

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this traditional exhibit is to provide an in-depth presentation of all the regularly issued stamps of Southern Rhodesia, consisting of 4 definitive and 11 commemorative issues printed between 1923 and 1954 and an additional definitive issued in 1964 following dissolution of the Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland. The Exhibit includes extensive archival materials (unadopted color specimens and printer's frame, vignette and full imperf "proofs"), color variations, plate flaws and examples of commercial use.



Map showing Southern Rhodesia – present day Zimbabwe

BACKGROUND



Cecil B Rhodes
50th Anniversary Issue
Printer's copy with security punch

The territory which would become Southern Rhodesia was initially administered by the British South Africa Company. In the late 1890s, it became known as Rhodesia, in memory of Cecil Rhodes, a key figure in the British expansion into southern Africa. In 1923, the area was partitioned and the portion south of the Zambezi River became the Crown Colony of Southern Rhodesia. In 1953, Southern Rhodesia joined Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland to become the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (or Central African Federation), with a common postal administration. The Federation dissolved in 1964 and Southern Rhodesia briefly resumed its former name and issued stamps. In October 1964, Southern Rhodesia renamed itself Rhodesia, although this was not recognized by the British Government. Rhodesia unilaterally declared independence (UDI) on November 11, 1965, operating as a self-governing state under white minority government. It became the independent state of Zimbabwe on December 31, 1978.

PLAN OF EXHIBIT

Stamp issues are presented in the order of archival materials, as issued, printing variations (perforations, colors and plate flaws) and commercial use. The Exhibit is organized as follows:

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| Frame 1 | I. Reign of King George V (1924 – 1937)
A. Definitives ("Admirals", "Field Marshals" and Victoria Falls)
B. Commemorative |
| Frame 2 | II. Reign of King George VI (1937 – 1953)
A. Definitive (1937)
B. Commemorative |
| Frame 3 | C. Postage Due
III. Reign of Queen Elizabeth II (1953 -)
A. Pre-Federation Definitive (1953)
B. Pre-Federation Commemorative
C. Post-Federation Definitive (1964)
D. Mixed use during UDI |

Scarcer and harder to acquire items are framed in blue