

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY

The 1913-1923 Admiral Head Issue

Date of issue: 1 September 1913

Printing process: Recess

Printer: Waterlow & Sons Ltd

King George V required the new definitive issue of the British South Africa Company to show only his portrait. To achieve this the BSAC directed Waterlow & Sons Ltd to design a new stamp showing the King wearing the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet. A set of 18 stamps was issued in 1 September 1913. A further value (1½d) and two surcharges were later added to the issue. The issue remained valid for use in Southern Rhodesia until 30 April 1924 and in Northern Rhodesia until 30 September 1925.

The ½d value

The ½d value was printed in sheets of 240 stamps (four panes) in a single operation. Waterlow made four distinct plates for this value during the lifetime of the issue. The basic colour for this value was green, but shades of the listed colours exist for each plate.

Plate I was used mainly from 1913 until 1916, but continued in use up to 1920. It existed in three states in the course of which the King's left ear was radically changed. The original die features were progressively 'masked' by re-entry with the second die. The main characteristic of the first die was that the King's left ear was shaded but not outlined, whereas in the second die it was unshaded, with no outline. Waterlow made a large number of printings of this value.



Blue-green
SG 186 p14
Shaded ear



Blue-green
Shade p14
Shaded ear



Blue-green
SG 202 p15
Shaded ear



Blue-green
Shade p15
Shaded ear



Dull green
Shade p14
Unshaded ear



Deep green
SG 187 p14
Unshaded ear



Deep green
Shade p15
Unshaded ear



Dark green
Shade p14
Unshaded ear



Deep blue-
green
Shade p14
Unshaded ear



Deep blue-
green
Shade p14
Unshaded ear

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The ½d value

Plate II came into use in 1917 and produced stamps of a much clearer, finer impression. Two states exist. The left ear was unshaded.



Dull blue-green
SG 187 p14



Dark olive-green
Shade p14



Deep green
SG 188 p14



Green
SG 203 p15



Paler green
SG 203 p15

Plate III was probably made in 1919. It shows shallow entries which cause whitish (ghostly) head. Two states of the plate exist.



Green
Whitish head
p14



Deep green
Whitish head
p14



Deep green
Whitish head
p14

Plate IV was made for the printings done between 1922 and 1925. On 239 of the 240 positions of this plate a white dot on the top of the King's left shoulder is found.



Green
SG 282 p14



Deep blue-green
SG 283 p14



Dull green
Shade p14



Dull green
SG 288 p15

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The 1d value

The 1d was printed in sheets of 240 stamps (4 panes) in a single operation. Waterlow made three distinct plates for this value during the lifetime of the issue. The basic colour for this value was red or brown-red, but shades of the listed colours exist for each plate.

Plate I was made in 1913 and used until 1916. The King's left ear was initially shaded, but later re-entries reduced the effect of the shading. A scarce perf 15 and a rare perf 13½ exist.



Rose-carminé
SG 190 p14
Shaded ear



Rose-carminé
SG 190 p14
Less shading

Plate II printings first appeared in 1916. The left ear is unshaded and the general appearance is sharper and clearer. Only know perf 14.



Red
SG 193 p14



Deeper red
Shade p14



Scarlet
SG 194 p14



Rose-red
SG 195 p14



Rose-scarlet
Shade p14

Plate III was used for the brown-red printings on toned paper. This plate was also used for the white paper printings of 1922-1924. The distinctive dot in the area above the '1' in the right value tablet is present on most stamps. Found perf 14 and perf 15.



Brown-red
SG 192 p14
Toned paper



Brown-red
SG 192 p15
Toned paper



Bright rose
SG 284 p14
White paper



Bright rose-scarlet
SG 289 p15
White paper

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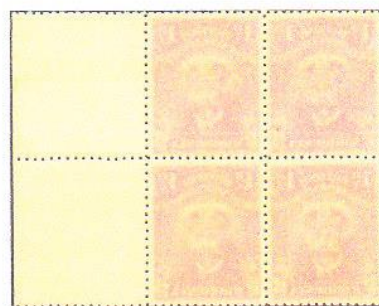
The 1d value

The aniline red printing (SG 286)

This stamp is incorrectly numbered in the SG Catalogue which lists it as part of the 1923-24 printings with the date of issue being (8.24), but in a note records that it was printed in 1916 on toned paper. The stamp was produced using Plate II. It should be re-numbered SG 195A. The printing was obviously considered to be of inferior quality and was not issued until a shortage of 1d stamps occurred in Northern Rhodesia in 1924. The image of the King can be seen clearly through the aniline ink.



Aniline red
SG 286 p14



Back of stamps
(size reduced)

The 1½d value

A ½d War Tax on all letter was introduced in Southern Rhodesia on 16 May 1917 and in Northern Rhodesia on 1 June 1917. To meet this new letter rate Waterlow printed the 1½d stamp which was issued on 18 May 1917. Two plates were made. Plate I was used on all pre-1922 toned paper printings and Plate II on the later white paper printings.



Ochre
SG 197 p14



Bistre-brown
SG 198 p14



Drab brown
SG 199 p14



Bistre
SG 206 p15



Bistre-brown
SG 206b p15



Brown-ochre
SG 287 p14



Brown-ochre
SG 290 p15

White paper
printings

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The 2½d value

Only one plate was made for this value. A total of 3 printings were made because demand was small and there remained a surplus of the 2½d value of the Double Head issue available.



Cobalt
SG 200 p14



Bright blue
SG 201 p14



Deep blue
Shade p14



Deep blue
SG 207 p15



Bright blue
SG 208 p15

The 1917 Livingstone Overprints on the 1d Admiral stamp

In mid-1917 there was a shortage of ½d and 1½d stamps in Northern Rhodesia. The Administrator in Livingstone directed a local printer to overprint stocks of the 1d stamp with the words 'Half Penny' to meet the payment on war tax on letters and the postage on newspapers. The first issue of the overprint (SG 280), released on 15 August 1917, did not have a hyphen, but the setting produced two varieties, the spaced 'n n' and the spaced 'n y'. The second issue (SG 281), released on 22 September 1917, had a hyphen and a full stop. Both printings can be found with the shaded and unshaded left ear of the King. About 120 000 stamps were overprinted on each printing. All overprints were perf 14.



Red-carmine
SG 280 p14
Shaded ear



Red-carmine
SG 280d p14
Unshaded ear



Violet ink



Red-carmine
SG 280b p14
Spaced 'n n'



Red-carmine
SG 280c p14
Spaced 'n y'



Rose-red
SG 281a p14
Shaded ear



Rose-carmine
SG 281 p14
Unshaded ear

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The bi-plate values

Die I



Black & grey
SG 209 p14



Black & deep
grey
Shade p14



Black & grey
SG 209 p14
Lay mark [27]



Black & grey
SG 209 p14
Waxed
moustache [34]



Unshaded
'white' ear
No outline to
cap
Anchor shank
not broken



Black &
orange-
yellow
SG 210 p14



Grey-black &
orange-red
SG 211 p14



Grey-black &
orange-red
SG 211 p14
Lay mark [24]



Grey-black &
green
SG 212 p14



Grey-black &
mauve
SG 213 p14



Grey-lilac &
grey-green
SG 213a p14



Black & deep
brown
SG 214 p14



Black & deep
brown
SG 214 p14
Lay mark [24]



Black & deep
brown
SG 214 p14
Lay mark [27]



Black &
orange-
yellow
SG 215 p15



Black &
reddish-
orange
SG 216 p15



Grey-black &
reddish-lilac
SG 217 p15



Grey-black &
deep brown
SG 218 p15

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The bi-plate values

Die II



Black & grey
SG 219 p14



Black &
brownish-grey
SG 220 p14



Black & deep
yellow
SG 221 p14



Black &
yellow
SG 222 p14



Ear shaded
but not
outlined
Part outline
on cap
Anchor shank
not broken



Black &
orange-
yellow
SG 223 p14



Black &
orange-yellow
Plate 3
β flaw



Black & red-
orange
SG 224 p14



Black & deep
orange-red
SG 225 p14



Black &
grey-green
SG 226 p14



Black &
bluish-green
SG 226a p14



Black &
bright green
SG 227 p14



Black &
bright green
Waxed
moustache/lay
mark [34]



Black &
mauve
SG 228 p14



Black & pink
Shade p14



Black &
purple
SG 229 p14



Purple &
green
SG 230 p14



Mauve &
greenish-blue
Shade p14



Deep blue &
carmine-red
SG 231 p14



Indigo blue &
dark carmine
Shade p14

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The bi-plate values

Die II



Black &
greenish-blue
SG 232 p14



Black & deep
turquoise-
blue
SG 233 p14



Black &
brown
SG 234 p14



Black &
yellow-brown
SG 235 p14



Ear shaded
but not
outlined
Part outline
on cap
Anchor shank
not broken



Indigo &
grey-brown
SG 236 p14



Royal blue &
olive-brown
Shade p14



Deep blue &
brown-olive
SG 236ab p14



Chocolate &
blue
SG 236b p14



Chestnut &
bright blue
SG 237 p14



Blue &
yellow-green
SG 238 p14



Blue & blue-
green
SG 239 p14



Blackish-
purple &
slate-black
SG 240 p14



Reddish-lilac
& indigo
Shade p14



Deep rose-
red & light
green
SG 241 p14



Crimson &
bluish-green
Shade p14



Black &
reddish-purple
SG 242 p14



Black &
violet
SG 243 p14

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The bi-plate values

Die II
Perf 15



Black & grey
SG 244 p15



Black & red-
orange
SG 245 p15



Violet &
green
SG 246 p15



Deep blue &
rose-red
SG 247 p15

Ear shaded
but not
outlined
Part outline
on cap
Anchor shank
not broken



Black & deep
turquoise-
blue
SG 248 p15



Deep blue &
grey
SG 249 p15



Deep blue &
brown olive
Shade p15



Chocolate &
blue
SG 250 p15



Blue &
yellow-green
SG 251 p15



Blue & blue-
green
SG 251a p15



Blackish-
purple &
slate-black
SG 252 p15



Brown-lake
& light green
SG 253 p15



Black & deep
purple
SG 254a p15

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY

The 1913-1923 Admiral Head Issue

The bi-plate values

Die IIIA



Black &
grey-black
SG 255 p14



Deep black &
brownish-grey
SG 255b p14



Deep black &
orange
SG 255d p14



Ear shaded
and outline
Cap outlined
Anchor shank
not broken
White 'halo'
on shoulder



Chocolate &
deep dull
blue
SG 255l p14



Maroon &
indigo
SG 255p p14



Carmine-lake
& yellow-
green
SG 255q p14



Deep black &
violet-indigo
SG 255r p14



Deep grey-
black & deep
violet
SG 255t p14



Deep grey-
black & deep
violet
Shade p14



Deep black &
reddish-lilac
SG 255u p14

The 3d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 1s, 2s, 2s6d and 5s values were also printed using Plate IIIA.

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The bi-plate values

Die IIIB - Toned paper



Black &
grey-black
SG 256 p14



Black &
brownish-
grey
SG 256a p14



Black & grey
SG 257 p14



Black &
sepia
SG 258 p14



Ear shaded
and outlined
Cap outlined
Anchor shank
not broken
No 'halo' on
left shoulder



Black &
grey-black
Intruder &
lay mark [26]



Black &
yellow
SG 259 p14



Black & ochre
SG 260 p14



Deep black &
ochre
Shade p14



Black &
orange-red
SG 261 p14



Black & dull
red
SG 262 p14



Black & pale
green
SG 263 p14



Black &
yellowish-
green
Shade p14



Black &
green
SG 264 p14



Grey black &
reddish-purple
SG 265 p14



Grey black &
reddish-
purple
Die II re-
entered as
Die IIIB [51]



Black &
reddish-lilac
SG 266 p14



Deep black &
bright mauve
SG 266a p14

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The bi-plate values

Die IIIB - Toned paper



Dull purple &
blue-green
SG 267 p14



Dull purple &
blue-green
Intruder [26]



Deep reddish-
lilac & deep
blue-green
SG 268 p14



Dark mauve
& greenish-
blue
Shade p14



Ear shaded
and outlined
Cap outlined
Anchor shank
not broken
No 'halo' on
left shoulder



Deep grey-
blue &
carmine
SG 269 p14



Deep blue &
red
SG 270 p14



Light blue &
scarlet-
vermillion
SG 270a p14



Black &
greenish-blue
SG 271 p14



Black & pale
green-blue
SG 272 p14



Grey-black &
light blue
SG 272a p14



Deep black &
dull green
SG 272b p14



Black & bright
blue
Shade p14



Black &
brown
SG 273 p14



Black &
chocolate
SG273b p14



Deep
ultramarine &
grey-brown
SG 274 p14



Deep blue &
bistre-brown
SG 274a p14



Prussian blue
& bistre-
brown
Shade p14

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The bi-plate values

Die IIIB - Toned paper



Deep blue &
blue-green
SG 275 p14



Blue & pale
yellow-green
SG 276 p14



Steel blue &
dull yellowish-
green
SG 276a p14



Bright blue &
deep green
Shade p14



Ear shaded
and outlined
Cap outlined
Anchor shank
not broken
No 'halo' on
left shoulder



Black &
bright purple
SG 278 p14



Black & deep
purple
SG 279 p14

The 3s (perf 14) and the 2d (perf 15) values were also printed using Plate IIIB on toned paper.

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The bi-plate values

Die IIIB - White paper



Black &
grey-purple
SG 291 p14



Black &
slate-purple
SG 292 p14



Black & deep
slate-purple
Shade p14



Black &
yellow
SG 293 p14



Ear shaded
and outlined
Cap outlined
Anchor shank
not broken
No 'halo' on
left shoulder



Black &
orange-
vermillion
SG 294 p14



Black &
orange-red
Shade p14



Black & lilac
SG 295 p14



Black &
blue-violet
Shade p14



Black & blue-
violet
Large
'RHODESIA'



Mauve & dull
blue green
SG 296 p14



Violet &
green
SG 297 p14



Violet & green
Collar flaw
[20]



Bright
ultramarine &
red
SG 298 p14



Bright
ultramarine &
carmine-red
SG 299 p14



Black & dull
blue
SG 300 p14



Black &
brown
SG 301 p14



Ultramarine &
sepia
SG 302 p14



Violet-blue &
grey-brown
SG 303 p14



Violet-blue &
grey-brown
Lay mark [27]

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The bi-plate values

Die IIIB - White paper



Red-brown &
turquoise-
blue
SG 304 p14



Red-brown &
grey-blue
SG 305 p14



Bright
ultramarine &
emerald
SG 306 p14



Bright
ultramarine &
emerald
Lay mark [27]



Ear shaded
and outlined
Cap outlined
Anchor shank
not broken
No 'halo' on
left shoulder



Deep blue &
bright green
SG 307 p14



Brown-purple
& slate
SG 308 p14



Brown-purple
& slate
Shade p14



Crimson &
bright yellow-
green
SG 309 p14



Crimson &
pale yellow-
green
Shade p14



Carmine &
green
SG 310 p14



Black &
magenta
SG 311 p14



Black & deep
magenta
SG 311a p14

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The bi-plate values

Die IIIB - White paper Perf 15

Some sheets of each value of the stamps printed in 1923 were perforated 15 at the request of the Secretary of the BSAC for sale from the London office. These stamps were not sent out to Rhodesia.



Black &
slate-purple
SG 312 p15



Black &
orange-red
SG 313 p15



Black & lilac
SG 314 p15



Black & blue-
violet
Shade p15

Ear shaded
and outlined
Cap outlined
Anchor shank
not broken
No 'halo' on
left shoulder



Violet &
grey-green
SG 315 p15



Bright
ultramarine &
carmine-red
SG 316 p15



Black & dull
blue
SG 317 p15



Black &
brown
SG 318 p15



Violet-blue &
grey-brown
SG 319 p15



Red-brown &
grey-blue
SG 320 p15



Deep blue &
bright green
SG 321 p15



Black &
bright
reddish-plum
SG 322 p15



Black &
bright reddish-
plum
Lay mark [24]



Black &
magenta
Unlisted p15