portions of the top left leaf. (Th.D3/E3) b. White dot on centre vein of second leaf on the left. (Th.F3)
5	4	White spot in the arm of 'L' of Nyasaland (Th.M5)
5	5	Brown mark between 'N' and 'Y' of Nyasaland (Th.L2)
5	6	Retouch below Queen's neck, outside oval (Th.E7)
6	1	White dot at base of first 'A' of Nyasaland (Th.M2)
6	2	White dot outside Oval at 1.30 o'clock (Th.A8)
6	3	``Retouches to right of A and above A of Rhodesia (Th.J6/7. Th. K/7)
6	4	a. Green spot to left of value (Th.B1) b. white dent in right edge of design at 5 o'clock from Oval. (Th.E5)
6	5	White spots above 'O' and 'L' of World (Th. I/1 J/I)
6	6	a. Two small green dots on right edge of design at nearest point to Oval (Th.B8) b. Damaged 'D' of Nyasaland
7	1	White spot high up on Queen's forehead above right eye (Th.B6)
7	2	Brown spot between 'L' and 'D' of World (Th.J1)
7	3	a. Two white dots touching bottom of O of Rhodesia (Th.LS) b. White dot at the top of 'E' of Congress (Th.Dl)
7	4	Short brown perpendicular line from the fourth leaf on the right. (Th.F/G5)
7	5	Coloured spots below 'R' of Congress (Th.Dl)
7	6	White vertical lines on Queen's face (Th.C7) and above Oval (Th.A5)
8	1	White spot in the unshaded part of top centre leaf (near the bottom of the leaf) (Th.F3)
8	2	Brown stroke on edge of design opposite 'R' of Congress (Th.Dl)
8	3	White dot on Queen's cheek (Th.C7) and white dot on her neck (Th.D7)
8	4	Green dot above last letter of Congress (Th.Cl)
8	5	White dash from edge of design opposite 'T' of Tobacco (Th.HI)
8	6	a. BROKEN NECKLACE (Spot on the Oval gives the impression that the hidden part of the necklace is broken and hanging out of the Oval.) (Th.D6) b. Green dot in left margin opposite first 'S' of Congress
9	1	White stroke at 4.30 o'clock from '3' of value (Th.B3)
9	2	White dot at bottom of 'T' of Postage (Th.A4)
9	3	a. Coloured dot below 'TA' of Postage (Th.A4) b. White mark touching upright of 'E' of Rhodesia. (Th.K4)

Row	Col	Description
9	4	a. White dot at top of G of Congress (Th.D/El) b. Thin brown lines from below Oval to ampersand. (Th. A-K/7)
9	5	a. White dot at foot of 'R' of World (Th.Jl) b. Dent in left upright of 'H' of Rhodesia (Th.L2)
9	6	Curl on right side of 'd' of value (Th.A5)
10	1	a. Retouch above 'S' of Nyasaland (Th.L4) b. White dot between Oval and edge of design at 3 o'clock (Th.C5)
10	2	White circular mark below last letter of Congress (Th.Cl)
10	3	White dot touching left upright of 'A' of Tobacco (Th.Gl)
10	4	Two green dots to the left of and opposite top of '3' of value (Th.Al)
10	5	White star in the fold of the bottom leaf (Th. 1 3/4)
10	6	Pale mark (retouch?) between Queen's left eye and ear (Th.C7)
SIXPENCE		
1	5	Small white patch on Queen's chin. Th D6
1	6	Light spots on Queen's cheek (Th C7) and neck (Th. D7)
2	2	White spot on Queen's nose. Th C6
3	3	Retouch on Queen's forehead. Th B6
3	4	Sparkling earring. Th C7
5	3	White dot at foot of left leg of 'A' of Postage. Th A4
7	2	White dot between 'T' and 'A' of Postage. Th A4
8	2	a. Protruding spot on Queen's cheek. Th D7 b. White patch in the green label to right of 'D' of Field. Th 18
9	2	White dot between 'O' and 'S' of Postage. Th A4
10	1	a. Trousers flaw (a green patch on the right leg of the African's shorts). Th F5 b. Small white projection from left leg of first 'N' of Nyasaland. Th LI
10	2	Double ear-ring. Th C/D7

Row	Col	Description
10	6	a. White patch on ground between the rows of tobacco. Th G5 b. White patch alongside left leg of first 'N' of Nyasaland. Th LI c. White dot attached to left leg of 'H' of Rhodesia. Th L2
ONE SHILLING & THREEPENCE		
1	3	Extra roof light to left of RE of Congress. Th DI
2	1	a. 'Dotted' I of Auction. Th H8 b. 'Beauty Spot' above Queen's mouth. Th C6
2	2	Two brown dots in left margin opposite 'A' of Tobacco
3	4	Dot between Queen's face and frame of Oval. Th C6
4	2	White spot on Queen's neck. Th D7
4	3	a. Two small dots on Queen's cheek-bone. Th D7 b. Black spot next to frame of Oval, opposite Queen's mouth.
5	3	White dot under the bar of 'A' of Tobacco. Th G1
6	3	Coloured spot in margin opposite 'ON' of Auction. Th H9
6	6	Light switch to left of sliding door. Th E3
7	2	Dark spot in Oval to left of Crown. Th B6
7	4	Bunched up necklace. Th D7
8	1	Bunched up necklace. Th D7
8	4	Bunched up necklace. Th D7
8	5	a. Bunched up necklace. Th D7 b. Vertical coloured line in right margin. Th G9
9	3	'Beauty Spot' on Queen's left cheek. Th C7
TWO SHILLINGS & SIXPENCE		
1	1	Coloured dot in the 'shillings' stroke
1	2	Retouch on edge of design opposite 'OBA' of tobacco
1	5	Mark on left side of Queen's chin and white spot on throat
1	6	a. Nearly horizontal line extending from Queen's nose, across the eye, to the ear. b. Two brown spots between edge of design and perforation holes above the letters 'O' and 'L' of World
2	6	a. White dot on Queen's neck b. Badly formed 'G' in Congress
3	6	Coloured dot in the top of 'D' of Nyasaland
4	6	Retouch below '6' of value
5	1	White dot close to bottom curve of 'S' of Rhodesia
5	5	a. White dot below bar of A of Rhodesia b. Coloured mark on Queen's left eyebrow
5	6	Brown dot in 'S' of Rhodesia
6	5	White spot opposite 'E' of Congress

Row	Col	Description
6	6	a. Brown mark between middle and bottom bars of 'E' of Rhodesia. b. White dot on left side of the grip of the 'hand' of tobacco.
7	2	Hairline through 'World Tobacco Congress'
7	6	White dot between 'A' and 'N' of Nyasaland
8	1	Brown mark in top margin slightly to the right of the centre of the stamp
9	1	Light brown vertical strokes in the margin opposite value
9	3	Pronounced gash from Queen's lower lip to right cheek (not found on all sheets)
10	1	White spots above 'SI' of Rhodesia
10	3	Spot in 'S' of Nyasaland
10	4	Some damage below Queen's right eyebrow, extending to the left eye