

# Rhodesia: Independence, Ian Smith / Zimbabwe Ruins

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**Form:** Circular. Proof-like.

**By:** John Pinches, London

**Date:** 1967-8

**Ref:** Laidlaw: 1068a;

**Variations:**

Size	Metal	Mass	Value
38 mm	Silver	35 gm	\$75

**Edge:** Plain. Stamped with the maker's mark: "JP" and the London hallmarks for 1967-8.

**Obverse:** Bare head of Ian Smith, left and slightly front. Legend above: "RHODESIA" and below: "1965". Stamped below the bust is the issue number. This medal: "S161".

**Reverse:** Ruins of Great Zimbabwe. Tree trunk on left, branch across above with clouds. Legend above between stops: "INDEPENDENCE" and below: "FREEDOM.PEACE.JUSTICE".

**Notes:** Comes inside a blue oblong case lined on the inside with white silk-like and blue velvet-like material. The case contains one medal with the same issue number, this medal and a smaller medal with the same obverse but different reverse (Laidlaw: 1068b).

Rhodesia declared unilateral independence (UDI) from Britain on 11th November 1965. During Second World War Ian Smith was a fighter pilot who fought for Britain (as did many other Rhodesians). The choice of Armistice Day for the UDI symbolized the bitterness of betrayal that many Rhodesians felt towards Britain.