Ox wagons had been the only means of transportation but after the rinderpest disaster of 1896, which killed most of the oxen, wagons had to be abandoned and Bulawayo's survival was threatened. George Pauling was given the contract to build the 400 mile line from Mafeking to Bulawayo, in 400 days! He did it and Bulawayo was saved! The line was officially opened on the 4th November 1897. The arrival of the railway was a momentous occasion for Bulawayo and Zimbabwe and it continues to play a vital role in the country's development.
Manufacturer: Beyer Peacock, Manchester.
Date of Manufacture: 1953
Service Entry Date: 1953
Current Status: In service, southern area, Bulawayo.
Other Information: This loco was originally No. 631.

Manufacturer: Simmering Graz Pauker 50 CIS Group and ZECO, (Zimbabwe)
Date of Manufacture: 1983
Cost: ZS7.8 million.
Service Entry Date: 13.10.83
Current Status: In service, Dabuka based.

Date of Manufacture: 1889
Cost: Purchased from Pauling & Co. for £1 372.00, circa 1900.
Service Entry Date: 1889
Service Number: 7
Current Status: Preserved at NRZ Museum, Bulawayo.
Other Information: Reboilered in 1935. Worked as Bulawayo Works Shunter from 1929-1942.

Manufacturer: English Electric Company
Date of Manufacture: 1956
Cost: £80,489
Service Entry Date: 1956
Current Status: Stabled in Mutare.

The locomotive depicted on the Bulletin cover is a 20th Class Garratt, No 709. Manufactured by Beyer Peacock, Manchester, in 1955 at a cost of £67,331. It went into service in March 1955 and was sold in May 1993. (opposite)

The locomotive on the First Day Cover is a 19th Class "Mountain", No. 317. Manufactured by Henschel of Germany in 1952, it was purchased for £38,946. It went into service on 26th March 1952 and was scrapped in February 1976.
Catalogue listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SG</th>
<th>ZSC</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>954</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>65c</td>
<td>Passenger coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>955</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>12\textsuperscript{th} Class, No 257</td>
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<tr>
<td>956</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>$2.40</td>
<td>16A Class, No 605</td>
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<td>957</td>
<td>385</td>
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<td>EL 1, No 4107</td>
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<tr>
<td>958</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>$3.10</td>
<td>Jack Tar</td>
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<tr>
<td>959</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
<td>DE 2, No 1211</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: Janet Duff

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: Cyan, magenta, yellow & black

Perforations: SG 14\frac{1}{2}, ZSC 14\frac{3}{4}
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: $0.45 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: 28\textsuperscript{th} October, 1997
Withdrawal from sale:

Demonetarisation:

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.

65c: Perforation shift down and at an angle.

65c: Green splash on carriage

(Courtesy Narendra Morar)

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.
Related Material

King George VI Memorial Children’s Centre, Bulawayo (KGVI)
Cinderella labels - 1993 Steam Trains
1994 RAPT labels
Including five labels with steam trains in left column

Bibliography: