

Rhodesia: Independence, Ian Smith / Flame Lily

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Form: Circular. Proof-like.

By: John Pinches, London

Date: 1967-8

Ref: Laidlaw: 1068b;

Variations:

Size	Metal	Mass	Value
24.8 mm	Silver	9.1 gm	\$25

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 bust with issue number. This medal: "S113".

Reverse: Flame Lily. 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 a smaller medal with the same issue number, this medal and a larger medal with the same obverse but different reverse (Laidlaw 1068a).

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.