

21st INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY OF ZIMBABWE

“A focus on the National Heroes’ Acre”

Issued 7th August, 2001

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2001)²

On a ridge seven kilometres from Harare along the main Harare-Bulawayo road is the great 57 acre site called Heroes Acre. The shrine is a national monument of Zimbabwe. The work was undertaken by the Government to commemorate those who fell in the struggle for national liberation and the contemporary and future sons and daughters of Zimbabwe whose dedication and commitment to the nation justify their burial at this sacred spot.

The Heroes Acre is a product of historical reality. It is a symbol of bravery and selflessness for those whose remains are laid to rest there. Those heroes subordinated their personal interests to the collective interest of Zimbabwe. They accepted and endured pain, suffering and brutality with fortitude even unto death.

The National Hero status is the highest honour that can be conferred to an individual and the recipient is entitled to be buried at the National Heroes Acre. At this time of celebrating the 21st Independence Anniversary of Zimbabwe (18 April 2001), 47 heroes had been laid to rest at this National Shrine. Over 250 local workers were involved in the project at the height of construction. The black granite stone used for the main construction was quarried from Mutoko; a rural area situated about 140km Northeast of Harare. The Heroes Acre is protected under the Natural Resources Act.

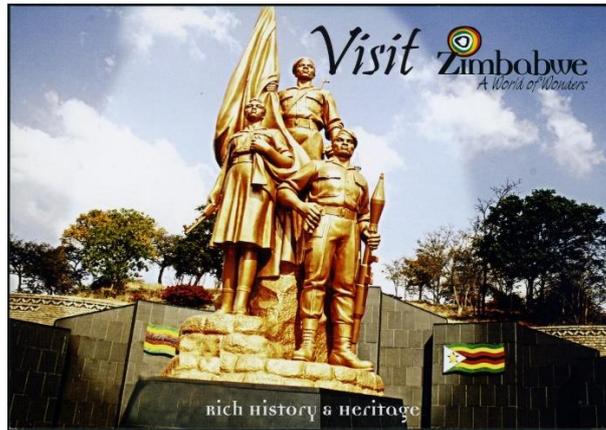
The Government started work on the Heroes Acre in 1981, one year after Independence in Zimbabwe. The design and artwork used at the site was done by seven artists from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and ten Zimbabwean Artists.

Heroes Acre is a product of historical reality. It is an expression as well as a symbol of the indefatigable collective will of Zimbabweans to be the makers of their own history, and to be their own liberators by participating in the protracted, arduous and bitter struggle for self-determination. It focuses attention on the permanent natural values upheld by the masses of Zimbabwe, distinguishing these values as a heritage because of their importance and continuity of history.

Heroes Acre serves to inspire all Zimbabweans, especially the youth to follow the footsteps of the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the people. True history is a living and organic force impelling man to do and achieve more for the betterment of mankind.

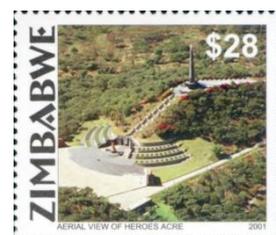
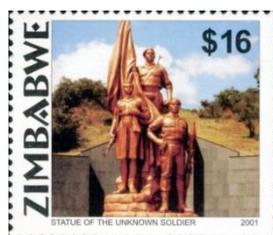
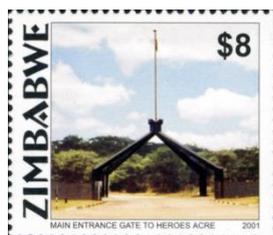
The main features that comprise the Heroes Acre are:

- The statue of the Unknown Soldier, commemorating the many Zimbabweans who died in the liberation war. The statue is bronze sculptured and consists of three figures, one woman and two men, a flagpole with the Zimbabwe National Flag and a tomb for the Unknown Soldier.



- The 40 metre high tower carrying the symbolic Eternal Flame, which was lit at Independence celebrations and depicts the spirit of Independence. The tower is the highest point of the acre and can be seen from parts of Harare. This tower, built at the top of the southern hill is accessible through a flight of stairs extending from the foot of the hill.
- The main statue, the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the graves are flanked by two high walls on which are engraved and painted various scenes of the armed struggle and these murals bear witness to the rich and diverse culture of the country. The two mural shrines, on either side of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on the walls of the hill, bear a perched Great Zimbabwe Bird. On the walls there are murals depicting the various stages of the freedom struggle of the 1960s to the end of the 1970s. The murals pictorially tell the history of Zimbabwe's liberation war.
- A terraced area with three rows of graves on the left of the main statue and three rows on the right.
- Seating space: The terracing of the hill on the western side of the main monument provides seating space for about 5000 people for funerals or ceremonial occasions. Trees, shrubs, flowers and couch grass have been planted to beautify the place.
- A revolutionary Museum is to be built at the top of the western side of the main hill as soon as other work has been completed. A variety of war materials will be displayed in the museum as a permanent record of posterity.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

| SG | ZSC ¹ | Value | Description |
|------|------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1060 | 487 | \$8.00 | Main entrance gate to Heroes' Acre |
| 1061 | 488 | \$16.00 | Statue of the unknown soldier |
| 1062 | 489 | \$21.00 | General view of Heroes' Acre |
| 1063 | 490 | \$28.00 | Aerial view of Heroes' Acre |

Technical details

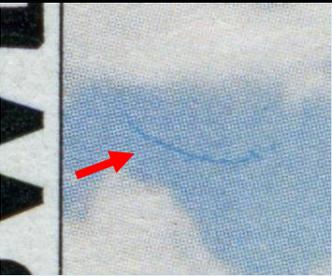
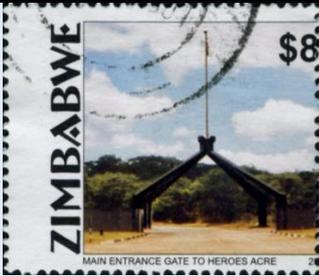
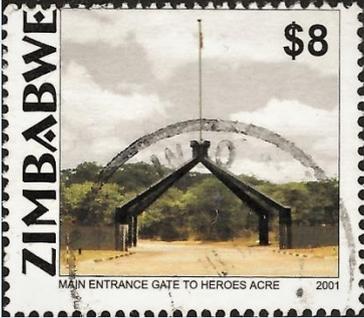
| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------|---------|---------|
| Stamp size: | All values | 35 x 30 mm | | |
| Sheet Size: | 40 stamps (8 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet | | | |
| Artist: | Cedric Herbert – from photographs | | | |
| Paper: | ZSC paper type D – HS8, another type of lithographic paper, fluorescent front and back, PVA cream gum. | | | |
| Print colours: | 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 8 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: | \$8.00 | 3,501,040 | \$16.00 | 396,000 |
| | \$21.00 | 396,000 | \$28.00 | 297,040 |
| Issue date: | 7 th August, 2001 | | | |

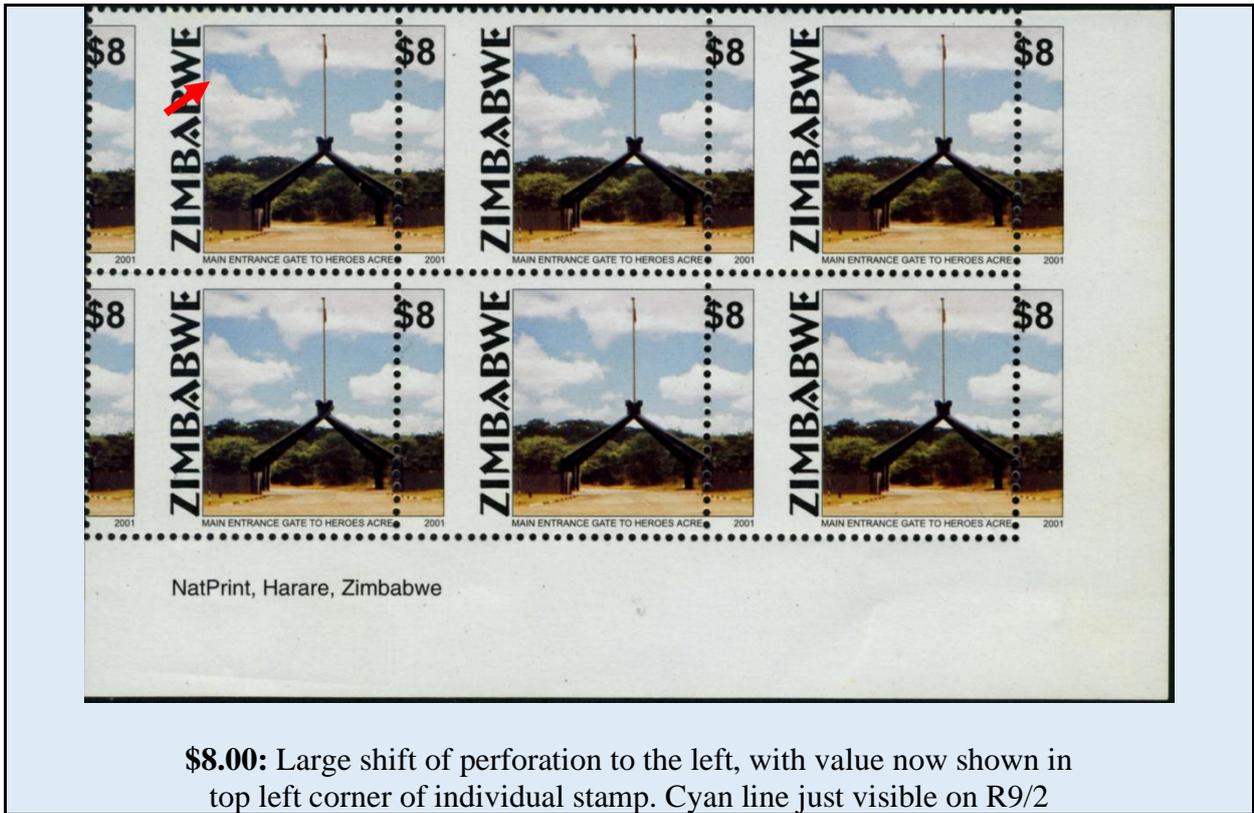
Listed varieties

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.

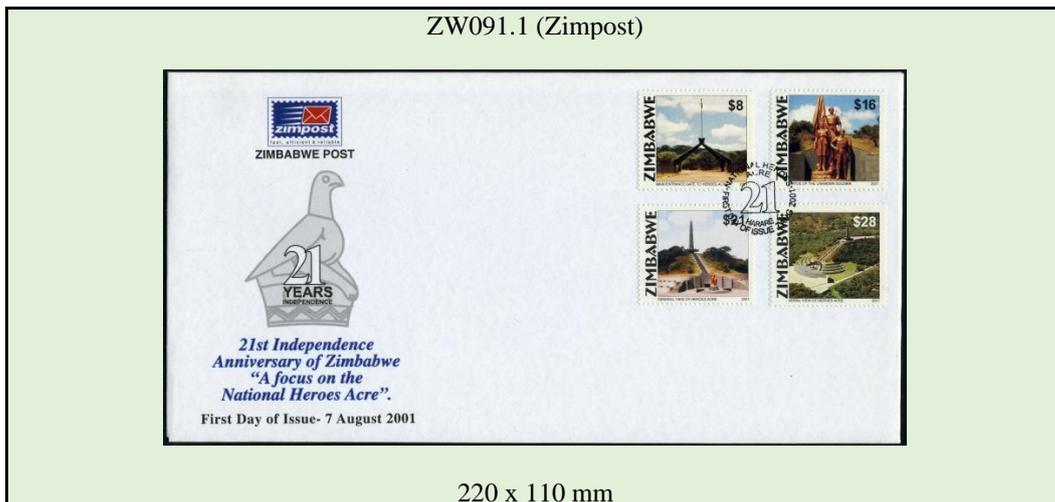
| | |
|--|---|
|  <p>\$8.00: Cyan line in sky to top left corner. R8/2. (not constant)</p> |  <p>\$8.00: Shift of perforation to the left, includes value in top right corner</p> |
|  <p>\$8.00: Cyan spot to top left of image Cyl 1A R4/3, constant <i>(Thanks to Narendhra Morar)</i></p> |  <p>\$8.00: Downward shift of perfs <i>(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)</i></p> |



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.

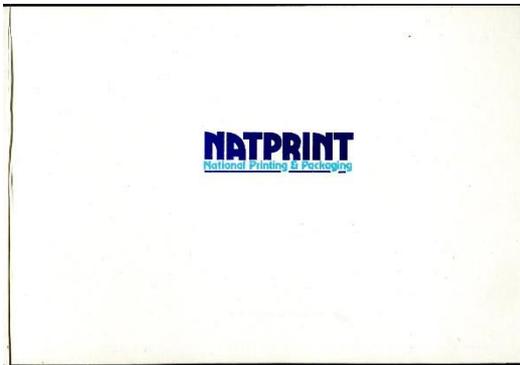


Related Material

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.

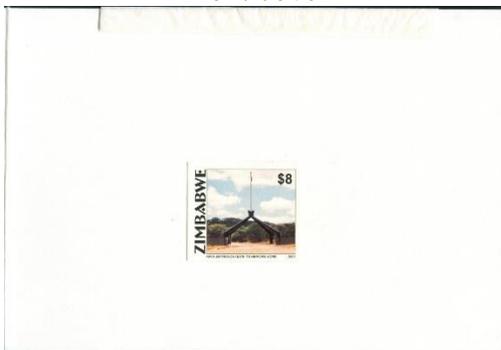
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



Front cover



Inside front cover



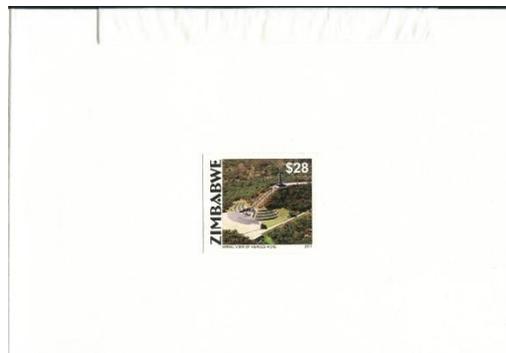
\$8 stamp



\$16 stamp



\$21 stamp



\$28 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. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2001