



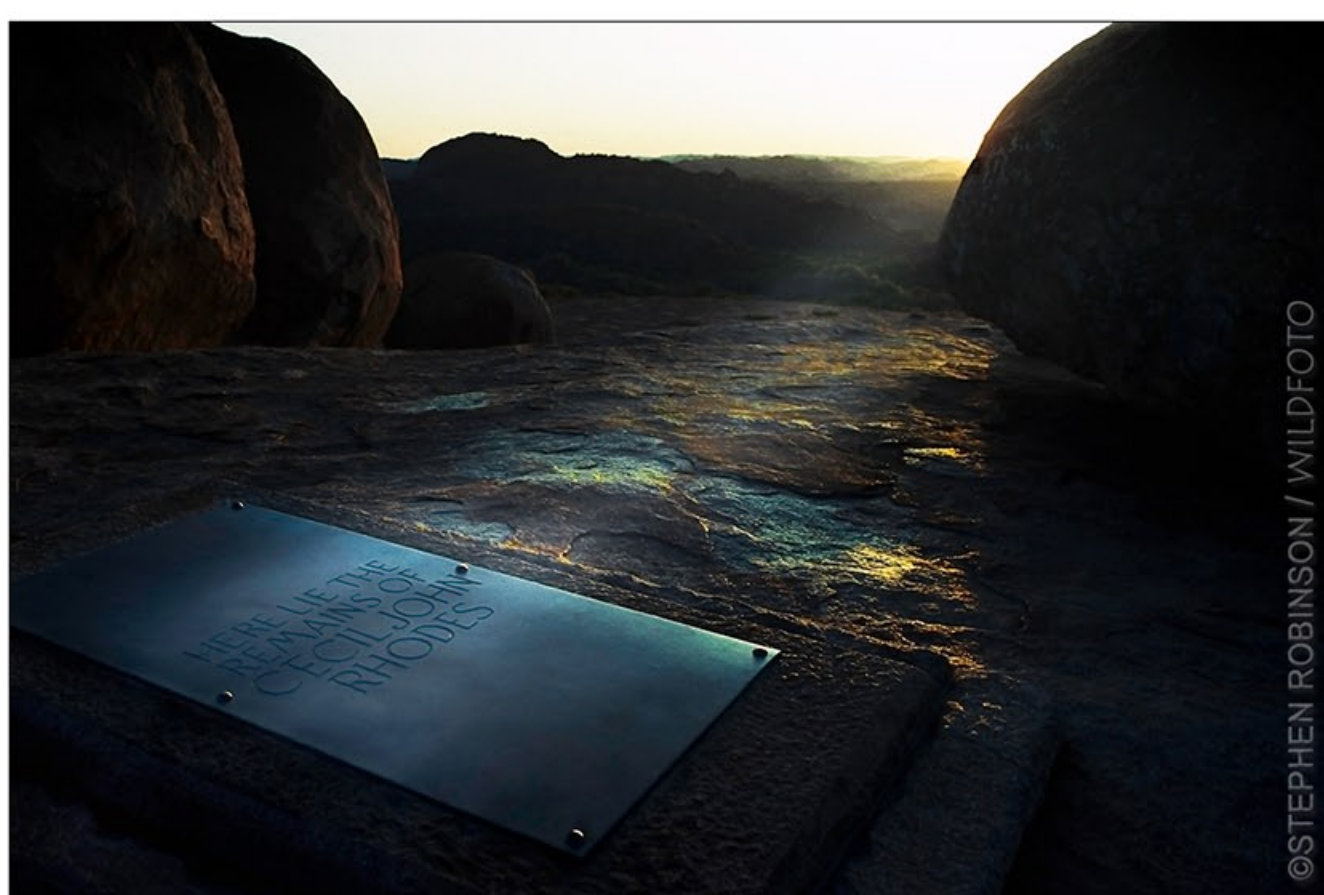
PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, Zambian life and happening things
And especially for those who just like looking at pictures

Send your feedback - PhotoMail will be developed in line with what its subscribers want to see
Photomail is available for free subscription by emailing me at wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com

The Story Behind the Picture:

Deny history, but don't disturb Cecil

In this PhotoMail, the controversial legacy of an old British colonial.



Grave of Cecil John Rhodes (1853-1902)

Rhodes' last will required that he be buried here at "World's View" in the Matobo Hills outside Bulawayo, in the country he founded and which was named after him as 'Rhodesia', now Zimbabwe. His philosophy and life's mission are well illustrated by two of many quotes attributed to him:

"Remember that you are an Englishman, and have consequently won first prize in the lottery of life." Cecil John Rhodes

"Pure philanthropy is very well in its way but philanthropy plus five percent is a good deal better." Cecil John Rhodes

DENY HISTORY, BUT DON'T DISTURB CECIL

Recently there were angry disturbances in Cape Town at the UCT (University of Cape Town) where South African students and activists successfully campaigned for the removal of a statue of Cecil John Rhodes, the 19th century British colonial who sought to impose British rule and the English language on Africa and the entire world.

This reminded me of a family visit to the Matobo Hills (previously known as the Matopos Hills) in the 1980s, where we joined the many tourists there in visiting and photographing Rhodes' grave (resulting in the photograph above, made after waiting a long time for the other tourists to leave).

The South African students claimed angrily that the Rhodes statue at the UCT was a celebration of Rhodes' "eurocentric" grand plan for a British-dominated World. In a confused denial of history, they also claimed that Rhodes was entirely responsible for the introduction of Apartheid - despite the fact that the Apartheid system was a 1948 construction of the Afrikaaner National Party rule. So it was a Dutch-Afrikaaner, not British, system and it dates some 46 years after Rhodes' 1902 death. Perhaps the complainants have not had history and arithmetic in their curriculum.

But fortunately the 91-year old President of Zimbabwe, Robert 'Bob' Mugabe, happened to be visiting South Africa, hosted by his old chum President Jacob Zuma. So Bob was on hand to lend some advice to the South Africans.

Now, Bob himself is often referred to as something of an odd sort, so it was amusing that, when asked for comment on the UCT "Rhodes Must Fall" campaign, he said of Rhodes: "He was a strange man...".

Bob apparently appreciates the need to keep the ghosts of certain *muzungus* (white men) well out of the way, preferably six feet under, topped by a big slab of concrete just to make sure, because he also indulged in some fanciful narration of history by explaining to the South Africans:

"... he came to us and wanted to be buried and we have him down below in the Matopos, because that is where he wanted to die."

"So we are looking after the corpse and you have the statue. I don't know what you think we should do. Dig him up? Perhaps his spirit might rise again, then what shall we do?"

At this point Mugabe's host, Jacob, became convulsed by a fit of the giggles, as Bob concluded with the sage advice:

"Apartheid is gone. I hope you have buried it down, like we did Rhodes".

THIS WEEK'S PRINT OFFER

framed print

from the **SPIRIT OF THE LAND**

PANORAMIC AFRICA collection

To reserve this framed print, please email wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com

Typical framing illustration



Title: *River Abstract*
Kalungwishi River, N Zambia
(ref. LZmL268)

Edition: Signed Edition
Print: Fine Art pigment ink printed on archival heavyweight art media, matted & solid wood framed
Framed size: 86cm x 48cm (34"x19")
Price: Gallery price - US\$240
OFFER price - US\$150 one only

SEE MORE FINE ART PRINTS FROM THIS COLLECTION AT:
WWW.SPIRIT-OF-THE-LAND.COM

Advertisement

PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HIRE

Stephen Robinson is a photographer operating from his Zambia base. He undertakes photo assignment work in the corporate, industrial, mining, donor-aid project and environmental fields, including the production of photo based communications, advertising and promotional media. Medium format panoramic photography and aerial work are specialities.

This commercial work supports his nature photography speciality, including landscape, environment, conservation and wildlife work - and including his well-known panoramic photography project and exhibitions on the remote landscape, peoples and environment of Zambia.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Assignments | Commercial | Calendars
Corporate Media | Features | Reportage
Nature & Landscape | Environment
Portraiture | Fine Art | Gallery

SPIRIT OF THE LAND

PANORAMIC AFRICA

FINE ART PRINTS

www.spirit-of-the-land.com

WILDFOTOAFRICA

Stock Photo Library | Fine Art Prints
www.wildfotoafrica.com

ENQUIRIES

EMAIL: wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com
TEL: +260 966 992999

NEXT PhotoMail ISSUES

In the Footsteps of Artists

Landscape Africa B&W - the land in monochrome

and the stories behind the pictures

Back Issues - all back issues of PhotoMail
can be seen at

www.wildfotoafrica.com

If this PhotoMail has been sent to you in error, or if you want to cancel a subscription, please send an email with 'PhotoMail unsubscribe' in the subject header.

All photographs ©Stephen Robinson. All rights reserved.
Photographs can be supplied as prints or made available for licensed use by first contacting me at wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com