

The First Stamps Featuring the Victoria Falls/Mosi oa Tunya (Frank Slack)



The UNESCO declaration of December 15th 1989 reads “The Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls is the world’s greatest sheet of falling water and significant worldwide for its exceptional geological and geomorphological features and active land formation processes with outstanding beauty attributed to the falls i.e. the spray, mist and rainbows.” As one of the “Seven Natural Wonders

of the World”, the Victoria Falls has featured on stamps from around the world.

The first stamps to show the Victoria Falls were issued by the British South Africa Company in 1905 to celebrate the opening of the Victoria Falls Bridge. Interestingly, none of the 6 stamps (shown above) actually featured the Bridge, rather they all featured the same view of the Victoria Falls based on a photograph, shown on a postcard at right, taken by Percy Clarke, an early resident at the Falls.



The Bridge, shown in the postcard below, was part of the dream of Cecil Rhodes for a “Cape to Cairo” railroad, where travelers could feel the spray as they passed by.



The Bridge was opened on September 13th, 1905 by a delegation led by Charles Darwin’s grandson. One observer noted “The Falls in their present position cannot possibly detract from the beauty of the bridge”.