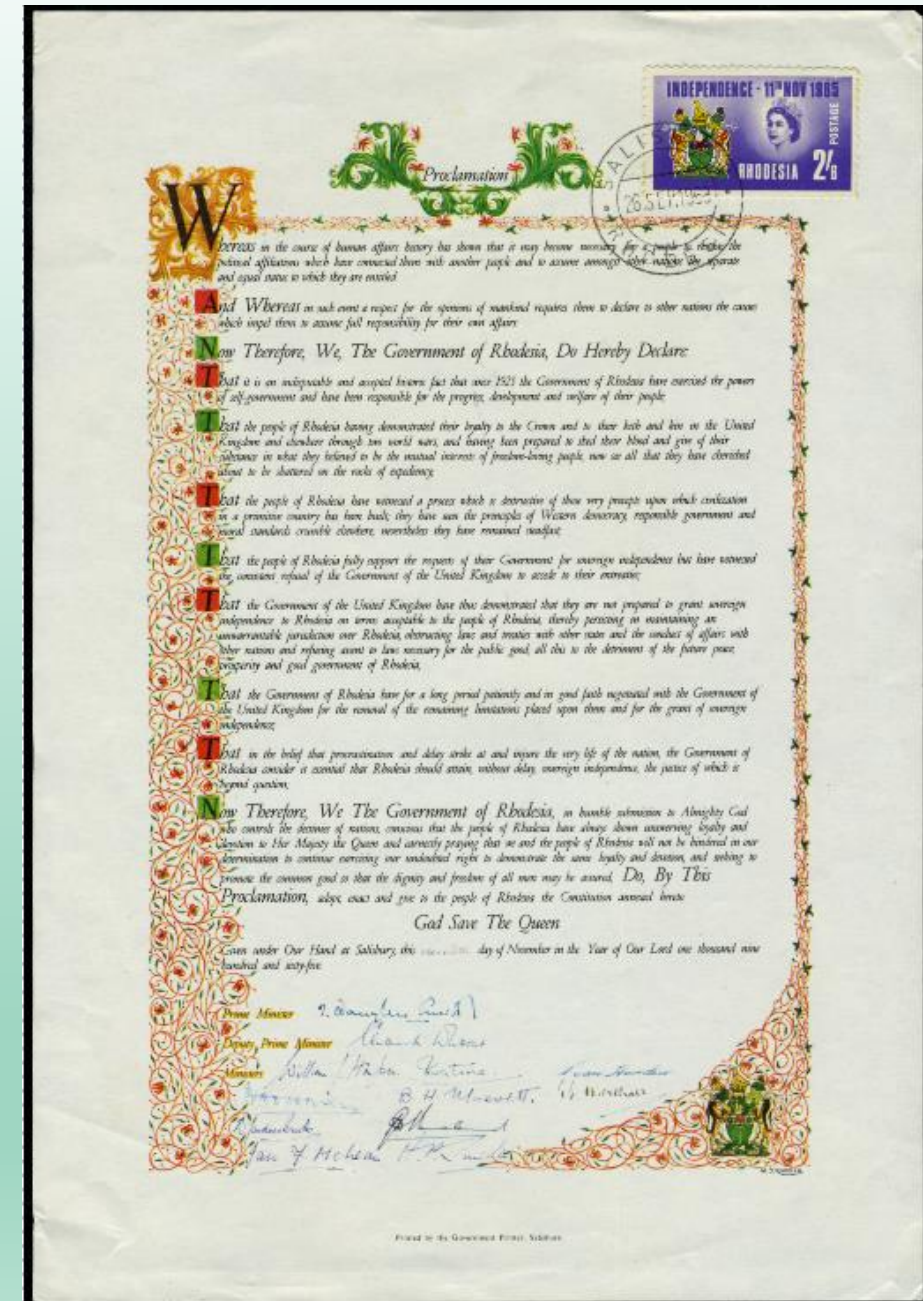


**PHILATELIC
ZIMBABWE
RHODESIA**

Background

- 11th November 1965, Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence
- Nov/Dec 1966 talks held on HMS Tiger
- October 1968 talks held on HMS Fearless
- 2nd March 1970 Rhodesia becomes a Republic
- November 1971, agreement between Smith and Sir Alec Douglas Home
- May 1972 Pearce report - rejection of proposals
- August 1975 Victoria Falls Bridge talks
- 24th September 1976 Kissinger proposals - Smith accepts principle of majority rule
- October 1976 Geneva Conference
- September 1977 settlement negotiations with David Owen & Andrew Young
- Smith starts talks internally with nationalist parties



On 3rd March 1978, Smith signs an agreement with three nationalist party leaders that would lead the country to majority rule by the end of 1978.

In the true art of compromise, agreement was reached to rename the country **Zimbabwe Rhodesia**.

The agreement provided for the parties to “jointly” govern the country until elections were held. This comprised having a rotating premiership and dual ministerial posts.

In return the nationalist parties would reach out to the external leaders (Mugabe & Nkomo) to come and join them at the majority rule elections that were to come.



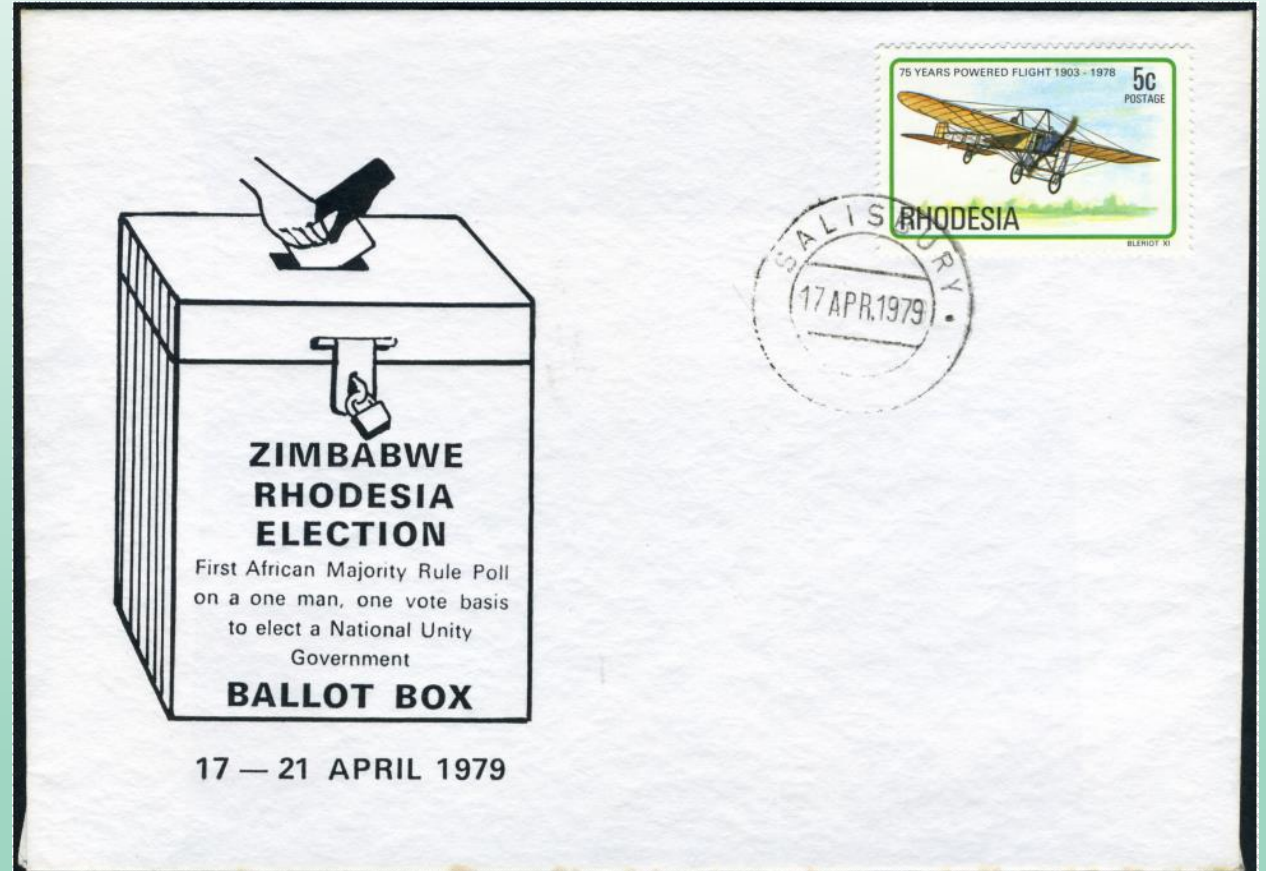
**Rhodesian Constitutional Agreement
Friday 3rd March 1978**

An agreement which will give Rhodesia a one man one vote majority rule government by the end of 1978 was signed in Salisbury. The signatories were the Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith and the three nationalist leaders, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole and Senator Chief Jeremiah Chirau.

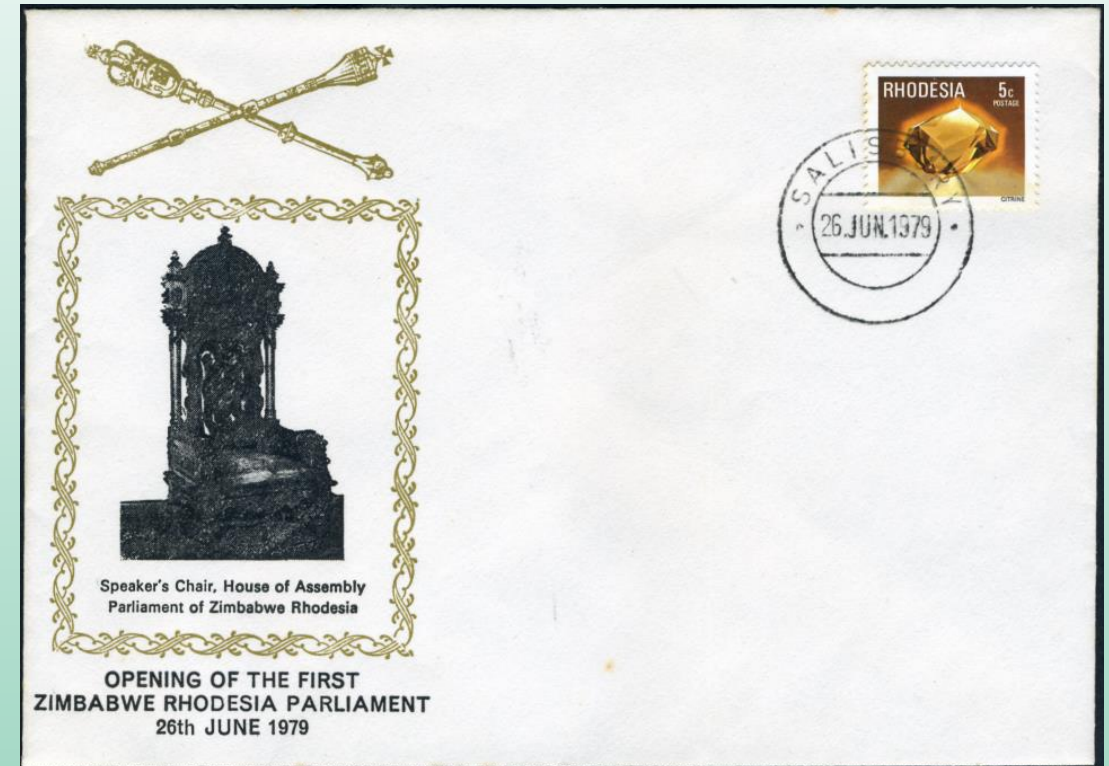
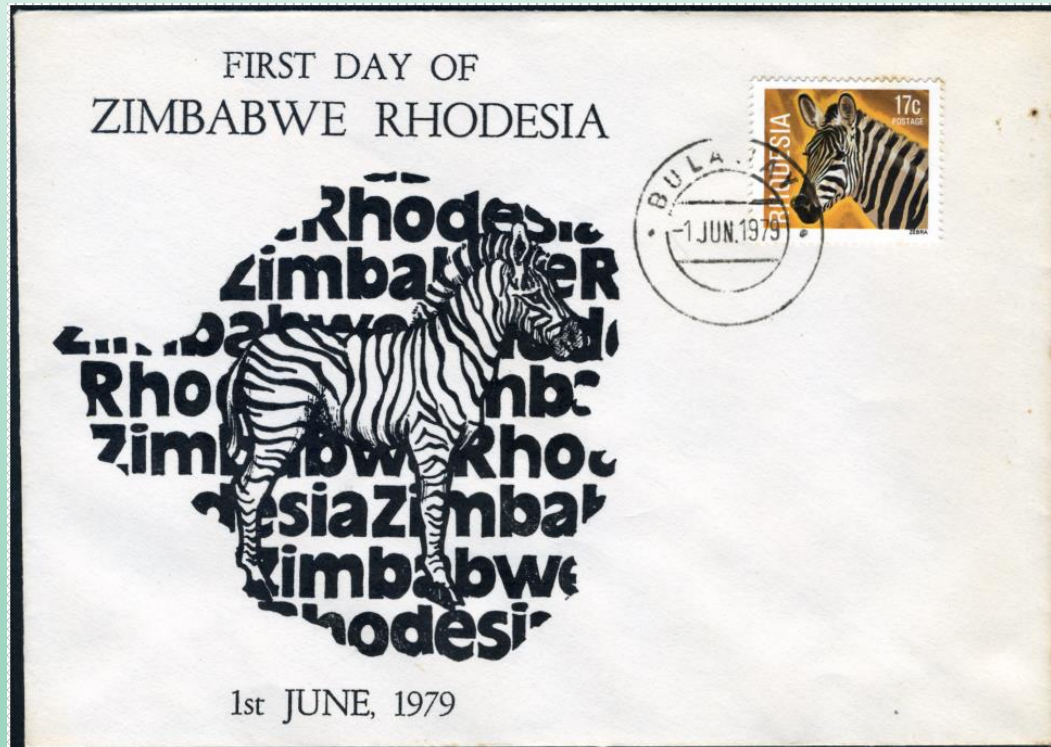


Elections

- 10th April 1979 elections held for the 28 white seats
- 17th to 21st April, for the first time the black majority was able to cast their votes. The external leaders did not participate
- Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the United African National Congress won 51 of the 72 black seats
- Ndabaningi Sithole of Zimbabwe African National Union won 12 seats
- Chief Kayisa Ndiweni of the United Peoples National Federation Party, 9 seats



15 months after agreement was reached to have majority rule, the newly named territory of Zimbabwe Rhodesia came into exist on 1st June 1979 under President J Z Gumede and Prime Minister Rev A Muzorewa.



The first Zimbabwe Rhodesia Parliament was opened on 26th June 1979

I could at this stage include in this presentation the many philatelic covers that were produced for the last day of Rhodesia, first of Zimbabwe Rhodesia and other events – but I won't

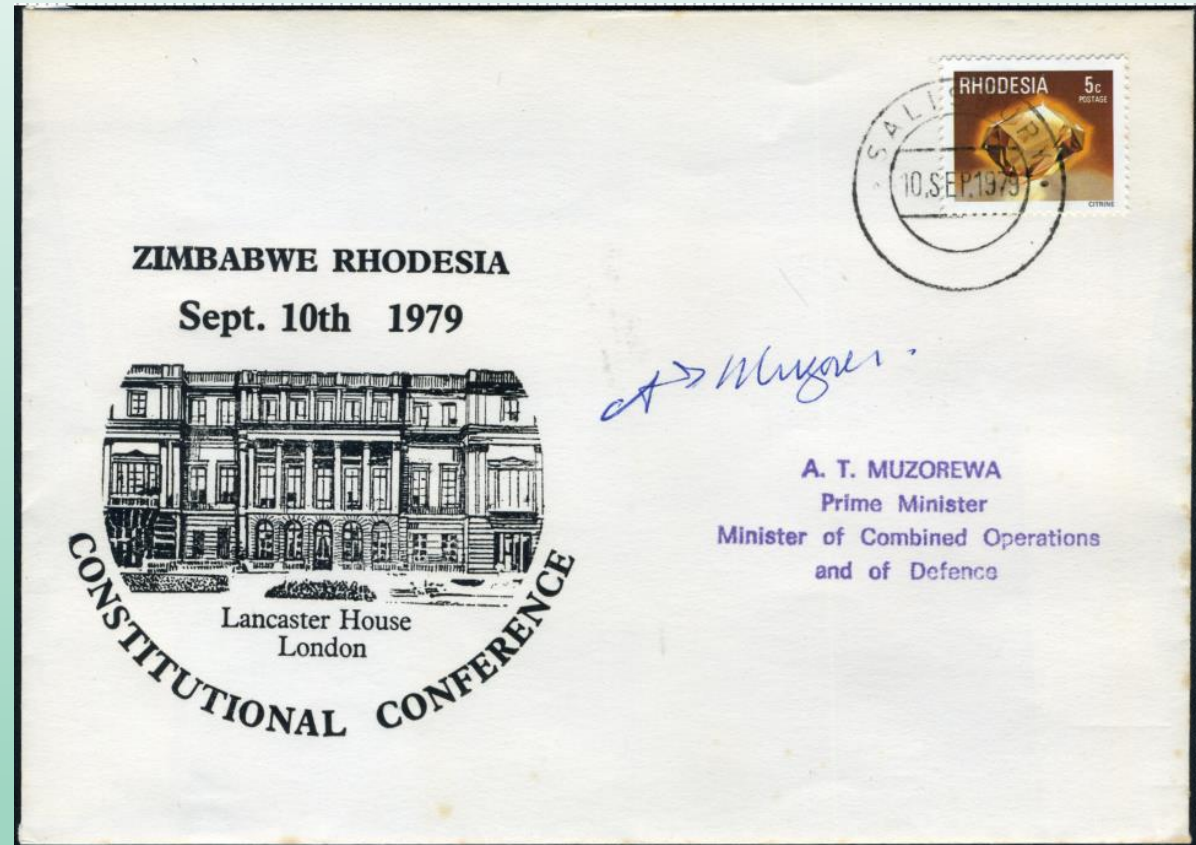
Symbolic of the poor planning to bring in the new country, it took two months to introduce a new flag.



With the election of Margaret Thatcher as the new UK Prime Minister, her intention was to recognise the new Zimbabwe Rhodesia Government as majority rule had been achieved.

Thatcher was persuaded at the Lusaka CHOGM meeting to have one last try to reach an overall settlement to bring peace to the country. The leaders of the frontline states pledging to bring Mugabe and Nkomo to the conference table. Muzorewa agreed to attend. The three leaders were all persuaded that they alone would be successful in new independence elections.

The Lancaster House conference on the constitution of the country opened on 10th September 1979 in London.



On 12th December 1979, all parties at the conference signed the Lancaster House Agreement agreeing to a new constitution for the country as soon as possible.

Britain immediately sent out a Governor, Lord Soames, to take over the rule of the country and bring about independence as soon as possible.

So ended the name of Zimbabwe Rhodesia as the country's name, as it returned to its colonial name of Southern Rhodesia.

Zimbabwe Rhodesia only survived for 194 days, or just short of six months.



What did the Posts & Telecommunications Corporation do to prepare for the country's name change during the period March 1978 to June 1979?

Surely, we should have had a new definitive set ready to release on 1st June 1979, even though its 1978 definitive was relatively young?

It is understood that that plans for a new definitive issue had been made but only got as far as proofs and was never printed. It is understood at "Zimbabwe Rhodesia" was too be printed in black on one side of the somewhat smaller redesign of the 1978 definitive stamps.

The PTC stated that it stopped taking this forward as the Lancaster House talks were proposed. But why wasn't the new definitive issued on 1st June?

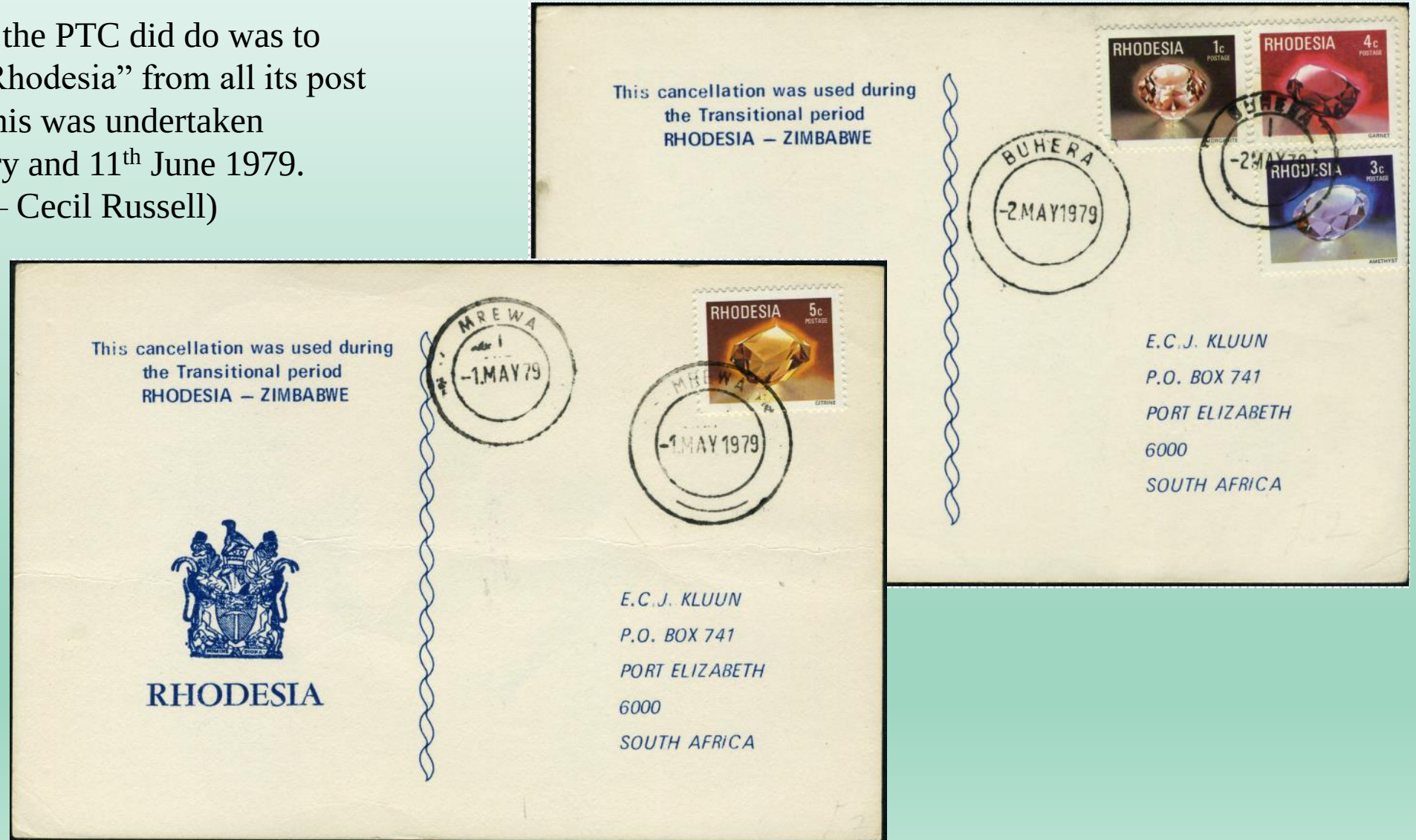


The items above were sold at a Spink auction in 2012. RSCJ 140 categorically advises that these are fraudulent

So, what did happen philatelically either before or after 1st June 1979?

Postmarks

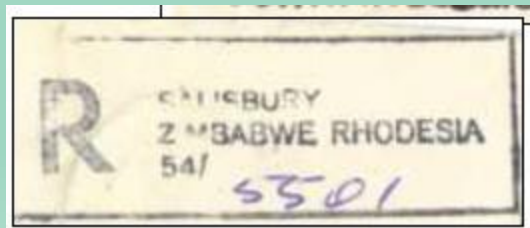
The one aspect that the PTC did do was to remove the word “Rhodesia” from all its post office cancellers. This was undertaken between 29th January and 11th June 1979. (Source RSCJ 135 – Cecil Russell)



With ADS Labels issued in Salisbury, Bulawayo, Gwelo, Umtali and Union Avenue post offices, “Rhodesia” was excised

These covers have the excised labels on the Rhodesia Registration Letter. With the Umtali cover dated 23rd June 1979 and Gwelo 30th August 1979.

Memoir 24 does not list any Registration Labels with the name change. Mike Hughes reported this cachet type registration mark (RSCJ 265).

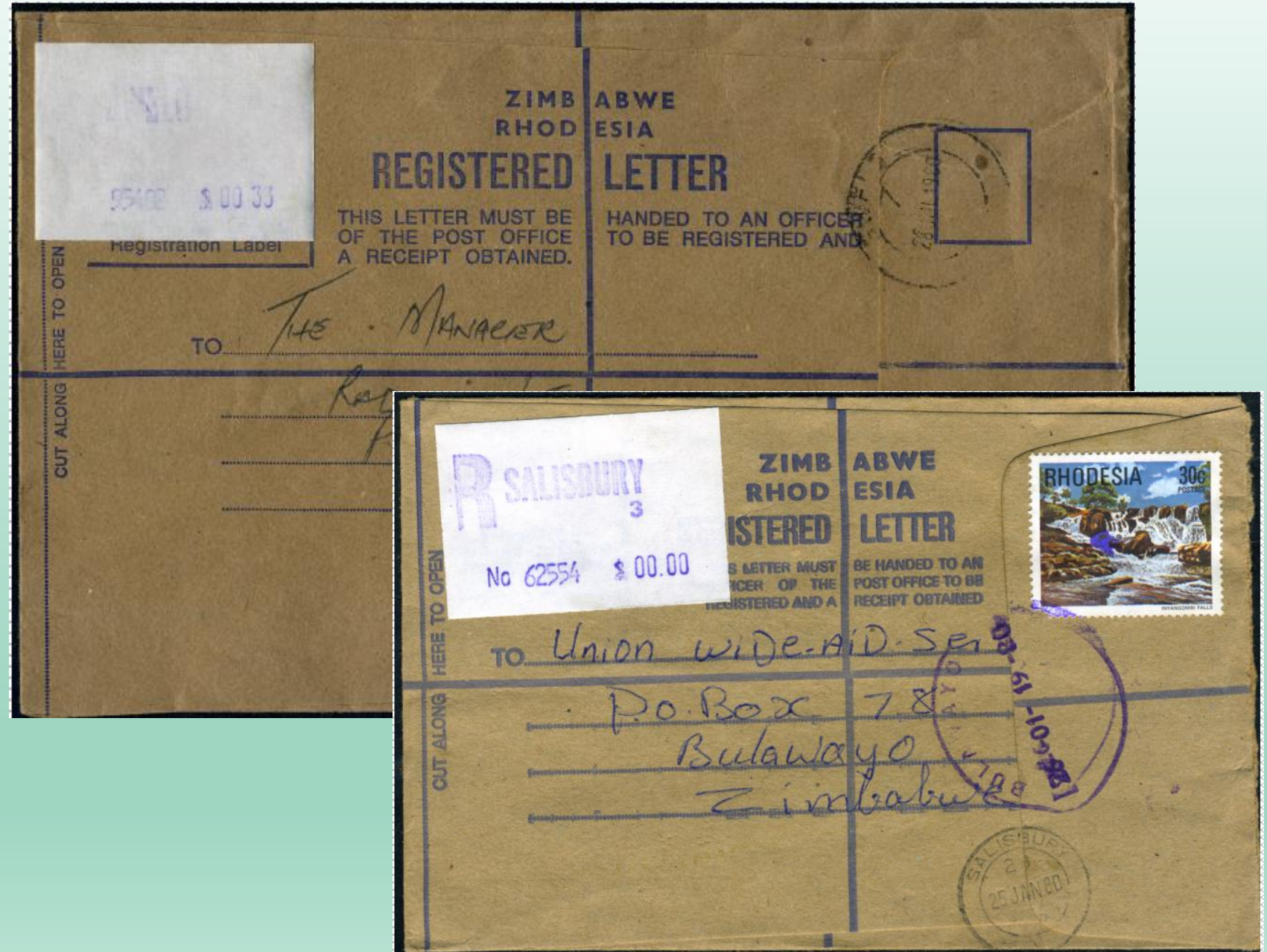


The PTC did, however, issue two sizes of Registration Letters with “Zimbabwe Rhodesia” printed on them.

The small size being 150 x 100 mm, here posted in Salisbury on 25th January 1980.

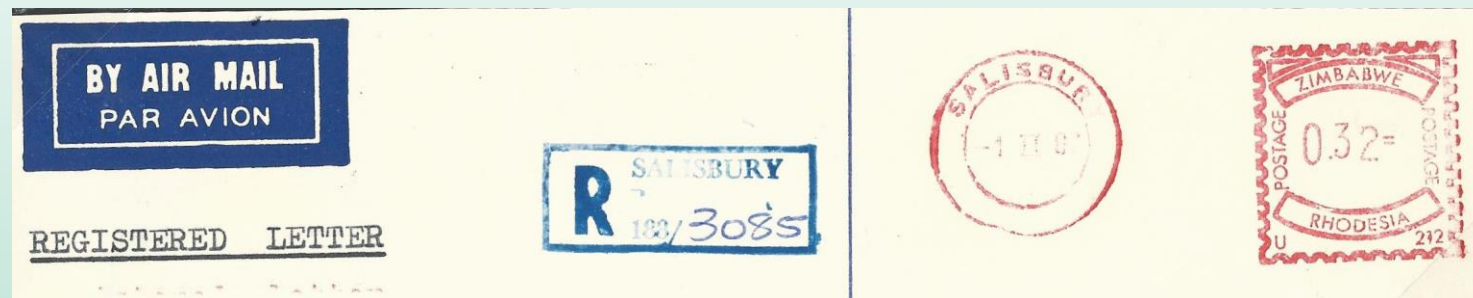
The larger one is 224 x 128 mm in size, and posted in Gwelo on 28th July 1980

The Zimbabwe Rhodesia Registered Letters continued to be used after Zimbabwe’s Independence, until replaced.



Metered Mail

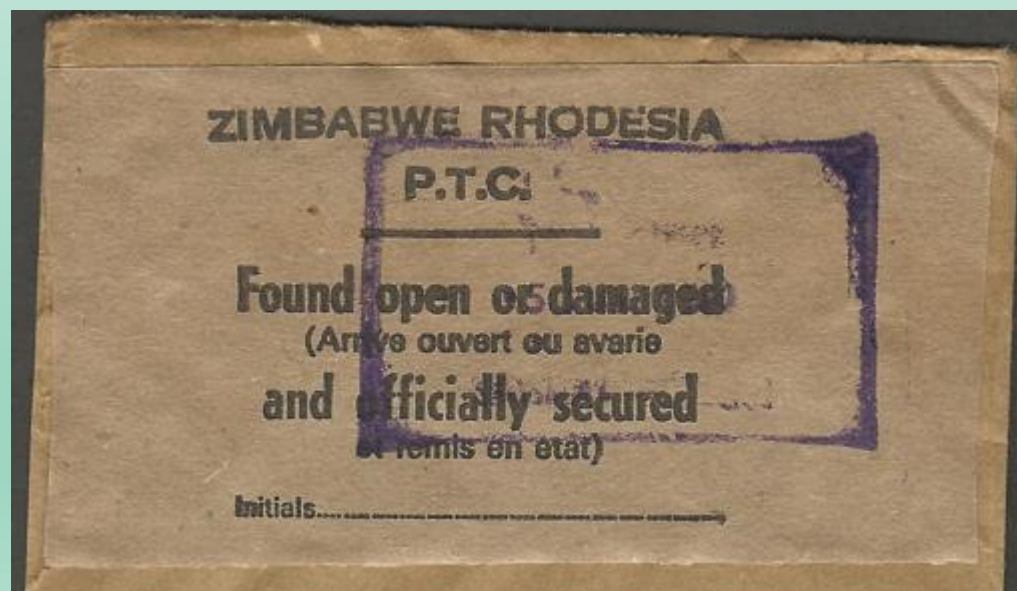
This is the only reported example of metered mail with the country name shown as “Zimbabwe Rhodesia” in a Universal meter strike.



Source RSCJ 268
(Bernd Aberer)

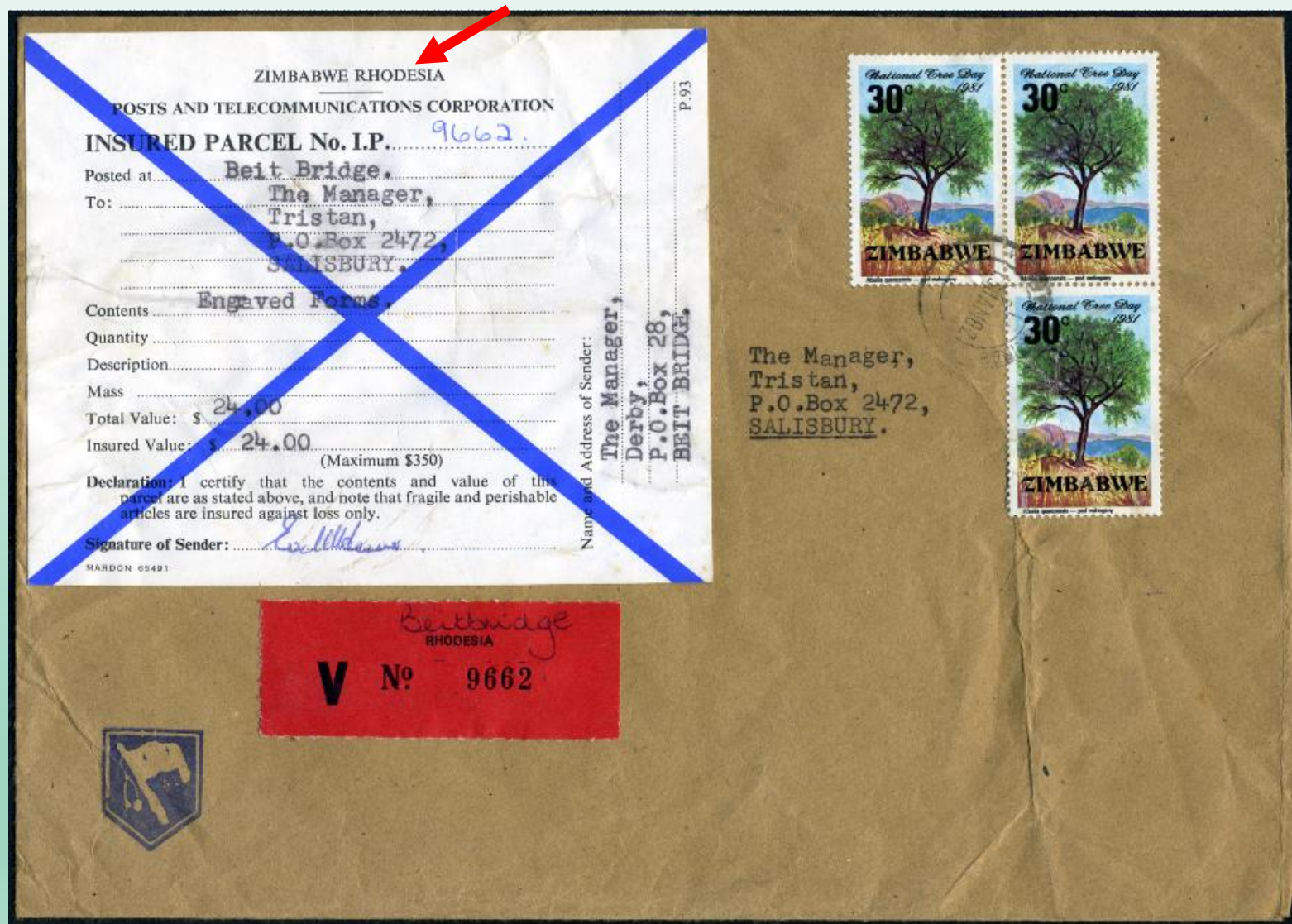
PTC label for sealing mail that has been found open or damaged.

Source RSCJ 268
(Bernd Aberer)



“Insured Parcels” labels were printed with the heading “Zimbabwe Rhodesia”.

This example being used in Beit Bridge on 13th January 1982.



Telegram forms were also printed with Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

This telegram being dated 5th January 1983.

A Greetings Telegram was also printed, although no used ones has been recorded. These Greeting Telegrams are in the same style as ones going back to the Federation.

TELEGRAM					TI
A. POSTS and TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION - ZIMBABWE RHODESIA					
Class	Date Stamp	Words	Date	Time Handed in	
		87.62	6-1-83		
TO PLEASE V					
REXEL					
TELEX NO. 83531					
ADD TO OUR INDENT 45					
PLUS 10 PER CENT DIS					
LAST STOP TOTAL ORDE					
REGARDS					
G. STEWART					
PEAK STATIONERS, MUT					
Name from: PEAK STATI					
Signature of Sender					
Name of Sender					
IN P					
N.B. The Post Office is not					
In the case of Reply P					

POST OFFICE - ZIMBABWE RHODESIA

T. 100

Greetings Telegram



In RSCJ 291, Keith Brodovcky reported the existence of a “ADVISE AVIS” card with the printed country name of “Zimbabwe Rhodesia”.

Postal administration of origin
Administration des postes d'origine
ZIMBABWE RHODESIA

On postal service
Service des postes

ADVISE AVIS

☐ of delivery
de réception

☐ of payment
de paiement

To be returned by the addressee to the postal administration of origin
À retourner par le destinataire au service des postes d'origine

To be filled in by the addressee who will give the address to return of the present advice
À remplir par l'addresseur qui indiquera l'adresse pour le retour du présent avis

Name
Nom et prénom du destinataire

Street and No.
Rue et no.

Locality
Localité

Country
Pays

Postal administration of origin
Administration des postes d'origine
ZIMBABWE RHODESIA

On postal service
Service des postes

☐ Forwarded
Réexpédié

☐ Retained
Retenu

☐ Registered money order
Virement enregistré

☐ Registered value
Valeur enregistrée

☐ Receipt
Réception

Date of posting
Date d'envoi

No.
No.

Name of addressee or the office of origin
Nom du destinataire ou de l'administration d'origine

Street and No.
Rue et no.

Locality and country
Localité et pays

This advice must be signed by the addressee or by a person authorized to do so, under the regulations of the country of destination, and returned to the first post office to the sender.
Ce avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou par une personne y autorisée, en vertu des règlements du pays de destination, et être retourné à l'administration d'origine.

The non-registered money order has been duly
Le virement enregistré a été dûment
received
reçu

Signature of the addressee
Signature du destinataire

Signature of the office of origin
Signature de l'administration d'origine

Listener's Licences were paid at post offices. This form gives the name of "Zimbabwe Rhodesia Broadcasting Corporation" as the relevant authority.

This licence was issued at the Gwelo Post office on 27th February 1981 (handwritten date). The licence appears to have been checked with a cachet from the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation of 31st December 1981

To RENEW WITH SOUND LICENCE

AS. 10.
Form BL2

BROADCASTING CORPORATION (LISTENER'S LICENCES) REGULATIONS, 1974
ZIMBABWE-RHODESIA BROADCASTING CORPORATION

31 DEC 1981
GWELO

C-T No. 222076
ONLY

THIS LICENCE EXPIRES ON THE
28-2 19*81*

LISTENER'S LICENCE (Sound and Television)
Subject to the provisions of the Broadcasting Act, Chapter 248, and regulations made thereunder, the under-mentioned listener is hereby authorised to operate one or more receivers (sound and television) until midnight on the expiry date shown above. (See note 4, overleaf).

Previous Licence No. *T40903*

Z.R.B.C. No. *02722807*

Name *MRS C WHITE*

Address where Receiver kept (SEE NOTE 1 OVERLEAF).

Business

P.O. Box/Beg No. *316 GWELO*

Fee paid: \$20.00 (in words, Twenty Dollars).

Initials of Issuing Officer *b*

CASH ☒ CHEQUE ☐

Tick Appropriate

DATE STAMP
27 FEB 1981

Please read notes on reverse.

IFWIN PRESS 52200

Receipt of duty paid by the Department of Customs and Excise. Receipt headed “Zimbabwe Rhodesia”, and used on 2nd January 1980.

G. P. & S. 85230-Q.		ZIMBABWE RHODESIA		68021-8	
No. 49		Receipt for duty paid on passengers' effects or on consignments for which a Bill of Entry is not required.			
IMPORTER (Name) <u>G. Stewart</u>					
(Address) <u>7 Richmond Rd</u> <u>Umsasa Street Umtali</u>					
FROM <u>R.S.A.</u> (Country)		ORIGINAL			
CARRIER'S ADVICE No. _____		(Where applicable)			

Description and Quantity of Goods	Country of Origin	Tariff Item No.	Value		Duty	
			\$	c	\$	c
Ex APE other	—	309	20	00	7	00
Value for Import Tax \$ _____ c _____ AMOUNT FOREIGN CURRENCY TENDERED (State type, e.g., U.K. £, U.S. \$, Rand, etc.) TOTALS . . . Plus Import Tax . . . TOTAL . . .			7	00		
			7	00		

Exchange taken on above currency: \$ _____ : _____ c

Import licence No. O.G.I.L. produced

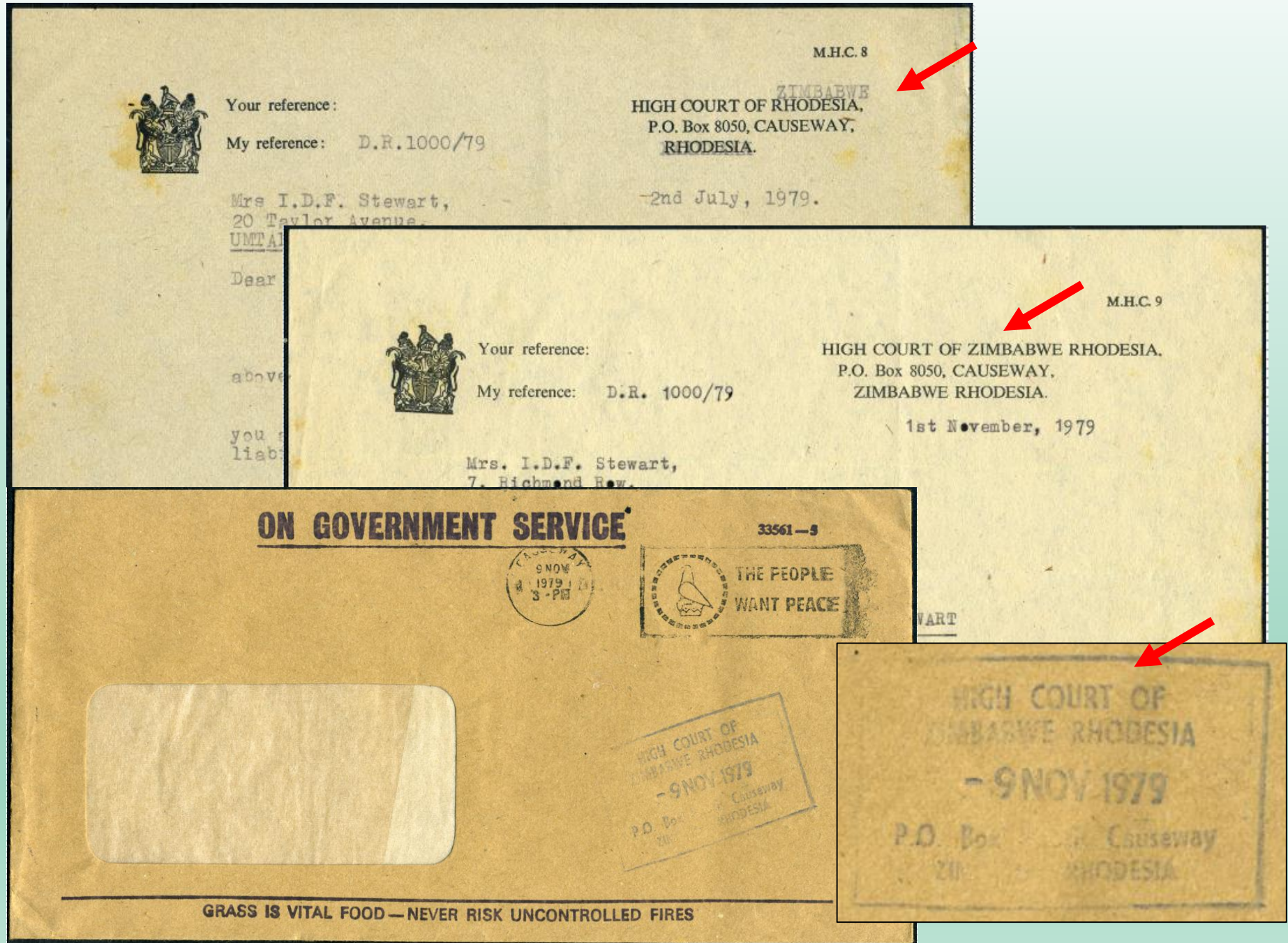
RECEIVED from the above-named importer the sum of Seven dollars

_____ cents Officer of Customs J. Williams

Letter dated 2nd July 1979, letter head with part typed “High Court of Zimbabwe Rhodesia”

Later dated 1st November 1979, with reprinted stationery.

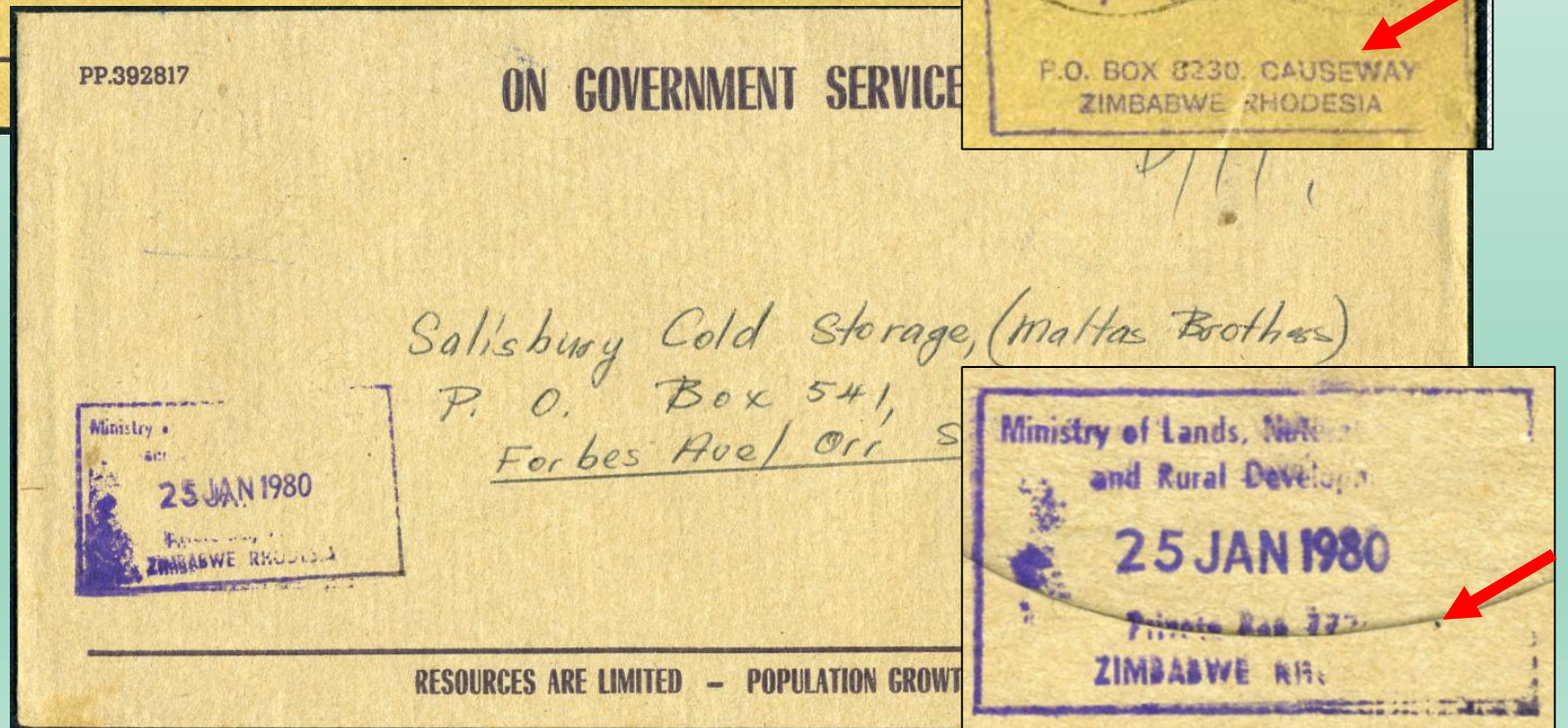
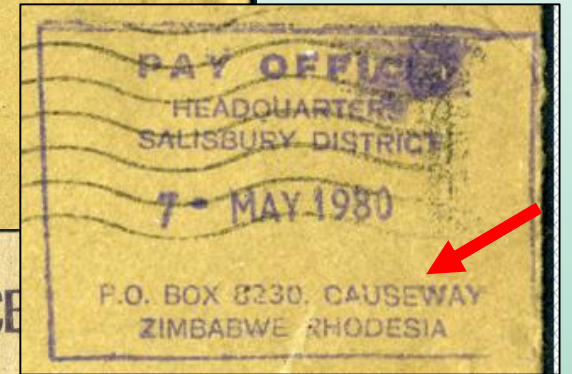
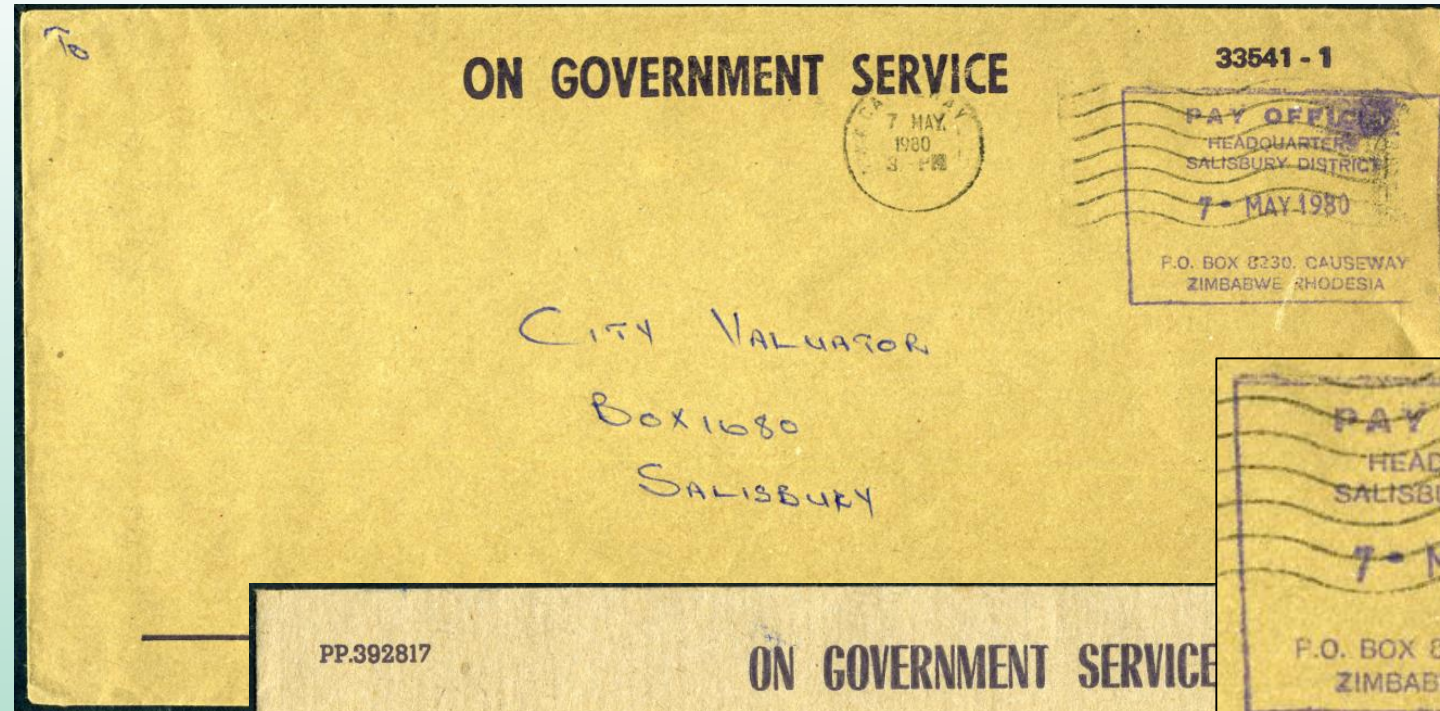
Envelope containing the November letter, with the dated cachet of the “High Court of Zimbabwe Rhodesia”



Other official cachets

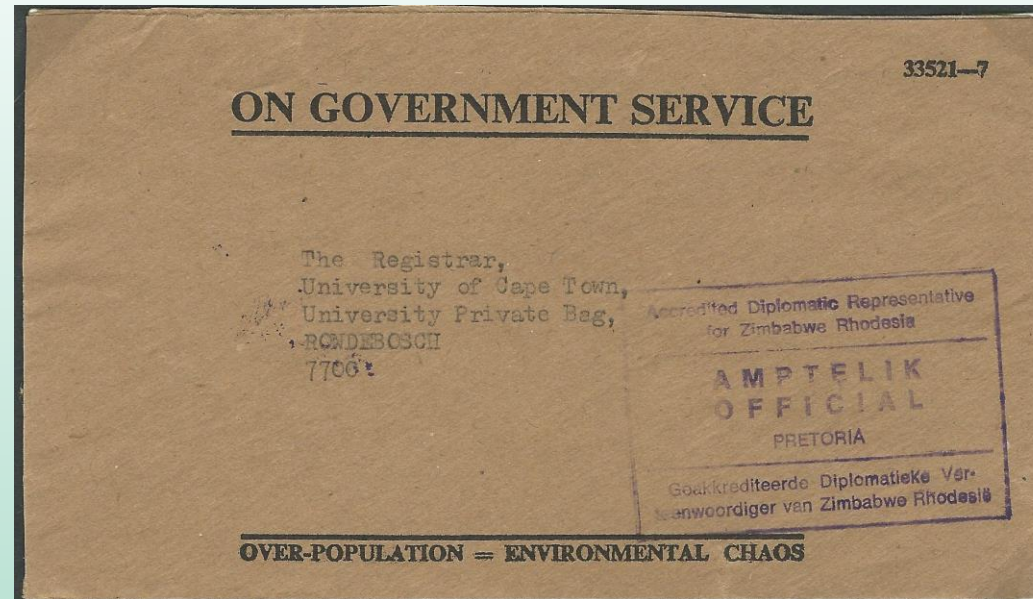
7th May 1980 – Pay Office, with Zimbabwe Rhodesia box number

25th January 1980, Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development, with Zimbabwe Rhodesia bag number



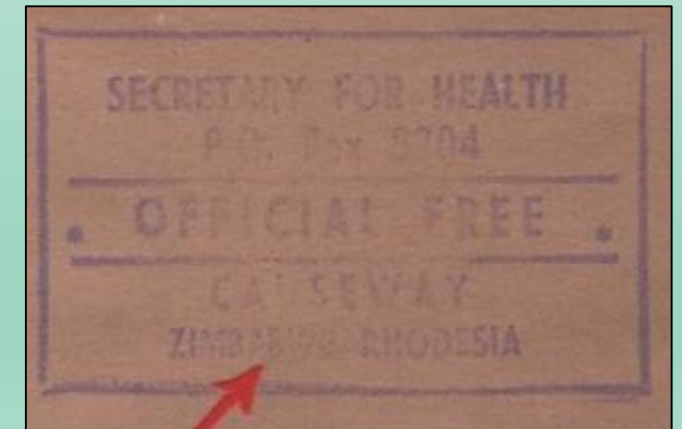
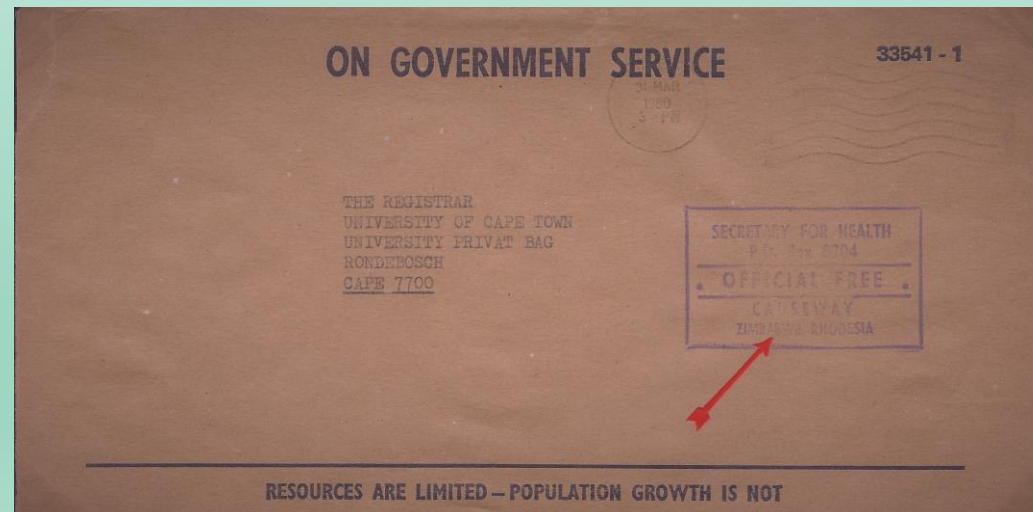
Other official cachets

“Accredited Diplomatic Representative for Zimbabwe Rhodesia”, undated



“Secretary for Health”
with Zimbabwe Rhodesia
box number, undated

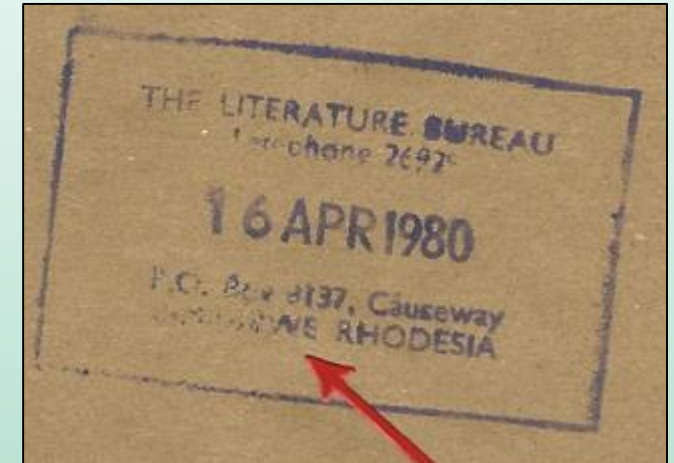
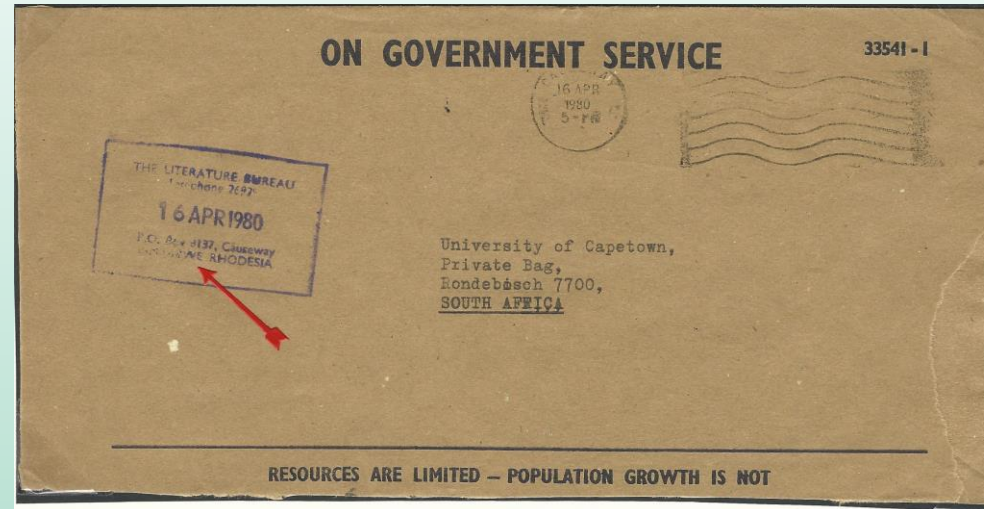
Source RSCJ 268
(Bernd Aberer)



Other official cachets

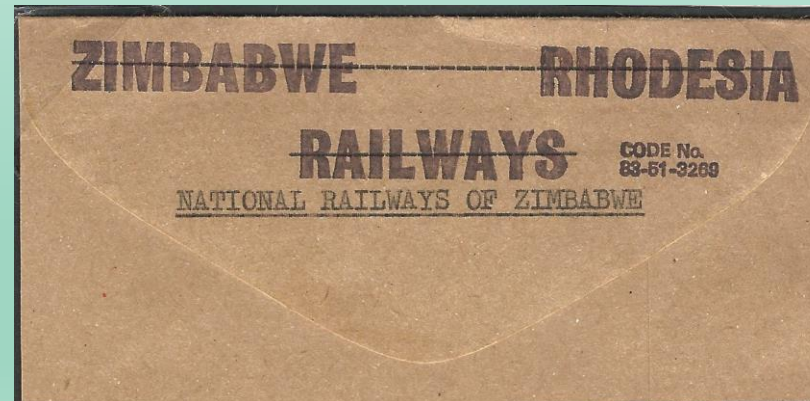
“The Literature Bureau”,
with Zimbabwe Rhodesia
box number. (two days
before Zimbabwe’s
Independence)

Source RSCJ 268
(Bernd Aberer)



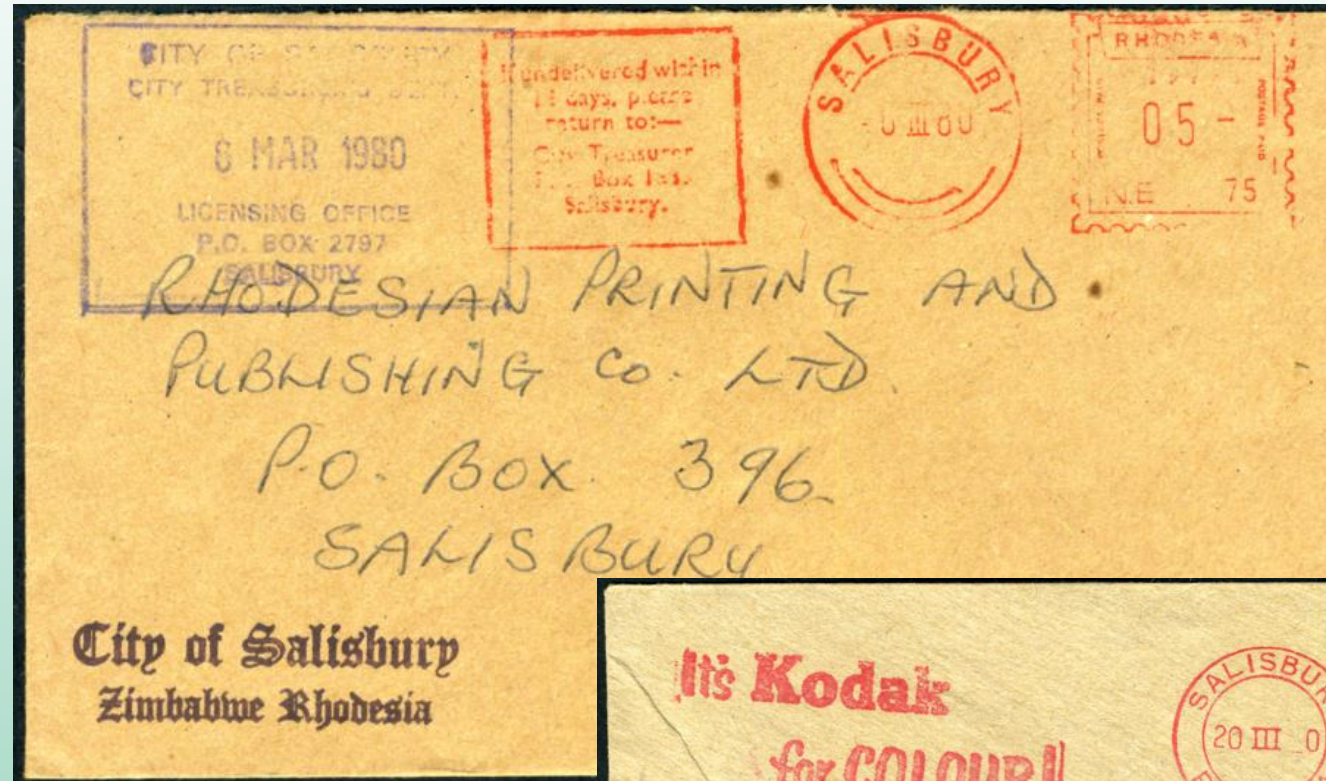
Gum flap to envelope with
printed “Zimbabwe
Rhodesia Railways”, later
deleted

Source RSCJ 268
(Bernd Aberer)



Non-government covers with
“Zimbabwe Rhodesia” printed
to the front.

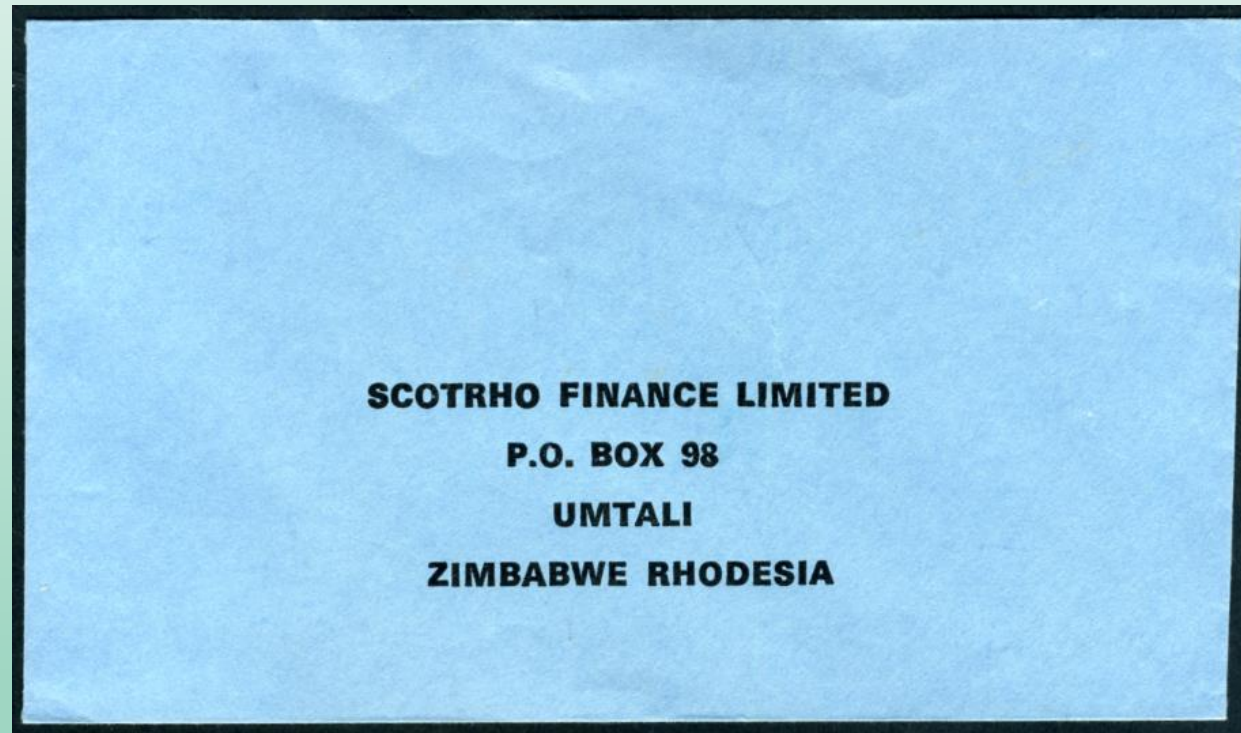
City of Salisbury, dated 20th
March 1980



Zimbabwe Photographic
Company Limited, dated 20th
March 1980

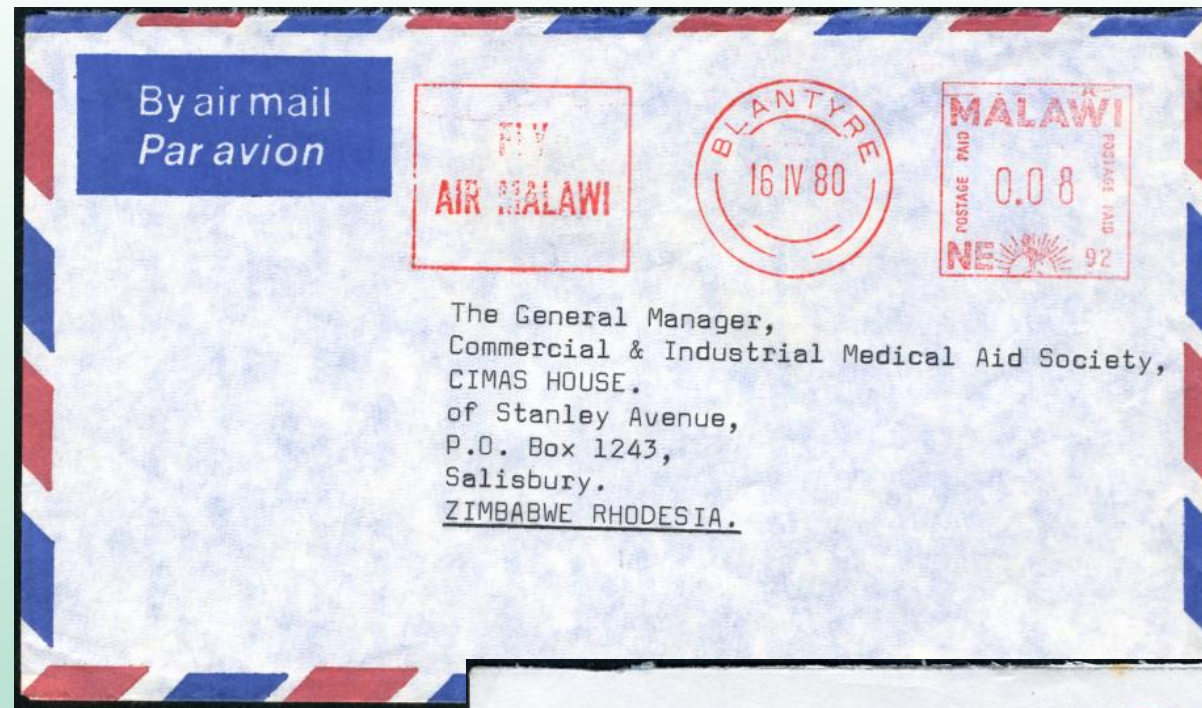


Reply envelope for “Scotrho
Finance Limited”



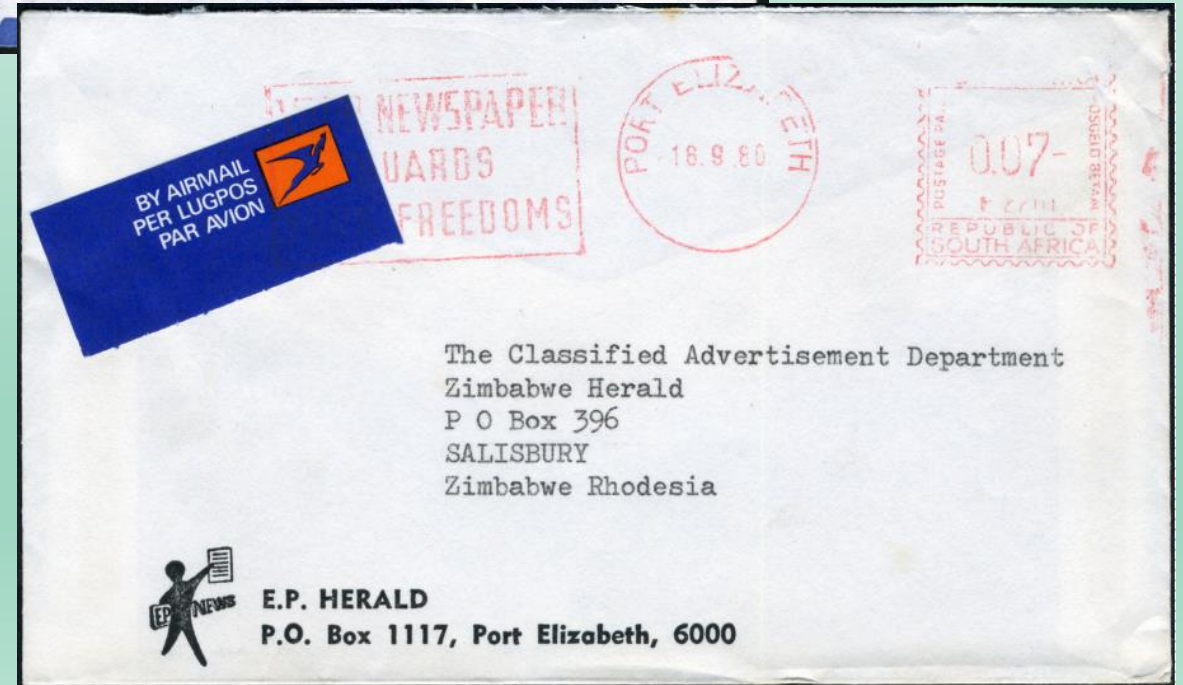
Incoming Mail to Zimbabwe Rhodesia

Air Malawi from Blantyre
dated 16th April 1980



E.P. Herald, dated 18th
September 1980 to the
Zimbabwe Herald

E.P. Herald always up to
date with news and events!

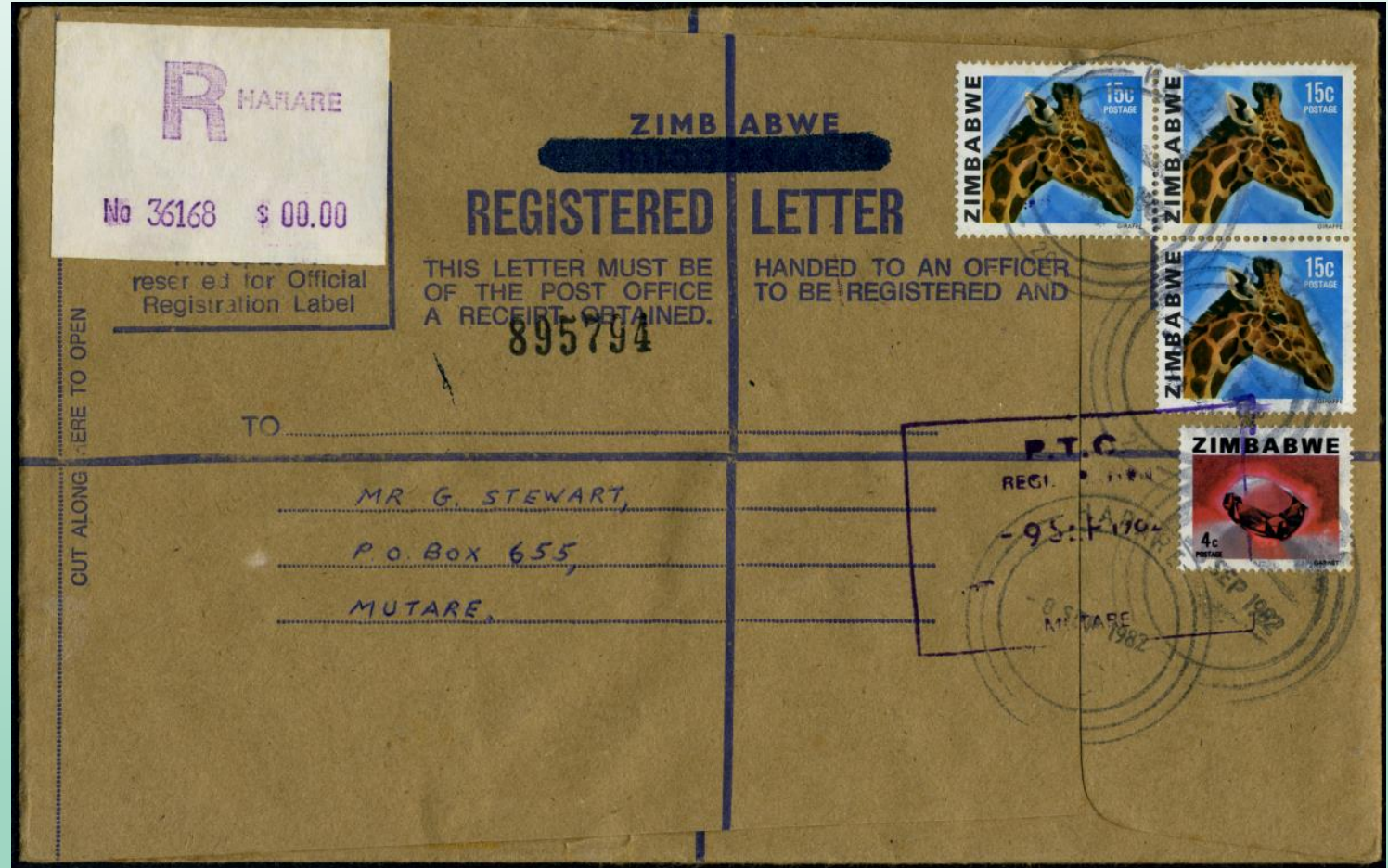


Later use of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Registered Letter

This cover has “Rhodesia” deleted in felt tip marker and dated 8th September 1982.

Uncertain if this was issued like this by the Post Office.

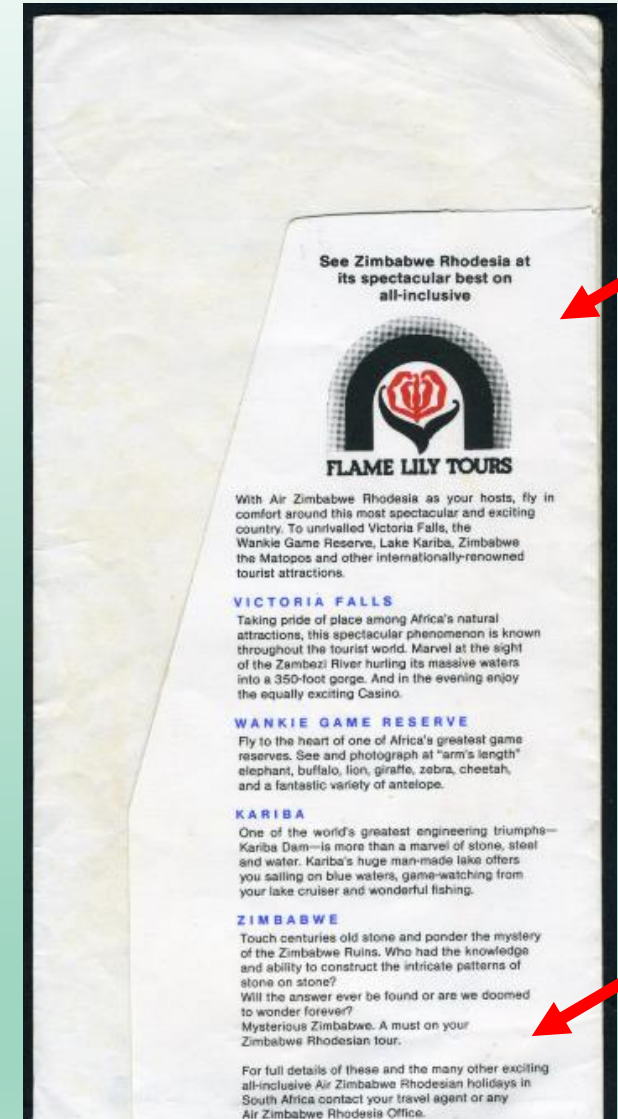
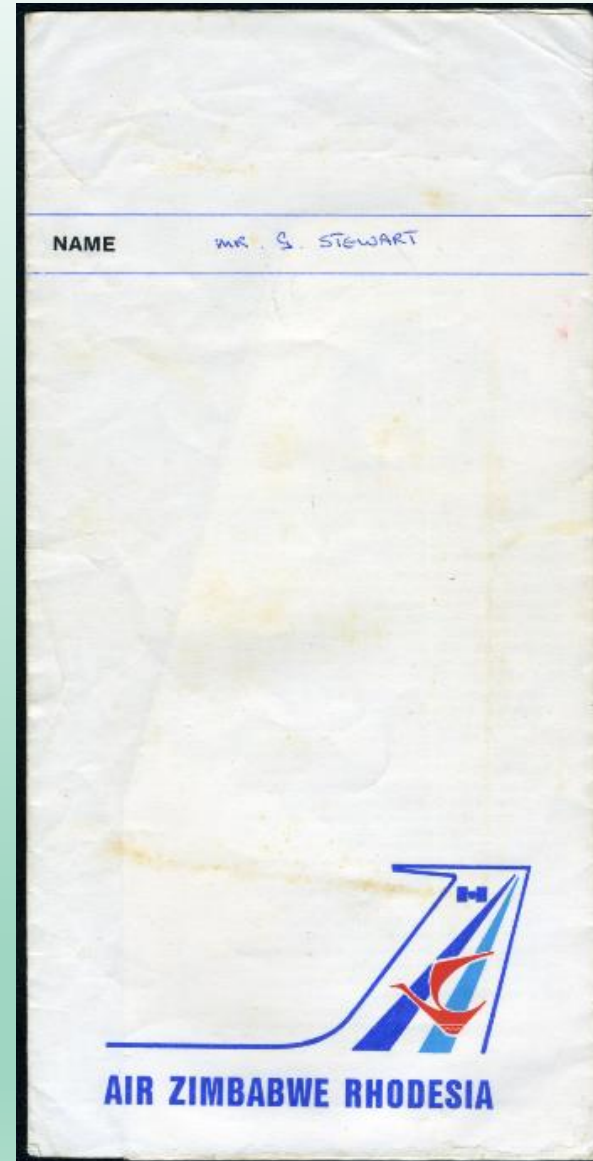
This is definitely philatelic as it was sent by Mike Amos to George Stewart. Unopened.



Although this is not philatelic,
it is of interest.

This is a flight ticket holder for
“Air Zimbabwe Rhodesia” and
advertises

“See Zimbabwe Rhodesia at its
spectacular best on all-
inclusive – Flame Lily Tours



For full details of these and the many other exciting
all-inclusive Air Zimbabwe Rhodesian holidays in
South Africa contact your travel agent or any
Air Zimbabwe Rhodesia Office.

Zimbabwe became an independent nation on the 18th April 1980.

Despite Zimbabwe Rhodesia not being the official name of the country, this didn't stop covers being produced for the last day of its purported existence on 17th April 1980

Philatelic material on Zimbabwe Rhodesia can be challenging to find, but I hope this give a flavour of what to look out for.

Thank you

