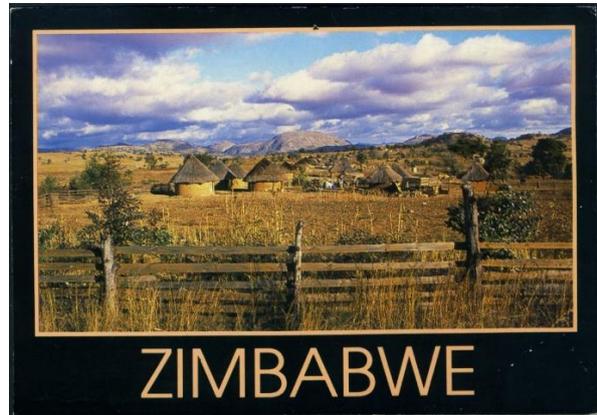


# ASPECTS OF RURAL LIFE IN ZIMBABWE

Issued 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1997

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 1997*)<sup>2</sup>

The majority of Zimbabwean people live in villages in the rural areas of the country. Most village communities consist of extended family groups under the leadership of a headman or chief. The villages are generally self-supporting in food, and each community also supports the many traditional activities that enrich the lives of the people both materially and culturally. Six of these activities are illustrated in this series of stamps.



Postcard produced by PhotoSafari

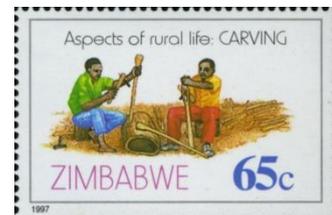


Postcard produced by PhotoSafari

Other activities include building, thatching, basket making and pottery and are usually gender-based, being passed on from father to son, or mother to daughter. Since Independence, many villagers have worked hard to build schools, clinics and dams to improve the quality of their lives.

## 65c: Carving

Functional carving skills produce a wide selection of artefacts for village life, from weapons, bowls, head rests and wooden spoons, musical instruments, pestles and mortars and stools, to delicately carved combs that are used as toilet items and adornments. Craftsmen require not just a skill with their tools, but also a knowledge of trees and the different types of timber which are suitable for each artefact.



## \$1.00: Winnowing

Winnowing—the process of separating the chaff from the grain—is an activity which prepares grain and cereals for storage in the grain bins of the village. The granary (*dura*) is a very important building in the village, which has to secure the storage of food against the weather, insect pests, and wild animals. In traditional Ndebele culture, the granary enclosure contains both the threshing floors and the grain bins. It is recorded that grain can be stored up to a maximum of five years.



### **\$2.40: Dancing**

Among the indigenous peoples of Zimbabwe, dance is the most developed of all the performing arts. Dance and music are an integral part of the entertainment life of the village. Dance also has specific functions, for example, in the celebration of weddings, religious occasions, rituals, the harvest and other important times of the seasons. Several types of dances are performed throughout Zimbabwe and these include *mbakutnba*, *muchongoyo*, *chinyambera* and *mbira*. Dance music is provided by a range of different drums, percussion instruments, the *mbira* (a kind of hand piano), *marimba* (xylophone) and string and wind instruments.



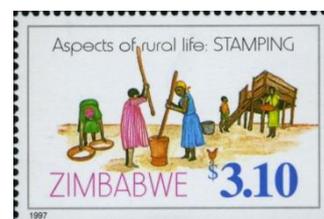
### **\$2.50: Ploughing**

The cultivation of land for agricultural purposes began on the highveld of Zimbabwe about a thousand years ago. The first implements were axes which broke up the soil in preparation for the sowing of a crop like millet. The use of a manufactured plough, drawn by oxen belongs to the modern era, while in many communal areas and on small plots of land, the soil is traditionally prepared using a *badza*: a metal implement with a wooden handle.



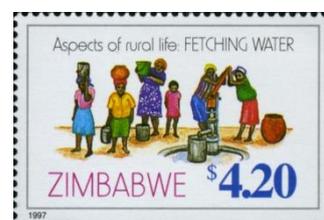
### **\$3.10: Stamping**

Stamping is the process of using a mortar and pestle to grind cereals such as maize and sorghum, prepare food like *dovi* (peanut butter) and to grind medicinal herbs. The average mortar is a metre long and is made from softer wood than the pestle, the wood of which is extremely hard. Pestles can be decorated with a carved band round the bottom section and the first recorded use of these domestic utensils is in the later part of the sixteenth century.



### **\$4.20: Fetching water**

The settlement of any area requires land for crops and a source of water, usually a river or stream. Traditionally, women and young girls carry water from the river on their heads and bring it to the village for the purposes of cooking, cleaning and drinking. Water is stored in a large variety of special bowls and containers which keep it cool and fresh.



## **Catalogue listings**

<b>SG</b>	<b>ZSC<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
948	376	65c	Carving
949	377	\$1.00	Winnowing
950	378	\$2.40	Dancing
951	379	\$2.50	Ploughing
952	380	\$3.10	Stamping
953	381	\$4.20	Fetching Water

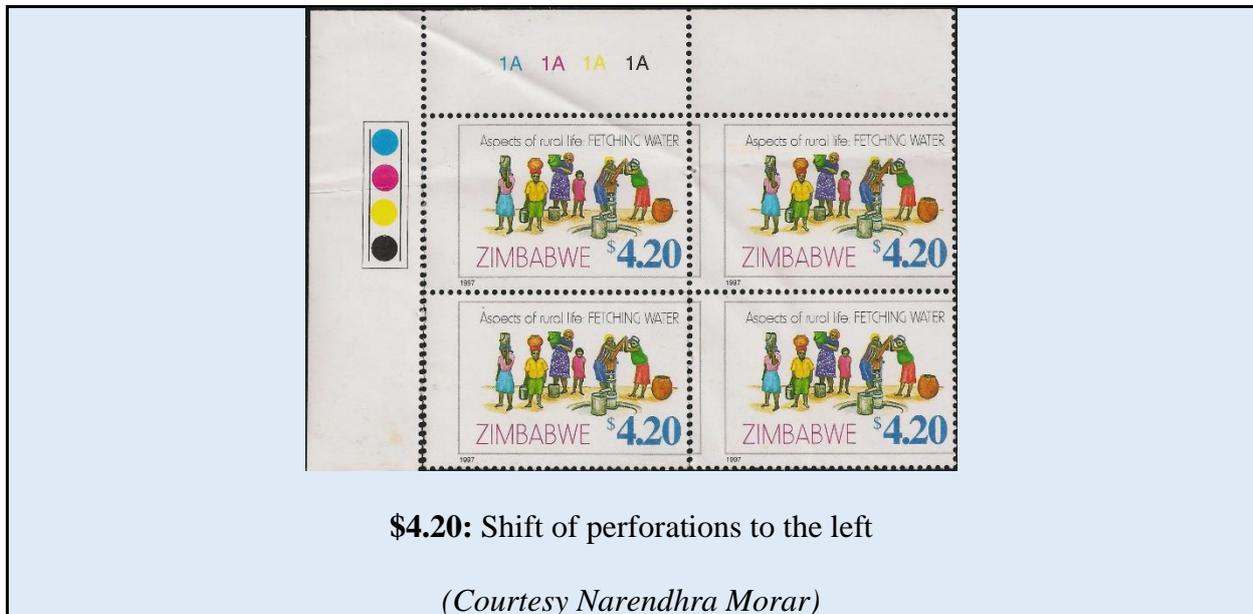
## Technical details

<b>Stamp size:</b>	All values	42 x 28 mm		
<b>Sheet Size:</b>	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet			
<b>Artist:</b>	Dianne Deudney			
<b>Paper:</b>	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.			
<b>Print colours:</b>	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black			
<b>Perforations:</b>	SG 14½, ZSC 14¼			
	Top margin:	Perforated through.		
	Other margins:	Imperforate		
<b>Printer:</b>	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe			
<b>Printer's Imprint:</b>	Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black			
<b>Cylinder numbers:</b>	Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black			
<b>Colour register:</b>	Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black			
<b>Sheet Value:</b>	Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black.			
<b>Sheet Number:</b>	Type SN 4a with 'PTC' prefix, right margin opposite R1/5, reading down			
<b>Print numbers:</b>	45c	1,500,000	\$1.50	190,000
	\$1.70	190,000	\$2.20	190,000
	\$2.50	190,000	\$3.00	190,000
<b>Issue date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 1997			
<b>Withdrawal from sale:</b>				
<b>Demonetarisaton:</b>				
<b>Listed varieties</b>				

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.



## 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.



ZW072.1 (PTC)



220 x 110 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 3 of 1997.