

Rhodesia Double Heads

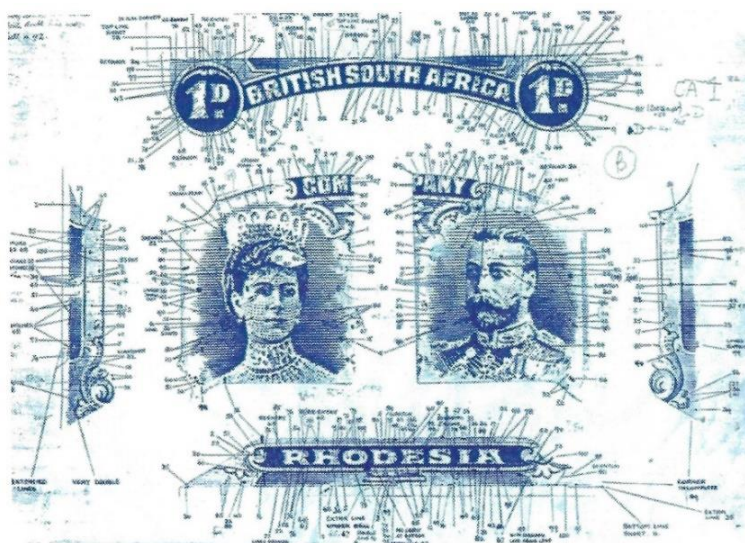
Rob Cooke

The Rhodesia Double Heads are works of art and some of my favourite stamps. All the values have the same design, comprising side-by-side portraits of Queen Mary and George V, and were issued from 11 Nov 1911 to 1913. They were printed by Waterlow. in four groups with perfs. P14, P15, P14x15/P15x14 & P13¹/₂. The ¹/₂d, 1d, 2d & 2¹/₂d values are monochrome, while the values from 3d to £1 are printed in two colours and most exist in several shades, as indicated below for the 1d.



1d bright carmine (SG123), 1d carmine-lake (SG124) & 1d rose-red (SG125)

The numerous flaws for each Double Head, e.g. “hook”, “long gash” and “thick ear”, are the subject of many detailed studies. The complexity of the subject is illustrated in the diagram below just for the 1d stamp (Rhodesia Study Circle Journal, Vol.70 p270). Coincidentally, Dr Ian Hamilton was a biology teacher at my senior school.



One of Ian Hamilton's Guides to the Penny Double Head

I am very much an amateur in this area, concentrating on those stamps listed by Stanley Gibbons, some of which are shown below. I will have to wait for a significant lottery win to fill the numerous gaps in my collection.



2/6 black & rose carmine (SG157), 5/- scarlet & pale yellow-green (SG160) and 10/- deep myrtle & orange (SG163)