

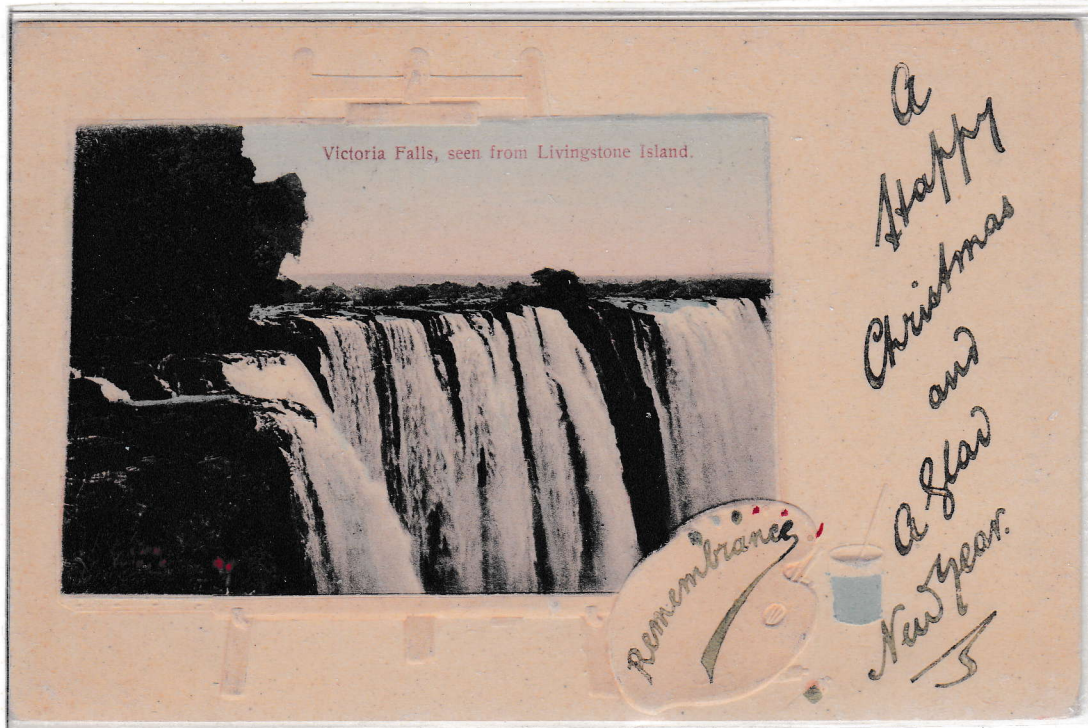
A MIRACLE OF A GREAT DISCOVERY, THE VICTORIA FALLS

The Victoria Falls (in Bantu language: Mosi-oa-Tunya, „The Smoke That Thunders”) is a waterfall in Africa on the Zambezi River at the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. A World Heritage Site. Who, when and how did one find this wonderful natural phenomeon? When you visit this waterfall, what else do you see in the area? Answer to all of these is an imaginary journey with the thematic philatelic documents in this exhibit.

Satellite image showing the waterfall of Zambezi River and the subsequent series of zigzagging gorges



Main stream of Victoria Falls
Original Maryland forgeries from USA



A part of the 1708 meter wide waterfall in the early photo

Postcard from Johannesburg to Burghausen, Bavaria, 1908. Franking were done with Transvaal stamps

PLAN

	Plan page	1
1	Following Livingstone’s first Zambezi expedition ~ our journey ~ Livingstone ~ name of waterfall	2-4
2.	Walk in nature at Victoria Falls ~ formation ~ affiliation ~ parts of waterfall	5-11
3.	What other attractions await us at Victoria Falls? ~ bridges ~ nearby cities ~ steam train trip ~ local flora ~ local fauna	12-16

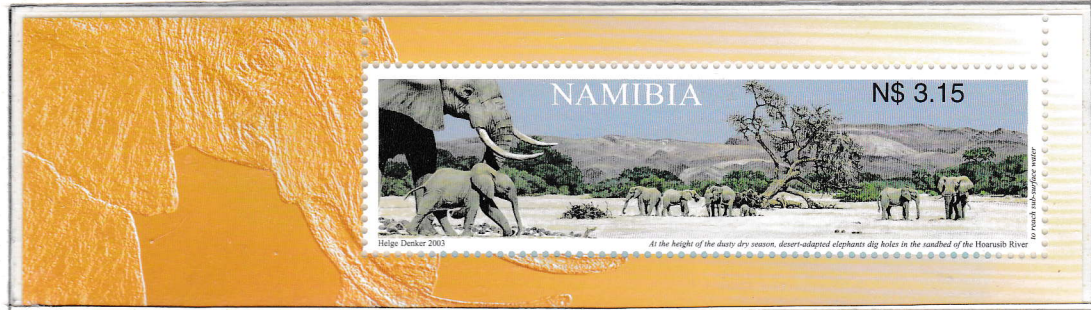
1. Following Livingstone's first Zambezi expedition

...at the beginning of our journey

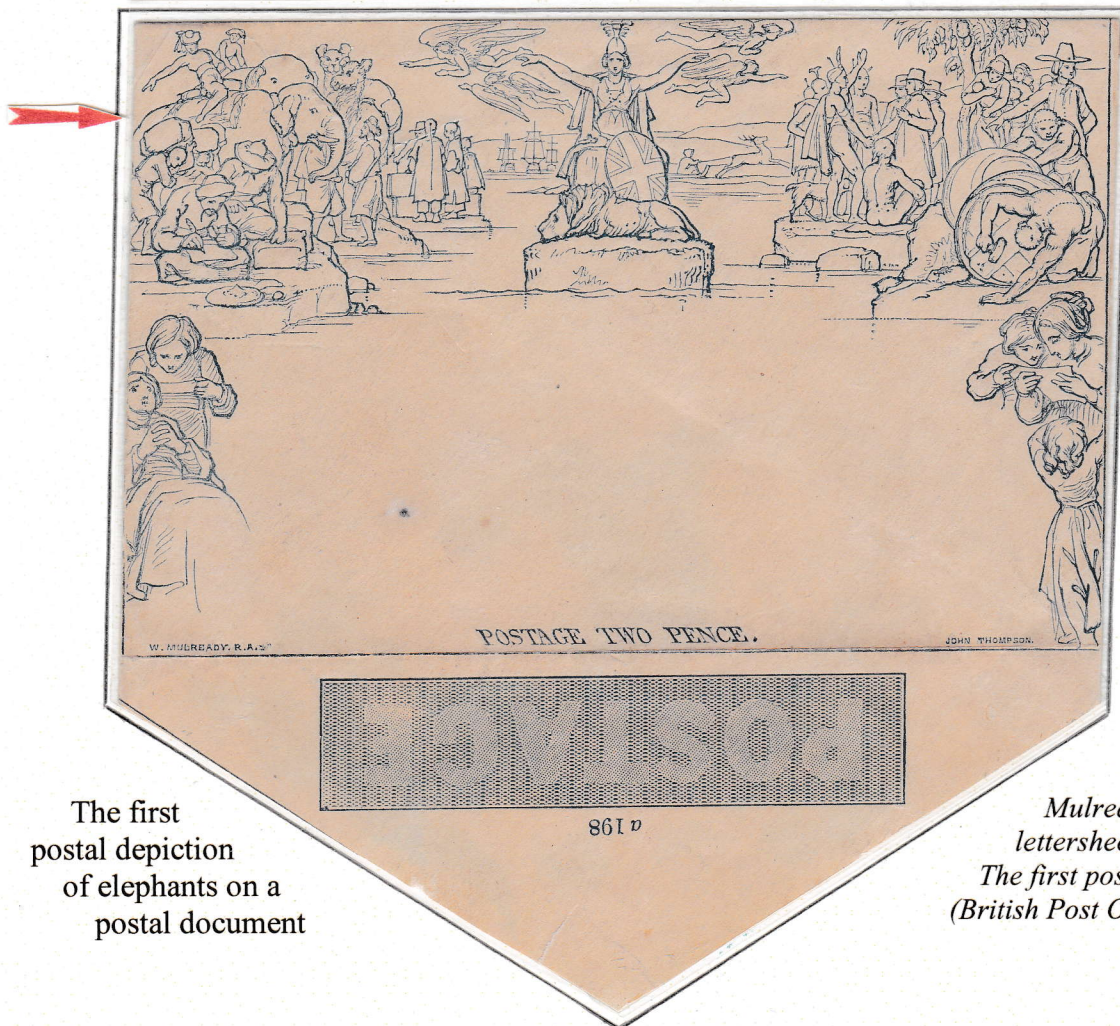
Coming to the border of Botswana and Namibia, our goal is to start on an adventurous exploration journey. Heading north from the **Kalahari Desert**, we are heading towards the upper branch of the Zambezi River.



Our companions in the desert: gecko and oryx



Leaving the desert, we reach the **savannah** where we can see an **elephant colony**



The first postal depiction of elephants on a postal document

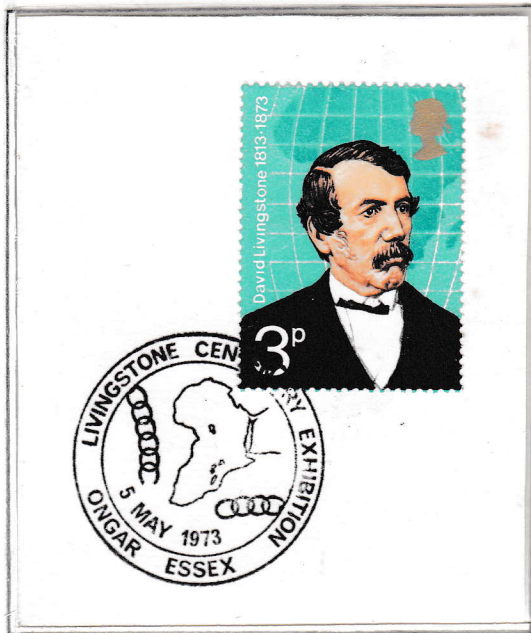
Mulready two pence lettersheet unused. The first postal stationery (British Post Office, 1840)

The question is why are we traveling just in this route? Well, the reason is that the famous British popular hero, **David Livingstone**, a Scottish missionary, doctor and discoverer chose this route in the mid-nineteenth century. This area was unknown to him. Who was he and why did he come this area? Well, then let's see!

1. Following Livingstone's first Zambezi expedition

...about Livingstone

David Livingstone (1813–1873) was interested in science since his youth. Following his medical studies, he was a member of the Royal Society and then of the Royal Geographical Society. He was a profound believer who imagined his future in the spiritual and physical help to others. During his exploratory travels he reached the southern part of Africa where he made missionary and healing work for the aboriginal people.



David Livingstone

His principle was that it is possible to fight against the slave trade with missionary work



The great explorer Complete booklet



Livingstone statue in Zimbabwe

Going north, Livingstone reached a huge river, the Zambezi. On November 17, 1855, he heard strange noises from afar and later unforgettable sight appeared. He was just before Africa's largest waterfall. He could only say: „It's so beautiful that even angels would be amazed if they flew over it!”



He lived sixty years, his tomb is in Westminster Abbey, London



The discovered waterfall with the explorer Registered cover sent from Victoria Falls, with the stamps issued for the centenary of discovery

1. Following Livingstone's first Zambezi expedition

...about the name of the waterfall

The waterfall discovered was named Victoria Falls by David Livingstone in honor of **Queen Victoria**, who at that time was the majesty of Great Britain.

Queen Victoria on the „Penny Black”.
The first postal stamp of the world, with D-G placemark (1840)



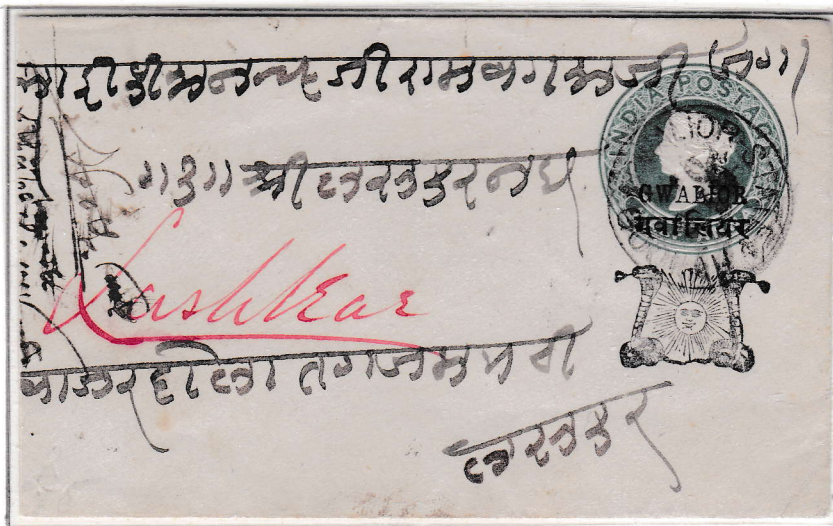
The Queen's portrait shortly after the discovery of Victoria Falls

„Victoria on Victoria”

The year of the founding of Victoria, the Australian state, coincides with the year of the discovery of Victoria Falls. (1855)



Letter sent to Edinburgh, capital of Scotland, with an early Victoria stamp (1845)



Queen Victoria as Empress of India on the picture
A cover of a local letter sent to Lashkar, district from Gwalior which is a state of India. Postal stationery cover with ornate cancellation.



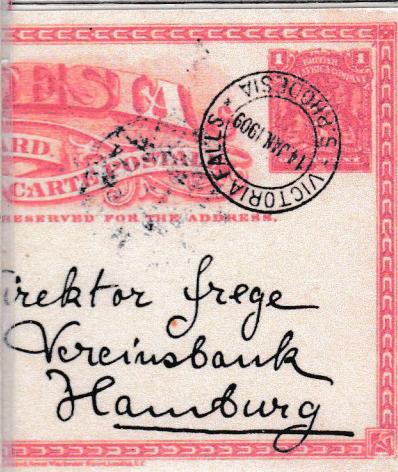
Commemorative stamps issued for the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne

2. Walk in nature at Victoria Falls

...about the formation

We've had a joint trip so far with David Livingstone, so now we say goodbye to him. We note that he has made many magnificent discoveries and recorded the results of these in his writing. His works are preserved by the Archives of the University of Glasgow.

So we finally arrived at Victoria Falls. What is our first impression? Rumbling sound, huge expanse, high drop height, huge amount of water, extreme variety, water vapour, rainbow... Everything is so beautiful!



Original and 70% copy-detail from the address side

Victoria Falls are 1708 meters wide and 108-meter fall on the Zambezi River, the average quantity is 1100 m³/sec water. Photo by F. W. Sykes on this scarce used postal stationery card was sent from Victoria Falls to Hamburg, Germany, in 1909

Formation of a waterfall is determined by the shape and structure of the surrounding terrain. In this case, the Zambezi River falls from a hard, solid rock-plateau to the softer rocks where it continuously deepens its bed.



The waterfall from the solid plateau is clearly visible. Cover from Victoria Falls to South Africa (1934)

2. Walk in nature at Victoria Falls

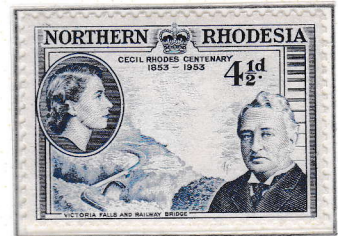
...about the affiliation

To which countries does Victoria Falls belong? It has already been mentioned in the introduction that it is on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Where were they in the past?
 Interesting question, because the borders of this region changed six times after 1924. Let us not go into economic and political reasoning, because this is not the topic! Still, let's look at which countries Victoria Falls belonged to in the twentieth century.



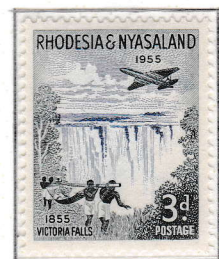
...to British South Africa Company Territory until 1923
 Registered philatelic cover with the first Victoria Falls stamps in the world issued for the opening of Victoria Falls Bridge (1905)



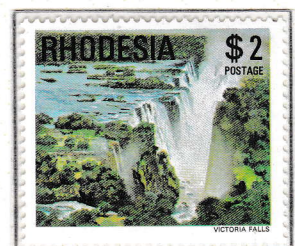
...to Northern Rhodesia, as British Protectorate until 1963



...to Southern Rhodesia, as Self-Governing British Colony until 1963
 (This stamp without inscription „POSTAGE AND REVENUE,“ 1932)



...to Rhodesia & Nyasaland, as British Federal Semi-Dominion until 1963

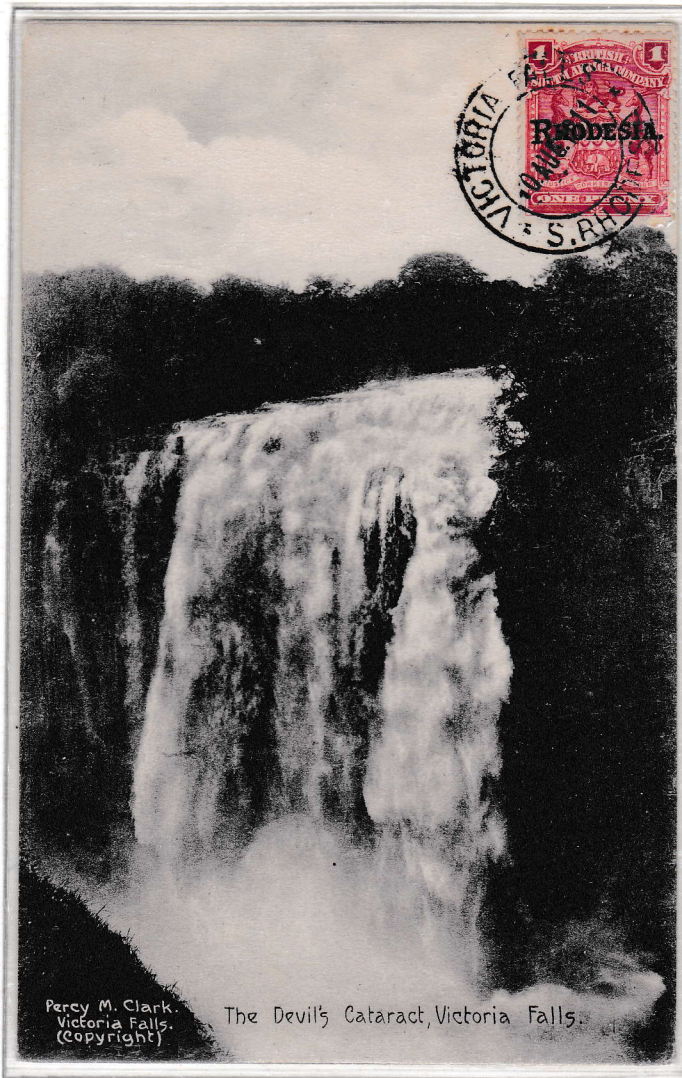


...to Rhodesia, as Republic until 1980

2. Walk in nature at Victoria Falls

...about the parts of the waterfall

Parts of the enormous and stunning Victoria Falls have been given different names due to their high popularity. If we look at the waterfall from west to east, the first is the **Devil's Cataract**.

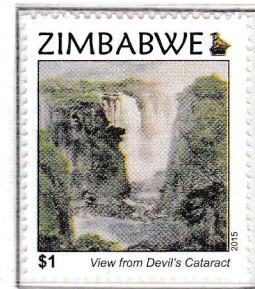


The Devil's Cataract

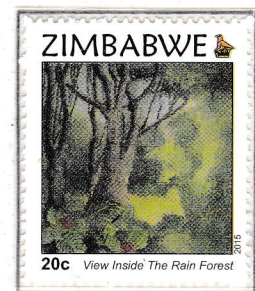
T.C.V. card from the Victoria Falls Post Office, Southern Rhodesia (1911)



This is the oldest, but probably the most beautiful stamp on the theme of the Main Falls. Four of block (1905)



The Devil's Cataract from the other side of First Gorge



We can see rainforest everywhere near the cataract due to the large amount of permanent water vapour

The Main Falls

The second area is the Main Falls. The largest quantity of water falls down in this area. This is perhaps the most featured and most popular part of the entire waterfall system. So it is no coincidence that the image of Main Falls appeared first on a postal stamp (1905), which followed by numerous publications, postcards, photographs etc.



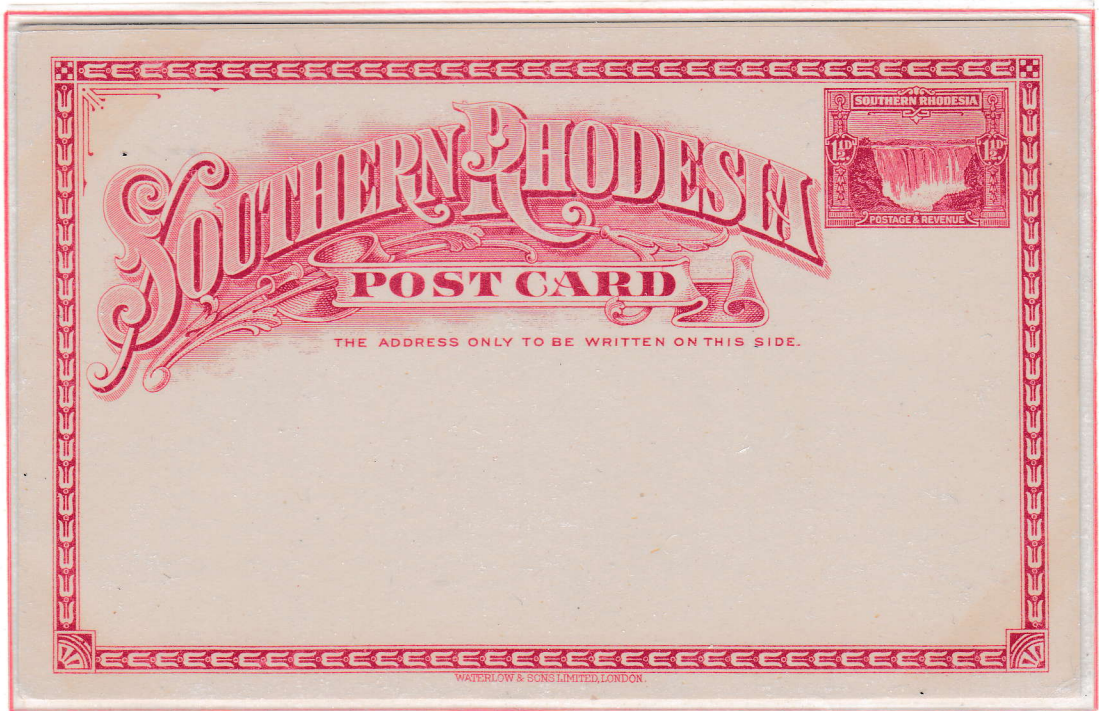
Next to the Main Falls

2. Walk in nature at Victoria Falls

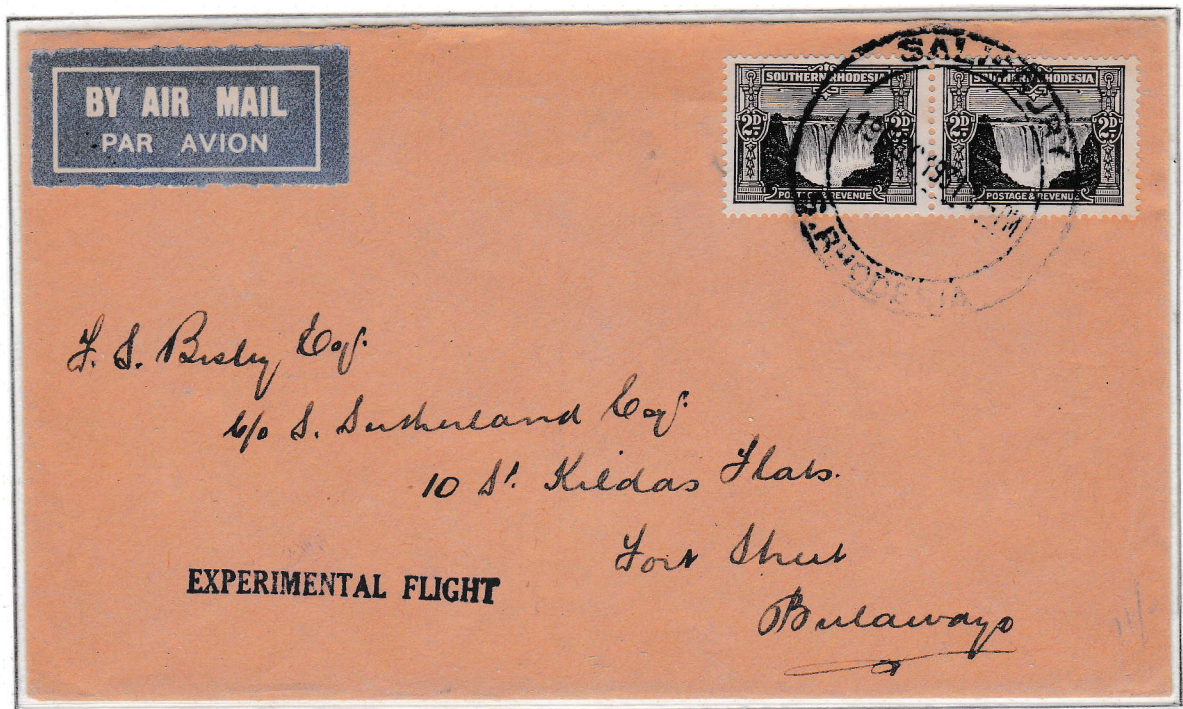
...about the parts of the waterfall

The Main Falls

The other curiosities are mainly about Main Falls. The noise of Victoria Falls can be heard from a distance of 40 kilometers, while the spray and the mist from the Main Falls is rising to a height of over 400 meters and can be seen from a distance of 50 kilometers. The Main Falls can be seen during the dry winter month between May and July, as usual.



The Main Falls dressed in red
The rarest postal stationery card issue of the 1930s from Southern Rhodesia by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. (1931)



The popular flight route of some flights also touches the Victoria Falls, which offers a fantastically beautiful view from a height. Main Falls has a dominant role in the spectacle
Cover sent from Salisbury to Bulawayo by Imperial Air Experimental Flight (1931)

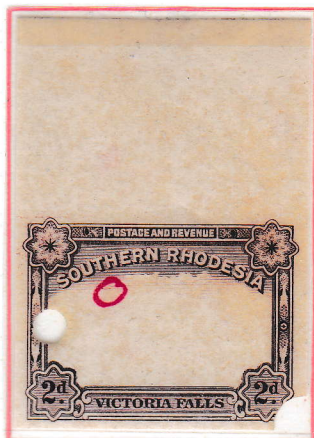
2. Walk in nature at Victoria Falls

...about the parts of the waterfall

The Main Falls

We see that the most popular point of Victoria Falls is Main Falls. This fact is confirmed by early stamp issues from this part of the waterfall. Now let's take a look at the steps for making one of the most popular stamp releases, the Main Falls stamp with the inscription „POSTAGE AND REVENUE”.

Proofs made on the basis of an approved stamp design must be checked



Imperforate proof of the frame without gum and with security punctures ex. Waterlow & Sons archive proof sheet as used for checking and correcting with a red sign due to a printing error. Max. 60 pcs (1935)



Imperforate proof with gum and security puncture ex. Waterlow archive proof sheet as used for checking and correcting with a red sign due to a printing error. Max. 60 pcs (1938)



Imperforate proof on gummed paper and security puncture of the 3d complete design ex. Waterlow and Sons archive proof sheet. Max. 60 pcs (1938)



Imperforate proof of the frame



2d plate proof of the interior image

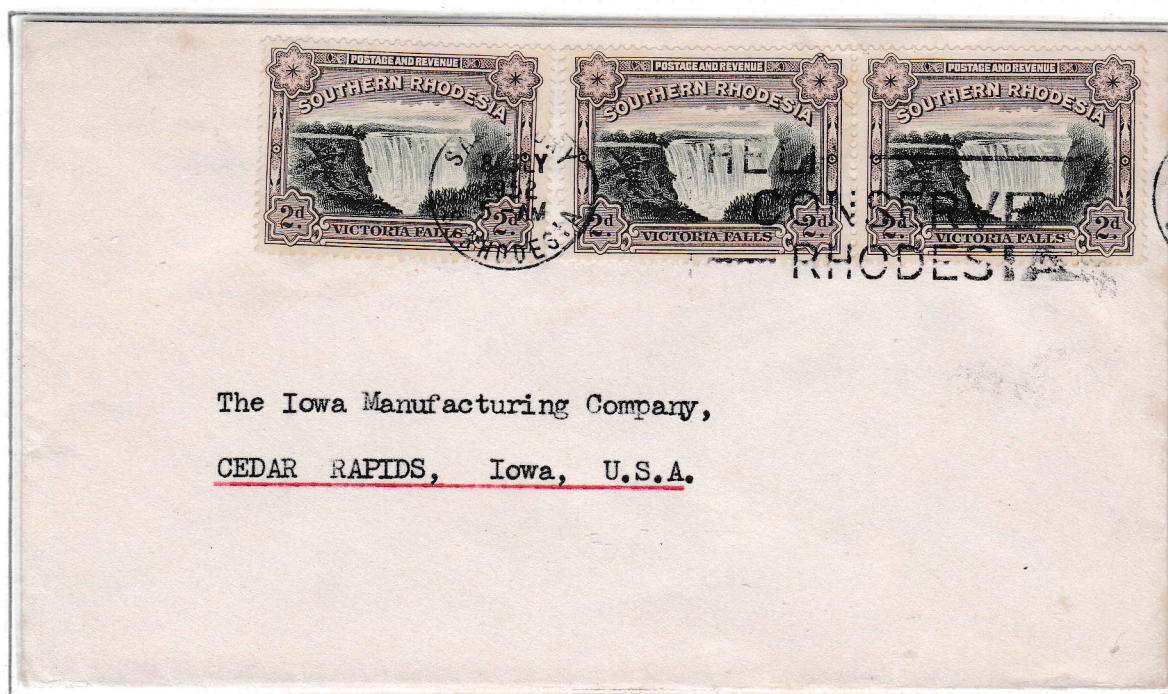


Imperforate proof of complete design



Final issue P 12 1/2, 1935

Plate proofs with gum ex. Waterlow & Sons Ltd archive with security punctures, max. 60-60 pcs



The Iowa Manufacturing Company,
CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, U.S.A.

Cover from Salisbury with 2d stamps (P 14, 1941) and „HELP CONSERVE RHODESIA” slogan cancellation (1952)

2. Walk in nature at Victoria Falls

...about the parts of waterfall

The Danger Point

There are more than 15 viewpoints around Victoria Falls. One of these is the Danger Point (Viewpoint XIV) which is best viewed during the dry season as the spray in summer is often too thick to offer any good sightings of the Victoria Falls.

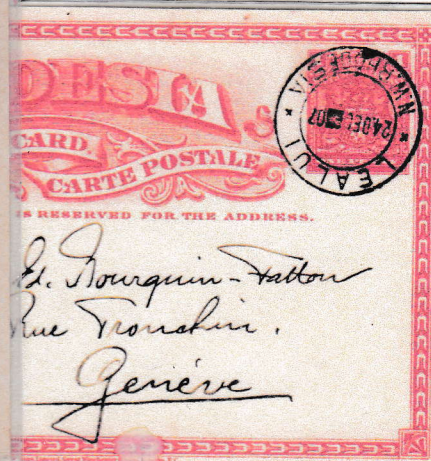
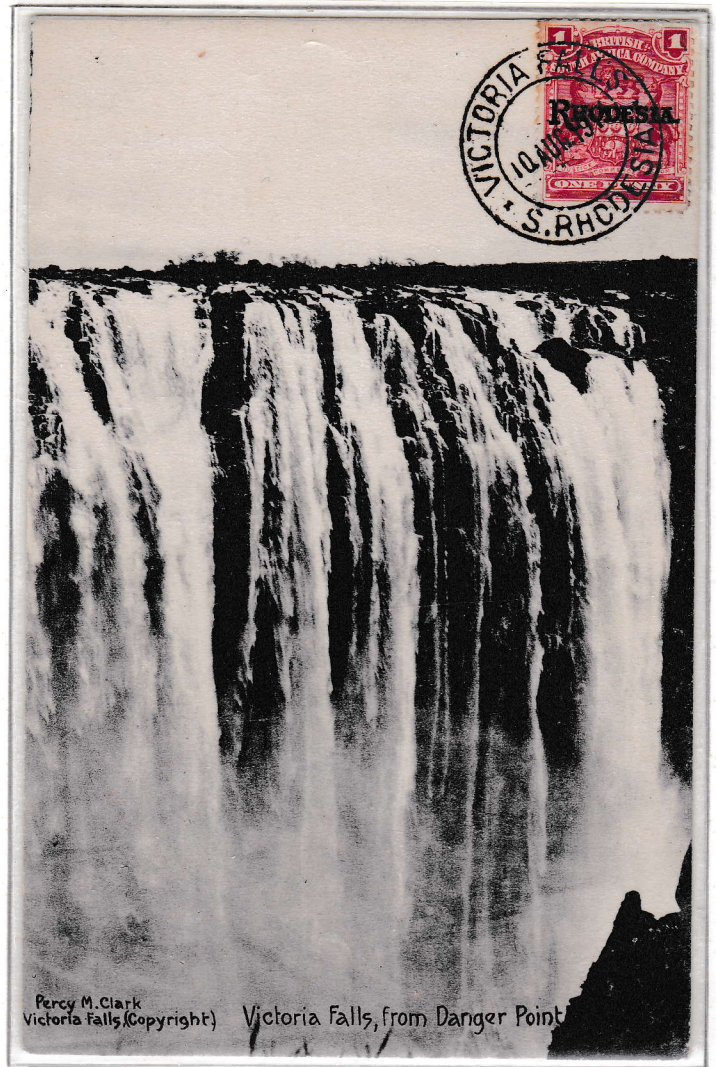
The rocks here are extremely slippery and visitors should stay away from the edge.

Victoria Falls view from the Danger Point

T.C.V. card from the Victoria Falls Post Office, Southern Rhodesia (1911)

The Rainbow Falls

One of the favourite activities for tourists visiting Victoria Falls is rainbow photography. The rainbow is always visible in clear weather, especially at Rainbow Falls



In the western part of Victoria Falls you can always enjoy a rainbow in sunny weather R.T.Coryndon's photographic image on this scarce used postal stationery card was sent from Lealui (today in Zambia) to Geneva (Switzerland) in 1907

Original and 70% copy-detail from the address side

2. Walk in nature at Victoria Falls

...about the parts of waterfall

Eastern Cataract

During winter, the Eastern Cataract dries up altogether, exposing the underlying geology of the falls. It is possible to walk along the edge of the Eastern Cataract from the Zambian side during the dry season



Eastern Cataract close up and seen from an airplane



Armchair Falls

The large quantity of water collected in the First Gorge runs to a narrow gorge. Here the speed of water is sometimes more than 100 km/hour towards the Second Gorge. Opposite this gorge is the Armchair Falls.

Famous guests have also visited the stunning African waterfall

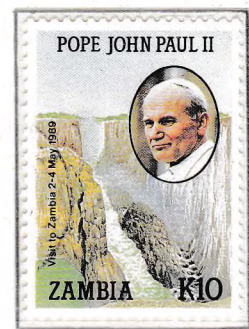
The British Queen, Elizabeth II has visited the Victoria Falls several times



Bird's-eye view of Armchair Falls



The Queen at the Armchair Falls



In 1989, Pope St. John Paul II also visited this falls



VICTORIA FALLS, RHODESIA. GORGE BELOW FALLS, SHOWING SPRAY AT EXIT.

Photo - F. W. Sykes

Original and 70% copy-detail from the address side

Over time, some sections of Victoria Falls were given a different name.

A part of this picture shown here today is called Armchair Falls

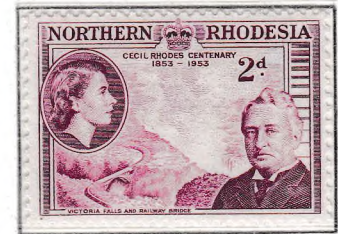
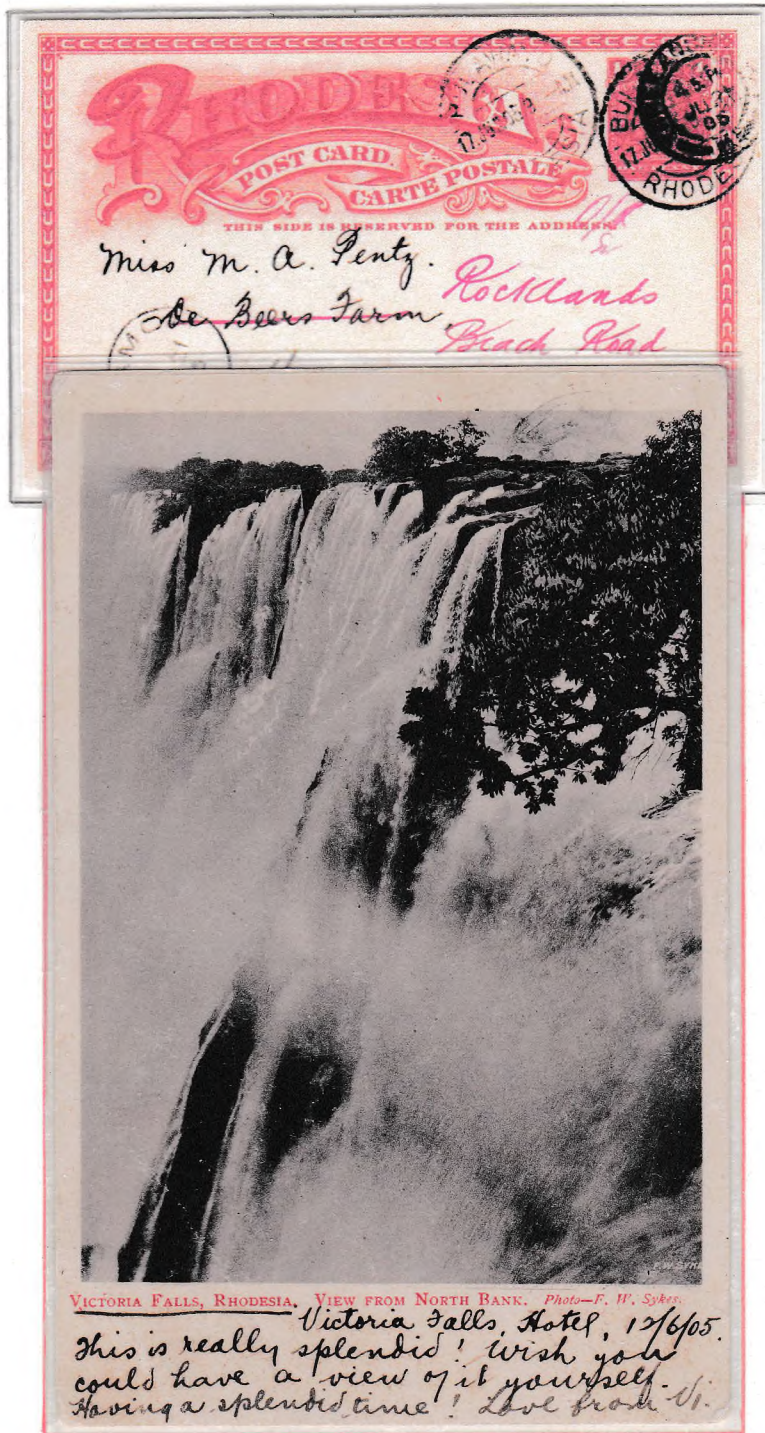
Photo by F.W.Sykes on this scarce used postal stationery card was sent from Livingstone to Johannesburg, German Consulate in 1913.

3. What other attractions await us at Victoria Falls?

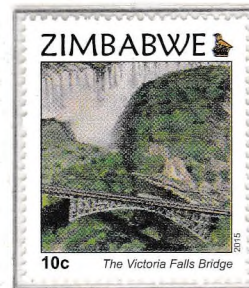
...about the bridges

The Victoria Falls Bridge

After visiting the most beautiful parts of the Victoria Falls, we walked along the famous Victoria Falls Bridge which crosses the Zambezi River just below the Victoria Falls. The high-speed Zambezi swirling near the bridge was called the Boiling Pot. As the river forms the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, the bridge links the two countries. It is both a railway and road bridge which is used also by visitors. The bridge, which was made of steel, was built in a year and was handed over to traffic in 1905. It is 130 m high and 200 m long. Designed by the British G.A. Hobson who worked with the Cleveland Bridge & Engineering Company. The main central arch is a parabolic curve.



A British businessman and later politician, Cecil Rhodes' idea was to cross the Zambezi River by rail



Bird's-eye view of Victoria Falls Bridge



We found an even smaller bridge nearby for tourists admiring the waterfall above the Zambezi River.

It is the **Knife Edge Bridge**. Here we were soaked well in the permanent water vapour

Seen from the Victoria Falls Bridge this magnificent sight unfolds before us. Photo by F.W. Sykes on this scarce used postal stationery card was sent in 1905 from Bulawayo to Hermon, Cape Colony, where it was re-addressed to Sea Point (near Cape Town). Original and 70% copy-detail from the address side

3. What other attractions await us at Victoria Falls?

...about the nearby cities

As is well known, the Victoria Falls is on the border of two countries, Zambia and Zimbabwe. At the same time, near the Victoria Falls, both countries have established large cities, which are now famous tourist centers. The two cities are Livingstone on the Zambezi side and Victoria Falls (City) on the Zimbabwean side. The number of visitors reached one million per year.

City of **Livingstone** took its name in honour to the Scottish missionary who discovered the Victoria Falls in 1855.



Registered philatelic cover with „Livingstone” label from Northern Rhodesia to U.S.A. (1927)

Victoria Falls city lies on the southern bank of the Zambezi River and western end of Victoria Falls



First Hawker-Siddeley flight from Jan Smuts Airport, R.S.A. to Victoria Falls (City), Rhodesia, signed by captain (1975)

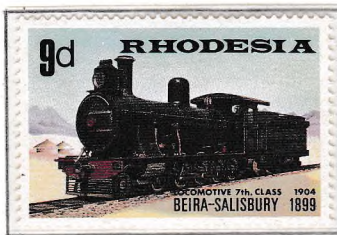
3. What other attractions await us at Victoria Falls?

...about the Steam Train Trip

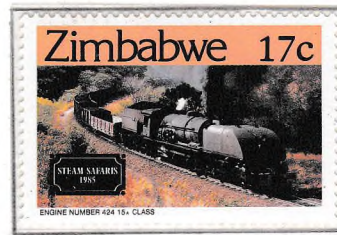
After we walked along the Victoria Falls Bridge, a steam train went past us. Arriving at the Zimbabwean side, we decided to look for the nearest train station which we eventually found in Victoria Falls (City).



The Victoria Falls Train Station



The type 7th Class Locomotive was the first train crossing the bridge

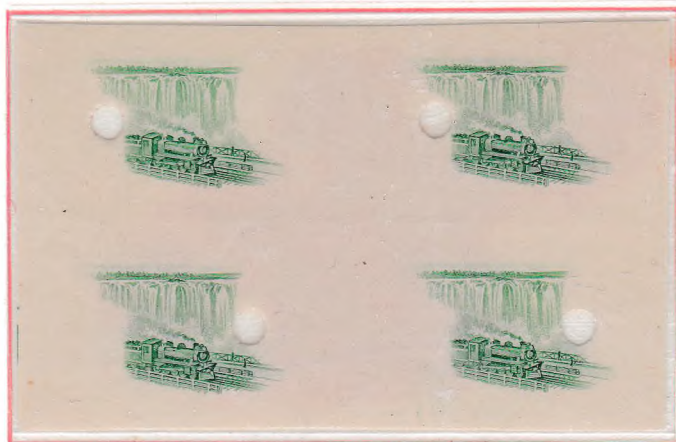


The „modern” 15A Class Locomotive has been operating on the bridge since the fifties

Everything went according to our plan and we were able to buy tickets for the next Steam Train Trip which included a dinner on the train. The Victoria Falls Steam Train consists of three carriages and it is pulled by a 15A Class Locomotive which built in 1950 in England. The classical dining carriage was built in 1923. Today the carriages are fully air conditioned and very comfortable.



Crossing the Victoria Falls Bridge, we also admired the view of Victoria Falls from the train
Registered philatelic cover from Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia to Northern Rhodesia (1937)



2d final issue, 1937

Plate proof ex. Waterlow & Sons archive, 2d block of four of the interior image, imperforate on gummed paper, security punctures. Max. 15 pcs from this block

3. What other attractions await us at Victoria Falls?

Let's take another trip with the Victoria Falls Steam Train



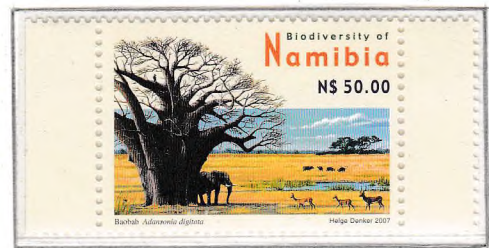
Cover sent registered from Wankie to Johannesburg with pink registration label, 1937

The ruler of the local flora, the baobab tree

Near Victoria Falls, we are looking for one of the largest and oldest baobab trees in the world, called **The Big Tree**



Finally we arrive at the „real” Big Tree



We have seen something similar in Namibia



In addition to the sights of present-day Zimbabwe's former Rhodesia, this tree (on 6d) is located in an upscale location near Victoria Falls (on 4 1/2d)

Registered philatelic cover from Causeway to Johannesburg (1953)

3. What other attractions await us Victoria Falls?

Big and small specimens of the local fauna

The tremendous value of Victoria Falls is that buildings, parking lots and other civilization facilities have not ruined the original state of nature. The waterfall can only be seen from viewpoints hidden in the jungle. Thus, the species of the fauna established here live undisturbed in the usual environment.



Main Falls with big beasts
Original 3d issue



3d specimen in other colours by Waterlow and Sons Ltd. (1935)
Maximum 60 pcs.

Of course, we could not see the wild animals living here like this together
Cover with KGV 1d Silver Jubilee vertical strip of three,
each cancelled with „LEGION MINE” and addressed to Canada (1935)



We saw the purple crested turaco, one of the small interesting birds



Unfortunately, we have reached the end of this beautiful journey!

WE WILL COME AGAIN!



Let's visit at Victoria Falls!
Inviting aerogramme with Luanshya cancellation (1959)