

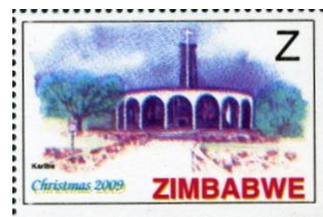
CHRISTMAS 2009 CONTEMPORARY RURAL CHURCHES

Issued 15th December, 2009

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 5 of 2009)²

Z Santa Barbara's

This Catholic Church on the Kariba Heights was built at the instigation of the Italian Contracting Firm which was involved in erecting the Kariba Dam wall to serve as an electricity generation site for the Federation grid.



Since most of the local population and the Italians involved were devout Catholics, it was natural that the basic design was conceived in Rome and it is a small replica of Saint Peter's Chapel at the Vatican. Inside the church is a granite stone plaque which carries the names of the Italians who worked on the Dam wall.

It was built in 1958 and has seen many local people as well as tourists worshipping there. It symbolizes the unity of the Christian Church worldwide. Its Christmas service is renowned far beyond our borders.

A Regina Coeli

The Catholic Church at Nyamaropa irrigation scheme, which was established in 1958, was designed by the local Priest and built entirely from materials produced locally.



The roof is very tall so that the inside of the church is constantly cooled and the decorations inside the church were done by local devotees of the Catholic Mission.

Being only 6 kilometres from the Mozambique border the church is easily accessible through a ford in the Gaerezi River, so it serves the Mozambican Catholics as well.

The church itself was completed in 1961 and has remained basically unaltered since that time. A vibrant congregation of Catholics combine modern trends in church with rural traditions, thus making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

E: Elim

This Evangelical Church is situated in Katerere, Eastern Zimbabwe. It used to be reached only by trails over the mountains. During the Chimurenga war of the 1970's it was completely destroyed by Rhodesian forces. The colonialists suspected it of being a base for guerrilla attacks.



In 1981 a new church was built using beautiful rocks from the mountains as well as having plastering materials supplied by well-wishers from the Elim Church in Bristol, South West England. The type of worship is Pentecostal, liberating praise to God for His deliverance and grace.

R: Mbumba

This Free Presbyterian Church in the heart of Matabeleland North in Nkayi District is in a drought prone area and serves a unique population of Christians. The structure is very basic and no instruments of any kind adorn the church inside.



The devout congregation is completely segregated, the men on the right-hand side of the preacher and the women on the left; obeying literally St. Paul's instruction, women do not pray, read scripture or preach in the church (1 Corinthians 11:3; 14:34) and only metrical psalms are sung.

The congregation meets twice each day (Saturday and Sunday) in order to start and close the day in God's Sovereign will.



(50% of normal size)

Note on design

All the sheet stamps have a border round the entire design, but in the miniature sheet the border line is only present on the vertical sides

Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1289	699	Z	St Barbara's Catholic Church, Kariba Heights
1290	700	A	Regina Coeli Catholic Church, Nyamaropa
1291	701	E	Elim Evangelical Church, Katerere
1292	702	R	Mbumba Free Presbyterian Church, Nkayi
MS1293	MS25		Miniature sheet with stamps se-tenant in block

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet stamps: 42 x 28 mm Miniature sheet: 125 x 101 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
Artist:	Cindy Stamps
Paper:	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
Print colours:	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black
Perforations:	Sheet stamps: SG 14½, ZSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate Miniature sheets: Imperforate margins
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe
Printer’s Imprint:	Sheet stamps only: Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black
Cylinder numbers:	Sheet stamps only: Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Colour register:	Sheet stamps only: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Sheet Value:	Sheet stamps only: Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black.
Sheet Number:	Type SN 7 with printed ‘ZIMPOST’ prefix, right margin opposite R1/5, reading down
Print numbers:	Z 10,000 A 10,000 E 10,000 R 10,000 Miniature sheet 3,000
Issue date:	15 th December 2009

Postal Rates

The postal rates applicable at the date of issue were those effective from 18th February 2009, which are quoted in United States dollars, as follows:

Z US\$0.25 A US\$0.50 E US\$0.75 R US\$1.00

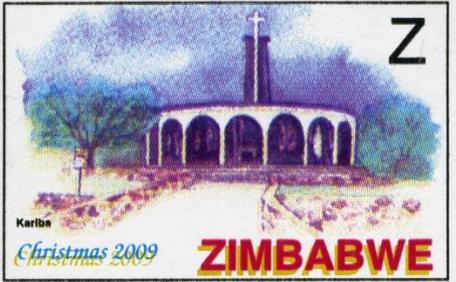
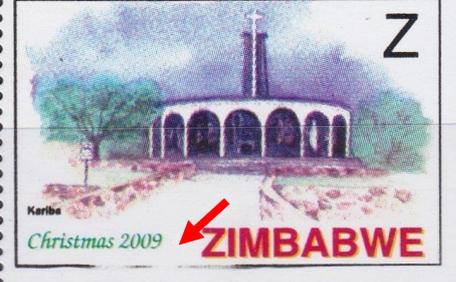
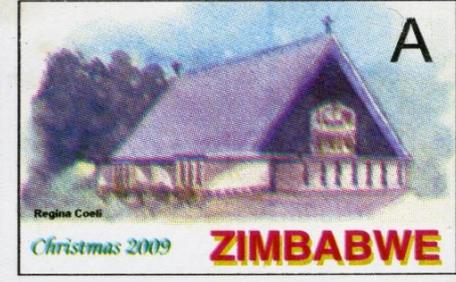
Listed varieties

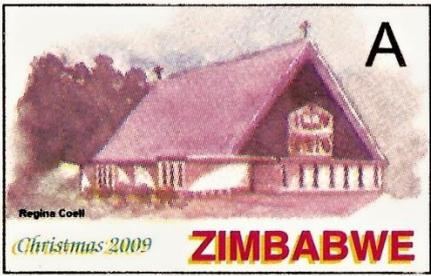
No listed varieties have been noted.

Unlisted Varieties

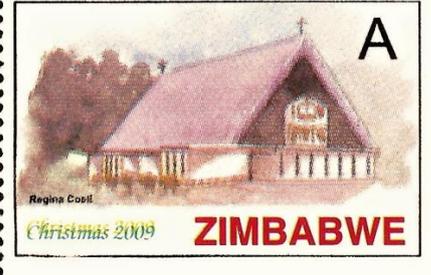
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps.

As can be seen from the examples below, movement of the yellow plate has changed the intended colour of the text 'Christmas 2009'. The frame to the design is also variable.

	 <p>Z value: Yellow plate movement down and to the left</p>
	<p>Z Value: Broken lower frame line <i>(Courtesy of Malte Luekber)</i></p>
	 <p>A value: Yellow plate movement down on country's name, 'Christmas' not affected.</p>



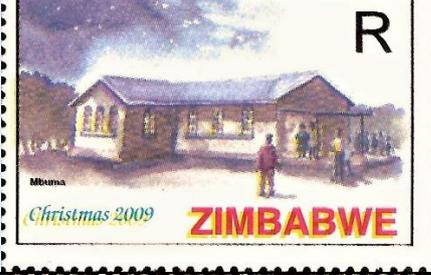
A value: Yellow plate movement to left and slightly down.
(Courtesy of Narendhar Morar)



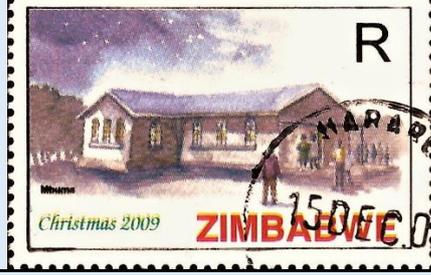
A value: Yellow plate move upwards affecting 'Christmas 2009' only. Frame inconsistent.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



E value: movement of yellow to right



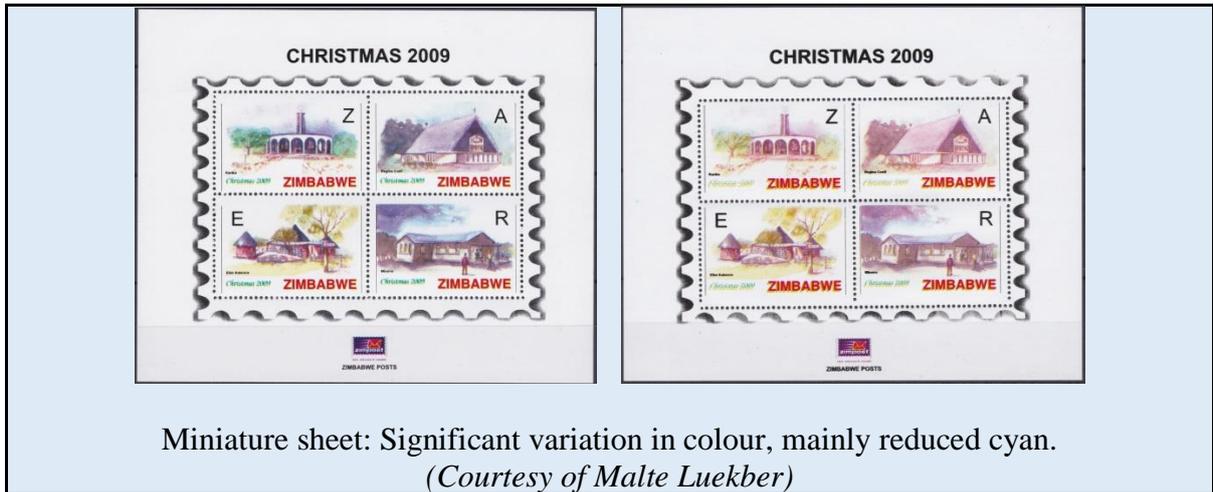
R value: Yellow plate movement down and to left. Weak frame below.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



R value: Yellow plate movement up.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



Miniature sheet: Movements of cyan and yellow plates



First Day Cover

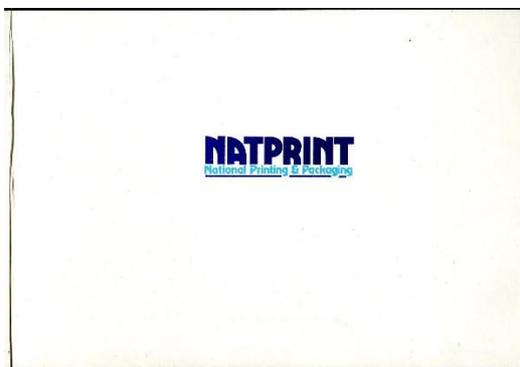
No first day covers were made available by the Philatelic Bureau, covers can, however be found with the Harare First Day of Issue canceller on plain covers and Bureau manila stationery.

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)



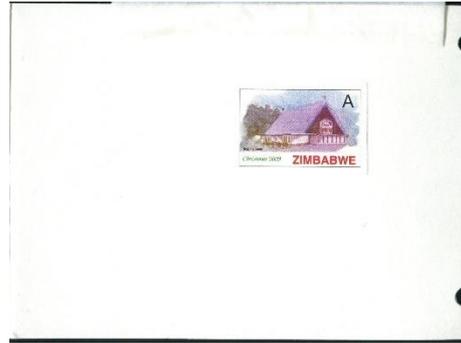
Front cover



Inside front cover



Z value stamp



A value stamp



E value stamp



R value 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 5 of 2009