

A PIECE OF MINING HISTORY



A picture postcard in this condition would normally be consigned to the waste paper bin but, fortunately, the former owner thought otherwise.

Posted from Bulawayo on 30 September 1904, and addressed to an employee at the Surprise Gold Mine, Gwelo, this postcard was one of twelve published by E.B.S. Mercer in the Pearl Series in 1903. Interestingly, it is unusual for those postcards to be found having been postally used within Rhodesia.

The Surprise Mine was a main gold producer from 1903 to 1911 before the gold bearing reef became exhausted. During this period, mail for the Mine was delivered to the Selukwe Post Office as evidenced by the Selukwe date stamp of 2 October 1904 on this postcard. By arrangement mail would have been collected from the Post Office by a Mine employee.

The message, which is short and to the point, reads : Will be up with Thursday's train.



Provenance: Joan Soriano (2012)