

36th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Issued 17th September 1990

(Extracts from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 1990)²

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was founded in 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association with its affairs administered by the United Kingdom Branch.

Evolving with the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association adopted its present name in 1948 and changed its rules to enable all member branches to participate in the Association management. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is an association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who are united by the community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms and by pursuit of the ideals of parliamentary democracy. It is composed of branches formed in legislatures of Commonwealth countries and as a result Zimbabwe is a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



The Zimbabwe Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has about 160 members most of whom are life members. Since independence in 1980 the Zimbabwe Branch has hosted two Regional Conferences and this year is hosting the plenary session. The Association aims to promote understanding and co-operation between Parliamentarians and to encourage the study of and respect for parliamentary institutions.

35c — Speaker's Mace

The Mace is one item whose significance and historical importance is associated with the Westminster parliamentary government. It is a symbol of the authority of the Assembly, through the Speaker of the House, and because of its importance there can be no sitting of the Assembly without the Mace.

The origin of the Mace can be traced as far back as the medieval time. It descended from a heavy spiked and serrated club-like weapon used during that time. The first ceremonial Maces were borne by the Serjeant-at-Arms, a royal bodyguard established in France and later in England.

In the course of the 13th century ceremonial Maces began to be ornamented with precious metals and jewels. The idea of having a Mace in the then Rhodesian Parliament was introduced by the Colonial Secretary, Sir Francis Newton, after the start of the first session of the first Legislative Assembly in June, 1924.

He believed that the introduction of the Mace would maintain the dignity of the House by the exhibition of such a symbol. The first Mace was supplied by Garrard and Company of London in 1925.

The Senate Mace, presented to the Senate by the House of Assembly in 1970 was designed and made in Harare. It was made of the then Rhodesian silver and gold and was embellished with Sandawana emeralds presented to Parliament for the purpose.

\$1,00 — Speaker's Chair

The first Speaker's Chair in the House was one used by the Administrators of Southern Rhodesia until 1923. It was used by the Speakers from that time until 1985 when a new Chair was presented to the Zimbabwean House of Assembly by the House of Commons in keeping with their long-standing Commons tradition of presenting Speakers' Chairs to independent Parliaments of former colonies.

The first Chair was made in 1899 by Messrs Isaacs and Company of Cape Town in consultation with the Public Works Department of the then Southern Rhodesia. and features the Rhodesian Coat-of-Arms, the Zimbabwe bird and Chevron pattern, the flame lily and the Lion and Thistle from Rhodes' Coat-of-Arms.

In the day to day ceremonies of both Houses, the Mace plays an important part. It is carried by the Serjeant-at-Arms and precedes the Speaker and in the case of the Senate, the President of the Senate, in their daily processions to and from their respective Chambers.

While the Speaker or the President is in the Chair, the Mace rests on the brackets on the top of the table of the House. When the House goes into committee and the Speaker or President leaves the Chair, the Mace is transferred to the lower brackets beneath the table.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC¹	Value	Description
798	225	35c	Speaker's Mace
799	226	\$1	Speaker's Chair

Technical details

Stamp size:	All values	28 x 42 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
Artist:	C A Robertson	
Paper:	ZSC paper type D – HS8, fluorescent front and back, with cream PVA gum.	
Print colours:	Black, magenta, cyan, yellow	
Perforations:	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 5/10, printed in black.	
Sheet Number:	Type SN 4a with 'PTC' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading down	
Print numbers:	35c	256,000 \$1 150,000
Issue date:	17 th September 1990	
Withdrawal from sale:		
Demonetarisat	20 th June 1994	

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. Some dots and specks shown below are a bit more distinctive, some may be constant.



35c: Imperforate proof
(Source: eBay April 2021)



\$1: Magenta line to bottom margin through cylinder numbers
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)

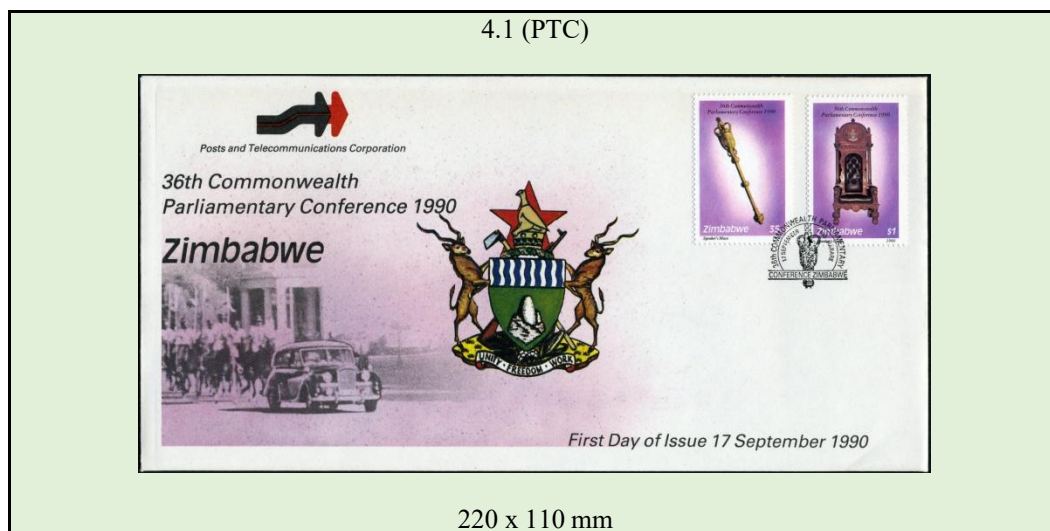
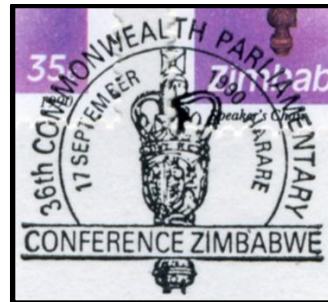


Printer's sample proof
(Source eBay August 2025)

First Day Covers

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.



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. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 1990.

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2021	30c: imperf proof
12/2025	Printer's sample proof