

Many members of the Society came to know Arthur Smith either through personal contact at the London meetings or through correspondence. He distributed his duplicate perfins to all and sundry and felt happy to help any fellow collector in this way.

I first met Arthur in London and then corresponded regularly - not only about perfins but on a wide ranging number of subjects. Arthur was interested in everything.

The following article was the last long piece I had from him and its content sums up his observations and interest in everything he saw. As many of you will have noticed over the years, he was a frequent contributor to the Bulletin (and to the new catalogue where his input into the worksheets will be greatly missed by Roy).

Rhodesia Perfins Bulletin 282 Page 7. By Arthur Smith.

Reading the comments by John Nelson in his reference to the c.d.s. of Native D--- Umtali, unforgettable memories came to mind. I was on my last overseas posting in 1952 and stationed in Kumalo near Bulawayo. Being a spare time entomologist and visiting the museum in Bulawayo, the curator advised me to try and get a trip to the Vumba Mountains where butterflies and other insects were to be found in all colours and sizes. The result was the crew of our old warhorse aircraft, a Decota, agreed to take me up to Umtali on a training flight. This came to pass as it were, and after a drink in a hotel, which reminded me of the American Wild West, the lads said 'get moving', which I did. The only transport was a very old lorry cum bus going to Chapinga, and was just about full of locals and their belongings. We arrived safely and I booked into the small hotel.

Talking generally in the bar I was approached by a chap who said "you ought to go up Mt Salinda - wait a minute and I'll try and fix it". On his return I was told that I would be welcome to stay with the Tsetse Fly Ranger and his family. A trip had been arranged to take me up the mountain track and the start of wonderful experiences began. Looking back now I regret that I had never heard the word PERFIN.

Regarding the c.d.s. mentioned I would hate to suggest a word
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for the D--- but can confirm UMTALI did and does exist. I also have a mint 1/- stamp of B.S.A. overprinted RHODESIA with the BSA/C perfin.

Checking my small holding of Rhodesian perfins I find I also have an 'LL' perfin on a KGV ½d and an 'HSS' perfin on the first issue 1d with postmark BULAWAYO. My other British South Africa Company stamps have date perfins and therefore were used in the revenue field.

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Arthur knew that I had intended editing this down to the data on the Rhodesian perfins. With his death I find it very apt to print the whole of the article as he wrote it because it brings him so clearly to mind. I know I am not the only person in the Society who received such graphic accounts from his pen.

Our sympathy and best wishes go to his wife, Olive.

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