

NATIONAL HEROES (6th Series)

Issued 27th July, 2011

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2011)²

25c: Tarcissius Malan George Silundika

Born: Plumtree 1929: Died: 9 April, 1981, in office, at Kaguvi Building, Harare, Buried: Heroes Acre, 12th of April, 1981

T G, as George Silundika was popularly known, became politically active in 1940s and was expelled from Fort Hare University in East London South Africa in 1951 because of his revolutionary activities. Twelve months later he was deported back to Rhodesia from South Africa and became an active Executive member of all of the black political parties- ANC, NDP and ZAPU - before they were banned.

In 1963 he was sent by the party Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) to Lusaka to direct the first stages of the armed struggle. There he built a strengthened ZIPRA, as well as trying to unify ZANLA and ZIPRA to achieve greater unity of purpose and active involvement.

He was a prominent ZAPU negotiator at the Lancaster Conference, and was elected ZAPU MP for Matabeleland South. He was appointed Minister of Roads, Road Traffic, Posts and Telecommunications in the new Government, and died while at work in his office on April 9th 1981. He left a wife and 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls.



30c: Julia Zvobgo

Born: 8 November, 1937 in Shurugwi: Died: 16 February, 2004 in Kambanje, Harare, Buried: Heroes Acre, 19th of February, 2004

Julia Zvobgo was the third born in a peasant family, the Whandes, of five girls and two boys. She did her primary education at three mission schools later proceeding to Tegwani for her secondary education, and then enrolling to teacher training at Gutu Mission. She qualified as a teacher in 1958, and proceeded to Usher Mission in 1961, where she pursued a diploma in Domestic Science.

Whilst at Usher she met her future husband Eddison Jonas Mudadirwa Zvobgo, who was on his way to Tufts University in Massachusetts USA. Soon after they got married, she became pregnant with her first child, and as a result stayed at home in Shurugwi.



On his return from America Eddison was arrested and sentenced to 18 months in prison at the same time as ZANU was banned. Julia Zvobgo's commitment to her family and nationalist values strengthened her to endure the constant harassment and physical torture of the Rhodesian Security Agency who accused her of smuggling political messages. As a result she went to the UK and completed a diploma in Institutional Management at Leeds Polytechnic. She re-joined her husband in USA where she got her BA in Political Science, subsequently attaining a Master of Science Degree.

She was elected in 1978 as Administrative Secretary for Women's' Affairs in Mozambique where she

attended to the problems of women in military and refugee camps there. She became a member of the first group of ZANU PF Cadres to return after the Lancaster House Conference in December 1979 and worked hard at the party's head office in 88 Manica Road (now Robert Mugabe Road). She was imprisoned for two weeks in the 1980 election campaign for allegedly assisting ZANLA forces in the Zvishavane area, and was released after the election.

She was elected MP for the Midlands Constituency for ZANU PF in 1980 elections and was subsequently elected secretary for Publicity and Information in Women's League in 1984. She was re-elected as MP for Zvishavane in 1985 and after 1990 concentrated on family affairs because her husband had at that time was a very busy Minister in the Government. She had three children - two daughters and a son.

85c: Ariston Maguranyanga Chambati

Born: 15 November, 1934: Died: 7 October, 1995 in Highlands, Harare, Buried: Heroes Acre, 11th of October, 1995

A talented student, he attended Brandly Institute in Mashonaland Central for his primary education, proceeding to Howard Institute and then moving to Tegwani secondary school in Plumtree. In 1956, he joined the City Youth league and became treasurer for the Harari (Mbare) Branch of the SRANC. In 1960 he was one of the founding members of the National Democratic Party (NDP), after it was banned joined the successor organisation (ZAPU). He always opposed racism, settler rule and lack of majority rule independence. He wrote many articles and pamphlets in the 1960s challenging white supremacy.



As a result of ZAPU being banned in 1964, he furthered his education in Princeton University in USA, later obtaining a PhD at Oxford University, England. He was an active member of the ZAPU whilst studying and in 1975 he became deputy Secretary General of ANC ZAPU. In 1979, he became secretary for ZAPU research in Lusaka, and attended the Lancaster Conference, being joint-secretary for the combined Patriotic Front delegation.

Largely because of his skill and ability and his wide experience the Lancaster House conference was the success at that time was recognized. In 1980 he became a member for ZAPU in Mashonaland West provincial constituency, and was able debater and influential parliamentarian. In October 1980 he was appointed Zimbabwe's first ambassador to West Germany, returning home in 1982. Between 1984 and 1987 he was actively involved in promoting unity between ZANU and ZAPU culminating in the Unity Accord on 22 December 1987.

He realized that political equality of the majority was not enough to advance their cause and so he became one of the first black Zimbabweans to become a member of previously exclusively white boards such as Barclays Bank, Munich Reinsurance (South Africa) and African Lakes Corporation PLC (UK). He rose to become chairman and chief Executive of TA Holdings. At the time of his appointment as Minister of Finance, TA was the largest local multinational, employing over ten thousand people.

As a Minister of the Government, he had to surrender his commercial income and his position as a head of TA. He did this because of his commitment to Zimbabwe in the difficulty time of Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP), which resulted in a major contraction of national budget.

\$1: Joseph Luke Culverwell

Born: 10 July, 1918 in Johannesburg, Died 16th July, 1993 in Harare Buried, Heroes Acre, 22nd of July, 1993

Joseph Culverwell was born while his mother was on a short trip to South Africa from Bulawayo. He attended Me Keurtan (Bulawayo) and Moffat, Arcadia, Salisbury, primary schools. Then he completed his education in Cape Town and Nottingham, England. He had an industrious teaching career of 27 years, teaching in Zambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Iran and England. He served as a sergeant in the second world war in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Egypt after the war he became involved with the

liberation struggle with such political veterans as George Nyandoro, James Chikerema and Joshua Nkomo, actively participating in the inaugural meeting of the African National Congress of the Southern Rhodesia.

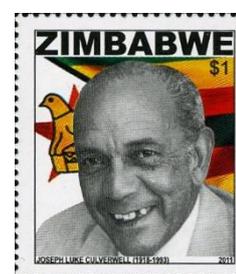
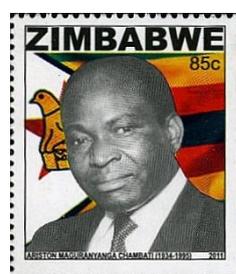
He became a member of ZAPU and after it was banned ZANU in the 1960s, realizing his ambition, formed in 1938 when he was elected secretary general of the National Association of Coloured Peoples. He often joked that he was a "pure coloured".

He was imprisoned for 18 months in 1967 by the Rhodesian Authorities for political activity, but subsequently taught in Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and England, supporting the liberation struggle and ZANU PF by obtaining clothes medicines and ambulances for war liberators fighting in this country. He also supported Zimbabwe refugees by being elected Chairman and securing jobs, accommodation and scholarships for exiles. He was a delegate both in Geneva and in Lancaster House.

After independence he was made a senator and deputy Minister of Education and Culture. In 1988 until 1992 he was Minister of State in the President's office responsible for National Scholarships. He became deputy Minister of Higher Education, due to his advancing age and ill health he left Parliament and Government in 1992, dying less than year later.

(No photo available)

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1318	725	25c	George Silundika
1319	726	30c	Joyce Zvobgo
1320	727	85c	Ariston Chambati
1321	728	\$1	Joseph Culverwell

Technical details

Stamp size: Sheet stamps: 30 x 35 mm

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

Artist: Lucia Marisamhuka

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:** SG 14 x 14½; ZSC 14 x 14¼
Left margin: Perforated through
Other margins: Imperforate
- Printer:** NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe
- Printer's Imprint:** Bottom Margin, below Row 5 Columns 5 and 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:**
- | | | | |
|-----|--------|-----|--------|
| 25c | 10,000 | 30c | 10,000 |
| 85c | 10,000 | \$1 | 10,000 |
- Issue date:** 27th July 2011

Postal Rates

The postal rates applicable at the date of issue were those effective from, 11th July 2011 and quoted in United States dollars. Whilst the 85c (Europe) and \$1 (Rest of the World) rates were included, there was still no stamp for African destinations (75c). The rates were local postage rates for box (25c) and street (30c) delivery.

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds which are more noticeable with the solid colours

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.

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, and is now published on the Rhodesian Study Circle website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2011