

ALEXANDRE BINDA

Forger instigator Alexandre Binda was born in Beira 17th September 1917 and entered Rhodesia 4th August 1955. Normally a general businessman he lived at 54 Enterprise Road & 126 Baker Avenue, Salisbury.



Mug shots of Binda were in the BSAP Gazette 4086/68 volume 45 dated 20th September 1968 issuing a warrant for his arrest.

Binda persuaded Mr R.J.Haussman, the manager of a print shop "Marandellas Litho Co" to overprint some Churchill stamps. Binda then approached Ernest Andrews, a police printer and former employee at Mardons who agreed to visit Mardons, and through his nightwatchmen acquaintances there, located and "borrowed" the actual 2 formes used for the overprinting of the 1/3 and the 5/- Churchill stamps. Over 2 months the forms were "borrowed" several times and taken to Haussman's print shop where the illegal overprinting was carried out on a Glochner machine. Binda paid Haussman £605 and Andrews £100.

On 23rd November 1966 at Salisbury Magistrates Court Andrews was charged with altering 396 stamps by overprinting them. He was found guilty and sentenced to 12 months incarceration with hard labour, 8 months, suspended for 3 years. Binda pleaded not guilty and was remanded.

The 2nd trial took place on 28th February 1967. Binda appeared in court charged with overprinting 717 stamps and selling 162 of the altered stamps. He was found not guilty on the printing charge but guilty on their sale. He was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment 3 months hard labour with 3 months suspended for 3 years

After serving his sentence, he was re-arrested, and charged with the unlawful export of 514 stamps, being in possession of dagga (marijuana) seeds and forged stamps. A further trial was arranged for 19th September 1968. Binda failed to attend court, absconding to Mozambique where he died in 1980. The police file was then closed.

At the Binda trial BSA police forensic scientist Dr J.W.Thompson stated that the forged overprints indicated the use of an inferior ink. The results produced letters that lacked clearly defined edges and the eyes of the 'e's tended to block up. He also proved that the genuine type forme employed for the 1/3 value was used to produce the overprint forgeries. The 6d and 9d values had been overprinted using the same forme. It is assumed the same forme was used for the 1/-, but no 1/- values formed part of the trial evidence. The court confiscated all stamps with overprints.

This Binda 6d forgery inverted overprint shows 'rough' printing with the thicker ink evident at the 1 of 11th and the 9 of 1965.
The overprint shows through the back of the stamp.



This Binda 9d forgery inverted overprint is easily recognizable by the usage of heavy ink. Note the 'tail' to the N of Independence.
The imprint shows through the back of the stamp

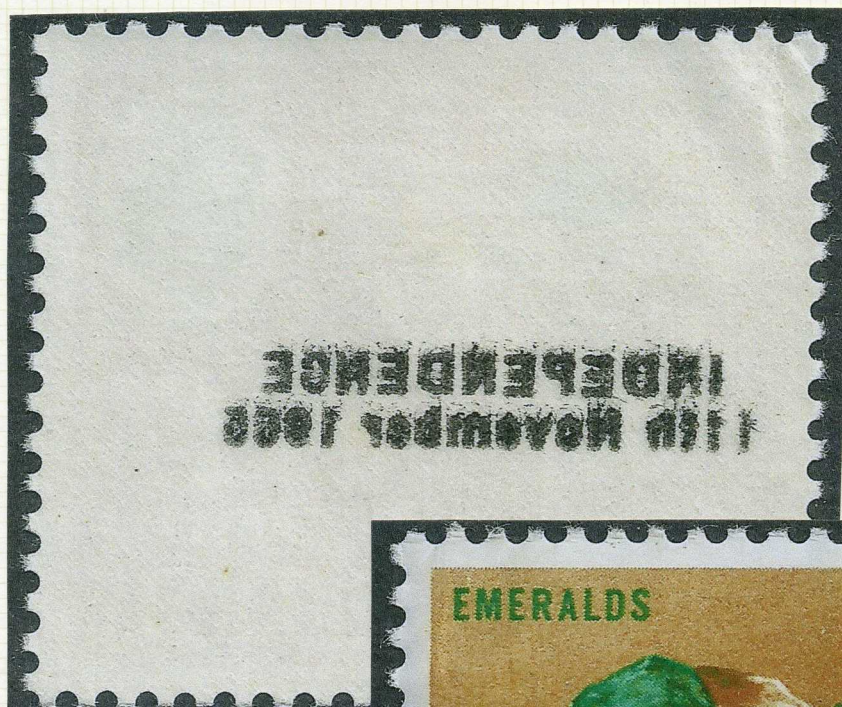


Binda forgery. Stamp overprinted front and back. It is clear the wrong ink was used with the printing appearing heavy. Many of the letters and numbers have the 'e's, 'o's and numbers filled in.



The front of the 1/- stamp below is clearly a Binda forgery when you compare it with the standard printing alongside. The overprint on the front of the stamp is not inverted. This is a rare example of the forged offset. The whole offset is 'fuzzy' compared with the standard offset alongside.

Standard Offset



This Binda forgery inverted overprint shows heavy overinking.

Note the filled in 'e's in November. The imprint shows through to the back of the stamp.

On the 6d, 9d, 1/-, 1/1/3 and the 5/- Churchill Binda forgeries offsets on both front and back are known.



The 1/3 value is particularly rare. Overprint front and back. It is clear that the inking is wrong with the eyes of the 'e's and numbers filled in.
The Philatelic Federation of South Africa Expert Committee have certified the overprints are Binda forgeries (see back of sheet).



Binda forgeries are characterised by the 'E's of 'November' filled in.



Binda forged offsets are very difficult to prove as offsets are fairly common on many denominations. It is particularly difficult on the 5/- Churchill.

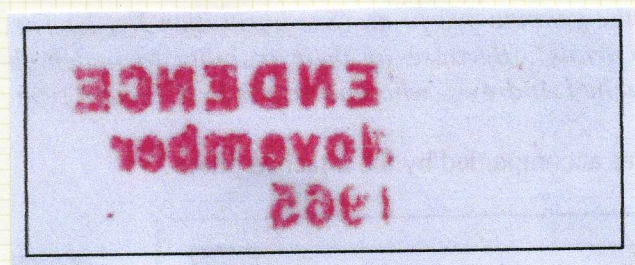
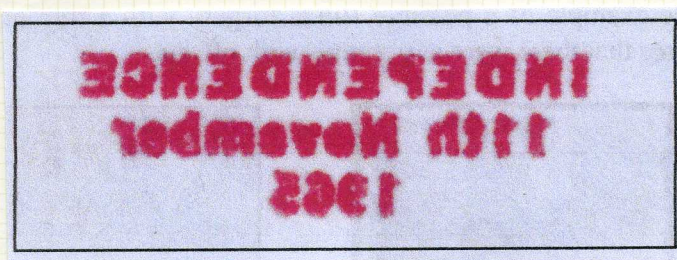
The Churchill Independence overprinted stamp is found with full and partial offsets. Binda forgeries can sometimes be identified by the 'e's of November being filled in, the lettering is heavily inked and fuzzy.

These examples could be genuine offsets occurring in the Mardon printings, or they could be Binda's attempts to create offsets.

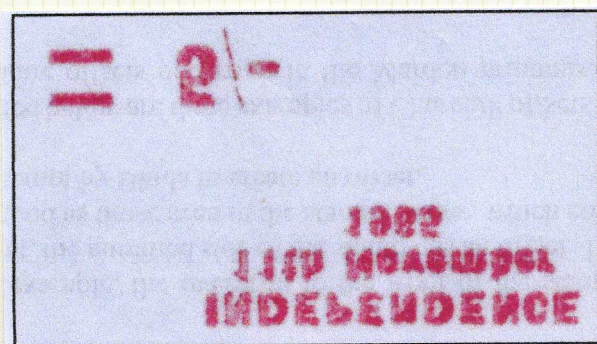
Offsets should be treated with caution



Fully inked



Part offset



Partly inked – break in oblique stroke of 5/-

5/- on 1/3 Churchill overprinted block of 4 shows a previously unrecorded forgery of the overprint.

This rare item had been identified as a pre Binda Haussman trial as produced as evidence at Binda's trial as illustration No1 showing the straight "9" of "1965" (see reverse of sheet).

It has very light ink colour, the overprint is more orange than usual with dark nodules and rough edges to type. R.J.Haussman owned and ran a print shop at Marandellas, 45 miles from Salisbury.

At the Binda trial Haussman was asked what made him accept the money from Binda (£605).

He replied "I would say it was the sanctions. It was put to me that certain countries were riding Rhodesia. I thought it would be a good idea to ride those countries in return".



The writer of an article in July 1989's 'Manicaland Philatelic Society' magazine adds that this item was in an auction of the Zimbabwe Stamp Company on 17 July 1989 (lot 55). The writer viewed the item and considers it both genuine and probably unique. The colour of the overprint is more orange. The 2 missing perforations at the bottom confirms it is the same item.

The writer found the postmark of interest. Ellas – ay – m seen. The town must be Marandellas, the ay May the m is pm. The cancellation is Marandellas May 1966.

The Binda forgeries were done in Marandellas between 1st April and 31st August 1966.

The 2 overprinted 'Independence' stamps are heavily overprinted. Using low value stamps they could be pre Binda trials undertaken by Andrews and/or Haussman.

The Victoria Falls cancel is a slogan cancel, part of a machine cancellation and could have been applied at a range of Post Offices and not necessarily at Victoria Falls which is a long way from Haussman's printing business at Marandellas.



In July 2015 Terri Winfield of Wingfield Stamps placed on e-bay a complete sheet of overprinted halfpenny (sheet no 439) and a part sheet of the 1d (sheet no 407) said to have been acquired from the "Andrews" family estate. Contact was made with Ernest "Ernie" Andrews, living in Durban. He did not want to relate what was a painful episode in his life. He did, however, confirm that he with Haussman and Binda were the only ones involved in the activity. The conclusion is that they were not illicitly overprinted, but assumed they were, as the stamps came from a member of the Andrews family.

The blocks below were taken from the 2 sheets, each being marginal blocks rows 5 & 6, stamps stamps 11 & 12.



On the 1d block there was a partial space bar after '1965' on R5/C11 and a space bar after 'Independence' on R6/C11. If the same forme was used to overprint both duties then why weren't the space bars evidence in the halfpenny duty?. If a number of sheets had been illicitly overprinted then there should be a consistency in the varieties such as dropped space bars. It is concluded they were simply overinked.

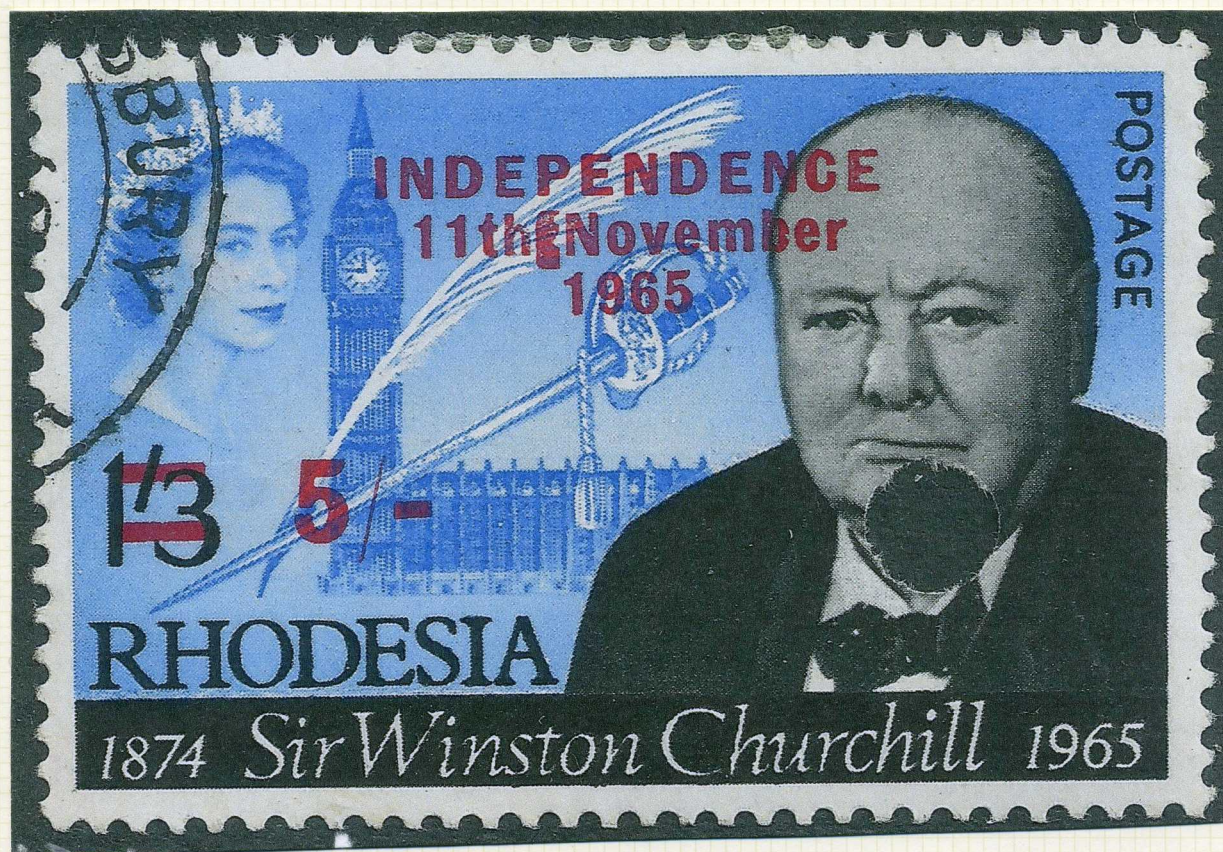
This stamp is a known Binda forgery, with the overprint applied to the gummed side of the stamp. The face of the stamp, however, does not have any of the characteristics of the illicit overprint, which raises the possibility that a genuine overprint was used to produce this illicit overprint.

The gummed side overprint, whilst not having the close eyes of the 'e's, the overprint does show the piling of ink at the edges, irregular outlines of the characters and general untidiness as described by Rudman



The stamp has the dropped space bar very similar to that within folio 69, which is reported not to have been forfeited by the Magistrate. The stamp does not, however, have the distinct filed in eyes of the 'e's of November. Whether it is a genuine or forged overprint is not clear. No other genuine examples with the dropped space bar have been reported.

Many years ago Stanley Gibbons offered for sale an overprinted Churchill stamp with a punch hole, stating it had been acquired from evidence at the Binda trial. No evidence has been found to verify it.

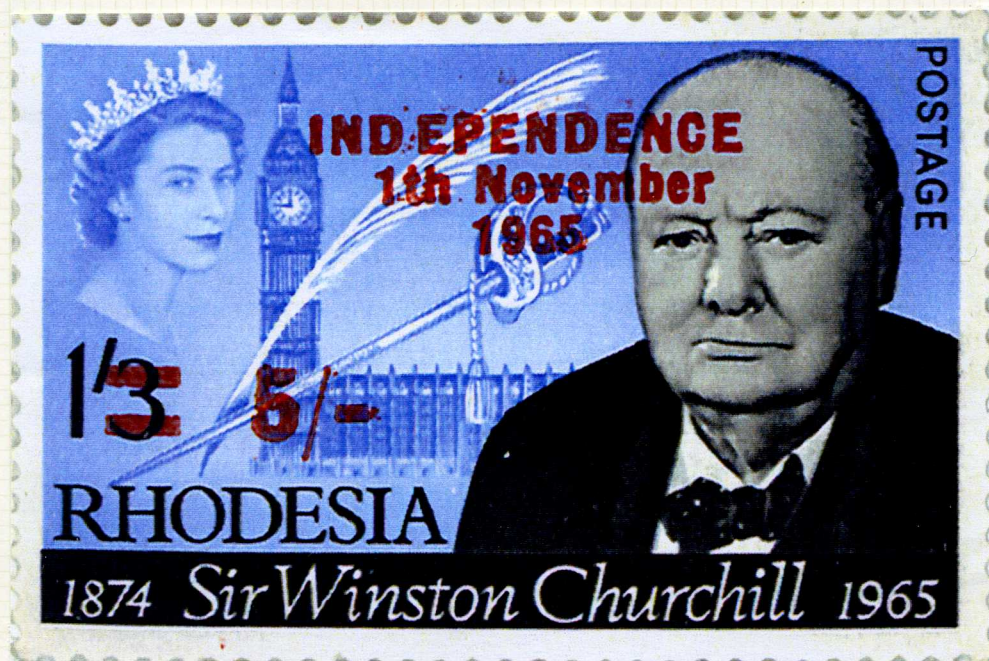


BINDA FORGERY



Error variety

First 1 of 11th missing, so reading 11th November



Binda forgery: Churchill 5/-overprinted Independence on 'First day of issue'
17th January 1966 cover



The cover was produced by printers R.J.Haussman's Marandellas Litho Co where Alexander Binda did his stamp forging. The cover is from Naomi Beinart's collection which was sold by Spinks in 2013 and later split up.

At Binda's trial Henry Edward Finch, Postmaster at Kingsway Post Office gave evidence that in June or July 1966 he 'serviced' about 4 'First Day Covers' for Binda who explained he had now been able to get some missing stamps and was anxious to complete the covers. Finch backdated 'First Day of Issue' cancels to 17th January 1966. This cover is one of the serviced covers.

Binda added the forged 5/- Churchill stamp to the cover, with the intentional error of the 'missing bars', to 'prove' to potential customers, that such errors were the work of printers Mardon. A clever play by Binda to deceive. Other forged 'errors' soon appeared on the market.