

WILD FRUITS OF ZIMBABWE

SERIES 2

Issued 24th October, 2000

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 5 of 2000*)²

Wild fruits are an essential part of the diet of rural people in Zimbabwe and are also in demand by the urban population. Not only are they highly sought after by people but they form an important part of the ecology and food supply for many animals and birds. Because of this, it is important that people learn to appreciate and conserve their indigenous fruit trees.

\$2.00: Masawu

Ziziphus mauritiana

A small tree about 7 m in height, but can be up to 20m. A naturalized species which was introduced probably by traders from India and the Middle East. It occurs in Mozambique, where it is cultivated, and in the Zambezi valley. The fruit is about 1.5cm in diameter and is used to make "kachasu", a strong alcoholic drink. Fruiting time from March to August.



\$6.70: Spiny Monkey Orange

Strychnos spinosa

A deciduous shrub growing in open woodland and riverine fringes. The fruit is large, up to 12cm in diameter, spherical, woody shelled and turns deep yellow to brown when mature. The dried shells are used in sounding boxes for musical instruments like "mbira" and "marimba" and also as ornaments. Fruiting time from March to August. Shona name - Matamba; Ndebele - Umkhemeswane.

\$7.70: Bird Plum

Berchemia discolor

A tree up to 20m in height. It grows at low altitude in riverine fringes and on termite mounds. The fruit is small, ovoid and fleshy, yellow to light orange when mature. Fruits are sweet in taste and eaten fresh or are often dried and stored. Fruiting time from January to May. Shona name - Nyii; Ndebele - Umnyi.



\$9.10: Shakama Plum

Hexalobus monopetalus

A deciduous shrub or small tree up to 7m high which grows on rocky outcrops, stony hillsides and river banks. The fruit is fleshy and up to 3.5cm long, indehiscent and scarlet when ripe. The outer skin of the fruit is finely velvet, covered with brownish hairs. The fruit has a pleasant flavour and can be used to make an excellent jam. Fruiting time from December to April. Shona name - Masakama.

\$12.00: Wild Medlar

Vangueria infausta

A small tree up to 7m high occurring in wooded grasslands and rocky outcrops. The fruit is spherical 2.5 - 3.5cm in diameter and is yellowish brown when mature with a rather dry sweet-sour taste. Two other *Vangueria* species also occur in Zimbabwe. Fruiting time from January to April. Shona name - Munzvuru; Ndebele-Umviyo.



\$16.00: Wild Custard Apple

Annona senegalensis

A shrub or small deciduous tree up to 4m high. It usually occurs on sandy soils in bushveld, mixed woodland or along rivers. The fruit is fleshy, lumpy, oval shaped and pleasantly flavoured. It is best picked when green and stored in a dark warm place to ripen. The fruit is egg shaped and about 4 cm in diameter, yellow to orange when ripe. Fruiting time from December to March. Shona name - Maroro; Ndebele – Ububese



The First Day Cover and printed postmark, depict the fruit of the Baobab tree, *Adansonia digitata*, for which the Shona name is Mawuyu and the Ndebele name is Umkhomo.



The Bulletin depicts the fruit of the Sour Plum - *Ximenia caffra*, for which the Shona name is Nhengeni.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1038	466	\$2.00	Masawu
1039	467	\$6.70	Spiny Monkey Orange
1040	468	\$7.70	Bird Plum
	a.		Damaged 'M' of Zimbabwe (Cyl 1A row 5/1)
1041	469	\$9.10	Shakama Plum
1042	470	\$12.00	Wild Medlar
1043	471	\$16.00	Wild Custard Apple

Technical details

Stamp size: All values 30 x 35 mm

Sheet Size: 50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet

Artist: Roland Pletts

Paper: ZSC paper type E - 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.

ZSC paper type F - This is fluorescent front but non-fluorescent back and the gum is whitish PVA. The main change is that as the base paper does not contain optical brighteners the gummed side is non-fluorescent, but nowhere near as dark as paper E under UV.

Print colours: Cyan, magenta, yellow & black

Perforations: SG 14 x 14½, ZSC 14 x 14¼
 Right margin: Perforated through.
 Other margins: Imperforate

Printer: NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe

Printer's Imprint: Bottom Margin, below Row 5 Columns 5 & 6. Imprint printed in black

Cylinder numbers: Bottom margin below R5/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Colour register: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R5/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Sheet Value: Bottom margin, below R5/10, printed in black.

Sheet Number: Type SN 4a with 'PTC' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading down

Print numbers:

\$2.00	1,500,000	\$6.70	100,000
\$7.70	100,000	\$9.10	100,000
\$12.00	100,000	\$16.00	100,000

Issue date: 24th October, 2000

Withdrawal from sale:

Demonetarisaton:

Paper types

The Zimbabwe Stamp Catalogue does not list Paper Type F as being used for this issue. Thanks to Narendhra Morar pointing out that there were two papers used for this issue. Analysis of the stamps, so far indicates that both papers were used for some, but not all, of the values, as shown in the table below

Paper	\$2.00	\$6.70	\$7.70	\$9.10	\$12.00	\$16.00
E	✓	✓	✓	✓		
F	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

Distinguishing between the two papers can at times be difficult, as there are differing strengths of fluoresce to the gummed sides of the stamps. In general, however, the fluorescense to the gummed side of the Paper Type F stamps is much more pronounced that with Paper type E. The best way

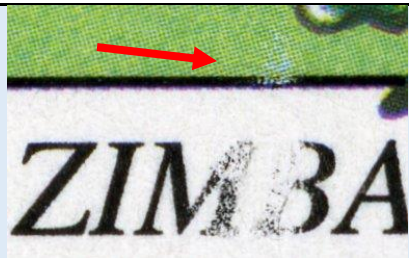
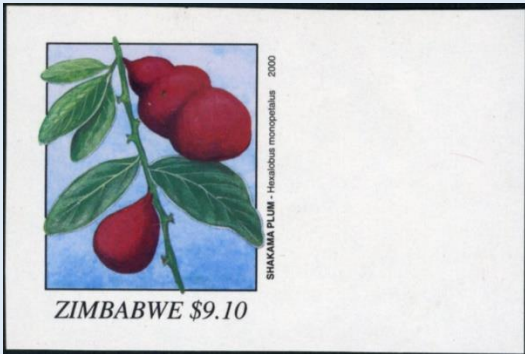
of distinguishing between the two is to utilise stamps where it is known that only one paper is used, and doing a comparison. For example, using the 1997 Cattle Breeds issue for Paper Type E and the 1996 Scenic Views for Paper Type F. **More information is required.**

Listed varieties

<p>\$7.70 Damaged 'M' of Zimbabwe Cyl 1A, row 5/1</p>	
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Unlisted Varieties

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

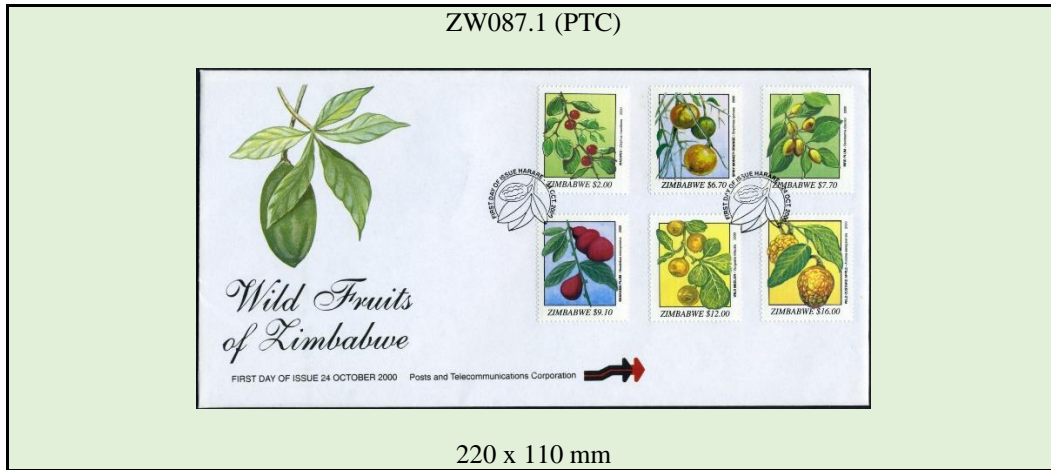
 <p>\$2.00: reduced black printing to 'MB' of Zimbabwe and lack of black and yellow inks to part of image. Cyl 1A R4/2 (not constant)</p>	 <p>\$9.10: Proof from right margin</p>
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First Day Cover

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.



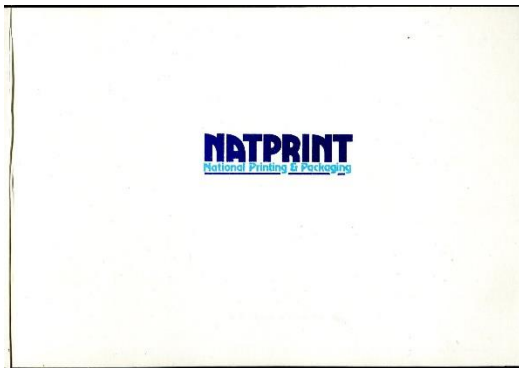


Related Material

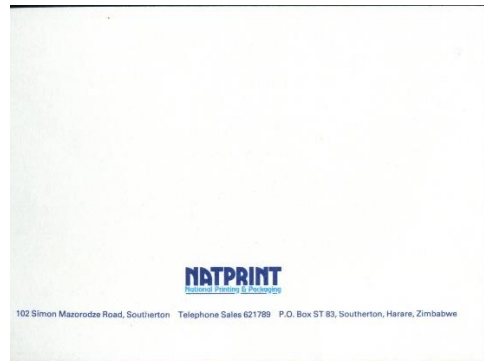
Natprint Proof Presentation Cards

Presentation cards produced by Natprint with imperforate proofs of the stamps to be issued. The presentation cards were forwarded to the PTC for approval of the “final” product. These proofs show stamp values prior to the increase in postal rates on 16th July 1999.

(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



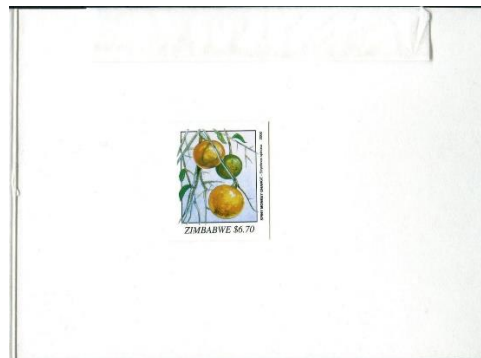
Front cover



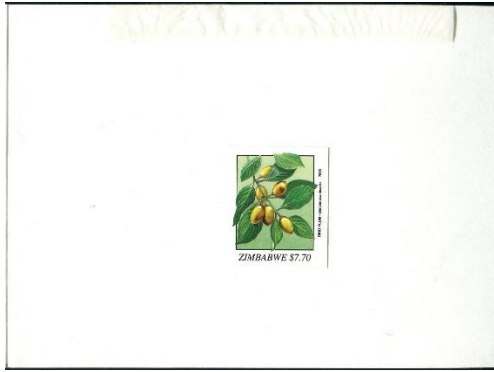
Inside front cover



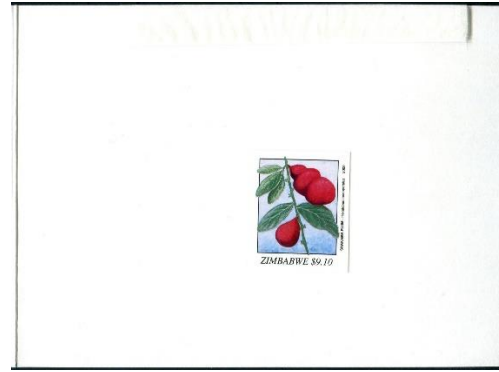
\$2.00 stamp



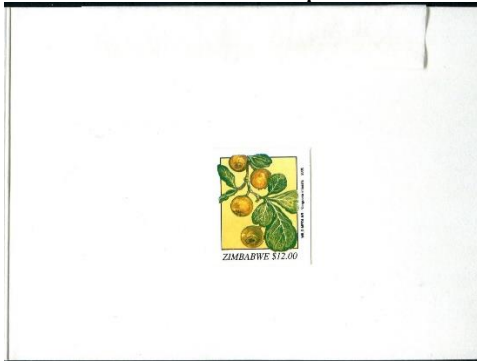
\$6.70 stamp



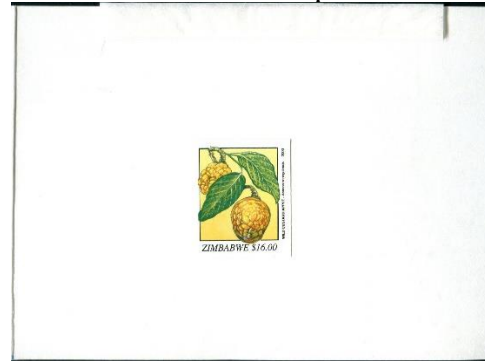
\$7.70 stamp



\$9.10 stamp



\$12.00 stamp



\$16.00 stamp

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. Posts & Telecommunications Corporation, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 5 of 2000