

ZIMBABWE WOOD CARVINGS

Issued 15th October, 1996

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 1996)²

Zimbabwean culture has for many centuries expressed itself in many art forms. Carving, both in wood and soapstone, is a flourishing art, Zimbabwean artists are rarely realistic, but the resultant carving has unusual form and grace. Artists perform their works mostly full of pride and zeal.

45c: Frog

Koxo: Dafi (Dacha)

Most Zimbabwean frogs and toads are aquatic breeders. Fertilization takes place externally, with the number of eggs ranging from 20 to 50 in the case of the rain frogs and 15 000 and 24 000 in the case of Guttural Toad. Most species eat insects, flicking out the tongue to enfold prey in a sticky mucus and usually swallowing it whole; some larger species also eat other frogs, rodents, chicks and small snakes.



\$1.50: Tortoise

Ufudu : Kamba

There are two varieties of Land Tortoise found in Zimbabwe. The Leopard Tortoise and Hinged Tortoise. They grow up to 20 to 30cm. in length with black and yellow or brownish-yellow in colour and darker markings. They eat mushrooms, grass, snails and dead frogs.



\$1.70: Kudu

Ibhalabhala: Nhoru

A large Antelope, with the height of up to 1,5m at shoulder: Weight: males weigh up to 270kg, females weigh up to 160kg. They are grey with white underside to tail. There are seven to ten vertical white stripes on the sides and white markings on the face. The horns are tilted back and are spiral, they sometimes interlock horns after a big fight and die a lingering death. They feed on shoots, leaves, grass and maize cobs. They can clear up to two metres of fence with easy jump.



\$2.20: Chimpanzee

The Chimpanzee is a very rare species in Zimbabwe. Like a Baboon or Guerrilla, the Chimpanzee has an almost human being like behaviour. It can feed on fruits, meat, wild roots or on leaves. It may also give signs almost identical to those given by humans.



\$2.50: Porcupine

Inungu: Nungu

Their body and tail are covered with black and white quills which stand up when the animal is attacked. During contact the quills will then detach from the porcupine piercing their predators and inflicting severe injury. These animals are common in most areas but are seen mainly at night. They feed on roots, fruits, bulbs and commonly gnaw bones.



\$3.00: Rhinoceros –

Ubhejani : Chipembere

A large Herbivorous mammal. In Zimbabwe we have two species of Rhinoceros. The black Rhino height at shoulder is 1.5m, and White height at shoulder 1,8m. Both species are grey, the white Rhinoceros is less aggressive than the black. The other difference is that when the white Rhino trots away it pushes its calf ahead, but the black differs by leading its calf. The white Rhino is square-lipped and the black hook-lipped. Food: sticks, branches, leaves and grass. The horn can grow to a length of 1,5m.



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC¹	Value	Description
932	360	45c	Frog
933	361	\$1.50	Tortoise
934	362	\$1.70	Kudu
935	363	\$2.20	Chimpanzee
936	364	\$2.50	Porcupine
937	365	\$3.00	Rhinoceros

Technical details

Stamp size:	All values	35 x 30 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
Artist:	Maxwell Nyoni	
Paper:	ZSC paper type F - Although still officially described as HS8, the paper properties changed in 1996. This is fluorescent front but non-fluorescent back and the gum is whitish PVA.	
Print colours:	45c:	Bluish violet, magenta, yellow & black
	\$2.50:	Dull blue, magenta, yellow & black
	Others:	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black
Perforations:	SG 14½ x 14, ZSC 14¼ x 14	
	Top margin:	Perforated through.
	Other margins:	Imperforate
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe	
Printer's Imprint:	Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black	

Cylinder numbers: Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left –
45c: Bluish violet, magenta, yellow & black
\$2.50: Dull blue, magenta, yellow & black
Others: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Colour register: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down –
45c: Bluish violet, magenta, yellow & black
\$2.50: Dull blue, magenta, yellow & black
Others: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Sheet Value: Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black.

Sheet Number: Type SN 4a with ‘PTC’ prefix, right margin opposite R1/5, reading down

Print numbers:

45c	2,500,000	\$1.50	200,000
\$1.70	200,000	\$2.20	200,000
\$2.50	200,000	\$3.00	200,000

Issue date: 15th October 1996

Withdrawal from sale:

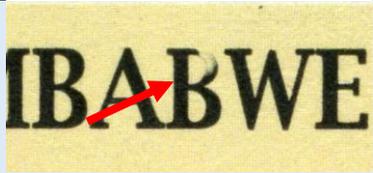
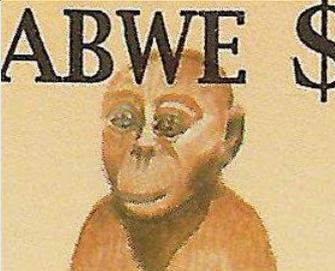
Demonetarisaton: 17th July 2000

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted

Unlisted Varieties

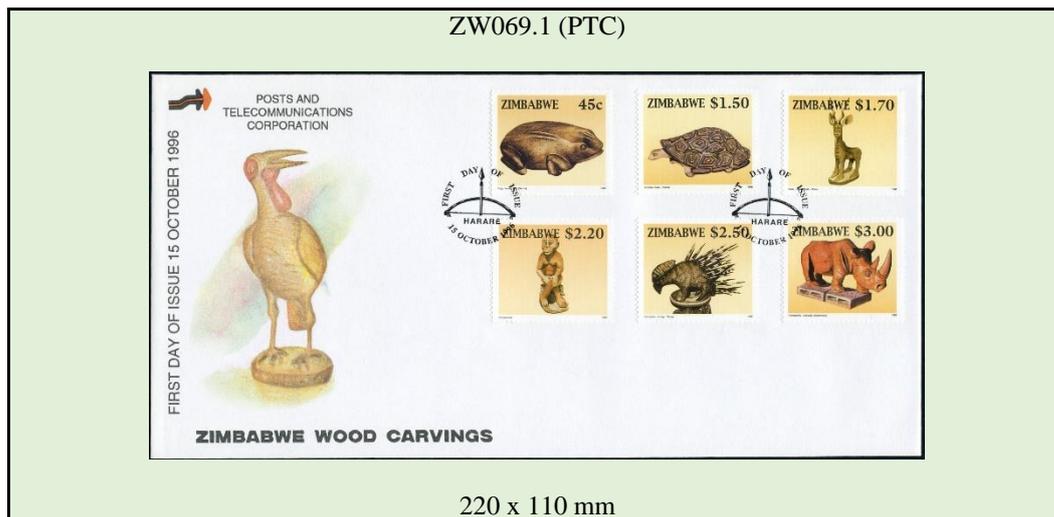
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds.

 <p>\$1.50: Damaged 2nd ‘B’ of Zimbabwe</p>	 <p>\$2.20: Plate movements has made the face of the chimp very indistinct.</p> <p><i>(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)</i></p>	
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First Day Cover

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.



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 4 of 1996.