British Central Africa Protectorate



1891 - 1907

British Central Africa Protectorate

Stamp Album

This album covers the issue of stamps by the British Central Africa Protectorate for the period 1891 to 1907, when the Protectorate was renamed Nyasaland Protectorate.
The album is ordered in accordance with the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamps Catalogue of Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840 - 1970 and the format is a straightforward and uncomplicated collection of the issues, covering postage stamps and only includes variations of stamps if not of a high catalogue value.

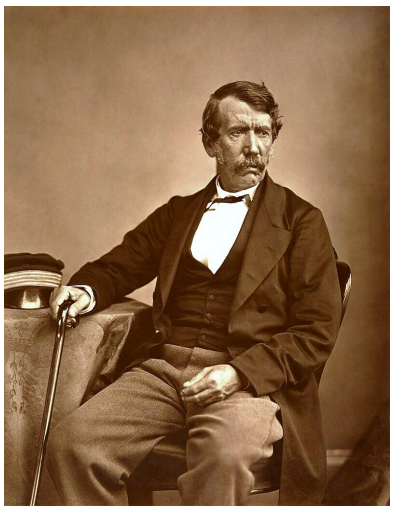
Images of virtually all stamps have been inserted in the stamp boxes to assist collection, or for information.

British Central Africa Protectorate

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Two pioneers whose activities were influential in the founding of the British Central Africa Protectorate.



Dr David Livingstone FRGS FRS (19 March 1813 – 1 May 1873) was a Scottish physician, Congregationalist, pioneer Christian missionary with the London Missionary Society, and an explorer in Africa.

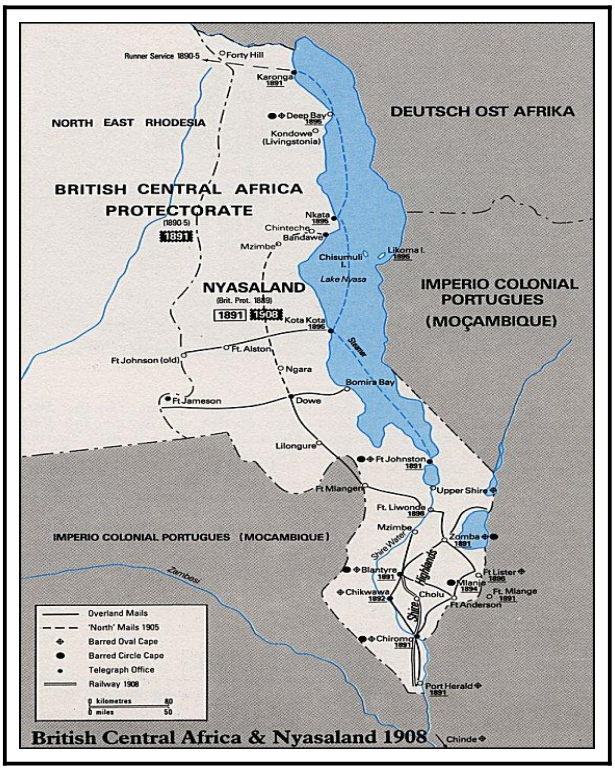


Sir Henry Hamilton Johnston GCMG KCB (12 June 1858 – 31 July 1927) was a British explorer, botanist, artist, pioneer colonial administrator, and linguist.

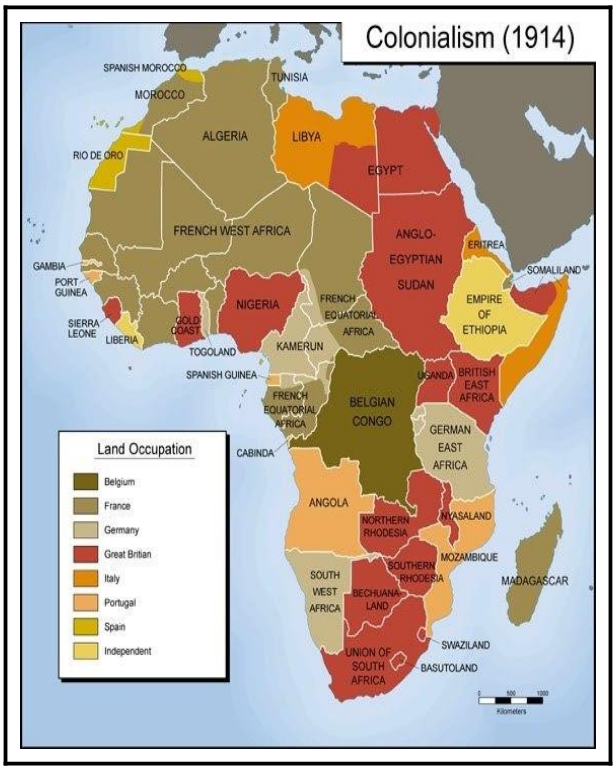
British Central Africa Protectorate

Maps

Map of British Central Africa Protectorate



Colonial Map of Africa



Coat of Arms and Flag of the Protectorate

The Coat of Arms used by the British Central Africa Protectorate had been adopted in 1894 and in the words of its originator, Sir Henry Johnston:- "it may be described as a shield sable, with a pile or, and over all a fimbriated cross argent, bearing an inescutche on gules on which is imprinted the Royal Arms in or. The shield is poised on an outspread map of Africa ; supporters, two negroes, one carrying a pick and the other a shovel; crest, a coffee tree in full bearing ; motto, ' Light in darkness.'
Put in plain language, the shield is intended to illustrate our three colours, black, yellow, and white, with a touch of the English red. Into the sable mass of Africa I have driven a pile (wedge) of Indian yellow. Over all is the white cross, representing, in its best significations, the all-embracing white man. The inescutcheon of English red shows the Arms of the protecting Power."
The flag was a British blue ensign with emblem in the centre right and was in use from 23 Feb 1893 - 11 May 1914.

British Central Africa Protectorate

Early Colonial History

The British Central Africa Protectorate (BCA) was a British protectorate proclaimed in 1889 and ratified in 1891, that occupied the same area as present-day Malawi and it was renamed Nyasaland on 6 July 1907. British interest in the area arose from visits made to the area by David Livingstone between 1858 and 1864 as part of his Zambezi expeditions. His writing on conditions in the area encouraged missionary activity that started in the 1860s, undertaken by the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland, and which was followed by a small number of settlers. The Portuguese government attempted to claim much of the area in which the missionaries and settlers operated, but this was disputed by the British government. However, as late as 1888, the British Foreign Office had declined to accept responsibility for protecting the rudimentary British settlements in the Shire Highlands, To forestall a Portuguese expedition claiming effective occupation, a protectorate, the "Shire Highlands Protectorate", was proclaimed by the the resident British Consul in 1889, contrary to the Foreign Office instructions. The Consul's Proclamation of a further protectorate, "the Nyasaland Districts Protectorate," west of Lake Nyasa in 1889, was also contrary to Foreign Office instructions, however, it was eventually endorsed by the Foreign Office on 15 May 1891. An 1891 Anglo-Portuguese treaty fixed the southern borders of what had been renamed the British Central Africa Protectorate. The northern border of the protectorate was agreed as part of the Anglo-German Convention in 1890 and its western border with Northern Rhodesia was fixed in 1891 by agreement with the British South Africa Company, which governed that territory under Royal Charter until 1924.

General Information

Geographical Location:

The Protectorate was a landlocked country in southeast Africa. It is wholly within the tropics; from about 9°30S at its northernmost point to about 17°S at the southernmost tip. The country occupies a thin strip of land between Northern Rhodesia and Mozambique, extending southwards into Mozambique along the valley of the Shire River. In the north and north east it also shares a border with Tanganyika.

Total Area:

109,342 square kilometres.

Geography:

The Great Rift Valley traverses the country from north to south. In this deep trough lies Lake Nyasa, the third-largest lake in Africa. Lake Nyasa is about 587 km (365 miles) long and 84 km (52 mi) wide. The surface of the lake is located at 460 m (1,500 ft) above sea level, with a maximum depth of 700 m (2,300 ft), which means the lake bottom is over 210 m (700 ft) below sea level at some points. West of the Great Rift Valley, the land forms high plateaus rising generally 910 to 1,220 m (3,000 to 4,000 ft) above sea level. In the north, the Nyika Uplands rise as high as 2,400 m (8,000 ft).

Climate:

The climate of the Protectorate was generally tropical. The altitude moderates what would be an otherwise equatorial climate. Between November and April the temperature is warm with equatorial rains and thunderstorms, with the storms reaching their peak severity in late March. After March, the rainfall rapidly diminishes and from May to September wet mists float from the highlands into the plateaus, with almost no rainfall during these months.

Monarchy:

The protectorate had no overarching ruler of the territory, which was inhabited by three main tribes with their traditional chiefs. Initially Queen Victoria (1893-1901) and subsequently King Edward VII (1901-1907) were the monarchs of the territory under a constitutional monarchy system of government.

Capital and Seat of Government:

Zomba.

Government:

The Protectorate was originally intended to be under the administration of the British South Africa Company of Cecil Rhodes, but following resistence from several quarters, it was agreed that administration would be by the British Foreign Office. Sir Henry H. Johnston was appointed Commissioner and Consul-General of the protectorate and he in turn appointed district officials with the title of "Collectors of Revenue" to assist in the general administration.

Population:

736,724 - 1901

Languages:

English (official) and Chewa, Yao, Tumbuka .

Currency:

The Rhodesian Pound based on the Sterling monetary system of a Pound divided into 20 shillings, each of 12 pence, was used.

British Central Africa Protectorate

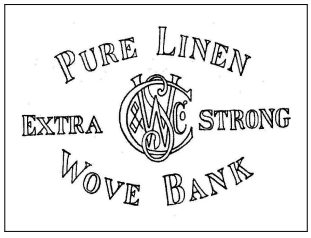
Postal History of the Protectorate

The postal service was established in 1893 by Mr H.H. Harrhy, on "loan" from the Postmaster General of Cape Town. The details of the early organisation of the postal service in the Protectorate are given in a report by Mr. Harrhy:—
“ Zomba, owing to the unsettled state of the country in the northern portion of the territory, is in special communication with Fort Johnston and beyond. Mails from the United Kingdom and foreign countries are landed at the Tschinde mouth of the Zambesi - the port of entry for British Central Africa - are sorted at the Office of Exchange there, and are forwarded by steamer up the Zambesi and Shire to Port Herald or Tshiromo, as opportunities offer. During the dry season the Lower Shire is rarely navigable above Pinda or Port Herald, and runners have, accordingly, to be utilised for carrying the bags on to Tshiromo; between Tshiromo, Tshlkwawa, Blantyre, Zomba and Mpimbi runners are used exclusively, while from Mpimbi to Fort Johnston the gunboat, “ Dove," and houseboats manned by natives, are available. Mails are conveyed from Fort Johnston to the various ports on Lake Nyasa by the German Government steamer. “ Wissmann,” and the African Lakes Company steamers, “ Domira ’’ and " Aliala," and from Karonga to the south end of Lake Tanganyika and across to Lake Mwero and Johnston Falls by runners. The Offices, with the exception of Mlanje, where an educated native woman from Old Calabar is in charge, are manned by Englishmen, and the methodical way in which the work is performed by them very often under most trying conditions is worthy of the highest praise.
Our mail carriers, clad in long frock coats, knickers and fez minus boots and stockings, present a picturesque appearance. They are always armed when on service, and appear to be very proud of their Snider rifles."

The first postage stamps of the protectorate were issued on 20 July 1891, produced by overprinting the Rhodesian stamps of the British South Africa Company with "B.C.A.". Surcharged BSAC stamps were necessary in 1892, 1893, and 1895. 1895 saw the introduction of stamps printed for the protectorate, featuring the protectorate's coat of arms and inscribed "BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA". The 1895 issue was printed by De La Rue & Co., Ltd on unwatermarked paper, but from February 1896 onwards, the paper had either the Crown over CC, or Crown over CA watermarks. In August 1897 a new design was introduced, still using the coat of arms, but with a clear instead of a lined background.
In 1897, with a shortage of one penny stamps looming due the new consignment having mysteriously gone astray whilst en route by barge on the Zambezi River from the United Kingdom, the little used 3 shilling postage stamp was surcharged as an initial stop-gap. A plan was then implemented to print and emboss a 1d stamp locally, but for internal use only, and on 11 March 1898 the new stamp was issued. The missing consignment eventually turned up early in 1899 thereby obviating the necessity of further reprints of what was referred to as a"token" by the Postmaster and "cheque stamp" by philatelists. In 1901, the 1d, 4d, and 6d values of the 1897 stamps were printed in different colours. In 1903 a new series of stamps was issued, featuring the profile of King Edward VII and inscribed "BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA / PROTECTORATE", with denominations from one penny to ten pounds.
From 1908 stamps were issued by the Nyasaland Protectorate.

Watermarks used in the Stamp Issues of the Protectorate.

Sheet Watermark (monogram) of William Collins, Sons & Co



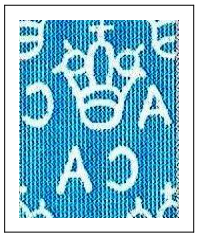
Crown over CA



Crown over CC



Multiple Crown & CA



British Central Africa Protectorate

Stamp Issues of British Central Africa Protectorate

Issue with “B.C.A."” overprinted:

•1891 (20 July) - 1895 Rhodesia stamps of British South Africa Company (19 stamps);

Provisional Stamp Issues surcharged:

•1892 - 1893 Provisional Rhodesia stamps of British South Africa Company - SG11/12 (2 stamps);
•1895 - Provisional Rhodesia stamp of British South Africa Company - SG2 (1 stamp);
•1897 - Provisional Coat of Arms (One Penny) issue - SG49 (1 stamp);

Inscribed Stamp Issues:

•1895 - First Coat of Arms (no watermark) issue (11 stamps);
•1896 - Second (watermarked) Coat of Arms issue of 1895 series (11 stamps);
•1897 - 1900 Definitive Coat of Arms (re-drawn) issue (11 stamps);
•1898 - Provisional Internal Postage issue (4 stamps) ;
•1898 - Additional Provisional Internal Postage issue (2 stamps);
•1901 - Additional 1897 Coat of Arms (new colours) issue (3 stamps);
•1903 - 1904 Definitive Kings Head issue (10 stamps);
•1907 - Additional Kings Head issue (4 stamps).

A total of 14 issues consisting of 79 stamps were issued in the territory between 1891 and 1907 when its name was changed to Nyasaland Protectorate.



Mail Runners of the B.C.A. Protectorate
with their Snider Rifles for protection should they encounter lions.

British Central Africa Protectorate

First issue - Rhodesian Stamps of the British South Africa Company overprinted with "B.C.A. " (SG 1 - 13,20,22 - 26). 20 July 1891 - 1895.

Watermark: Monogram of paper manufacturer, William Collins, Sons & Co. once on the sheet. Perf: 14 (1d - 10s), 14½ (£1 - £10).



SG 1



SG 2



SG 3



SG 4



SG 5



SG 6



SG 6a



SG 7



SG 8



SG 9



SG 9a



SG 10 1895



SG 11 2.1893



SG 12



SG 13



SG 14



Coat of Arms
British South Africa Company.

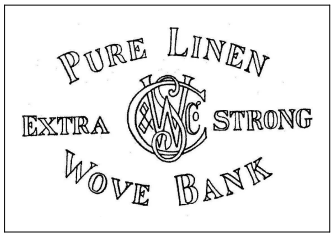
Sheet watermark (monogram) of
William Collins, Sons & Co.



SG 15



SG 16





SG 17

Notes: The stamps were supplied by the British South Africa Company at the request of the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate. Paper - thin greyish-white wove; values up to 10s may be found with "B.C.A." in thin or thick letters.

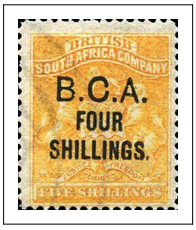
Print: Recess and overprint by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd.

British Central Africa Protectorate

Provisional issue of surcharged 1891 (SG 12) & 1893 (SG 26) values. August 1892 - 1893.

Watermark: as per 1891 issue . Perf: 14.

4s on 5s (1891) and 3s on 4s (1893) .



SG 19 8.1892



SG 18 10.1893

Notes: no 4s stamp in 1891 series necessitated a provisional issue in August 1892 (possibly for fiscal use). The provisional stamp was then superceded by the issue of a regular 4s stamp (SG 11 of February 1893). This stamp in turn was used for the provisional 3s surcharged stamp in October 1893 and which in turn was superceded in October 1895 by the issue of a regular 3s stamp (SG 10).

Provisional issue of bisected surcharged 1891 stamp (SG 2). 1895.

Watermark: as per 1891 issue. Perf: 14.



SG 2a

Notes: in 1895, the stock of one penny stamps having run short, a quantity of the 2d were said to have been permitted by the High Commissioner to be bisected diagonally, and each portion to serve as a stamp of the value of one penny. The permission was given to the postmasters at Blantyre, Chiromo, and Zomba, and it is further stated that this was only for a day or two, and that only fifty of these provisionals were used.

Provisional issue of surcharged 1891 stamp (SG 2). 1895.

Watermark: as per 1891 issue. Perf: 14.



SG 20

Notes: with stock of 1d stamp running short, a parcel of 99 sheets x 60 of the 2d stamps were despatched to the Government printer in Cape Town for the surcharge. From this printing there are some instances of a double surcharge and initial or final letters out of alignment.

The "Dove", one of the African Lakes Corporation's ships that plied the Shire and Zambezi rivers.



African Lakes Corporation steamers such as "Monteith" were the primary form of both freight and passenger transport until the coming of railways.



British Central Africa Protectorate

Definitive Coat of Arms issue.
1895.

Watermark: none. Perf: 14.



SG 21



SG 22



SG 23



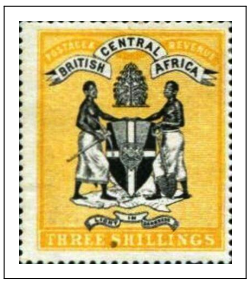
SG 24



SG 25



SG 26



SG 27



SG 28



SG 29



SG 30



SG 31

Notes: want of funds in 1894 compelled the Commissioner for the Protectorate, Sir Harry Johnston, to adopt a rather cheap and inferior issue of stamps. The issue was printed on unwatermarked paper which led to the Crown Agents for the Colonies questioning the permanence of the issue and pointing out to him, the desirability of printing on watermarked paper. The stock of unwatermarked stamps remaining in the Protectorate was destroyed after the new issue on watermarked paper was received.

Design: by Sir H.H. Johnston. Print: Lithographic by De La Rue & Co., Ltd.

British Central Africa Protectorate

Watermarked issue of Coat of Arms.
February 1896.

Watermark: Crown over CA (1d to 1s), Crown over CC sideways (2s6d to £25). Perf: 14.



SG 32



SG 33



SG 34



SG 35



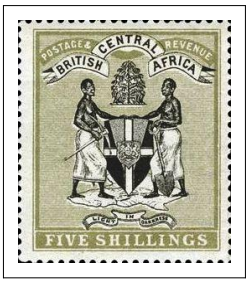
SG 36



SG 37



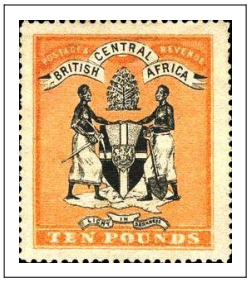
SG 38



SG 39



SG 40



SG 41



SG 42

Crown over CA.



Crown over CC.



Print: Lithographic by De La Rue & Co., Ltd.

British Central Africa Protectorate

Definitive issue of Coat of Arms (redrawn).
August 1897 - 1900.

Watermark: Crown over CA (1d to 1s), Crown over CC (2s6d to £10). Perf: 14.



SG 43



SG 44



SG 45



SG 46



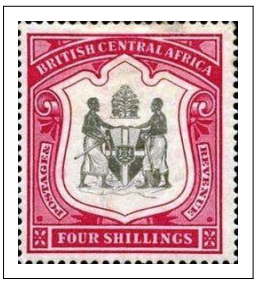
SG 47



SG 48



SG 49



SG 50



SG 50a



SG 51



SG 52

Notes: with the design of the previous two Coat of Arms issues having been described as "tawdry" and a grant from the Treasury, a series with an improved design was issued in 1897. It was reported that following receipt of the new stamps, the remaining stocks of the previous issue was burnt by order of the authorities.

Print: Lithographic by De La Rue & Co. Ltd.

British Central Africa Protectorate

Provisional surcharged issue (Sg 49).
31 December 1897.

Watermark: Crown over CC. Perf: 14.



SG 53

Notes: with stock of 1d stamps running out, the authorities had recourse to an overprinted provisional. The 3s stamp, being little used owing to the introduction of an embossed revenue stamp for the collection of hut tax, stocks of the stamp were overprinted with "ONE PENNY". 560 sheets of the 3s stamp (33600) were overprinted and it was recorded in the "British Central Africa Gazette" that 33,420 of the stamp were sold.

Additional Coat of Arms (new colours) issue.
1901.

Watermark: Crown over CA. Perf: 14.



SG 57d



SG 57e



SG 58

British Central Africa Protectorate

Provisional 1d Internal Postage issue.
11 March 1898.

Watermark: none. Perf: imperforate.

(a) Setting I. The vertical frame lines of the stamps cross the space between the two rows of the sheet.

(b) Setting II. The vertical frame lines do not cross the space between the rows except at the extreme ends of the sheet. Control as No 55.

(i) With the initials " J.T.G." or "J.G." on the back in black ink.

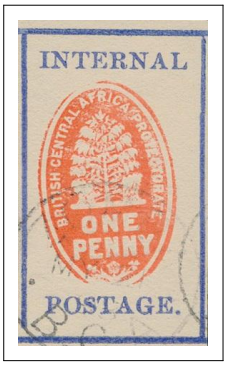


SG 54



SG 55b

(ii) With a control number and letter/s printed in plain relief at the back.



SG 55



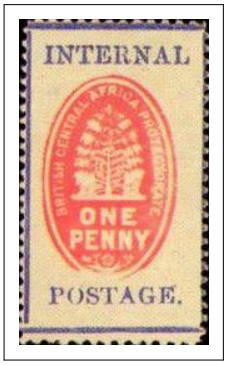
SG 56

Provisional 1d Internal Postage issue.
June 1898.

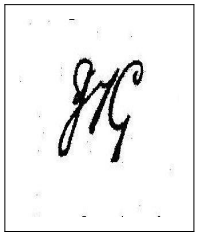
Watermark: none. Perf: 12.

(b) Setting II. The vertical frame lines of the stamps do not cross the space between the rows except at the extreme ends of the sheet. A control number and letter/s are printed in plain relief at the back

Initials of Acting Postmaster General Mr J.T. Gosling on back of 480 stamps.



SG 57







SG 57a

The two different settings of these stamps are each in 30 types issued without gum.

British Central Africa Protectorate

Commentary on the Provisional One Penny stamp.

When a case of stamps went missing on its long journey to British Central Africa, only arriving a year later, the postal authorities were forced to improvise and create a very unusual issue, one which has kept philatelists busy for well over 100 years.

The preface was that consignment of low value stamps, which was expected from London, had gone astray on the way, and the stocks of both the provisional 1d. on 3s. and the regular 1d. stamps had given out. The solution adopted was to produce a 1d stamp locally. Once the preparation and printing of the stamps was completed, the following notice under date, March 11th, 1898, was issued by the Acting Postmaster General, Mr. J.T. Gosling simultaneously with the release of the stamps:—
POST OFFICE NOTICE.
"Whereas it is enacted by the Post Office Acts that the Postmaster-General should have the option of requiring the payment of postage to be made either in money, or by the use of postage stamps, and whereas Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner and Consul General has approved of the temporary exercise of this right of choice. Notice is Hereby given that on and from this date the public will be required to make payment in money for the postage of all correspondence addressed to places within the Bntish Central Africa Protectorate for which penny stamps would ordinarily be used. Provided always that stamps already in the possession of any person shall be accepted in payment of postal charges, and may be affixed to letters in the ordinary way.
During the time that this arrangement remains in force all unstamped internal correspondence, liable to a charge of one penny, should be brought to the Post Office counter, and payments made in cash. Postmasters will affix a token to all letters so presented as an indication that the postal charges thereon have been paid.
These tokens are issued for the purpose of Departmental administration, and are not for sale to the public: they will be used only for internal correspondence.
By order,
(Signed) J. T. Gosling,
Acting Postmaster-General.
GENERAL POST OFFICE, ZOMBA,
March 11th, 1898."

A more detailed description of the circumstances which led to the exercise of the Postmaster-General's option are set out in a circular addressed by that official to the stamp trade :—
"General Post Office, Zomba.
British Central Africa Protectorate,
March 23rd, 1898.
Gentlemen,
I have the honour to transmit the following information with reference to a case of stamps of the Protectorate that has disappeared whilst en route from London to this place. The case was last seen at Chinde, on or about the 25th of January, when it was stowed on board a barge, in the river Zambesi. It afterwards disappeared, and, although it is stated to have been lost overboard, there is no satisfactory evidence that this was so. The stamps enclosed were of the 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 1/-, 2s6d, and 4/- issues. I shall be obliged if, in the event of your learning of suspiciously large transactions in B.C.A. stamps of these values, you will kindly communicate with the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Downing Street, London, and also with me direct.
I have the honour to be, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. T. Gosling,
Acting Postmaster-General."

The distinction as a "token" is justified since the provisionals were for administration purposes only and not sold to the public, unlike the other value stamps which were still being made available to those wishing to pre-pay for postage. The tokens referred to in the Post Office Notice consisted of adhesive labels, printed in two colours, the centre consisting of the embossed penny cheque stamp in red, and the frame being composed of ordinary printers rules, and the words "INTERNAL" above the red centre and "POSTAGE" below, the rules and "INTERNAL POSTAGE" inscriptions being in blue. The centres were embossed one at a time, the design of the embossed part consisting of a representation of the coffee tree from the Arms of the Protectorate, and the words "ONE PENNY" below it, and "BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE "extending round the sides and top. The first issue of these stamps or tokens were imperforate. They were later perforated, the gauge of the perforation being 12.
At first, as a safeguard against the illicit imitation of the stamps, they were initialled on the back by the Acting Postmaster-General, Mr J. T. Gosling. The initialling appears to have been chiefly with the letters "J.T.G.", but sometimes "J.G." alone appear. The first 16 sheets, or 480 stamps, are understood to have been initialled, after which a novel scheme of secret marking was introduced. A set of numbers and letters was set up in ordinary type, and impressed without ink on the back of the sheet, so that each stamp got a number and a combination of letters impressed with uninked type on the back.
In the beginning of November, 1898, a fresh supply of the regular stamps having been received, the use of the tokens was abandoned. Following the closure of the issue, it was reported on the authority of the British Central Africa Gazette, that 23,901 of the tokens were used in accounting for the postage paid in cash at the different Post Offices in accordance with the Post Office notice.
The missing consignment of stamps ultimately turned up early in 1899, and saved the necessity of guarding against their misuse by any further overprinting or other form of provisional.
Apart from the issue being referred to as "tokens", the use of the penny cheque stamp normally used to emboss cheques resulted in stamps being referred to as the "1d Cheque stamp" in the philatelic world.

British Central Africa Protectorate

Definitive Kings Head issue.
1903 - 1904.

Watermark: Crown over CA. Perf: 14.



SG 59



SG 60



SG 61



SG 62



SG 62b



SG 63



SG 64



SG 65



SG 66



SG 67

Print: Typographic by De La Rue & Co. Ltd.

British Central Africa Protectorate

Additional Kings Head issue.
1907.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and CA. Perf: 14.

Chalk-surfaced paper.



SG 68



SG 69

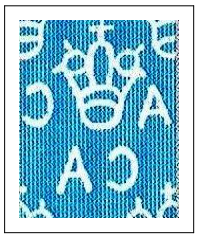


SG 70



SG 71

Multiple Crown and CA



Notes: Sg 69 and 70 were prepared, but not issued in Nyasaland due to the Protectorate's name being changed.

By an Order in Council of July 6, 1907, published in the London Gazette , September 3, 1907, the designation of the territory previously known as the British Central Africa Protectorate was changed to that of "Nyasaland Protectorate".





British Central Africa Protectorate

British Central Africa Protectorate

Stamp Purchases Account

This simple log will facilitate maintaining an accurate record of stamp purchases and keep track of the total amount outlayed to date.

COLUMN ONE **COLUMN TWO** **COLUMN THREE**

STAMP No	DATE	PRICE	STAMP No	DATE	PRICE	STAMP No	DATE	PRICE

British Central Africa Protectorate

Stamp Album Inventory

This inventory provides a means of accurately recording each acquisition, as well as easily identifying stamps still to be acquired.

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 1					
SG No 2					
SG No 3					
SG No 4					
SG No 5					
SG No 6					
SG No 6a					
SG No 7					
SG No 8					
SG No 9					
SG No 9a					
SG No 10					
SG No 11					
SG No 12					
SG No 13					
SG No 14					
SG No 15					
SG No 16					
SG No 17					
SG No 18					
SG No 19					
SG No 20					
SG No 21					
SG No 22					
SG No 23					
SG No 24					
SG No 25					
SG No 26					

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 27					
SG No 28					
SG No 29					
SG No 30					
SG No 31					
SG No 32					
SG No 33					
SG No 34					
SG No 35					
SG No 36					
SG No 37					
SG No 38					
SG No 39					
SG No 40					
SG No 41					
SG No 42					
SG No 43					
SG No 44					
SG No 45					
SG No 46					
SG No 47					
SG No 48					
SG No 49					
SG No 50					
SG No 50a					
SG No 51					
SG No 52					
SG No 53					

Grading/Condition of Stamps

The following is a list of some of the basic factors that need to be taken into account in assessing the condition of stamps.

1. Mint – Fine/ Very fine/ Superb:
(a) the time frame in which the stamp was issued;
(b) mint condition - original state of issue by Post Office;
(c) without folds, tears, pin holes or creases;
(d) perforation teeth intact;
(e) centring - eveness of margins on all sides;
(f) full gum (unmounted);
(g) appearance-clean, fresh;
(h) without any blemish or flaw.

2. Unused – Average/Poor:
(a) the time frame in which the stamp was issued;
(b) mint condition - state of issue by Post Office;
(c folds, tears, pin holes or creases;
(d) perforation teeth are missing or damaged;
(e) centring- margins;
(f) gum - lightness of mounting;
(g) appearance-clean, fresh;
(h) any blemish or flaw.

3. Used - Fine/ Very fine/ Superb:
(a) the time frame in which the stamp was issued;
(b) without folds, tears, pin holes or creases;
(c) perforation teeth intact;
(d) centring - eveness of margins on all sides;
(e) appearance-clean, fresh;
(f) without any blemish or flaw.
(g) cancellation-lightly applied/clear/unobtrusive

4. Used – Average/ Poor:
(a) the time frame in which the stamp was current;
(b) folds, tears, pin holes or creases;
(c) perforation teeth missing or damaged;
(d) centring - margins;
(e) appearance-clean, fresh;
(f) any blemish or flaw;
(g) cancellation-degree that the stamp is impaired/obliterated.

British Central Africa Protectorate

Stamp Album Inventory - continued.

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 54					
SG No 55					
SG No 55b					
SG No 56					
SG No 57					
SG No 57a					
SG No 57d					
SG No 57e					
SG No 58					
SG No 59					
SG No 60					
SG No 61					
SG No 62					
SG No 62b					
SG No 63					
SG No 64					
SG No 65					
SG No 66					
SG No 67					
SG No 68					
SG No 69					
SG No 70					
SG No 71					
SG No					
SG No					
SG No					
SG No					
SG No					

British Central Africa Protectorate

Album Design

All measurements are in millimetres;
Pages - standard A4 size (210mm x 297mm);
Page Margins - left margin is set at 23mm to cater for the punching of holes for a binder and the other three margins are set at 10mm;
Border Colour - "Teal";
Stamp Boxes and Borders - stamp boxes allow for a border of 2mm around all sides of the stamps.

Notes

1. Album Catalogue Numbers

The "SG" catalogue numbers are from the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue of Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840 - 1970.

2. Album Preservation

It is probable that a fair amount of money will be spent in purchasing the stamps for this album and the preservation of the stamps in the long term is therefore an essential aspect. The danger to the stamps lies in the quality of the paper used in printing the album, as ordinary paper is not usually acid-free and will certainly affect the stamps over time. It is therefore recommended that archival art paper, which is acid-free, lignin-free, and pH balanced, is used, thus ensuring that the paper resists yellowing, fading, and deterioration over time. It is also made from natural fibres such as cotton or alpha-cellulose, which provide strength and stability, while allowing the paper to maintain its texture and appearance. The paper should comply with ISO 9706 a standard for permanent paper.

3. Album Printing

Prior to printing the album, it is recommended that a test page containing stamp boxes is first printed and it is suggested that page 8 is utilised.
Page 8 has two different stamp sizes - the smaller stamps should print 25 x 29 mm boxes and the larger stamps 29 x 34 mm boxes.
If the boxes do not agree with the sizes, a printer will have to be found that prints with the requisite degree of accuracy.