

# Rhodesia

## The Double Head Issue : 1910 - 1913

### The Perf 14 Printings

The Rhodesia Double Head issue was produced to commemorate the Royal Visit of Arthur, the Duke of Connaught to Rhodesia in November 1910. The stamps show the portrait of Queen Mary and King George V. Prior to the engraving of the Master Die, for the vignettes Waterlow & Sons Limited of London, produced a series of Essays from portraits of the two, the remainder of the design being hand painted around the images of the King & Queen. The portraits were taken by W & D Downey, Royal photographers, at their studio at 57 Ebury St, London. Progressive essay Die Proofs were then produced by Waterlows. They were then reduced to the Primary Die Proof, followed by the frame duty Dies. Dies were produced for 17 values, plus a 7 1/2d which never went into production. Postal rates changed in 1911 and the proposed 7 1/2d was superceded by the 8d duty, whose duty number 4529, was out of sequence with those of the rest of the issue - 4503 to 4522 inclusive. The issue was first printed from the Original Plate 5555. Waterlows then used the 5555 plate for the various duties from two electroplates. All were printed on unwatermarked paper.

The content in the frames deal with the PERF 14 PRINTINGS only. A sound introduction to the issue is provided. The Long Gash, Short Gash, Thick Ear, and No Gash printings are covered as are a large number of recurring plate flaws. The stamps were issued for Postage & Revenue purposes and a number of examples of usage are contained within the exhibit.

#### Exhibit Plan

The exhibit is planned as a chronology of the issue with its relevant information and intrigue. The various Printings, and there were many, have as far as possible been identified as have a great number of recurring plate flaws. Multiples are generally hard to come by and commercial postal usage on cover is unknown for some of the printings. The chronological plan is thus:

#### Frame 1:

Starts with the Dirty Book Dies, Printers file proofs, an array of SPECIMENS and the first 1/2d issue.

#### Frame 2.

Continues with the 1/2d duty & usage; then Double Dot variety; shades, including "Apple Green"; and the Imperf on Cover by Benson is shown

#### Frame 3.

The 1d shades & printings; the "O-D" flaw; "newspaper" postage of 1d DH on Government Gazette The 2d duty, shades printings & usage with scarce items including the "Ghostly Heads".

#### Frame 4

The Beautiful 2 1/2d duty, printings & usage; the 3d duty shades and printings, with many plate flaws identified. Scarce printings include RSC (Rhodesia Study Circle) B & C

#### Frame 5.

The 4d, shades, printings and covers; varieties & plate flaws, Scarce shades/printings are identified by RSC B, C, F. The 5d duty shades, printings, usage and flaws. Start of the 6d duty & printings

#### Frame 6

The conclusion of the complicated 6d. The 8d duty with the very scarce black & purple. Other printings shades and flaws. The 10d with shades, printings & flaws: & one of largest blocks extant The 1s duty with shades, printings and scarce flaws - printings from RSC VI group. "Z" flaw. - a vast array of printings and shades. Revenue usage.

#### Frame 7;

The 2s duty printings; shades and flaws. Significantly the pale blue and china white is shown; multiples barely exist and only philatelic covers are known, Printed from the 5555 plate. The 2s 6d duty is shown the same way with significant stamps RSC C, D, F. The 3s duty with very scarce multiples also shows RSC A, D. The 5s duty good range printings and shades. Mining documents show the revenue usage of the stamps

#### Frame 8

7s6d good representation of shades, printings and flaws. 15/- franking of Quitrent is significant 10/- from the Hook printing and revenue usage shown. 1 Pound: showing the long gash and mid gash printings and Mining usage. (Believed to be) Largest CTO block extant

Frame 1

Frame 2

Frame 3

Frame 4

Frame 5

Frame 6

Frame 7

Frame 8

### IMPORTANT ITEMS ARE IDENTIFIED BY A RED BORDER

Bibliography: Rhodesia Bi-coloured DH's -1910 -1914 - Underwood, Reah Johnson, Hanks RSC Journals; Claridges Rare Stamp Show 1994; Deverell & MacGregor; C Hoffmann RDP SA; FRPSL monographs and research papers; Osden (Victoria Stamp Co); Vestey, Uria (Spink) auction catalogues Own research.