CATTLE BREEDS OF ZIMBABWE
Issued 7th January, 1997

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 1997)²

This issue depicts some Cattle Breeds of Zimbabwe, included are three indigenous Zimbabwe breeds. These breeds came from the Sanga cattle which developed over about five thousand years in Africa to be thoroughly adapted to the local environment. The Sanga group is intermediate between the European cattle and the Zebu cattle of India. Their resistance to high temperature, ticks and flies, and their ability to maintain reproductive efficiency in the semi-arid climate have moulded their unique characteristics.

45c: Mashona Cow

Selective breeding among the Sanga stock has resulted in the development of the ‘Mashona breed which are beautiful animals and ideally suited to local conditions. They are hardy and need very little maintenance due to their beneficial herd behaviour and well-developed herd instincts together with their strong maternal protection. Their docile temperament allows easy handling. The breed is characterised by early maturity and excellent fertility, with an ability to both graze and browse. The Mashona has an early carcass maturity and a high dressing percentage.

$1.50: Tuli Cow

The Zimbabwean Tuli is bred from the African Sanga stock, is neat and smooth coated thus making it ideal for local conditions. They reach sexual maturity at a young age and are sound breeders often weaning a well grown calf every year. They are resistant to heat, ticks and drought and their beef is one of the highest quality known and seldom surpassed. The Tuli is ideal as a maternal line having a quiet temperament and excellent mothering abilities. The Tuli breed has recently received international recognition from Australia, USA and Canada.

Mashona Bull

Tuli Bull
Another Zimbabwean breed is the Nkoni which is a sub-type of the Nguni cattle of Natal. These cattle were brought to Zimbabwe by Mzilikazi and his followers about 150 years ago. The breed has a well-developed neck hump, short glossy coat and pigmented skin with white, red and black colours. Nkoni refers to the colour pattern of the animals which have a white back stripe and dark side panels. Although there are several breeders of Nkoni, the breed is rapidly disappearing from the communal areas. They are highly suited for local conditions, are adaptable, hardy and noted for their ease in calving.

The Brahman is one of the Zebu breeds found in eastern countries like India. It is a large animal and is noted for its large shoulder hump. The Brahman variety has become the most common bull used in the commercial beef herd of Zimbabwe. The bulls are crossed with other breeds to produce high quality stock for the beef industry. They are able to withstand heat, numerous insect pests and generally cope with unfavourable climatic conditions.

The First Day Cover depicts a Holstein dairy cow, one of the breeds utilised in Zimbabwe's Dairy Industry.
The Stamps

Catalogue listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SG</th>
<th>ZSC¹</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>938</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>45c</td>
<td>Mashona Cow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>939</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>Tuli Cow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>940</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
<td>Nkoni Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>941</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>Brahman Bull</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: Roland Pletts

Paper: ZSC paper type E - An altogether different paper. It is slightly thicker than HS8 and the gummed side is noticeably non-fluorescent and very dark (mud coloured) under UV. Front fluorescent. PVA creamish gum.

Print colours: Black, magenta, cyan & yellow

Perforations: SG 14½, ZSC 14¼
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 – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
**Colour register:** Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – 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 2,000,000  $1.50 190,000
- $2.20 190,000  $3.00 190,000

**Issue date:** 7th January, 1997

**Withdrawal from sale:**

**Demonetarisation:** 9th November 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. No varieties have been reported

**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: