

OLYMPIC GAMES, 1984, LOS ANGELES

Issued 18th July, 1984

(Extract from PTC Bulletin No 2 of 1984)

The Olympic Games, an international amateur athletic competition which takes place every fourth year in whatever country the International Olympic Committee decides. The name is derived from the National Athletic Festival held at Olympia (776 BC - 394 AD) in honour of Zeus by the ancient Greeks. The games were revived in 1896, in Athens, when eight countries took part. Today most countries are represented in summer competitions for men and women which include track and field athletics, as well as swimming, shooting, boxing etc. and in separate winter games.

The games are opened with a spectacular ceremony in which the Olympic flame is lit by a torch carried from Athens by relays of runners. The host country for 1984's summer Olympics, Los Angeles, has been host to the Games previously in 1932.

The History of Zimbabwe and the Olympics

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) gave recognition to the, then, Rhodesia to compete as a nation on 25 July 1928. At this time no Committee was formed as Olympic Sports in Rhodesia were virtually non-existent. The Rhodesia Empire and Olympic Games Association came into being at the inaugural meeting held in Bulawayo on 15 February 1934. During the ensuing years the Committee changed its title in keeping with the various political changes which affected the country and finally after the Lancaster House talks the National Olympic Committee of Rhodesia officially changed its title on 13 April 1980 to that of the National Olympic Committee of Zimbabwe (ZOC).

From this date things moved at a rapid pace, the new President, Mr Frank Lincoln, attended the IOC meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland. Zimbabwe was recognised, and placed its house into order the Constitution was amended to a Model Constitution as laid down by the IOC. Zimbabwe was accepted by the IOC in May 1980 and an official invitation was then sent to the Zimbabwe Olympic Committee by the organising Committee Olympic Games - Moscow 1980 to compete in the games commencing in July.



In the Moscow 1980 Games, Zimbabwe sent athletes, 25 men and 22 women, and obtained a Gold Medal in women's hockey (see section on the 1980 Olympic Games issue).

For the 1984 Games, Zimbabwe sent a team of 15 athletes, no medals were won by those competing. The team comprised 6 track & field athletes, 3 boxers, 2 divers, 1 sailor and 3 shooters. Diver Lesley Smith got as far as the finals and was ranked seventh. Nduba Dube, the bantamweight boxer reached the quarter finals before being knocked out.³

About this issue

The Zimbabwe Olympic Committee requested a set of postage Stamps be issued to commemorate the

1984 Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles.

A national children's competition was held for the design of the stamps. The competition was open to children between the ages of eight and eighteen. The ZOC wanted illustrate the stamps with the Games as seen through the eyes of our children. With all the candid sincerity of youth, children can express what the Games mean to them and what represents for them the sports culture of their world.

The final judging took place in September 1983 and the four winners were each from a separate age group depicted.

The Zimbabwe Olympic Committee presented each prize winner with \$25 and a further \$25 was given to their schools.

- 11c Cyclist** **Vivienne Fick**, Chisipite Junior School, Harare. Prize winner in the 11-year-old group.
- 21c Swimmer** **Joanna Hogg**, Chisipite Junior School, Harare. Prize winner in the 9-year-old group.
- 30c Runner** **Blessing Chikoore**, Mutare Junior School, Mutare. Prize winner in the 15-year-old group
- 40c Hurdler** **Wayne Gubb**, Plumtree School, Plumtree. Prize winner in the 13-year-old group.

The Stamps



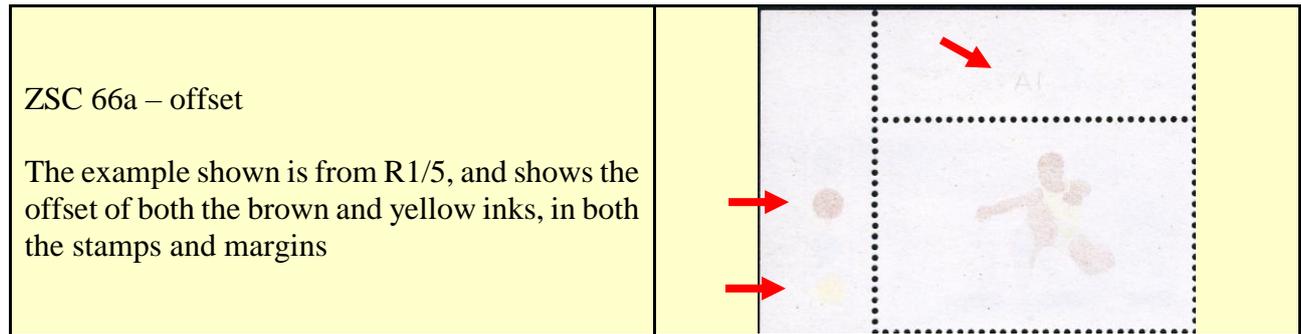
Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
639	63	11c	Cyclist by Vivienne Fick
640	64	21c	Swimmer by Joanna Hogg
641	65	30c	Runner by Blessing Chikoore
642	66	40c	Hurdler by Wayne Gubb
	a.		Offset

Technical details

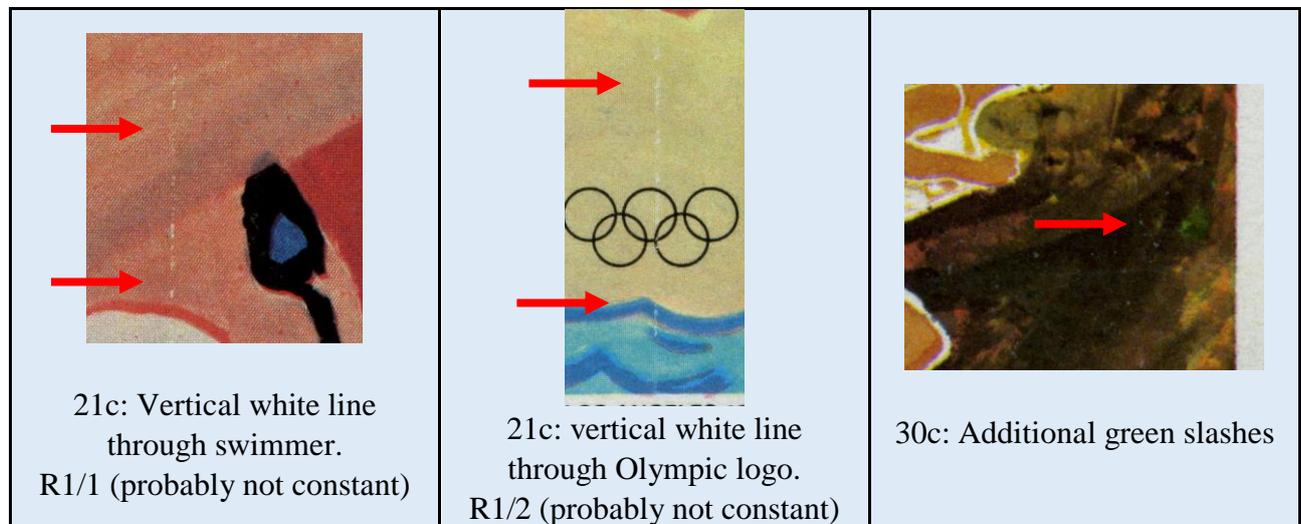
Stamp size:	42 x 28 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
Artist:	As stated above
Paper:	ZSC paper type C –paper known as "Postmaster", manufactured and converted by Smith & McLaurin Ltd, Scotland. The coating is not as fluorescent as the previous papers and the gum is described as 'particle gummed'. It is a very different adhesive from PVA as it has a matt, non-reflective appearance. It is what is known as 'dry gum'.
Print colours:	11c Black, magenta, light blue, yellow 21c Black, red, cyan, yellow 30c Black, magenta, cyan, yellow 40c Black, brown, cyan, yellow
Perforations:	SG 14½, ZSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate
Printer:	Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd., Harare, Zimbabwe
Printer's Imprint:	Bottom Margin, below columns 2 to 4. Imprint printed in black
Cylinder numbers:	All stamps above R1/5, colours reading from left 11c yellow, light blue, magenta, black 21c yellow, cyan, red, black 30c yellow, cyan, magenta, black 40c yellow, cyan, brown, black
Colour register:	Type TL 4 – round boxed – left margin opposite R1/5 11c Black, magenta, light blue, yellow 21c Black, red, cyan, yellow 30c Black, magenta, cyan, yellow 40c Black, brown, cyan, yellow
Sheet Value:	All stamps - bottom margin, above R1/1, all printed in black.
Sheet Number:	Type SN 4a with 'PTC' prefix, opposite R1/1, reading downwards
Print numbers:	11c 750,000 21c 750,000 30c 500,000 40c 500,000
Issue date:	18 th July, 1984
Withdrawal from sale:	
Demonetarisaton:	31 st January, 1994

Listed varieties



Unlisted varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Some dots and specks shown below are a bit more distinctive, some may be constant.



First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.



ZW015-1 (PTC)



194 x 126 mm

ZW015 -2



International Olympic Committee
202 x 114 mm

Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 1984.
3. Wikipedia on title Zimbabwe at the 1984 Olympic Games