2000 FIFTH DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Issued 25th January 2000

The 5th definitive issue depicted fauna, commerce and development. Unlike previous issues the different subjects were dispersed throughout the issue. In dealing with the elements, the following description is brought together under the three themes rather than in value order. The first day covers were collated by theme. *(Extracts from card stiffener with first day covers)*[2]

Fauna: Birds and Animals

1c: Nyala *Tragelaphus angasii*



The Nyala is not a common animal in Zimbabwe and has a shoulder height of 1.1m. Its habitat is restricted mainly to dense bush and riverine vegetation in the south east and extreme north of Zimbabwe. The male and female Nyala are very different in appearance with the male being almost twice as large the female with a shaggy slate grey coat and several vertical white stripes down the flanks. It has horns averaging 60cm in length. The female is hornless and chestnut in colour. They are gregarious and occur in savanna thickets. A single fawn is born.



$2.00: Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

The Nile Crocodile is common throughout Zimbabwe inhabiting nearly all rivers and dams and is a top-rank predator. It is a most adaptable opportunist and one of the most successful predators of man. Its diet is varied and depends entirely on what is available. In mature crocodiles of three metres or more in length the diet consists mainly of fish if plentiful, but may be supplemented with animals, birds and other reptiles. Large crocodiles, over four metres in length, will replace the fish on its diet with mammals which will provide as much as 50% of its food.

$4.00: Plains or Burchell's Zebra *Equus burchellii*

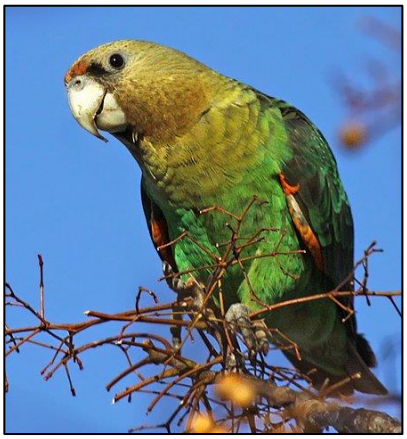


The Plains Zebra or Burchell's Zebra is common throughout Zimbabwe's main National Parks but extremely rare in the more populated areas. It has a shoulder height of 1.33m and inhabits the open plains and savanna woodlands. The Plains Zebra nearly always has 'shadow stripes' superimposed on the white stripes particularly on the hindquarters. They are gregarious grazers and a single foal is born. Zebra herds may number from five to thirty and are often associated with wildebeest. They are very water dependent and when necessary will dig for water



$10.00: Ostrich *Struthio camelus*
The ostrich is common throughout Zimbabwe. It is a large flightless bird of 2 metres in height and capable of running at speeds of at least 50-60 kph. It normally occurs in flocks of 30-40 birds. Its food consists of mainly grass, berries, seeds, plants, small reptiles and insects. The female usually lays clutches of 16-23 eggs with an incubation period of 39-53 days by both male and female birds. The ostrich is farmed throughout Zimbabwe for both its meat and feathers.

$15.00: Cape Parrot *Poicephalus robustus*
Sometimes known as the Brownnecked Parrot. This medium to large parrot of about 35 cm in length is common throughout Zimbabwe. It inhabits evergreen and riverine forest areas as well as well developed woodlands. Its voice is a piercing high pitched screech especially while in flight. It occurs in flocks of up to twelve birds. Its diet consists of mainly berries, kernels of fruit, seeds and figs. It nests in a hole high in a tree and lays up to 27 eggs with an incubation period of 69 days.





$30.00: Lilacbreasted Roller *Coracias caudata*
The Lilacbreasted Roller is common throughout Zimbabwe where it inhabits savanna or open woodlands. Approximately 35cm in length, it is recognisable in flight by its characteristic looping up and over actions. It is attracted by grass fires where it feeds on fleeing insects. (Locusts, beetles, caterpillars, ants, scorpions, centipedes, snails, frogs, small snakes and lizards). It has also been known to eat small birds and rodents

Commerce and Industry

10c: Construction
Zimbabwe is actively involved in a far reaching policy of reconstruction and new developments. The building of low-density housing, multi-million dollar complexes, dams and road construction utilising the skills of many industries.

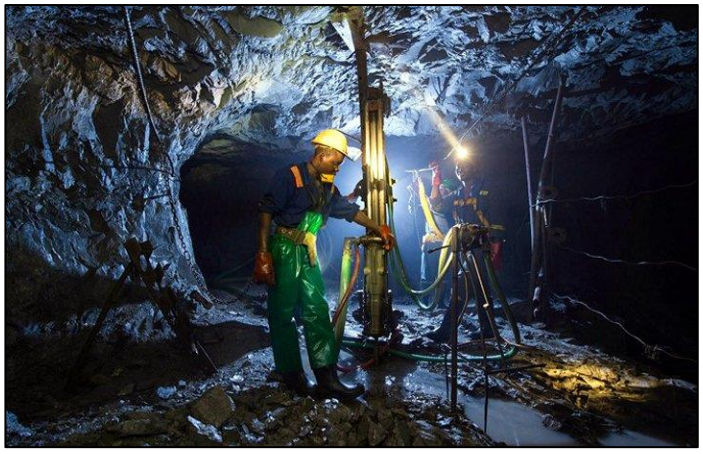




30c: Timber
The growing of Timber in Zimbabwe is mostly in the hands of a few large organisations who have an ongoing reforestation mandate. Many companies utilise this wood for furniture, paper, tools, construction etc.

50c: Tobacco Auctions
Harare is the base for the largest Tobacco Auction facilities in the world. Over two million kilograms can be handled in a day with buyers from all over the world bidding for the finest flue cured tobacco.

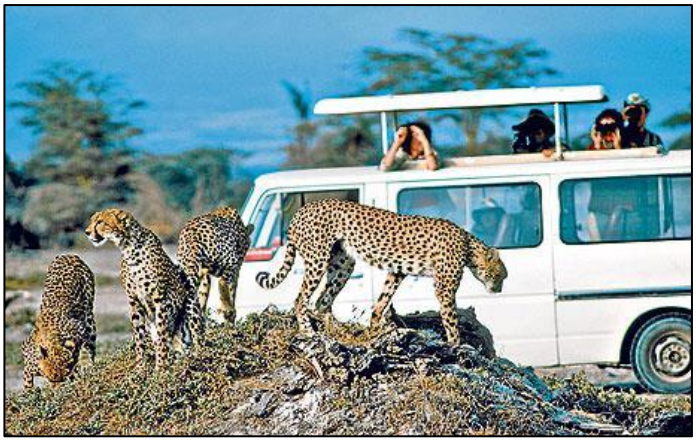




$5.00: Mining
Approximately 4% of the labour force in Zimbabwe is employed in the mining industry. The Country is rich in mineral deposits, the main mining is in gold, copper, chrome, tin, nickel, coal, phosphates and asbestos.

$20.00: Leather Products
The leather industry encompasses a wide variety of products and materials including crocodile, ostrich, game, sheep skins, as well as cattle hides. Many fine products are created for use in shoes, clothing, luggage, furniture and industrial materials.





$50.00: Tourism
Zimbabwe provides tourist facilities ranging from back packers to five-star hotels. Attractions include wildlife, waterfalls, mountains, rapids, lakes, thermal springs, casinos, arts and crafts. This stamp depicts the Great Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls and the Matopos.

Development 2000

Zimbabwe has developed new projects which will contribute towards the expansion of the national infrastructure. They include improving existing services as well as developing completely new ones. The following six projects have been chosen to feature Zimbabwe's entry into the new century.



70c: Harare Central Sorting Office
Posts and Telecommunications Corporation. This new sorting office is ideally situated as a centre for the SADCC region. With advanced handling capabilities and modern equipment, it will provide fast and reliable mail sorting and postal transport within the SADCC Region as well as with foreign countries thereby facilitating local and international postal services.

80c: The new Harare International Airport
The New Harare International Airport whose design is inspired from the Great Zimbabwe architecture is expected to be completed during the first half of the year 2000. It will accommodate 1,7 million travellers a year when complete. The new airport is designed to have three loading bridges with a possibility of expansion to five bridges and then seven bridges ultimately. *(Now known as the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport)*





$1.00: The Westgate Shopping Complex
Clean, green and serene, Westgate is a modern one-stop shopping complex with a full range of banks, shops and entertainment facilities for the whole family. Developed by Old Mutual, a leading Zimbabwe financial company it was first opened in 1997. It is situated 15 minutes from Harare city on the Kariba Road

$3.00: The Pungwe Water Project

The Pungwe Project is comprised of a tunnel and pipeline which carries water from the Pungwe River to existing reservoirs at Christmas Pass near Mutare, via the water treatment works on the Odzani River. The water flows by gravity avoiding the need for pumps. This stamp depicts the intake control from the Pungwe River into the tunnel which is over 4km long. The combined pipeline is over 73 km long.





$7.00: NUST - The National University of Science and Technology.

NUST is located in Bulawayo and was chosen to participate in the African Virtual University whose mission is to use the power of modern information technology to increase access to educational resources throughout Africa. AVU operates as an open university and is the first interactive instructional telecommunications network established to serve the continent. Lectures are beamed from the Control Centre via satellite to 16 different African countries.

$100.00: Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam

The Mukorsi Dam is located on the Tokwe River and is comprised of a concrete faced rock filled embankment 89.2 m in height and 351 m in length. The dam will supply water for irrigation to the sugar estates and to commercial farmers. On completion the dam will be the highest dam and will have the largest inland lake in Zimbabwe with a potential for the generation of power.



First Cover Illustrations



Birds & Animals



Commerce and Industry



Development 2000

Giraffe Communications Horticultural industry

The Stamps

Birds and Animals



Commerce and Industry



Development 2000



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Paper type F – unless stated
1004	432	1c	Nyala
1005	433	10c	Construction
	a.		Non-fluorescent front and back (Paper type H)
1006	434	30c	Timber
1007	435	50c	Tobacco Auction Floors, Harare
1008	436	70c	Harare Central Sorting Office
1009	437	80c	Harare New International Airport
1010	438	$1	Westgate Shopping Complex, Harare
1011	439	$2	Nile Crocodile
	a.		Fluorescent front and back (Paper type D)
	b.		Non-fluorescent front and back (Paper type H)
1012	440	$3	Pungwe Water Project, Nyanga
	a.		Fluorescent front and back (Paper type D)
1013	441	$4	Burchell's Zebra
	a.		Non-fluorescent front and back (Paper type H)
1014	442	$5	Mining (Paper type F)
	a.		Fluorescent front and back (Paper type D)
	b.		Non-fluorescent front and back (Paper type H)
1015	443	$7	NUST – National University of Science and Technology (Paper type F)
	a.		Fluorescent front and back (Paper type D)
1016	444	$10	Ostrich (Paper type F)
	a.		Fluorescent front and back (Paper type D)
	b.		Non-fluorescent front and back (Paper type H)
1017	445	$15	Cape Parrot
1018	446	$20	Leather Products
	a.		Fluorescent front and back (Paper type D)
	b.		Non-fluorescent front and back (Paper type H)
1019	447	$30	Lilacbreasted Roller
1020	448	$50	Tourism, Victoria Falls (Matopos & Great Zimbabwe)
	a.		Non-fluorescent front and back (Paper type H)
1021	449	$100	Tokwe Mukorsi Dam.
	a.		Non-fluorescent front and back (Paper type H)

Technical details

Stamp size: All values 26 x 22 mm

Sheet Size: 100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps),
Each stamp with two panes per printed sheet

Artists:

Birds & Animals:	Cedric Herbert
Commerce & Industry:	Paula Ware
Development 2000;	Roland Pletts

Paper: Three papers were used during the period of this definitive issue, see explanation below.

(see notes below)

Print colours: All values - Black, magenta, cyan, yellow

Perforations: SG 14½, ZSC 14½
Right margin: Perforated through.
Other margins: Imperforate

Printer: Natprint., Harare, Zimbabwe

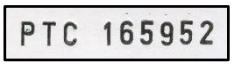
Printer's Imprint: All values bottom margin, below R10 C5 & 6

Cylinder numbers: Bottom margin below R10 C1& 2
All values reading from left – cyan, yellow, magenta, black

Colour register: Type TL4– round boxed – left margin opposite R9 & 10 C1
Colours reading down. All values – cyan, yellow, magenta, black

Sheet Value: Bottom margin, below R10 C10. Printed in black

Sheet Numbers: Original printing**:** Type SN 5a with 'PTC' prefix reading down, right margin, opposite: R9 & 10 C10, reading down.



There were two types of sheet numbering with the reprints

R1 reprints of $2, $5, $7 & $10 Type SN9 – a printed 'R1'. Unlike previous reprints, the 'R1' is printed during the printing of the stamps, rather than forming part of the part of the printing of the sheet numbers.



Other reprints: Type SN10 – a printed "R* ZIMPOST", (*denotes reprint number), in the sheet number no longer has the prefix 'PTC'



Print numbers: Unknown

Issue date: 25th January 2000

Withdrawal from sale:

Demonetarisation: Postal services were transferred in early 2001 from the PTC to Zimpost, a private limited company, wholly owned by the Government. As a private limited company, Zimpost is no longer required to place Postal Notices in the Government Gazette to give notice for the issue and demonetarisation of postage stamps. In theory, at least, all stamps issued after the change in ownership should be valid at any time for postal services. Although the 2000 definitive issue was released prior to the changeover, as a definitive issue it would not normally have stated its demonetarisation in the postal notice for the release of the issue.

Printings and paper types

Three papers were used for this issue, they were:

ZSC paper type D – HS8, another type of lithographic paper, fluorescent front and back, PVA cream gum.

ZSC paper type F - Although still officially described as HS8, the paper properties changed in 1996. This is fluorescent front but non-fluorescent back and the gum is whitish PVA. The main change is that as the base paper does not contain optical brighteners the gummed side is non-fluorescent, but nowhere near as dark as paper E under UV.

ZSC paper type H - The HS8 properties again changed in 2001. The paper is off- white and non-fluorescent front and back. PVA creamish gum. The shade intensity of the gummed side may vary occasionally under UV.

Type F was the paper in use since its introduction during the reprinting of the 1995 definitive. This paper was only used for the original or first printing of all the values of this issue.

Type D is a paper last used mainly in the first and second printing of the 1995 definitive before being replaced by types E and F. In the cases of the first reprint of the $5, $7 and $10, they are easy to tell apart form the other two papers as they have fluorescent backs.

But three values are known to be on type D paper during the first printing - $2, $3 and $30, all with proving sheet numbers. The $2 has been found in a complete sheet, PTC 176251; and $3 in block of 4 with sheet number PTC 41544. A number of the $30 have been found with sheet numbers PTC 43032 (Cyl 1A), PTC 43568 (Cyl 1B) – in double bottom rows – and PTC 21705 (Cyl 1B) – full sheet. These sheet numbers are widely spread indicating a larger print run than expected. (Thanks to Narendhra Morar for this information)

Type H was introduced with various reprintings of the 10c, $2, $4, $5, $10, $20, $50 and $100 values.

With the change in postal services ownership, the prefix to the sheet numbers changed from 2002 from “R- PTC” to “R- ZIMPOST”. What is different with the whole Zimpost prefix, including the R number is that the prefix was printed on the sheets in a different format to the sheet numbers. It would appear that the prefix was printed during the printing of the sheets themselves. Whether this was with a separate printing plate or on a new black printing sheet is not known. But it does present a departure from what was normal for definitive issue reprints. In the table below, the reprints are shown with the two different prefixes.

Value	Original	R1 PTC	R2 PTC		R1 Zimpost	R2 Zimpost
1c	22/01/2000					
10c	22/01/2000				Unknown	
30c	22/01/2000					
50c	22/01/2000					
70c	22/01/2000					
80c	22/01/2000					
$1.00	22/01/2000					
$2.00	22/01/2000#	Nov-01				
$3.00	22/01/2000#					
$4.00	22/01/2000				15/10/2002	
$5.00	22/01/2000	06/07/2001				15/10/2002
$7.00	22/01/2000	06/07/2001			unknown	
$10.00	22/01/2000	13/07/2001	15/10/2002			15/10/2002
$15.00	22/01/2000					
$20.00	22/01/2000#				15/10/2002	
$30.00	22/01/2000					
$50.00	22/01/2000				07/01/2003	
$100.00	22/01/2000				07/01/2003	?2003

Paper D	Paper F	Paper H

- includes use of Paper D, see description above

Commentary of the Issue

The first point to make is that no denomination issued by the PTC could have been more useless than the one cent stamp. Generally speaking, the lower value stamps (10c to $1) are make-up values to ensure correct postage is paid. But an examination of postal rates at the time the issue was released shows no postal rate that has not been rounded to the nearest ten cents. To use this one cent value, it would have been necessary, at the very minimum, to require ten stamps.

During the period that this definitive was in use postal rates began to increase significantly. Local postage at the time of release was $2, in May 2003 this had increased to the top denomination of $100! Below is a table showing postal rates from January 2000 to May 2005, it gives the initial postage rate for the four postal zones – Zimbabwe, Africa, Europe and the Rest of the World. This separation between the four zones would become more important in the years to come. Due to this rapid escalation of postal rates additional values needed to be added, see below.

Date	16/07/1999	12/12/2000	28/11/2001	10/6/2002	09/12/2002	01/05/2003
Zimbabwe	$2.00	$8.00	$12.00	$20.00	$30.00	$100.00
Africa	$9.10	$16.00	$25.00	$50.00	$50.00	$400.00
Europe	$12.00	$21.00	$35.00	$70.00	$110.00	$550.00
Rest	$16.00	$28.00	$45.00	$90.00	$140.00	$700.00

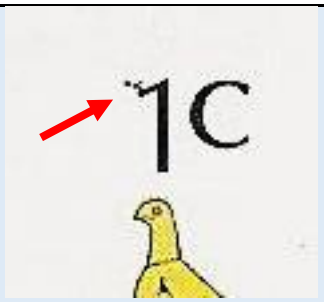
Listed Varieties

No listing of varieties of this issue has been located, apart from the changes of paper shown above

Unlisted varieties

The number of reported varieties of this issue is low when one considers the number of stamps in the set and the number of reprints that occurred. There are many instances of plate shifts in the printing of the stamps, these have not been recorded below.

It should be noted that there are colour differences through most of the stamps, this may be due to the additional printings but differences have been noted with single printing values. The most notable value with significant colour variations is the $100 value, some of which may be due to the double, treble or higher printing of one or more plates.



1c: Black mark on serif of '1' of value
Cyl 1A R5/8
(Courtesy N Morar)



1c: Black mark on body of Nyala. R4/2 (batch)

(Courtesy N Morar)



1c: Mark on horns of Nyala. R8-1 (batch)

(Courtesy N Morar)



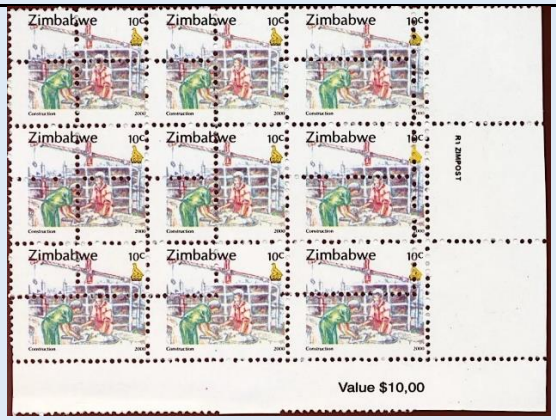
10c: Black line above 'Zi' of Zimbabwe
(Courtesy N Morar)

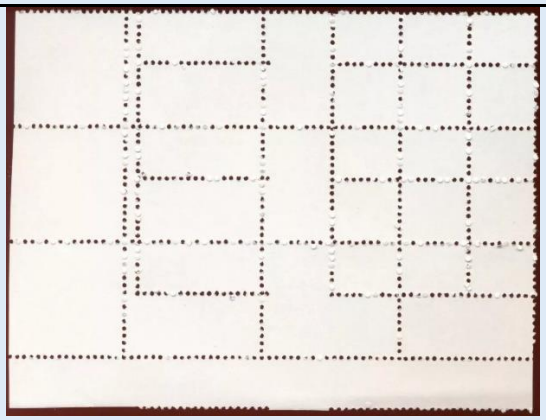


10c: Magenta spot above 'e' of Zimbabwe.
R1 Cyl 1B R4/3
(Courtesy N Morar)



10c: Outline of Zimbabwe bird to stamps in Column 10 considerably faded or lost. See contrast with the Zimbabwe bird in Column 9.
(Courtesy N Morar)





10c: Multiple perforsation pictured front & back.
Probable printer's waste
(Source eBay August 2024)



10c: Shift of perforation downwards, this example also shows a slight angle to the vertical perfs. Second printing (R1 Zimpost) on paper type H.

(Courtesy Jefferson Ritson)



$1: Shift of perforations to the left. First printing, paper type F



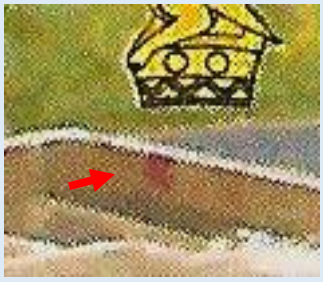
$2: Double printing of black ink
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



$2: Vertical cyan smudge. First printing, paper type F



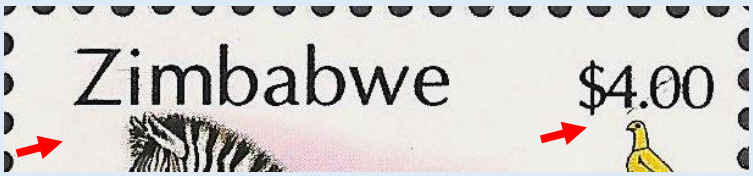
$2: Black ink smudges to text at the top. First printing, paper type F



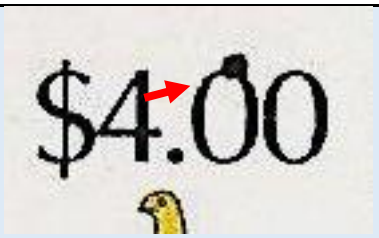
$3: red marking to rear of dam wall. Cyl 1B R1/1
(Courtesy N Morar)



$3: Red marking to left of white pipes above dam wall. R2/1
(Courtesy N Morar)



$4: Black lines through value and to left of Zebra's head. R1 Zimpost, R1/1
(Courtesy N Morar)



$4: large blck spot of first '0' of value. R7/5
(Courtesy N Morar)



$4: Perforator's first strike a little below that of the second strike. Horizontal perforations seen as misaligned.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



$3: Red mark on rocks to left of dam. R2/3
(Courtesy N Morar)



$5: Movement of the perforations to the left



$10: Double printing of black ink
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



$20: Red mark to collar of leather jacket
(Courtesy N Morar)



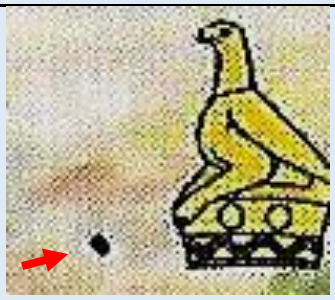
$50: Double printing of black ink
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



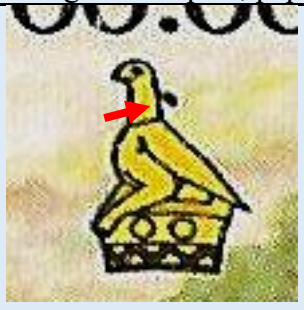
$50: Black hairline through 'b' of Zimbabwe.
(Courtesy N Morar)



$50: First strike of the comb perforator is a slightly late, giving the impression that column 1 has a slightly narrower stamp. In the inset the intersection of the perforations clearly shows that the last horizontal perf goes beyond the second strike.
Second printing R1 Zimpost, paper type H.



$100: Black spot to left of Zimbabwe bird
(Courtesy N Morar)

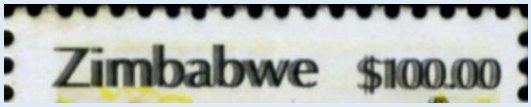


$100: black spot to right of neck of Zimbabwe bird
(Courtesy N Morar)

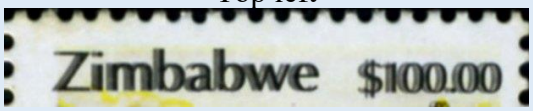




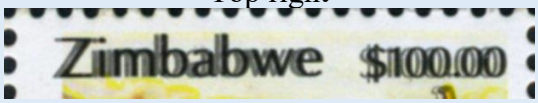




Top left



Top right

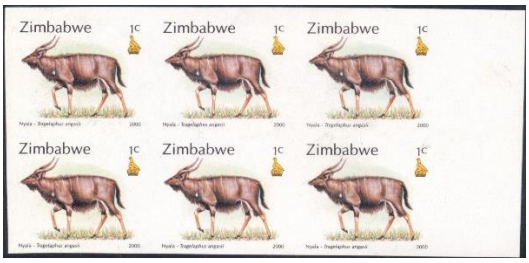


Right

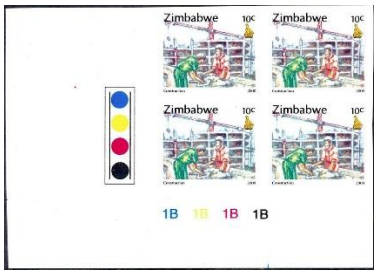
$100: Above three blocks show a great variety in colour.
All three blocks have a doubling the black ink.
All blocks are from the third printing, R2 Zimpost, paper type H

Proofs

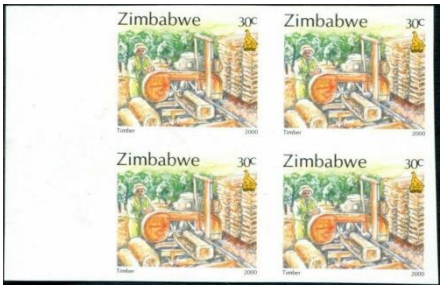
Proof material have appeared in the market over the last few years, these are shown below in blocks below, where available.



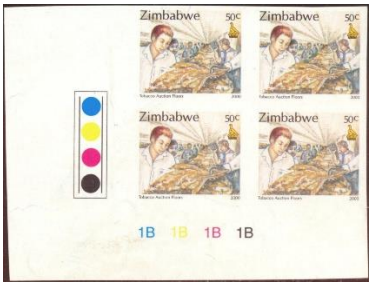
(Source eBay May 2023)



(Source: eBay November 2023



(Courtesy Jefferson Ritson)



(Source eBay October 2023)

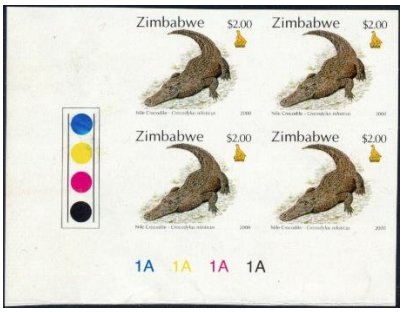


(Source eBay August 2021)





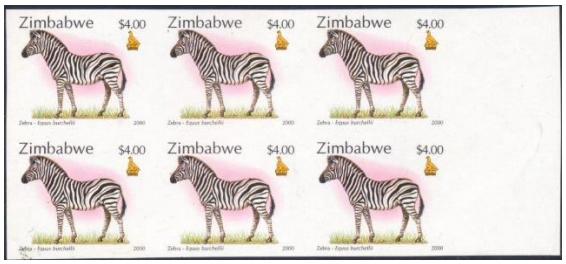
(Source September 2021)



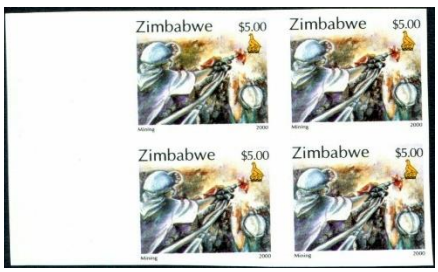
(Source eBay September 2023)



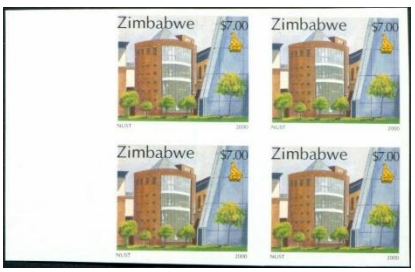
(Source eBay April 2025)



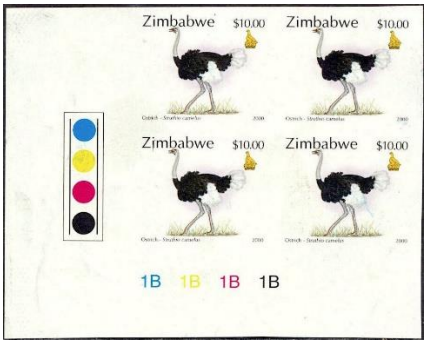
(Source eBay April 2023)



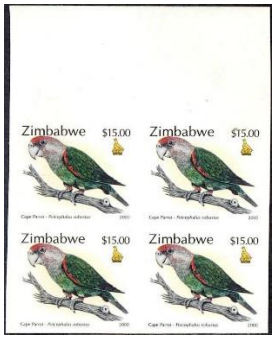
(Courtesy Jefferson Ritson)



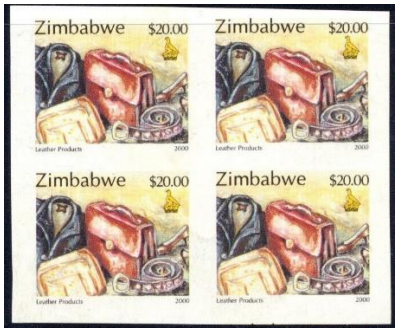
(Courtesy Jefferson Ritson)



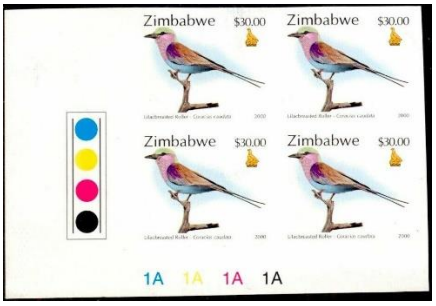
(Source eBay November 2023)



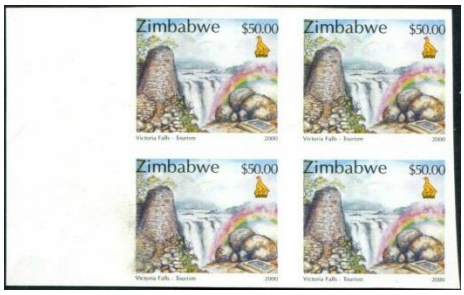
(Source eBay November 2023)



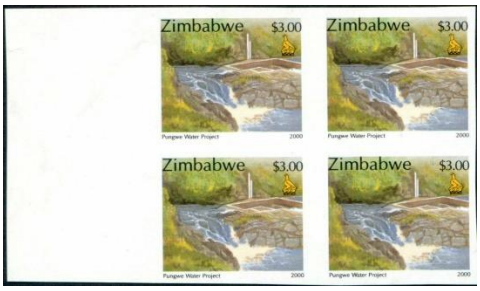
(Source eBay December 2024)



(Source eBay December 2021)

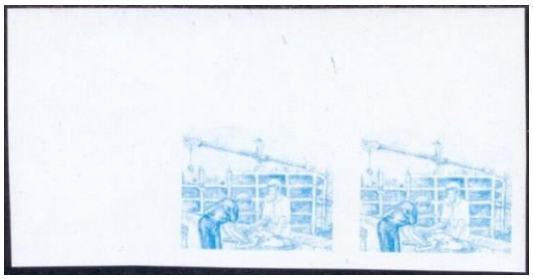


(Courtesy Jefferson Ritson)

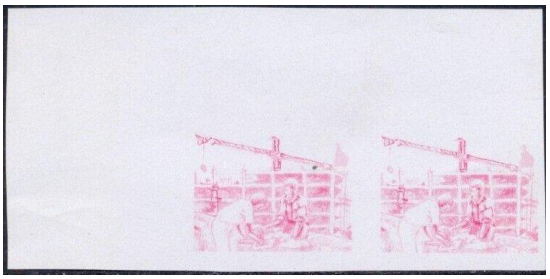


(Courtesy Jefferson Ritson)

Progressive cylinder proofs

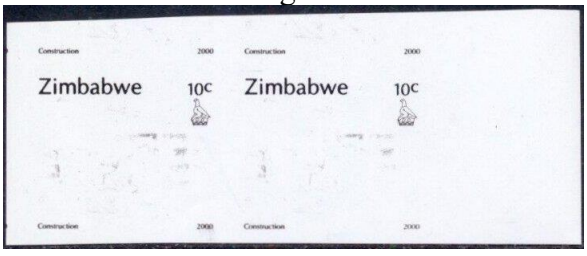


Cyan

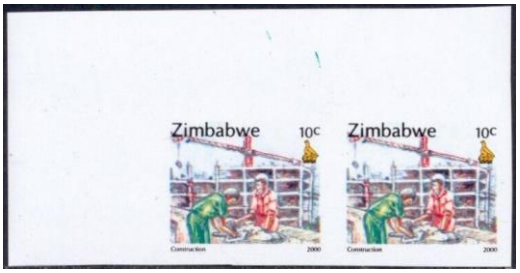


Magenta





Yellow



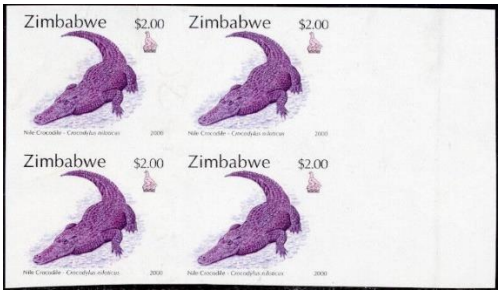
Black

10 cent
Set of printings of individual plates leading to a completed proof.

(Source eBay August 2023)



Cyan and black



Magenta, cyan and black



$2.00
Progressive proof with different plates

(Source eBay November 2023)

Proof or printer's waste?

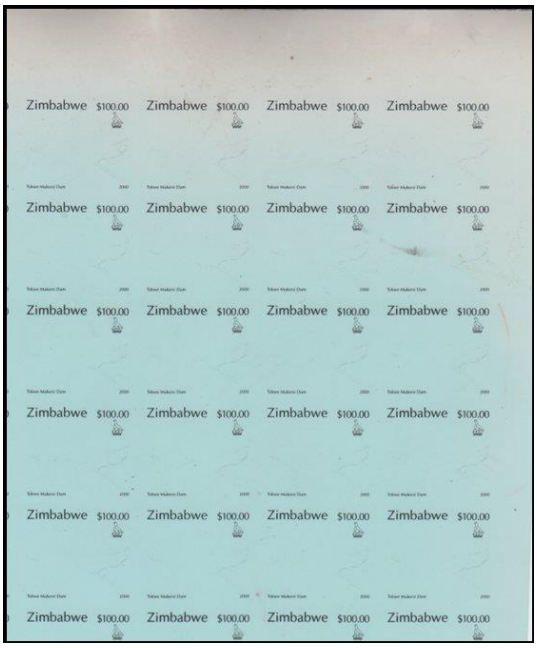
In April 2021 two sizeable blocks of imperforate stamps came up on eBay. Both of these blocks can be seen to be dirty, with pen marks and creased. These are more likely to be printer's waste.



$1: The block is considerably dirtier in the top left corner than the opposite one.
Biro ink mark to top right corner
(Source eBay April 2021)



$20: Dirty block with creased paper to bottom right
(Source eBay April 2021)

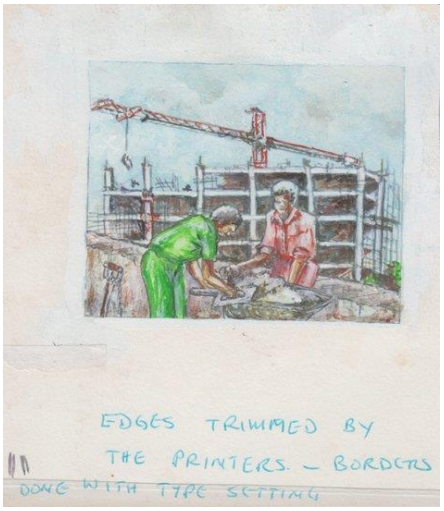


$100: Black printout of the balck overlay to the duty.
This could indicate that there was a second plate of the black,
with possible separate yellow for the Zimbabwe Bird
(Courtsesy of Pat Flanagan)

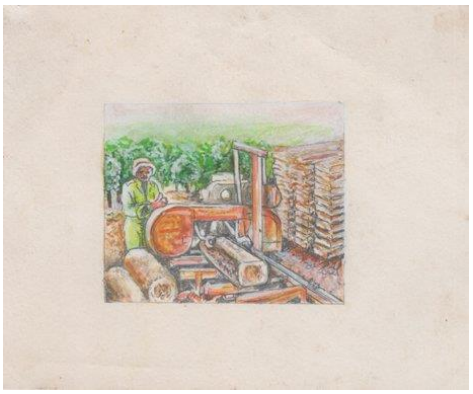
Related Material

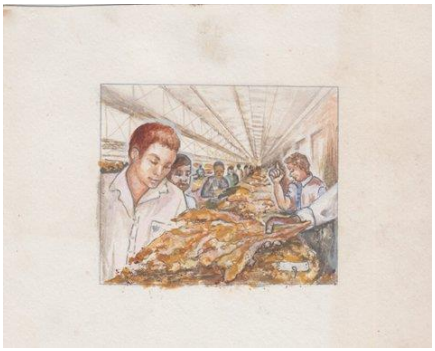
Artwork

Below is some of the artwork of Paula Ware used for this issue, all courtesy of Pat Flanagan



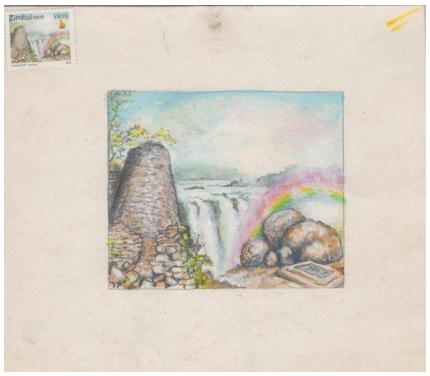
10c duty


30c duty


50c duty

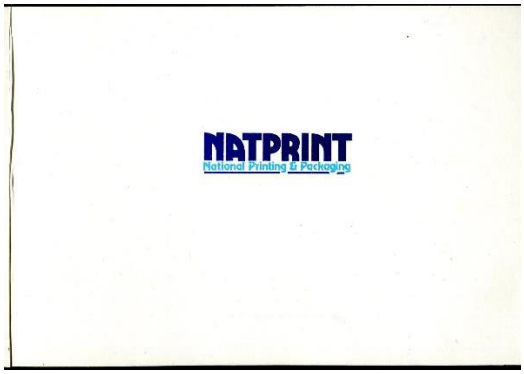

$5.00 duty


$20.00 duty


$100.00 duty

Natprint Proof Presentation Cards

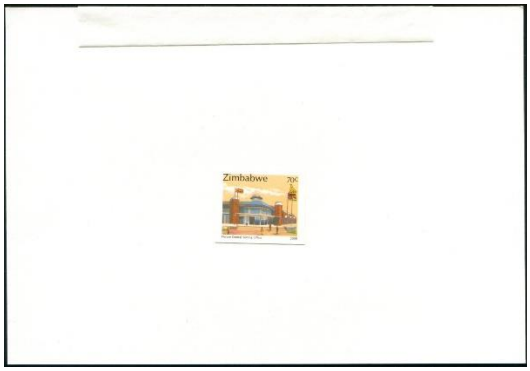
Presentation cards produced by Natprint with imperforate proofs of seven of the stamps to be issued. The presentation cards were forwarded to the PTC for approval of the final product. *(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)*



Front cover



Inside front cover



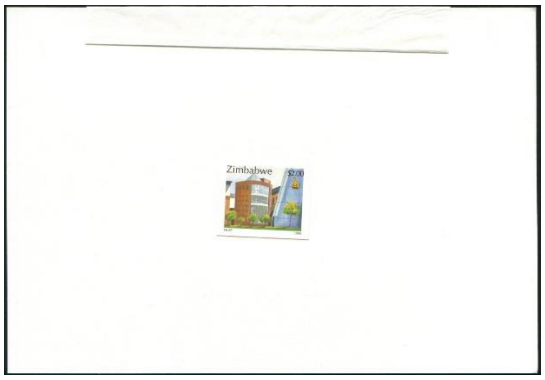
70c stamp



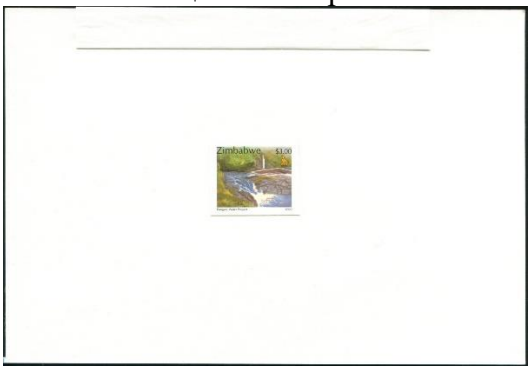
80c stamp



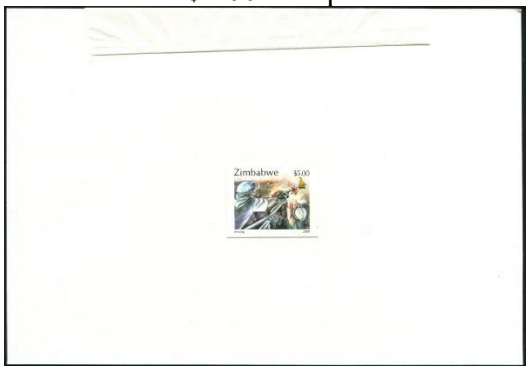
$1.00 stamp



$2.00 stamp



$3.00 stamp



$5.00 stamp



$100 stamp

ADDITIONAL VALUES

Issued 24rd June, 2003

(Extracts from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 2000)[3]

Zimpost issued a set of four new postage stamps in addition to the existing Fifth Zimbabwe Definitive Issue. One of the stamps has a no value description of Standard Postage which has no set price printed upon it. “This stamp will be for local use and the price will be adjusted occasionally, as and when Zimpost deems fit.”



Standard postage (for local use only)
Bateleur Eagle *Terathopius vocifer*
The Bateleur Eagle is largely black; mantle, back and tail chestnut; wing coverts grey. It is distributed widely through Southern Africa south of the Sahara. It inhabits woodland and savanna on open plains. It spends much of its day in direct or circling flight, seldom flapping its wings and performing skilled acrobatic sequences. It was due to these acrobatic skills that the Bateleur Eagle was chosen as the Rhodesian Air Force's and ultimately The Air Force of Zimbabwe's Eagle and appears on their badges and badges of rank. It hunts live prey in flight or parachuting gently with wings held up and legs extended; it may rob larger eagles and vultures for food; also scavenges often along roads for traffic kills.

$500
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*
The Goliath heron is a very large wading bird mainly slate coloured and chestnut brown with a very large bill. Its habits are solitary often standing in water for long periods awaiting its prey which is fish, frogs, small reptiles and mammals. It will breed all year round in Zimbabwe. Its nest is a platform of sticks up to 150cm in diameter, in a tree or bush, on rock or ground, island, cliff or flattened water plants





$1000

White Rhinoceros *Cerototherium simum*

The White or wide mouthed rhinoceros is the larger of the two species of African rhinoceros, males having a mass of 2000 to 2300kg. Like the black rhinoceros, both the male and the female carry two horns on the face. The front horn being the longer. The gestation period in the white rhinoceros is 16 months and the single calf has a mass of about 40kg at birth. The White rhinoceros is more sociable than its black cousin. The white rhinoceros was considered 'safe' and numerous until the 1970s, but is now on the verge of extinction with only a scattering of survivors in Africa. Once common throughout Africa it has suffered severely at the hands of poachers in the last 20 years, its horn being valued in the Far East as an aphrodisiac and in the Yemen as an ideal material for ornamental dagger-handles. Less than 60% of the world population now exists in southern Africa.



$5000

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*

This handsome member of the cat family is quite often confused with the leopard, but it has a proportionately smaller head, longer legs and a much slenderer body. Its black round or oval spots are solid while those on the leopards back and sides are more distinctive 'rosettes'. The cheetah also has a very distinctive black 'tear mark' from the inner corner of each eye to the corner of the mouth. The Cheetah is active mostly by day and hunts its prey by chasing them over short distances. The Cheetah is the fastest land mammal and can achieve a speed of over 75km/h in short bursts in pursuit of its prey.

The Stamps









Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	
1021a	533	Standard Postage	Bateleur Eagle ($100 at date of issue)
1021b	534	$500	Goliath Heron
1021c	535	$1,000	White Rhinoceros
1021d	536	$5,000	Cheetah

Technical details

Stamp size: All values 26 x 22 mm

Sheet Size: 100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps),
Each stamp with two panes per printed sheet

Artists: Birds & Animals: Cedric Herbert

Paper: ZSC paper type J: Paper described as "Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage stamp Paper" by Zimpost. This paper produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, and the stamp appears to be very dark.

Print colours:

Standard Postage	
1st and 2nd printings	- Black, magenta, cyan, yellow
3rd and 4th printings	- Black, magenta, cyan, yellow and gold
Other values	- Black, magenta, cyan, yellow

Perforations:

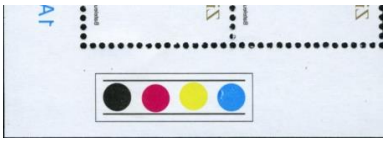
SG 14½, ZSC 14½	
Right margin:	Perforated through.
Other margins:	Imperforate

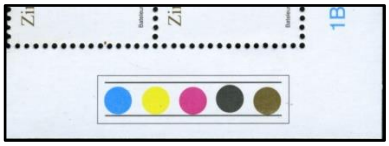
Printer: Natprint., Harare, Zimbabwe

Printer's Imprint: All values bottom margin, below R10 C5 & 6

Cylinder numbers: Bottom margin below R10 C1& 2, reading from left
Standard Postage
1st and 2nd printings - cyan, yellow, magenta, black
3rd and 4th printings - cyan, yellow, magenta, black, gold
Other values - cyan, yellow, magenta, black

Colour register: Type TL4– round boxed – left margin opposite R9 & 10 C1
Colours reading down.
Standard Postage
1st and 2nd printings – cyan, yellow, magenta, black
3rd and 4th printings – cyan, yellow, magenta, black, gold





Other values – cyan, yellow, magenta, black

Sheet Value: Bottom margin, below R10 C10. Printed in black

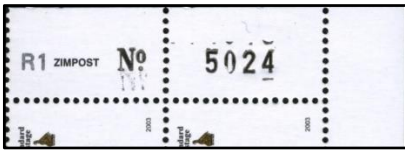
Sheet Numbers: Original printings: Type SN8 with prefix "ZIMPOST", printed onto sheet during printing process.

Standard Postage R1: Type SN9 with prefix "R1 ZIMPOST", with "R1" in a larger font size

Other reprints: Type SN10 with prefix "R* ZIMPOST", (*denotes reprint number printed on sheet during the stamp printing process. The "R1" is in the same font size as "ZIMPOST"



SN8



SN9



SN11

Print numbers: Unknown

Issue date: 24th June 2003

Withdrawal from sale:

Demonetarisation: No official demonetarisation.

Printing

The Standard Postage stamp was printed from six printing plates, as a result the stamps were printed in two separate operations. The usual four colours of cyan, yellow, magenta and black inks were printed in the first operation. The last two plates were for gold ink and a second black ink. This can clearly be seen from the lower stamp, where the country's name and the Zimbabwe bird appear much lower down. There are numerous examples of the movement of the second printing, see unlisted varieties below.

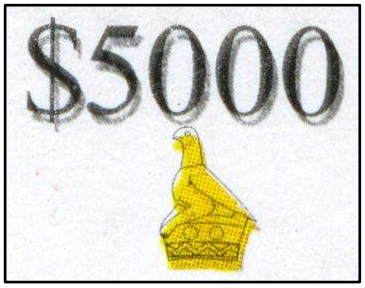


The close up of the Zimbabwe bird to the right clearly shows that there was a second black printing plate, this time only supplying the outlines of the bird.



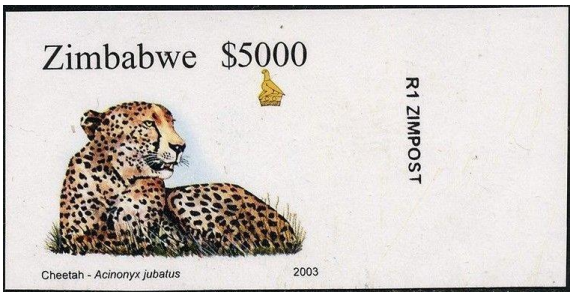


The first two printings of this stamp only had the four basic colours in the colour indicator and traffic lights, see above.



In an examination of the double printing of the $5,000 cheetah stamp, it was noted that although the main text of the stamp had double, this did not apply to the black outline of the Zimbabwe bird. This would there imply that there was a fifth printing plate that only printed the outline of the bird. Unlike the Standard Postage Bateleur Eagle, the colour of the bird is made up of yellow and magenta inks.

The example on the right of a proof of the $5,000 cheetah clearly illustrates that the prefix to the sheet number was printed at the same time as the stamps.



Reprints

The table below shows the number of reprints for each of the values, unfortunately only the date of release of the second printing of the Standard Postage is currently known.

Value	Original	R1 Zimpost	R2 Zimpost	R3 Zimpost
Standard	24/07/2003	22/09/2003	Unknown	Unknown
$500	24/07/2003	Unknown	Unknown	
$1,000	24/07/2003	Unknown	Unknown	
$5,000	24/07/2003	Unknown	Unknown	

Commentary on the Issue

The release of the "Standard Postage" stamp was the first instance that Zimpost was starting to acknowledge that inflation rates that had started to escalate would impact the printing of postage stamps. When the 2005 definitive was released the issue included values of Z (Zimbabwe), A (Africa), E (Europe) and R (Rest of the World). Other stamps in this issue included values from $500 to $100,000.

The table below shows postage rates from the release of these additional values to the release of the 2005 definitive issue.

Date	Zimbabwe	Africa	Europe	Rest
01/05/2003	$100	$400	$550	$700
02/08/2003	$300	$1,500	$2,100	$2,700
01/01/2004	$500	$3,000	$4,200	$5,400
14/07/2004	$2,300	$12,000	$17,000	$22,000
01/10/2004	$4,600	$23,500	$33,500	$43,000
01/12/2004	$6,900	$30,000	$40,000	$50,000

Listed Varieties

No listing of varieties of this issue has been located.

Unlisted varieties

The number of reported varieties of this issue is low when one considers the number of reprints that occurred. There are many instances of plate shifts in the printing of the stamps, these have not been recorded below unless they are significant.

These stamps have a large number of dots, spots and streaks, too many to show here.

Standard Postage – Bateleur Eagle



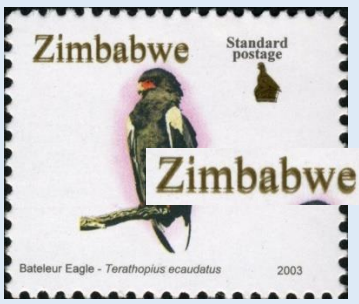
Movement of second print run upwards, with Zimbabwe bird into "Standard Postage"



Significant movement of second print run downwards, with 'Zimbabwe' over eagle



Printing of both first and second print run much lighter than normal



Double printing of the gold ink on second print rum



Upwards movement, possible double print, of cyan value providing a significant shadow behind the eagle



Complete lack of printing from second print run

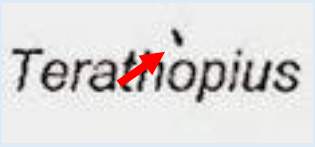
(Courtesy Buster Schemper)



Black clot of ink on branch of tree.
Cyl 1A R9/1
(Courtesy N Morar)



Black ink clot of tail feathers
R9/2
(Courtesy N Morar)



Black dot above ‘o’ of species name. R5/5

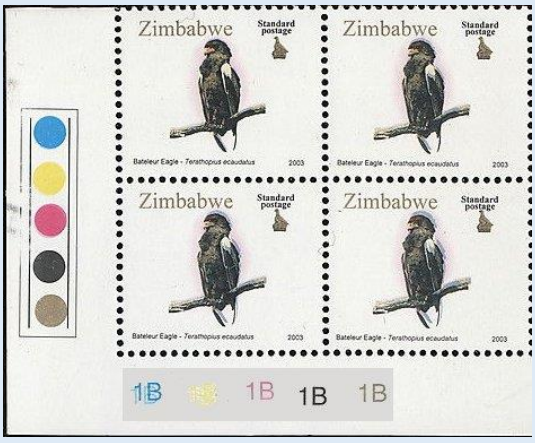
(Courtesy N Morar)



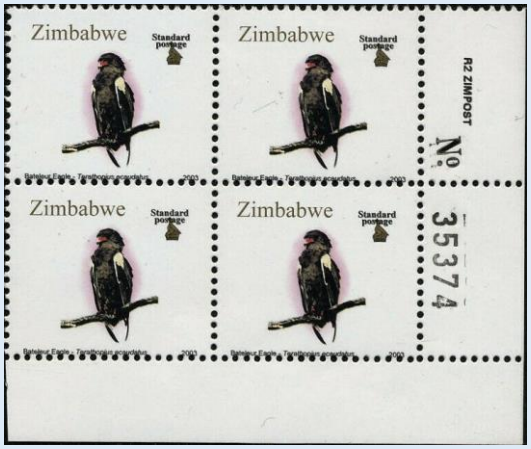


Progressive doubling of black printing. Above are columns 1 to 3 where it is light, right are colmns 8 to 10 where it is heavy. Top right is a closeup ‘Standard Postage’ and the Zimbabwe bird, in which it should be noted that the black outline to the bird has not doubled





Doubling of cyan, yellow and magenta, as seen in colour indicators (against a darker background)
(Source eBay)



Upward movement of perforations into the bottom text of the stamp.
R2 printing



Gold vertical line through stamp, part of strip of 5.
(Courtesy N Morar)



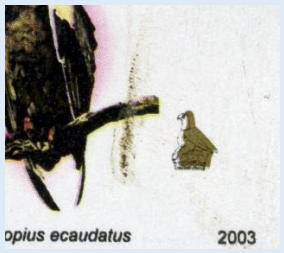
Stamps form numerous printing show a variety of black and gold dots and lines. Above is an example of this occurring.

(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



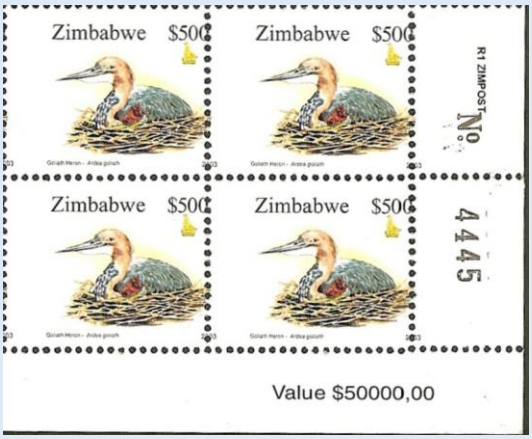


Double black printing, including the "R1 Zimpost" sheet numbering. This proof that the "R1" has been added to the black printing plate.



Significant movement of gold and black printing down, with signifiant gold ink smear opposite Zimbabwe bird

$500.00 – Goliath Heron



Movement of the perforations to the left, touching the value. Second printing (R1)



Cyan dot above beak of heron.

(Courtesy N Morar)



Double printing of black ink
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)

$1,000.00 – White Rhinoceros



Various cyan dots on rhino and background
Rows 1 & 2, columns 2 &3



Black spot and smudge below rhino's jaw

$5,000.00 – Cheetah



Damage '$' sign.
Row 2, column 8
May be constant on one cylinder





Double black printing, of the main text and image. However, the outline to the Zimbabwe bird is not doubled which suggests a fifth, or second black, printing plate.



Black marks left of cheetah's ear. R4/9
(Courtesy N Morar)

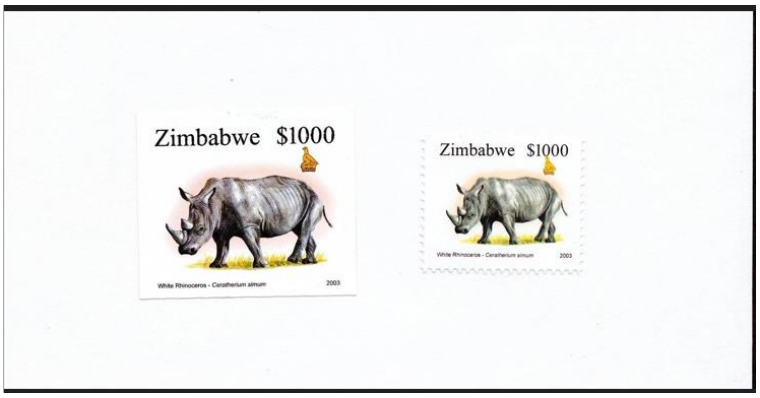


Black marks left of cheetah's ear. R8-9
(Courtesy N Morar)



Lines of Zimbabwe bird missing. R10-1
(Courtesy N Morar)

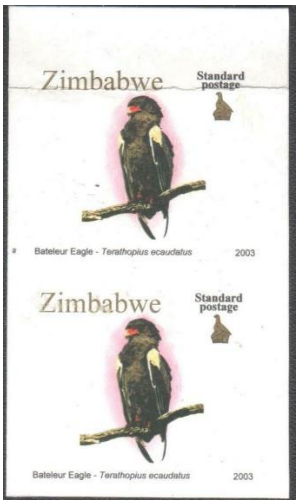
Proofs

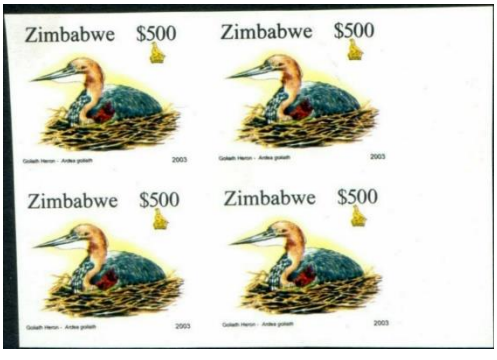


$1,000: Larger printed proof of design on card with perfortaed final stamp. Very unusual
(Source eBay May 2025)

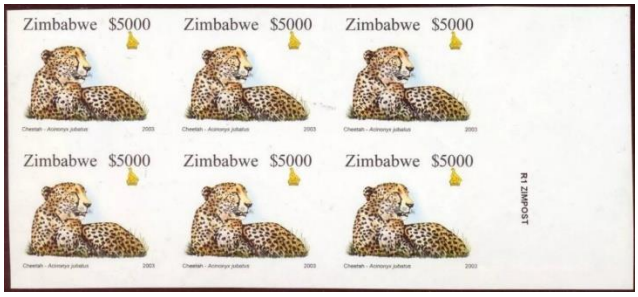
Standard Postage proofs: The first only showing the first print run of four colours, with the second following the second print run – now showing all the print colours.



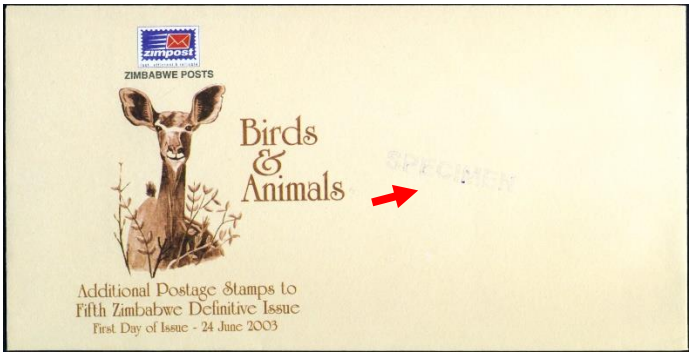




Proof of the $500 Goliath Heron
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



Proofs of the $5000 cheetah, with the lower proof from the second (R1) printing
(Source eBay October 2024)

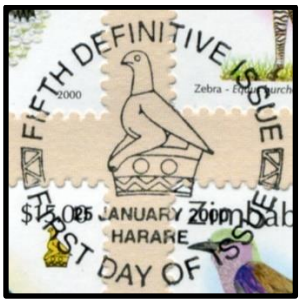


Specimen FDC

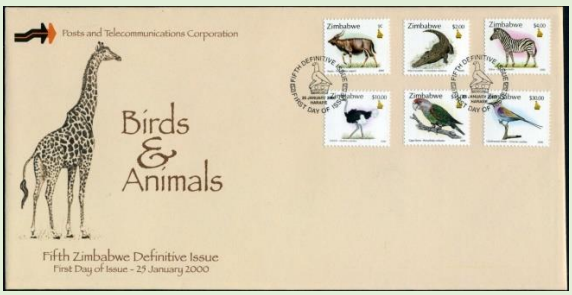
First Day Covers

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.



ZW083 A (PTC cover)
(Birds and Animals)



222 x 110 mm

ZW083 B (PTC cover)
(Commerce and Industry)



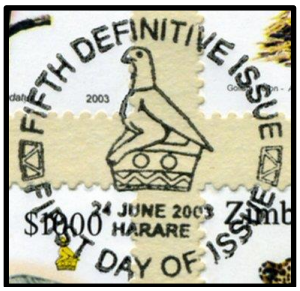
222 x 110 mm

ZW083 C (PTC cover)
(Development 2000)



222 x 110 mm

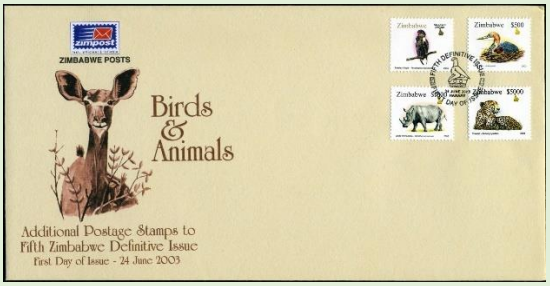
Additional Values



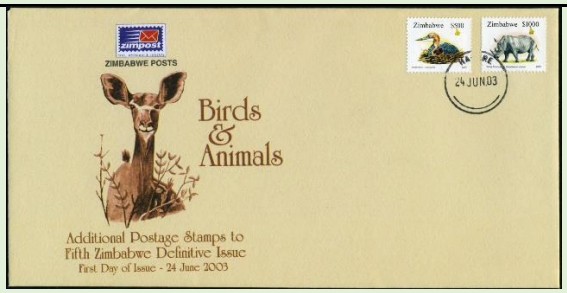
Unusually, the PTC printed and released a first day cover for these additional values.

On the actual date of issue, 24th June 2003, only the $500 and $1,000 values were available for sale, the remaining two values did not appear until 24th July, 2003.

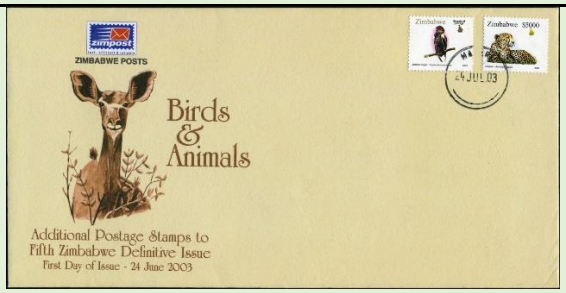
ZW102.1 (Zimpost cover)



222 x 110 mm

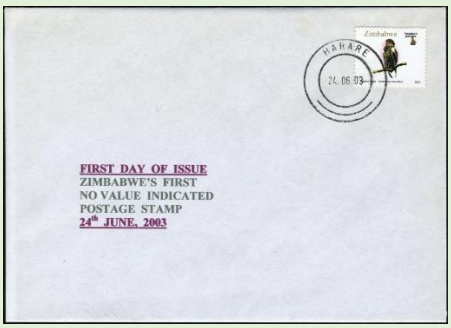


First Day Cover reflecting the actual date of release of the $500 and $1,000 stamps – 23rd June 2003



First Day Cover reflecting the actual date of release of the Standard Postage and $5,000 stamps, 24th July 2003

ZW102.2



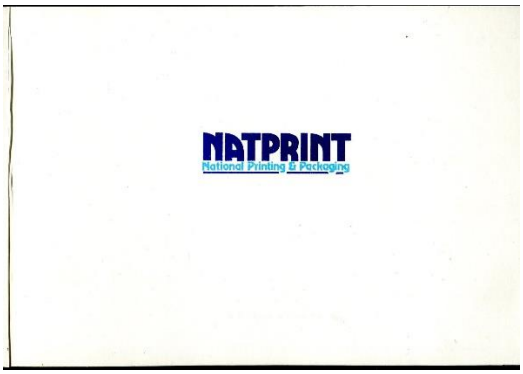
1660 x 115 mm
Cover produced by the Harare Stamp Company
Commemorating the release of "Zimbabwe's
first No Value Indicted Postage Stamp".
Dated 24th June 2003, although stamp had not been released

Related Material

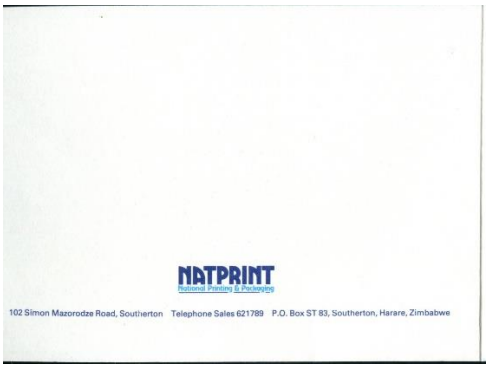
Natprint Proof Presentation Cards

Presentation cards produced by Natprint with imperforate proofs of three of the stamps to be issued. The presentation cards were forwarded to the PTC for approval of the final product.

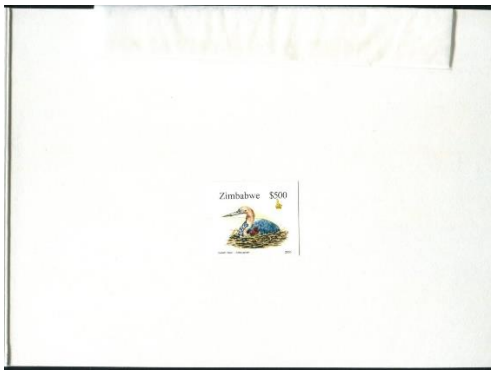
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



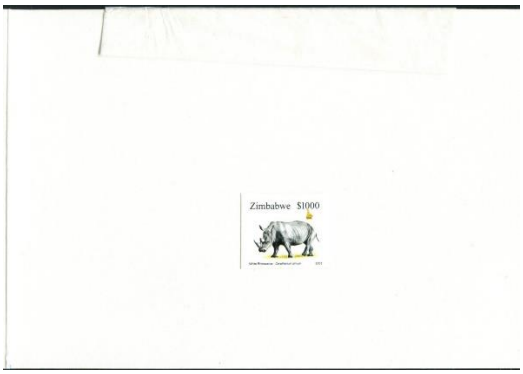
Front cover



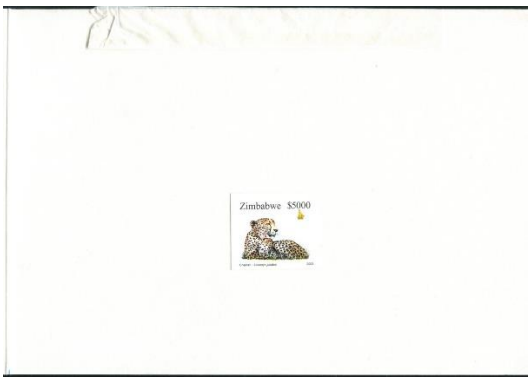
Inside front cover



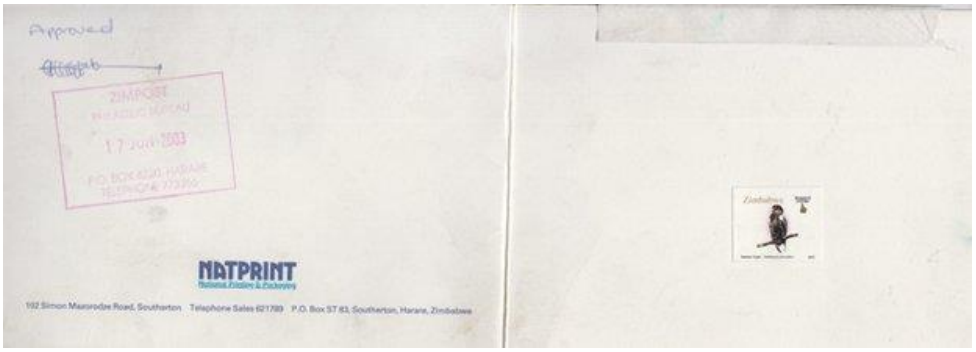
$500 stamp



$1,000 stamp

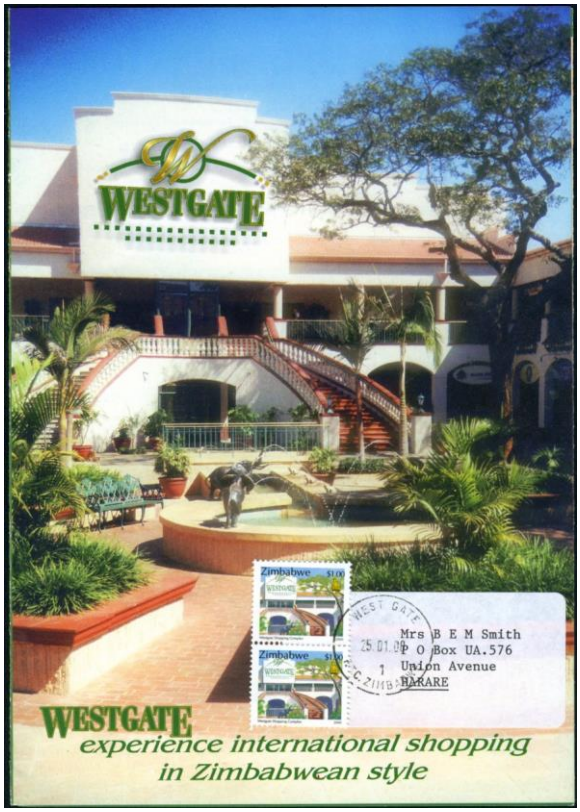


$5,000 stamp



Standard Postage: Presentation card signed and approved by Zimpost,
cachet reads 17 June 2003
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Use of Westgate Brochure



Shopping guide to Westgate Shopping Centre,
With two $1 Westgate Shopping Centre stamps
Postmarked West Gate 25th January 2000 - the day of issue

Specimen stamps



In 2003/08 a number of stamps appeared on eBay showing genuine Zimbabwe stamps, which had been rubber-stamped "Specimen".

On enquiry at the Zimbabwe Philatelic Bureau, it was advised that the Bureau did have a "Specimen" rubberstamp, but that it had not been used in years. In the past, the Bureau, on occasion, send out pre-issue material to a few publications with this cancel on. It was done on request from the people concerned, so that the stamps couldn't be used as postage. It is hard to see by a publication would want copies of the stamps for publication with the stamps so heavily cancelled.

The 1c & $4 have also been recorded, but the images downloaded are too poor to include in this Encyclopaedia

PTC Telephone Card

The PTC began issuing pictorial telephone cards in 1995/96. This card, like the 80c stamp, gives an artist's impression of the completed new Harare International Airport. This card, valued at $30, expired in October 1999



Forged Overprints

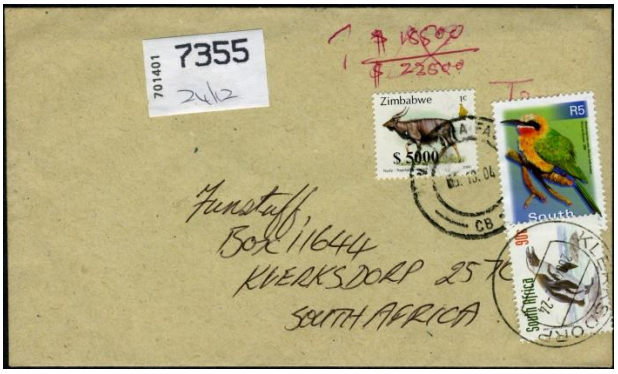


Type 1

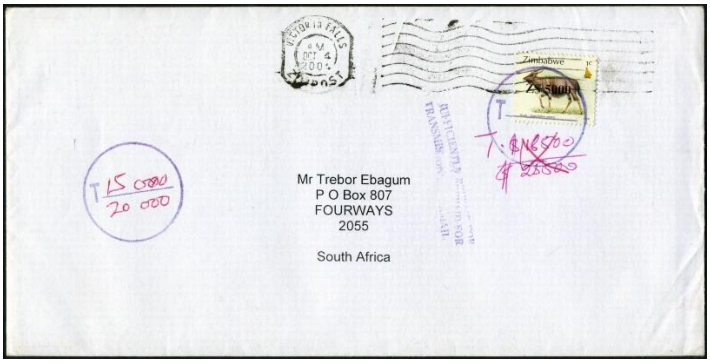


Type 2

In 2008 stamps and covers appeared in eBay, all of which related to the surcharging of the 1c Nyala stamp. The stamps were overprinted with a value of $5,000, and appeared in two types – with or without an attempt to cover the stamp's printed value. The two types appeared on cover about fifteen months apart. Note in some instances the bottom of the overprint is missing.[3, 4]



The first cover is addressed to "Funstuff" in Klerksdorp, South Africa and was posted in Victoria Falls on 5th October 2004 with a single type 1 surcharged stamp. The Post Office has taxed this at $18,500 over $23,500, clearly showing a difference in $5,000 the value the surcharged stamp. $23,500 postage is the correct amount for airmail to South Africa.

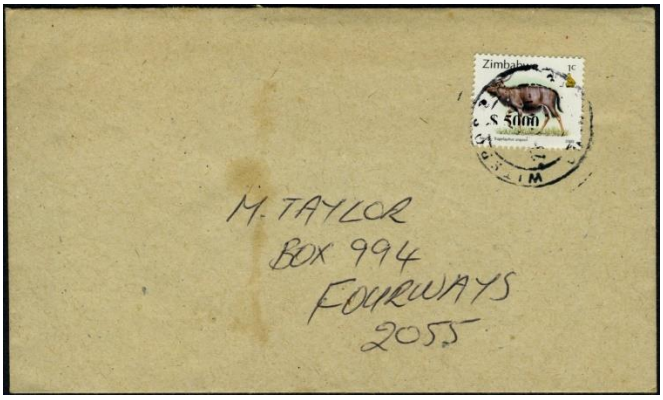


The second cover is addressed to "Mr Trebor Ebagum", with is the reverse spelling of Zimbabwe's longest serving President, Robert Mugabe! This cover was posted in Victoria Falls on the 4th October 2004 with a single type 1 surcharged stamp. The post office initially taxed the cover at $18,500/$23,500, but changed its mind and taxed at $15,000/$20,000, reflecting the surface mail rate to South Africa. "Insufficient Prepaid for transmission by airmail" cachet applied.



The third cover is addressed to "Mr Go on Tax Me"! This cover was also posted in Victoria Falls in October 2004. Like the second cover it was initially taxed as an airmail letter, which was changed to that for surface delivery, also with cachet. *(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)*

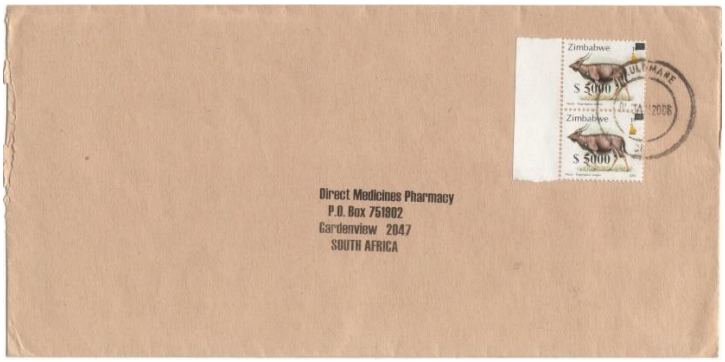
Clearly in the case of these three covers, the Victoria Falls Post Office accepted the surcharged stamps as being genuine. The South African Post Office only, however, taxed one of the covers.



This fourth cover, also bearing a single type 1 surcharged stamp, is interesting as it does not have a Zimbabwe postmark. The rather poor postmark however clearly has the name "Witpos" . Witpos is the central sorting office for the Gauteng region of South Africa. As a sorting office it would normally machine cancel letters, but this letter would have come through the international mail section. As it was international mail, a handstruck postmark was applied.



The fifth cover, this time bearing a block of four type 2 surcharged stamps was posted in Nkulumane on 4th January 2006. Although the surface mail postage rate to South Africa at that time was $62,000, it was not taxed. Note the box number to where this was addressed is the same for "Funstuff", so who is Mr C Goslin?



The last cover, supplied courtesy of Norm Hart, also bears a pair of the type 2 surcharged stamps. This was also posted on 4th January 2006 at Nkulemane, which again the post office failed to tax for the shortfall of $52,000!

Finally, a single stamp was overprinted with the words "Postage Due $2000". For obvious reasons this has not been found on cover.

In conclusion, although there is clearly an intent to deceive the post office, this appears to be something done in jest by a philatelist in South Africa



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. Card stiffener within the three PTC first day covers,
3. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 2003 for the additional values
4. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, September 2008, RSCJ 228, Section under "Members Ask" – "Forged Overprints", page 100
5. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, June 2010, RSCJ 235, "Forged Overprints" by Geoff Brakspear, pages 71-72

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8-2021	2003 Standard Postage – significant gold ink smudge
	2000 $1 & $20 – imperforate blocks, possible printer's waste
12-2021	50c & 70c proofs
	Specimen FDC
3-2022	$20 cyl 1A proof block
	Standard Postage proofs showing first and second print runs
8-2022	$2 proof pair
	$30 telephone card of Harare International Airport
3-2023	Paula Ware artwork
	Black printing plate of $100 duty
12-2023	Revision of proofs with better quality blocks
	Progressive proofs of 10c and $2
8-2024	10c – multiple perforations, probable printer's waste
12-2024	$3 & $30 –found in paper type D in first printing with proving sheet numbers
	$5,000 replacement proof block
8-2025	$3 replacement proof
	$1000 larger printed version on card with perforated stamp. Unusual