

Victoria Falls



Victoria Falls (Lozi: Mosi-oa-Tunya, "The Smoke That Thunders") (Toka Leya: Shungu Namutitima, "Boiling water") is a waterfall on the Zambezi River in southern Africa. It is located on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe and is considered to be the world's largest waterfall due to its width of 1,708 metres (5,604 ft).

Victoria Falls

David Livingstone, the Scottish missionary and explorer, is believed to have been the first European to view Victoria Falls on 16 November 1855, from what is now known as Livingstone Island, one of two land masses in the middle of the river, immediately upstream from the falls near the Zambian shore. Livingstone named his sighting in honor of Queen Victoria of Britain, but the Sotho language name, Mosi-oa-Tunya—"The Smoke That Thunders"—continues in common usage. Some of Livingstone's porters were Sotho's who gave the name Mosi-oa-Tunya. Coincidentally, a group of Sotho's migrated to an area near the falls, and went on to form part of modern day Lozi tribe. The World Heritage List officially recognizes both names. Livingstone also cites an older name, Seongo or Chongwe, which means "The Place of the Rainbow", as a result of the constant spray. The nearby national park in Zambia is named Mosi-oa-Tunya, whereas the national park and town on the Zimbabwean shore are both named Victoria Falls.

While it is neither the highest nor the widest waterfall in the world, Victoria Falls is classified as the largest, based on its combined width of 1,708 metres (5,604 ft) and height of 108 metres (354 ft), resulting in the world's largest sheet of falling water. Victoria Falls is roughly twice the height of North America's Niagara Falls and well over twice the width of its Horseshoe Falls. In height and width Victoria Falls is rivalled only by Argentina and Brazil's Iguazu Falls. See table for comparisons.

For a considerable distance upstream from the falls, the Zambezi flows over a level sheet of basalt, in a shallow valley, bounded by low and distant sandstone hills. The river's course is dotted with numerous tree-covered islands, which increase in number as the river approaches the falls. There are no mountains, escarpments, or deep valleys; only a flat plateau extending hundreds of kilometres in all directions.

The falls are formed as the full width of the river plummets in a single vertical drop into a transverse chasm 1,708 metres (5,604 ft) wide, carved by its waters along a fracture zone in the basalt plateau. The depth of the chasm, called the First Gorge, varies from 80 metres (260 ft) at its western end to 108 metres (354 ft) in the centre. The only outlet to the First Gorge is a 110-metre (360 ft) wide gap about two-thirds of the way across the width of the falls from the western end. The whole volume of the river pours into the Victoria Falls gorges from this narrow cleft.

Size and flow rate of Victoria Falls with Niagara and Iguazu for comparison

Parameters	Victoria Falls		Niagara Falls		Iguazu Falls	
Height in meters and feet:	108 m	360 ft	51 m	167 ft	64–82 m	210–269 ft
Width in meters and feet:	1,708 m	5,604 ft	1,203 m	3,947 ft	2,700 m	8,858 ft
Flow rate units (vol/s):	m3/s	cu ft/s	m3/s	cu ft/s	m3/s	cu ft/s
Mean annual flow rate:	1088	38430	2407	85000	1746	61600
Mean monthly flow – max.:	3000	105944				
Mean monthly flow – min.:	300	10594				
Mean monthly flow – 10 yr. max.:	6000	211,888				
Highest recorded flow:	12800	452000	68000	240000	45700	1614000
For water, cubic metres per second = tonnes per second.						



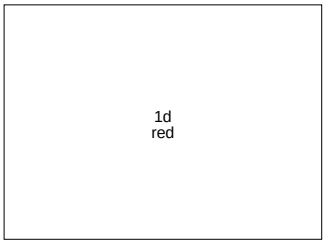
The Rhodesias
Victoria Falls

Victoria Falls

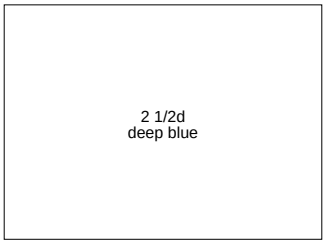
Livingstone

British South Africa Company

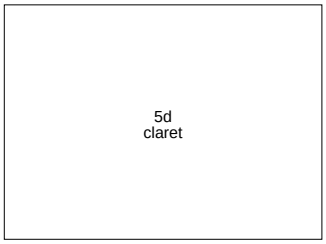
Visit of British Association and Opening of Victoria Falls Bridge 13th July 1905



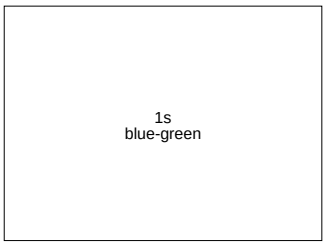
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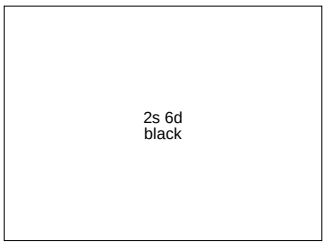
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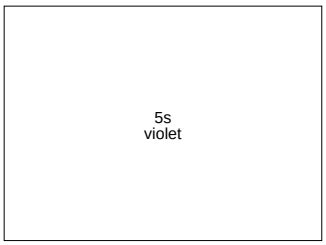
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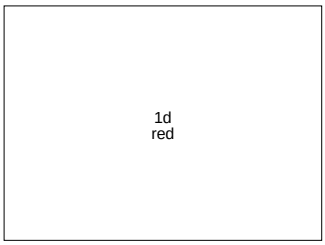


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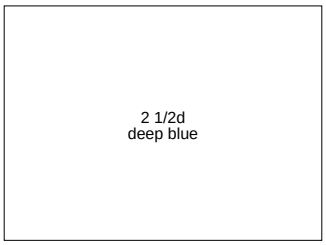


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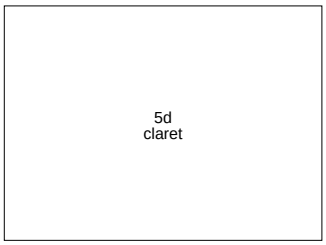
Victoria Falls Bridge Varieties



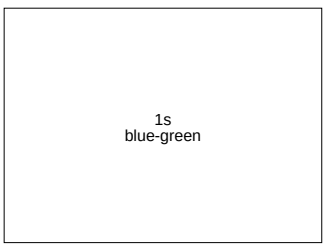
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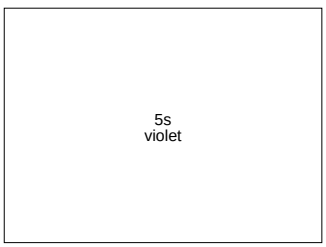
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sg 96a Perf 14 1/2-15 sacc 91a



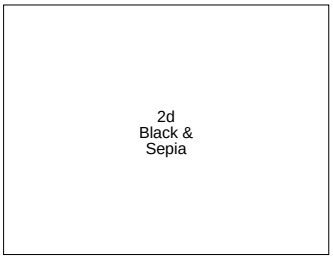
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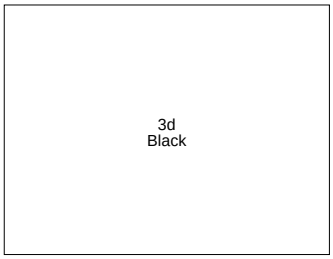
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Southern Rhodesia

Victoria Falls
1st April 1931

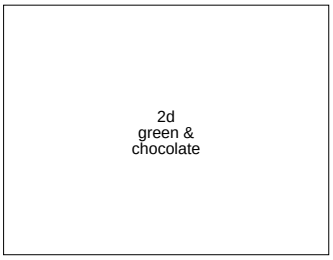


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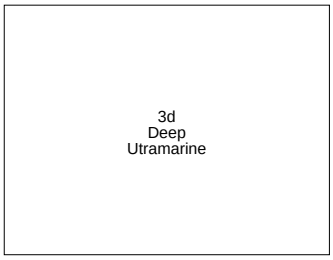


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Victoria Falls
1st May 1932

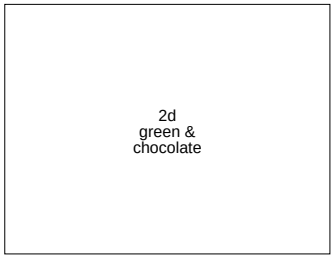


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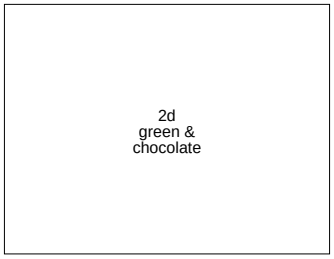


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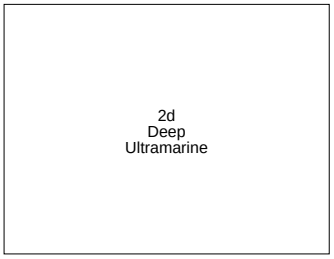
Victoria Falls
Inscribed "Postage & Revenue"
1935-1941



sg 35a Perf 12 1/2 sacc 36



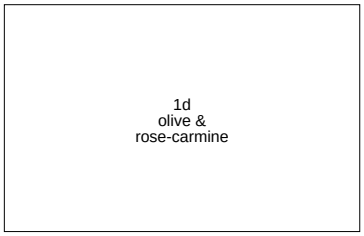
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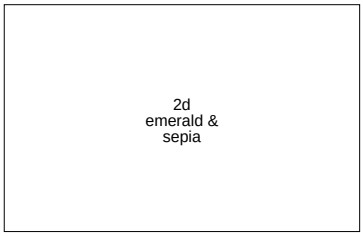
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Southern Rhodesia

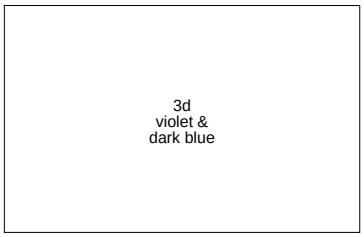
Silver Jubilee of King George V
06th May 1935



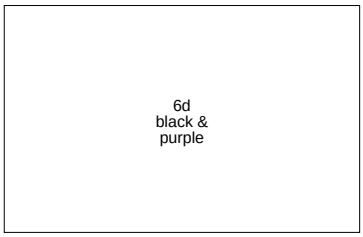
sg 31 sacc 32



sg 32 sacc 33

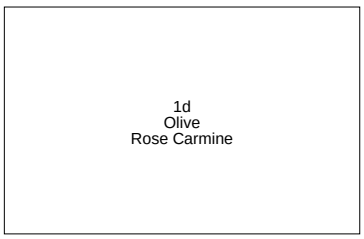


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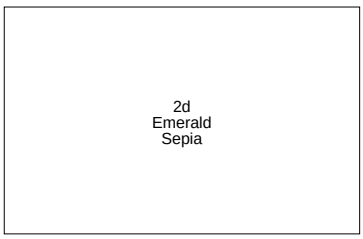


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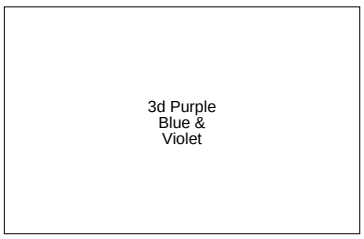
Coronation of King George VI
5th December 1937



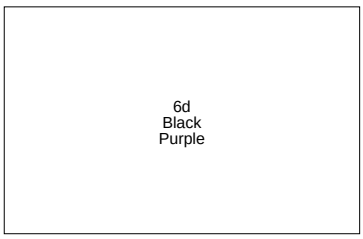
sg 36 sacc 38



sg 37 sacc 39



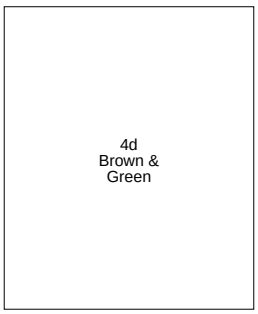
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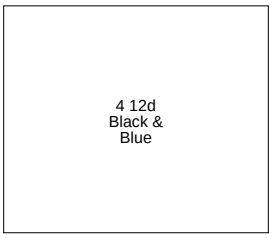
Southern Rhodesia

British South Africa Company's Golden Jubilee 03th June 1940



sg 58 sacc 60

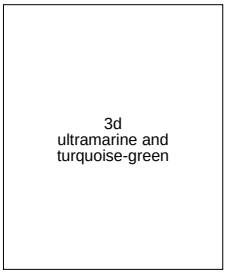
Queen Elizabeth II Definitive Issue 31st August 1953



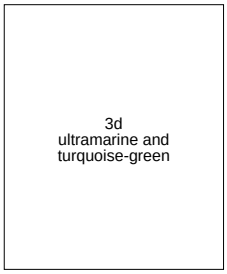
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Rhodesia and Nyasaland

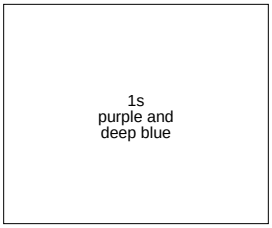
15th June 1955 - Centenary of the Discovery of the Victoria Falls



sg 16 sacc 16

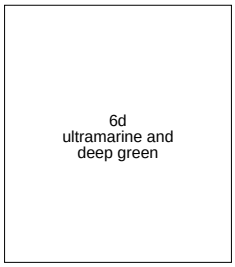


sg 16 var. sacc 16a



sg 17 sacc 17

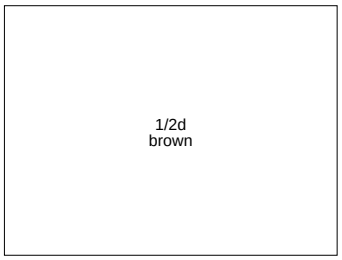
12th August 1959 - Definitive Issue. Queen Elizabeth II



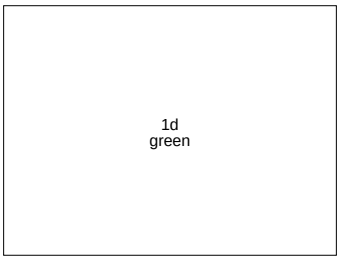
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Northern Rhodesia

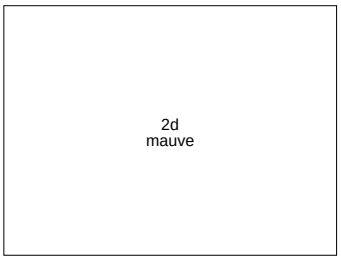
Centenary Of The Birth Of Cecil Rhodes
30th May 1953



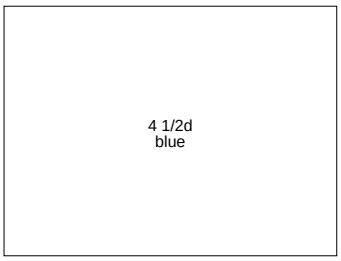
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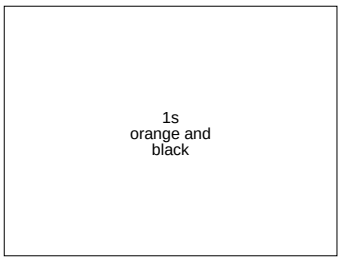
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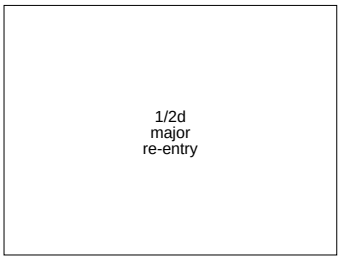


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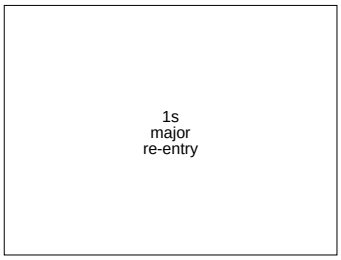


sg 58 sacc 58

Birth Of Cecil Rhodes Varieties
Major Re-entries
30th May 1953



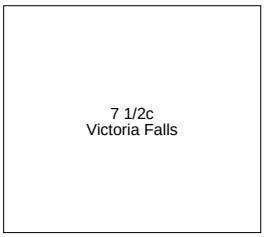
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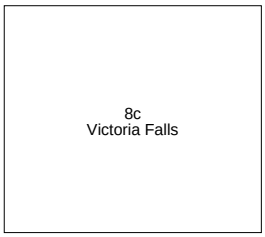
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Rhodesia

Decimal Definitive Issue
17th February 1970



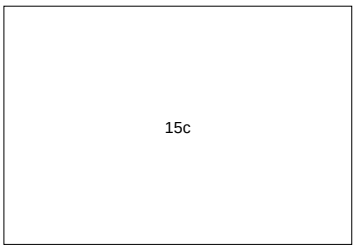
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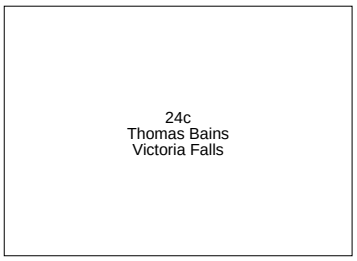
sg 444 sacc 205

Dr David Livingstone
2nd April 1973

First European To
Discover the Falls



sg 458 sacc 242



sg 548 sacc 311

Artists of Rhodesia
20th July 1977

4th Decimal Definitive Issue
16th August 1978



sg 443c sacc 332