

HARARE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

Issued 29th January 1986

(Extract from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 1986)²

The idea to locate the International Conference Centre in the capital city of Harare has originated from Zimbabwe's active participation in Africa's economic, political and development issues and in particular with those concerning the Frontline States.

The centre provides facilities for organising various events including international summits, conferences, working conventions, local conferences, live entertainment, folk shows, musical theatre and cinema performances as well as various exhibitions. The conference centre has a total floor area of 30,115 square metres, with a ground floor and three mezzanine floors.

The Conference Centre complex was constructed in Harare by a Yugoslav company with the assistance of local companies at a fixed cost of Z\$65 million and was financed by Yugoslavia, France and Zimbabwe.

While the majority of building materials were supplied by local companies, certain essential imported materials such as the gold-coloured aluminium sheets and the marble flooring came from France and Yugoslavia respectively.



Conference Centre is in the centre with the hotel on the left, all part of the same development

Seating in the multi-functional Hall is divided into three steeply angled galleries with three large seating blocks and stalls arranged below. Situated in the lower centre of the hall is the VIP section. A large stage is prominently placed, complete with an orchestra pit and allows for various open stage performances to take place. Interpreters booths and a press gallery are also provided. Three meeting rooms each with 100 - 150 seats are located on the first mezzanine floor, which can be quickly converted to smaller units providing maximum flexibility.

The lighting and sound provided in the hall are exceptionally good with all of the usual conference and theatrical facilities available.

Security in the whole complex can be strictly controlled and is monitored throughout with closed circuit television covering all doorways and approaches.

Other facilities available are a Post Office, telephone booths, telex rooms and a fully equipped medical clinic. A cafeteria and refreshment bar are also provided. Typing, printing, duplicating etc, are provided to facilitate the Conference Centre requirements.

The main external and internal features are depicted on the two denominations of stamps.

The 26c stamp features the exterior of the Conference Centre which is covered with gold-coloured aluminium sheets. The 35c stamp shows an interior view of the multifunctional Conference Hall. The central stalls area is surrounded by the main auditorium seating in steeply sloped galleries with three seating blocks situated below. The multi-functional hall has a maximum seating capacity for 4,500 people with 157 seats on the stage area for the executive council.

Nothing in the narrative above even suggests that the multi-storey structure to the left of the conference centre is a hotel. The hotel originally was opened as the Harare Sheraton, which continued to manage the hotel until about 2006. The hotel is now known as “Rainbow Towers” and is managed as part of the Rainbow Tourism Group.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
688	115	26c	External view of Conference Centre
	a.		“Window” flaw
689	116	35c	Interior view of the main conference hall
	a.		“Curtain” flaw

Technical details

Stamp size:	All values	42 x 28 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
Artist:	Cedric Herbert	
Paper:	ZSC paper type B – HS6, fluorescent coated paper with PVA gum with a blueish/greenish tinge.	

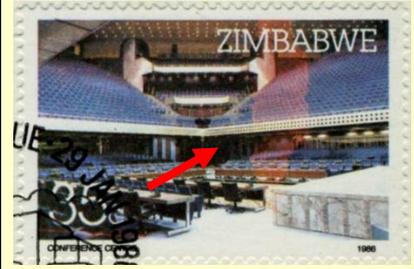
Print colours:	All values - Black, magenta, cyan, yellow
Perforations:	SG 14½, ZSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through. Other margins: Imperforate
Printer:	Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd., Harare, Zimbabwe
Printer's Imprint:	Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Columns 2 to 4. Imprint printed in black
Cylinder numbers:	Top margin above column 5. Colours reading from left All values – yellow, cyan, magenta, black
Colour register:	Type TL 4– round boxed – right margin opposite R1/5. Colours reading down. All values – black, magenta, cyan, yellow
Sheet Value:	Top margin, above R1/1, printed in black.
Sheet Number:	Type SN 4a with 'PTC' prefix, left margin, opposite R1/1, reading down.
Print numbers:	26c 500,000 35c 500,000
Issue date:	29 th January, 1986
Withdrawal from sale:	
Demonetarisaton:	31 st January, 1994

Listed varieties



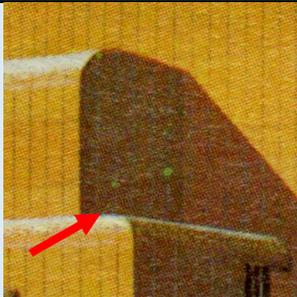
**35c: "Curtain" flaw
ZSC 116a**

Batch flaw, two examples to the right showing differing strengths



Unlisted Varieties

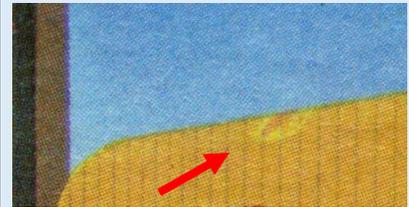
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Some dots and specks shown below are a bit more distinctive, some may be constant.



26c: Pair of cyan dots in shadow of hotel structure



26c: Red spot in shadow of hotel structure

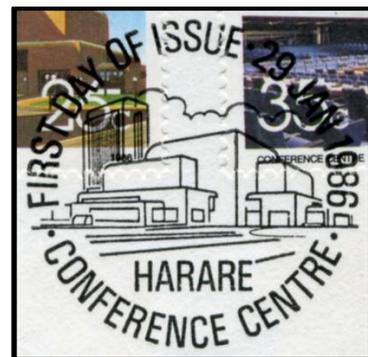


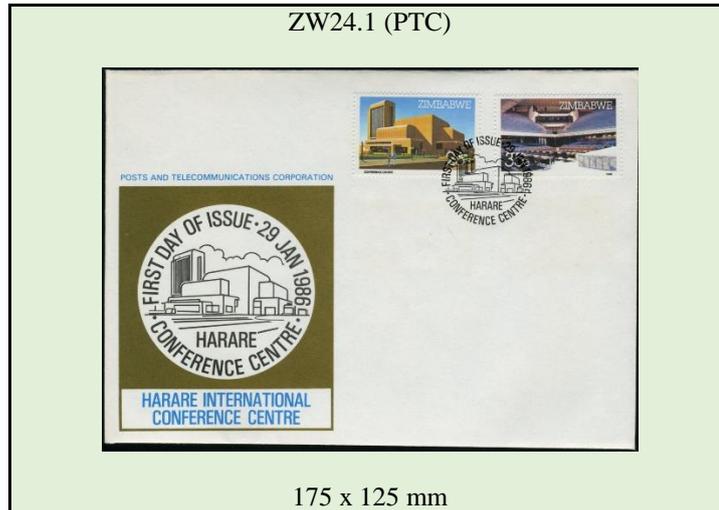
26c: Remnants of magenta ink clot on roof of hotel

First Day Covers

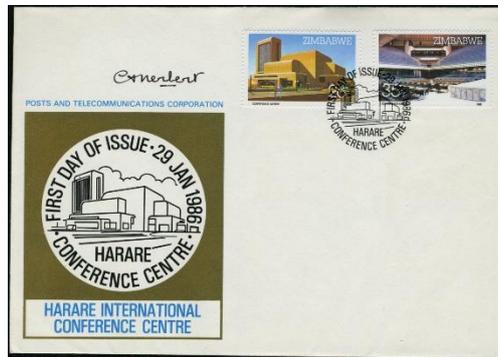
The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

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.





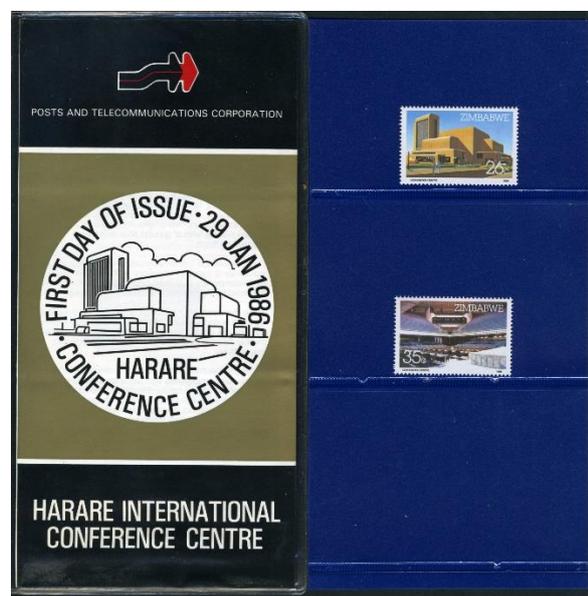
Related Material



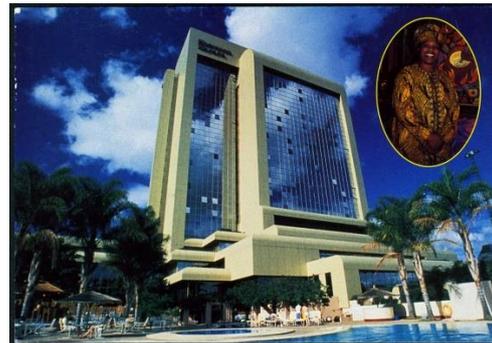
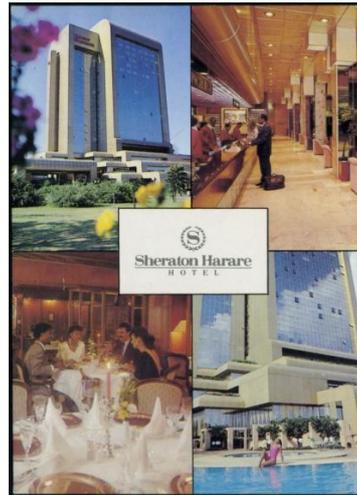
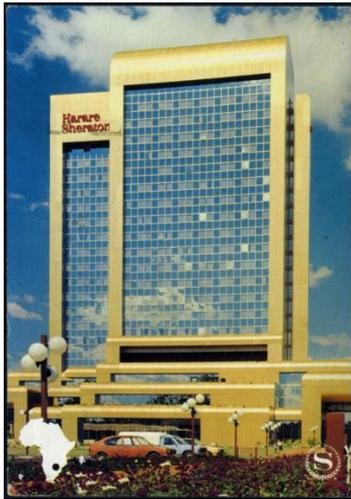
First Day cover signed by artist – Cedric Herbert

PTC Publicity folder

A clear plastic folder containing the Bulletin (without order forms) and a set of stamps in a blue stock card



Postcards of Harare Sheraton Hotel



Harare Sheraton airmail publicity label

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 1 of 1986.