British South Africa Company



1890-1924

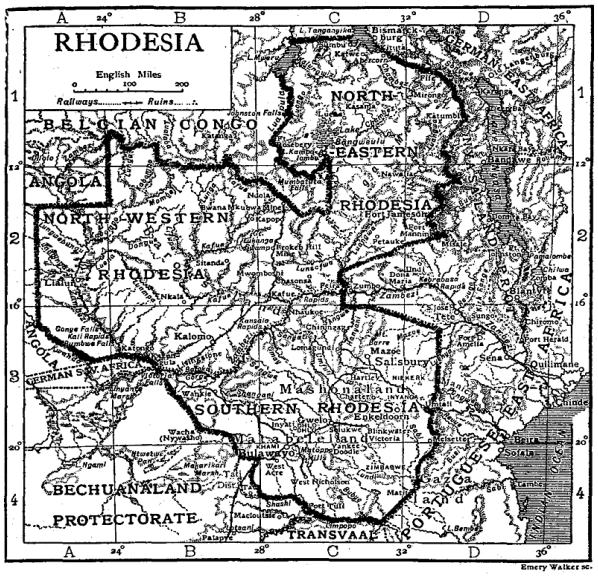
British South Africa Company

The British South Africa Company (BSAC) was established following the amalgamation of Cecil Rhodes' Central Search Association and the London-based Exploring Company Ltd. which had originally competed to exploit the expected mineral wealth of Mashonaland but united because of common economic interests and to secure British government backing.

The company received a Royal Charter in 1889 modelled on that of the British East India Company.
The BSAC was created in the expectation that the gold fields of Mashonaland would provide funds for the development of other areas of Central Africa, including the mineral wealth of Katanga. When the expected wealth of ,Mashonaland did not materialise and Katanga was acquired by the Congo Free State, the company had little money left for significant development after building railways, particularly in areas north of the Zambezi. BSAC regarded its lands north of the Zambezi as territory to be held as cheaply as possible for future, rather than immediate, exploitation.

As part of administering Southern Rhodesia until 1923 and Northern Rhodesia until 1924, the BSAC formed what were originally paramilitary forces, but which later included more normal police functions. In addition to the administration of Southern and Northern Rhodesia, the BSAC claimed extensive landholdings and mineral rights in both the Rhodesias and, although its land claims in Southern Rhodesia were nullified in 1918, its land rights in Northern Rhodesia and its mineral rights in Southern Rhodesia had to be bought out in 1924 and 1933 respectively, and its mineral rights in Northern Rhodesia lasted until 1964. The BSAC also created the Rhodesian railway system and owned the railways there until 1947.





Former type: Public company
Industry: Mining, colonial enterprises

Defunct 1965

Area served:
South Africa
Botswana
Rhodesia
Zambia

British South African Company

Difinitive Issue. Coat of Arms
2nd January 1892



sg 1 sacc 1

6d
ultramarine

sg 2 sacc 2

6d
deep blue

sg 3 sacc 3

1s
grey-brown

sg 4 sacc 4

2s
vermillion

sg 5 sacc 5

2s 6d
grey-purple

sg 6 sacc 6

2s 6d
lilac

sg 7 sacc 7

5s
orange-yellow

sg 8 sacc 8

10s
deep green

sg 9 sacc 9

£1
deep blue

sg 10 sacc 10

£2
rose red

sg 11 sacc 11

£5
sage green

sg 12 sacc 12

£10
brown

sg 13 sacc 13

British South African Company

As Previous Issue, but Surcharged 2nd January 1892



sg 14 sacc 14

2d on
6d
ultramarine

sg 15 sacc 15

4d on
6d
ultramarine

sg 16 sacc 16

8d on
1s
grey-brown

sg 17 sacc 17

This is the earliest date that this issue could have been used but it has not yet been established wheter supplies arrived on time.

As per 1892 Definitive Issue 1894



sg 18 sacc 18

1/2d
deep blue
and vermilion

sg 19 sacc 19

2d
deep dull green
and vermilion

sg 20 sacc 20

3d
grey-black
and green

sg 21 sacc 21

4d
chestnut
and black

sg 22 sacc 22

8d
rose-lake
and ultramarine

sg 23 sacc 23

8d
red
and ultramarine

sg 24 sacc 24

3s
brown
and green

sg 25 sacc 25

4s
grey-black
and vermilion

sg 26 sacc 26

As per Previous Issue, but on Thick Soft Wove Paper 1895

2d
Green and
Red

sg 27 sacc 27

4d
Yellow-Brown
and Black

sg 28 sacc 28

Imperforate Pair

4d
Yellow-Brown
and Black

sg 28a sacc 28a

British South African Company

Definitive Issue (Die I)
1896 to 1897



sg 29 sacc 29

2d
brown
and mauve

sg 30 sacc 30

3d
chocolate
and ultramarine

sg 31 sacc 31

4d
ultramarine
and mauve

sg 32 sacc 32

4d
blue
and mauve

sg 32b sacc 32a

6d
mauve
and pink

sg 33 sacc 33

8d
green and
mauve on buff

sg 34 sacc 34

1s
green
and blue

sg 35 sacc 35

3s
green
and mauve on blue

sg 36 sacc 36

4s
orange-red
and blue on green

sg 37 sacc 37

Die I ***Die II***



Dot By R/H Tail



No Dot Lion Heavy Shading

British South African Company

Definitive Issue (Die II)
1896 to 1897



sg 41 sacc 38



sg 42 sacc 39

2d
brown
and mauve

sg 43 sacc 40

4d
ultramarine
and mauve

sg 44 sacc 41

4d
blue
and mauve

sg 44a sacc 42

6d
mauve
and rose

sg 46 sacc 43

2S
indigo and
green on buff

sg 47 sacc 44

2S 6d
brown and
purple on yellow

sg 48 sacc 45

5S
chestnut
and emerald

sg 49 sacc 46

10s
slate
and vermilion on rose

sg 50 sacc 47

Provisional Issue Used During the Matabele Rebellion
April 1896

1d on 3d
grey-black
and green

sg 51 sacc 48



sg 52 sacc 49

3d on 5s
orange-yellow

sg 53 sacc 50

British South African Company

Cape Of Good Hope Stamps Overprinted
1896



sg 58 sacc 51

1d
rose-red

sg 59 sacc 52

2d
deep bistre

sg 60 sacc 53

3d
pale claret

sg 61 sacc 54

4d
blue

sg 62 sacc 55

6d
deep purple

sg 63 sacc 56

1s
yellow-ochre

sg 64 sacc 57

Additional Definitive Issue (Redrawn)
1897

1/2d
grey-black
and purple

sg 66 sacc 58

1d
scarlet
and emerald

sg 67 sacc 59

2d
brown
and mauve

sg 68 sacc 60

3d
brown-red
and slate-blue

sg 69 sacc 61

4d
ultramarine
and claret

sg 70 sacc 62

6d
dull purple
and pink

sg 71 sacc 63

8d
green and
mauve on buff

sg 72 sacc 64

£1
black and
red-brown on green

sg 73 sacc 65

Additional Value
1897

£2
rose red

sg 74 sacc 66

British South African Company

Definitive Issue
1898 to 1908



sg 75 sacc 67

1/2d
deep green

sg 76 sacc 68

1d
rose

sg 77 sacc 69

1d
red

sg 78 sacc 70

2d
brown

sg 79 sacc 71

2 1/2d
dull blue

sg 80 sacc 72

3d
claret

sg 81 sacc 73

4d
olive

sg 82 sacc 74

6d
reddish
purple

sg 83 sacc 75

6d
reddish
mauve

sacc 76

1s
bistre

sg 84 sacc 77

1s
deep
olive-bistre

sacc 78

2s 6d
bluish grey

sg 85 sacc 79

3s
deep
violet

sg 86 sacc 80

5s
brown-orange

sg 87 sacc 81

7s 6d
black

sg 88 sacc 82

10s
grey-green

sg 89 sacc 83

£1
greyish
red-purple

sg 90 sacc 84

£2
brown

sg 91 sacc 85

£5
deep blue

sg 92 sacc 86

£10
lilac

sg 93 sacc 87

£20
yellow-bistre

sg 93a sacc 88

British South African Company

Visit of British Association and
Opening of Victoria Falls Bridge
13th July 1905



sg 94 sacc 89

2 1/2d
deep blue

sg 95 sacc 90

5d
claret

sg 96 sacc 91

1s
blue-green

sg 97 sacc 92

2s 6d
black

sg 98 sacc 93

5s
violet

sg 99 sacc 94

British South African Company

Previous Definitive Issue Overprinted "Rhodesia"
15th April 1909



sg 100 sacc 95

1/2d
yellow green

sg 100b sacc 95b

1d
carmine rose

sg 101 sacc 96

1d
deep
carmine rose

sg 101c sacc 97

2d
brown

sg 102 sacc 98

2 1/2d
pale blue

sg 103 sacc 99

3d
claret

sg 104 sacc 100

4d
olive

sg 105 sacc 101

6d
reddish
purple

sg 106 sacc 102

6d
dull
purple

sg 106c sacc 103

1s
bistre

sg 107 sacc 104

1s
deep brownish
bistre

sg 107c sacc 104b

2s 6d
bluish grey

sg 108 sacc 105

3s
deep
violet

sg 109 sacc 106

5s
orange

sg 110 sacc 107

7s 6d
black

sg 111 sacc 108

10s
dull green

sg 112 sacc 109

£1
grey
purple

sg 113 sacc 110

£1
grey purple
Violet Opt

sg 113b sacc 111

£2
brown

sg 113c sacc 112

£5
deep blue

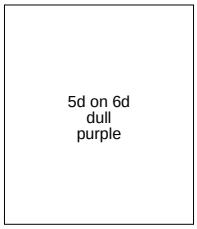
sg 113e sacc 113

British South African Company

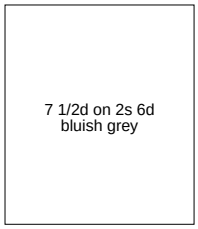
1909 Definitive Issue Surcharged
April 1911



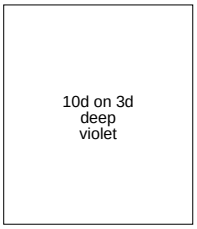
sg 114 sacc 114



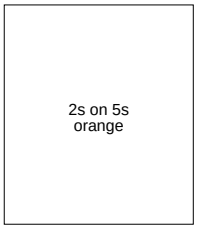
sg 114c sacc 115



sg 116 sacc 116



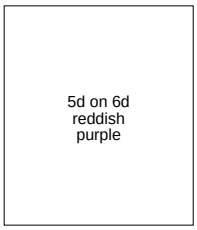
sg 117 sacc 117



sg 118 sacc 118

1909 Definitive Issue Surcharged - Varieties
April 1911

Surcharge in Violet



sg 114a sacc 114a

Surcharge in Violet



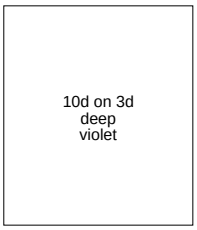
sg 116a sacc 116a

Surcharge Double



sg 116b sacc 116b

Surcharge in Violet



sg 117a sacc 117a

British South African Company

Definitive Issue "Double Head" Issue
11th November 1910-1913.



sg 119 sacc 119

1d
bright carmine

sg 123 sacc 123

2d
black &
grey

sg 126 sacc 126

2 1/2d
ultramarine

sg 131 sacc 131

3d
purple &
ochre

sg 134 sacc 134

4d
greenish black &
orange

sg 138 sacc 138

5d
purple-brown &
olive-green

sg 141 sacc 141

6d
red-brown &
mauve

sg 144 sacc 144

8d
dull purple &
purple

sg 147 sacc 146

10d
scarlet &
reddish mauve

sg 149 sacc 149

1/-
grey-black &
deep blue-green

sg 151 sacc 151

2/-
black &
ultramarine

sg 153 sacc 153

2/- 6d
black &
lake

sg 155 sacc 155

3/-
green &
violet

sg 158 sacc 158

5/-
vermilion &
deep-green

sg 159 sacc 159

7/6d
carmine &
pale blue

sg 160b sacc 160b

10/-
deep myrtle &
orange

sg 163 sacc 163

£1
carmine-red &
bluish-black

sg 165 sacc 165

British South African Company

Definitive Issue "Admirals" Issue
1st September 1913-1922.



sg 186 sacc 186

1d
rose-carmine

sg 190 sacc 190

1 1/2d
brown-ochre

sg 197 sacc 197

2d
black &
grey

sg 209 sacc 209

2 1/2d
deep blue

sg 200 sacc 200

3d
black &
yellow

sg 210 sacc 210

4d
black &
orange-red

sg 211 sacc 211

5d
black &
green

sg 212 sacc 212

6d
black &
mauve

sg 213 sacc 213

8d
violet &
green

sg 213a sacc 213a

10d
blue &
carmine-red

sg 231 sacc 231

1/-
black &
greenish-blue

sg 232 sacc 232

2/-
black &
brown

sg 214 sacc 214

2/6d
indigo &
grey-brown

sg 236 sacc 236

3/-
brown & blue

sg 236b sacc 237

5/-
blue &
yellow-green

sg 238 sacc 237

7/6d
blackish-purple
& slate

sg 240 sacc 240

10/-
crimson &
yellow-green

sg 241 sacc 241

£1
black &
purple

sg 242 sacc 242

British South African Company

"Admirals" Surcharged
22nd September 1917-1924.



sg 280 sacc 280