

SOUTHERN RHODESIA MISSIONS to 1978

Purpose: This exhibit tells the important story of Christian missions in Southern Rhodesia up to 1978 through the display of missionary mail and other materials.

Scope: The exhibit is organized by the sending church or missionary society and the date each mission was established. Based on original research, information is provided about the missions and the missionaries serving there. Excerpts from missionary mail and additional materials such as photos, picture post cards and other ephemera bring to life mission development and the challenges faced by the missionaries. The exhibit concludes in 1978, the date by which most missionaries were withdrawn.

Rates: The standard (Universal Postal Union) foreign surface postal rate during the majority of this time period was 3d. This is noted with the first example only. Other postal rates are indicated.

Importance: Missionary mail is an essential part of Rhodesia's social/political history. Missionaries played an important – if sometimes controversial – role “colonizing” Rhodesia. Their history is intertwined with the history of Rhodesia itself. Missions have had a lasting legacy spreading Christianity and establishing schools and hospitals, most of which are still in operation.

Abbreviations: ABM - American Board Mission; MEC - Methodist Episcopal Church; RP – Real photo postcard; SDA – Seventh Day Adventists; SMB – Bethlehem Mission Society; WFMS – Women's Foreign Missionary Society.

Plan of Exhibit:

- American Board Mission
- Methodist Episcopal Church
- Other American Missions
- Other Protestant/Anglican Missions
- Catholic Missions
- Post Independence

Background and biographical information about missionaries and the challenges they faced and developments impacting missions are in blue font. Excerpts from missionary mail/articles framed in blue.

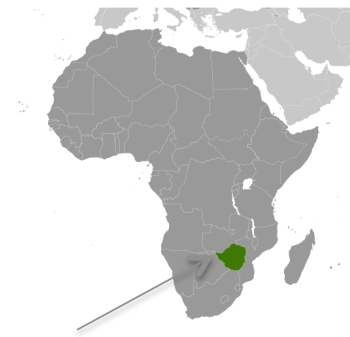
Harder to acquire items framed in red

Details of scarcity noted in Times New Roman font

Real Photo postcard (RP)
– Missions of the Society of Jesus [Jesuits] – Rhodesia.

“Small wild celebrations around the Missionary”
(translated from Italian)

“Spreading the missionary Idea,” *Missions of the Society of Jesus Magazine*, Vicenza, Italy.
No. 5 of series of 5



Map showing Southern Rhodesia – present day Zimbabwe



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