

# MEDALS OF ZIMBABWE

Issued 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2004

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2004*)<sup>2</sup>

Medals and Decorations consist of adornments worn or displayed, that have been issued or awarded personally, or as a group for outstanding service, bravery, or specific achievement or in commemoration of a particular historic event or campaign.

Medals are small, flat pieces of metal, commonly disks but often in the shape of a cross or star, such as the Maltese cross which usually bear a decorative image or design and an inscription. Medals were awarded for military valour in the 15th century, but not until the end of the 18th century did medals commemorating victorious engagements or campaigns become widespread.

Medals are sometimes referred to by the single term "numismatics" (Greek *nomisma*, "coin"), meaning the study and collection of coins and paper money issued by a mint and bearing a country's official designs and monetary value. The term Numismatics also extends to tokens, medals, and similar articles.



## **\$1,500: The Zimbabwe Independence Medal**

This medal was issued in silver and bronze to any person, or group, or category of persons nominated by the Prime Minister to commemorate the attainment of independence on 18 April 1980.

**Obverse (Face):** An image of the ruins of Great Zimbabwe with a crossed rifle and hoe and the inscription 18 April 1980. Zimbabwe Independence

**Reverse:** A symbolic representation showing the birth of a nation out of conflict.

**Ribbon:** 38mm wide ribbon, divided into seven parts, green 6 mm, gold 5mm, red 5mm, black 6mm (Centre) and repeated in reverse representing the colours of the national flag.



## **\$9,000: The Bronze Cross of Zimbabwe (B.C.Z.)**

This medal is made of solid bronze and is the third highest award for bravery. It is awarded to members of the uniformed services and civilians for acts of bravery in circumstances of extreme peril.

**Obverse (Face):** A four-pointed bronze star superimposed on a lilac cross with bronze edges, bearing an inscription FOR BRAVERY.

**Reverse:** A plain gold cross to accommodate the recipient's number, rank and name.

**Ribbon:** 38mm Colour: plain lilac

**Suspender:** The suspender and devices are the same as those for the Gold and Silver Crosses. (See Notes below)



### **\$13,000: The Silver Cross of Zimbabwe (S.C.Z.)**

This medal is made of solid silver and is the second highest award for bravery. It is awarded to members of the uniformed services and civilians for conspicuous bravery in circumstances of extreme peril.

**Obverse (Face):** A four-pointed silver star superimposed on a blue cross with silver edges, bearing an illustration of the Great Zimbabwe Bird and the inscription, FOR BRAVERY.

**Reverse:** A plain gold cross to accommodate the recipient's number, rank and name.

**Ribbon:** 38mm plain royal blue.

**Suspender:** (See notes below).



### **\$16,500: The Gold Cross of Zimbabwe (G.C.Z.)**

This medal is made of solid silver with gold plate and is the highest award for bravery. It is awarded to members of the uniformed forces and civilians for conspicuous bravery in circumstances of extreme peril.

**Obverse (Face):** A four-pointed gold star superimposed on a red cross with gold edges, bearing an illustration of the Great Zimbabwe Bird and the inscription, FOR BRAVERY.

**Reverse:** A plain gold cross to accommodate the recipient's number, rank and name.

**Ribbon:** 38mm Colour: plain red.

**Suspender:** (See notes below).

### **Notes:**

The Suspender is the bar immediately above the medal to which the ribbon is attached, the suspenders specific for each service with its own image. A civilian award is decorated with a pair of flame lilies; a key represents the Prison Service: an eagle the Air Force award: the scales of justice for the Police Force; and the oak leaf the Army.

### **The Zimbabwe Medal Society**

The Zimbabwe Medal society was formed in 1988 by a small group of collecting enthusiasts, which has since grown over the years to become a professional society including both local and overseas members.

The Zimbabwe Medal Society holds regular monthly meetings, where members can discuss their specific collecting interests, and organise talks from prominent guest speakers with similar subjects such as heraldic and other historical subjects allied to medals and general coins or numismatics. Each year the members hold a Medal Convention in Harare to share their interests with the general public, in an effort to promote and foster a general interest in the study of orders, decorations and medals and to assist collectors and students in their researches.

Many of the members are experts in their fields of collecting and are often called upon to identify and provide information about certain awards and the units that qualified for these.

The Z.M.S. is a non-profit organisation. The funds generated from the membership fees are used by the Society on publishing the journals and investing in medal magazines, reference books and books on military history. As a result, the Society has built up a comprehensive library.

For further information the reader can contact the Secretary at the following address: *The Secretary, Zimbabwe Medal Society, Box GD 470, Greendale Harare, Zimbabwe.*

## The Stamps



## Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC <sup>1</sup>	Value	Description
1128	555	\$1,500	Zimbabwe Independence Medal
1129	556	\$9,000	Bronze Cross of Zimbabwe
1130	557	\$13,000	Silver Cross of Zimbabwe
1131	558	\$16,500	Gold Cross of Zimbabwe

## Technical details

<b>Stamp size:</b>	Sheet stamps: 28 x 42 mm
<b>Sheet Size:</b>	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
<b>Artist:</b>	Cedric Herbert
<b>Paper:</b>	ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as “Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper”. This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark
<b>Print colours:</b>	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black
<b>Perforations:</b>	SG 14½, ZSC 14¼ Left 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 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading down

**Print numbers:**

\$1,500	1,143,200	\$9,000	150,000
\$13,000	130,000	\$16,500	130,000

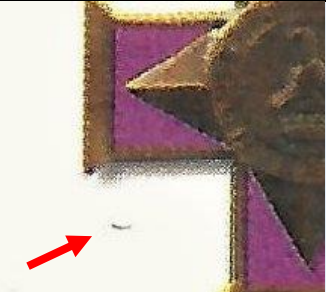
**Issue date:** 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2004

**Listed varieties**

No listed varieties have been noted.

**Unlisted Varieties**

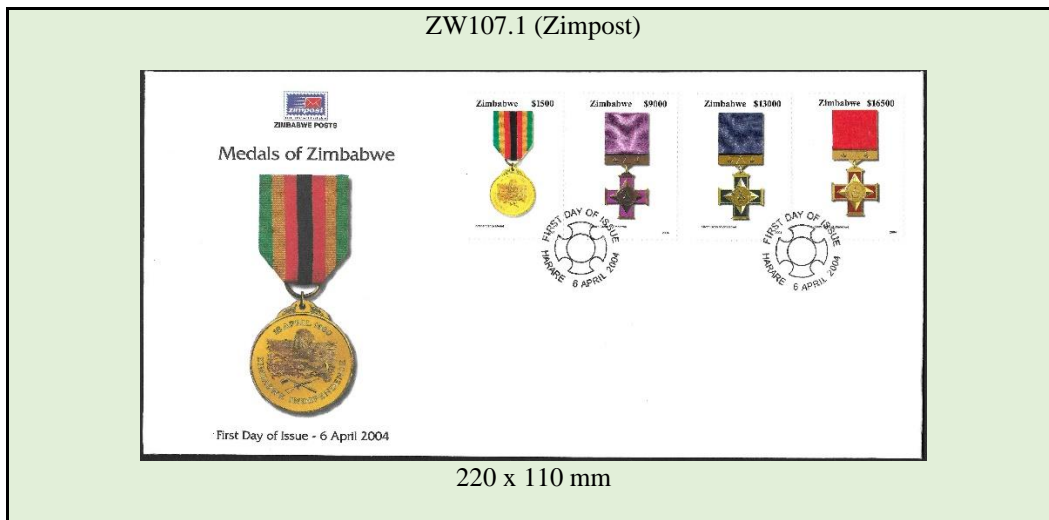
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Also noted that there are some minor plate shifts. No significant varieties have been reported.

 <p><b>\$9,000:</b> Black curl to left of medal cross (<i>Courtesy Narendhra Morar</i>)</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.

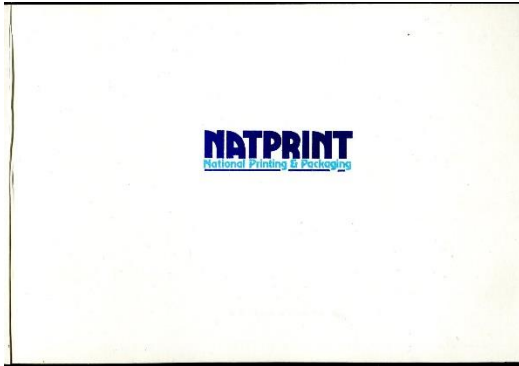


## Related Material

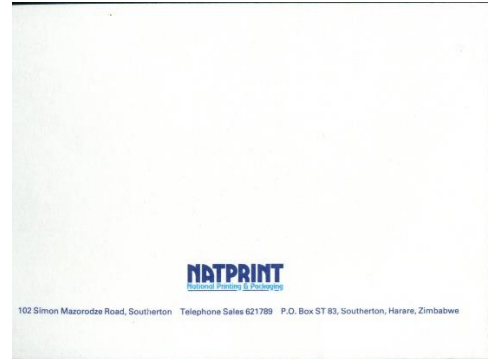
### Natprint Proof Presentation Cards

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.

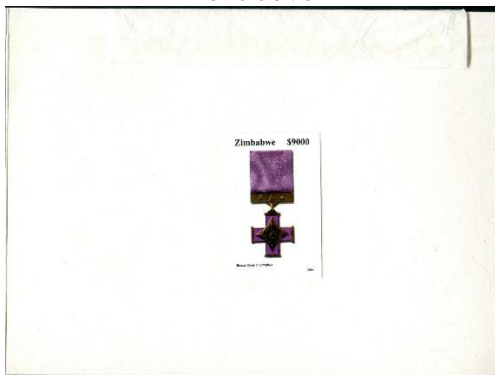
*(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)*



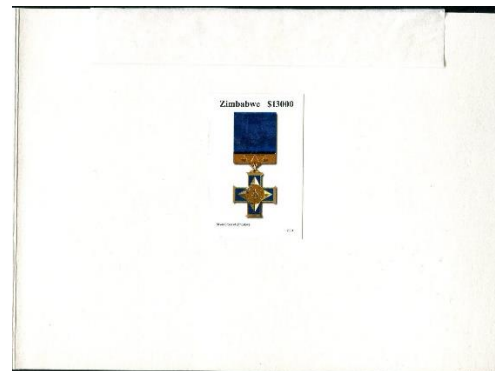
Front cover



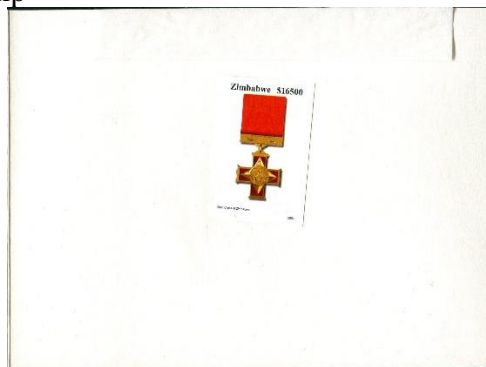
Inside front cover



\$9,000 stamp



\$13,000 stamp

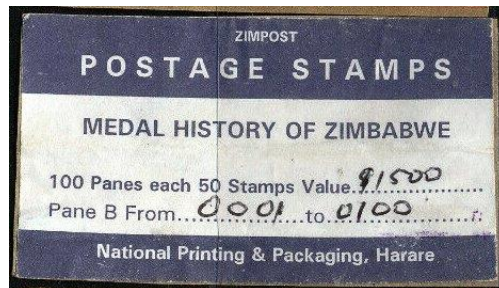


\$16,500 stamp

## Delivery labels

Delivery label from packaging containing 100 sheets of each of the two values, for the \$1,500 cylinder 1B value, showing sheet numbers 0001 to 0100 were contained in the package. The blue label is usually used for the Cyl 1a labels and the brown label for Cyl 1B

*(Source eBay)*



## 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 2 of 2004