

WORLD POST DAY

Issued 9th October, 2014

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2014)²

9th October 1874 marks the day when the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Treaty was signed in Berne, Switzerland. The Union was faced with numerous challenges in its history, including the mail delivery during the two world wars. The UPU treaty was mainly concerned with "letter post". In the 1960's the Universal Postal Union decolonized its membership resulting in the numerous membership of less developed countries, Zimbabwe being one of them and these countries were technically assisted by the United Nations Development fund.



30c: Ancient Post-Runner

A messenger used for delivering less urgent documents and were selected among the young and energetic men. The "Post Runner" was also known as the "Chasqui". However, in case of urgent documents dispatch and delivery, horses and express wagons were used. The main challenges faced by the "Post-Runner" were unfavourable geographical conditions and unpredictable weather.



Mail coach at Mazoe

75c: Horse Borne Post

This was one of the ancient means of announcing the arrival of mail. The method was mostly associated with the Romans during the ancient times in France, under the rule of King Louis. However, this Postage method was also used in the then called Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. For the easy announcing of the arrival of mail, the "Horse-Borne Postman" would blow a horn to draw villagers' attention.



85c: Harare Main Post Office

Established in 1890 in Salisbury, now Harare. The post office operates under ZIMPOST (Pvt) Ltd, which is a government parastatal of Zimbabwe. The Central Post Office has been and still offers Postal-related services. ZIMPOST is a member of the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) and Universal Postal Union (UPU). Significantly, ZIMPOST is currently operating in line with the Global Postal Strategy (GPS) in the dimensions of human resource, physical resource, financial and digital.

\$1: The Post Bus



The ZIMPOST has recently purchased the post buses and other vehicles as part of assets meant to assist in the provision of services in under-served areas. These areas include the underprivileged and marginalised, which are normally shunned by businesses as a result of lack of commercial viability. Presently, ZIMPOST has achieved some tangible results including modernising the post boxes, converting rural post offices into rural ICT centres. Some of the Post Buses are being used as Mobile Post Office Vehicles (MPOV).

The Stamps



Catalogue Listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1378	779	30c	Ancient Post-Runner
1379	780	75c	Horse Borne Post
1380	781	85c	Harare Main Post Office
1381	782	\$1	The Post Bus

Technical details

Stamp size: Sheet stamps: 35 x 30 mm

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

Artist: Fredy Tembo

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 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 10 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 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R1/5 reading down

Bar codes: Right margin opposite R9 & 10/5, printed in black, numbers:
 All values 2 009113 000028
 (Note: for an unknown reason all sheets contain the same bar code number, which is also the same one used for the 30c Model A stamp of the Historic Transport issue)

Print numbers:

30c	200,000	75c	10,000
85c	10,000	\$1	10,000

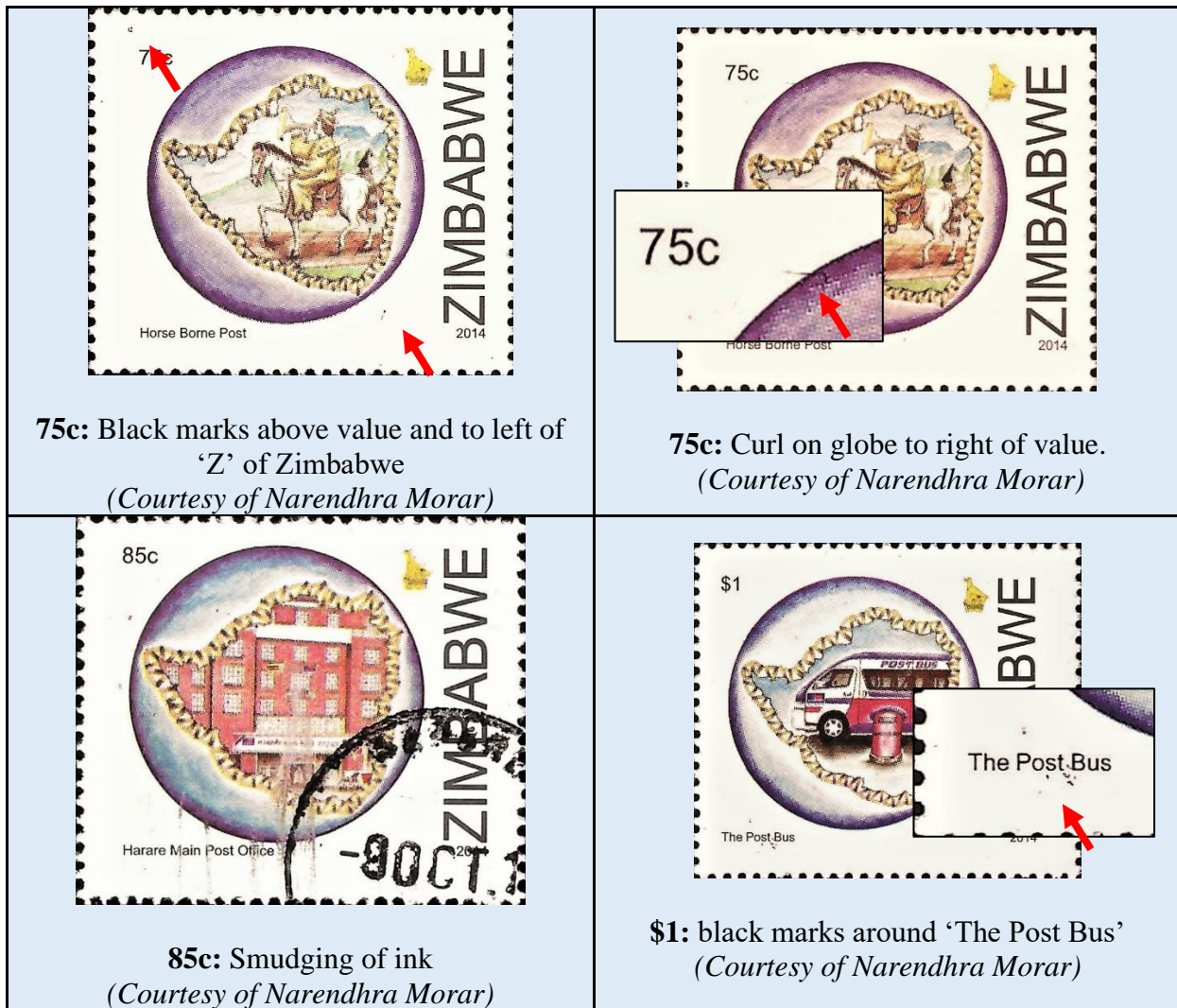
Issue date: 9th October 2014

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

Unlisted Varieties

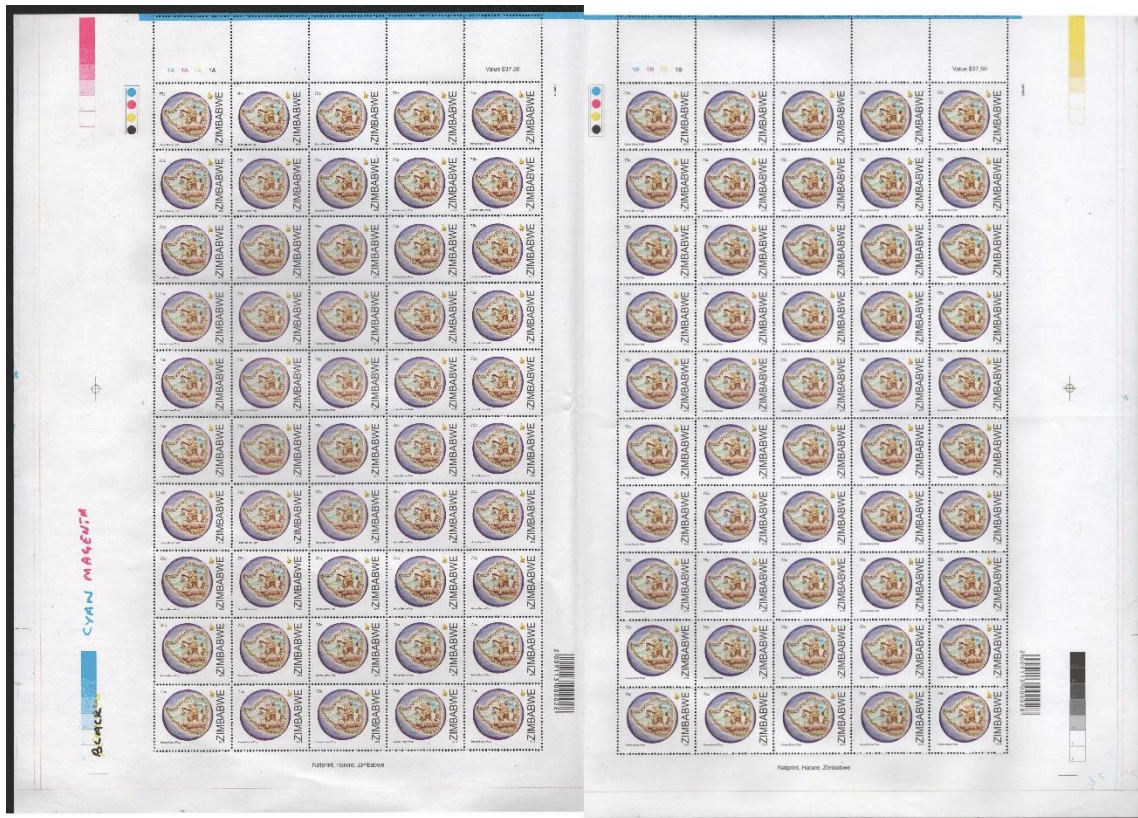
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds which are more noticeable with the solid colours



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.

Related Matters



Single sheet, with printer's other notations, prior trimming of the printing sheet, receiving the sheet number and being split into the two 1A & 1B sheets.

(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)

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 4 of 2014