MEDALS OF ZIMBABWE

Issued 6th April, 2004

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2004)[2]

Medals and Decorations consist of adornments worn or displayed, that have been issued or awarded personally, or as a group for outstanding service, bravery, or specific achievement or in commemoration of a particular historic event or campaign.

Medals are small, flat pieces of metal, commonly disks but often in the shape of a cross or star, such as the Maltese cross which usually bear a decorative image or design and an inscription. Medals were awarded for military valour in the 15th century, but not until the end of the 18th century did medals commemorating victorious engagements or campaigns become widespread.

Medals are sometimes referred to by the single term "numismatics" (Greek *nomisma,"coin"),* meaning the study and collection of coins and paper money issued by a mint and bearing a country's official designs and monetary value. The term Numismatics also extends to tokens, medals, and similar articles.



$1,500: The Zimbabwe Independence Medal

This medal was issued in silver and bronze to any person, or group, or category of persons nominated by the Prime Minister to commemorate the attainment of independence on 18 April 1980.
Obverse (Face): An image of the ruins of Great Zimbabwe with a crossed rifle and hoe and the inscription 18 April 1980. Zimbabwe Independence
Reverse: A symbolic representation showing the birth of a nation out of conflict.
Ribbon: 38mm wide ribbon, divided into seven parts, green 6 mm, gold 5mm, red 5mm, black 6mm (Centre) and repeated in reverse representing the colours of the national flag.



$9,000: The Bronze Cross of Zimbabwe (B.C.Z.)

This medal is made of solid bronze and is the third highest award for bravery. It is awarded to members of the uniformed services and civilians for acts of bravery in circumstances of extreme peril.
Obverse (Face): A four-pointed bronze star superimposed on a lilac cross with bronze edges, bearing an inscription FOR BRAVERY.
Reverse: A plain gold cross to accommodate the recipient's number, rank and name.
Ribbon: 38mm Colour: plain lilac
Suspender: The suspender and devices are the same as those for the Gold and Silver Crosses. (See Notes below)



$13,000: The Silver Cross of Zimbabwe (S.C.Z.)

This medal is made of solid silver and is the second highest award for bravery. It is awarded to members of the uniformed services and civilians for conspicuous bravery in circumstances of extreme peril.
Obverse (Face): A four-pointed silver star superimposed on a blue cross with silver edges, bearing an illustration of the Great Zimbabwe Bird and the inscription, FOR BRAVERY.
Reverse: A plain gold cross to accommodate the recipient's number, rank and name.
Ribbon: 38mm plain royal blue.
Suspender: (See notes below).



$16,500: The Gold Cross of Zimbabwe (G.C.Z.)

This medal is made of solid silver with gold plate and is the highest award for bravery. It is awarded to members of the uniformed forces and civilians for conspicuous bravery in circumstances of extreme peril.
Obverse (Face): A four-pointed gold star superimposed on a red cross with gold edges, bearing an illustration of the Great Zimbabwe Bird and the inscription, FOR BRAVERY.
Reverse: A plain gold cross to accommodate the recipient's number, rank and name.
Ribbon: 38mm Colour: plain red.
Suspender: (See notes below).

Notes:

The Suspender is the bar immediately above the medal to which the ribbon is attached, the suspenders specific for each service with its own image. A civilian award is decorated with a pair of flame lilies; a key represents the Prison Service: an eagle the Air Force award: the scales of justice for the Police Force; and the oak leaf the Army.

The Zimbabwe Medal Society

The Zimbabwe Medal society was formed in 1988 by a small group of collecting enthusiasts, which has since grown over the years to become a professional society including both loca1 and overseas members.

The Zimbabwe Medal Society holds regular monthly meetings, where members can discuss their specific collecting interests, and organise talks from prominent guest speakers with similar subjects such as heraldic and other historical subjects allied to medals and general coins or numismatics. Each year the members hold a Medal Convention in Harare to share their interests with the general public, in an effort to promote and foster a general interest in the study of orders, decorations and medals and to assist collectors and students in their researches.

Many of the members are experts in their fields of collecting and are often called upon to identify and provide information about certain awards and the units that qualified for these.

The Z.M.S. is a non-profit organisation. The funds generated from the membership fees are used by the Society on publishing the journals and investing in medal magazines, reference books and books on military history. As a result, the Society has built up a comprehensive library.

For further information the reader can contact the Secretary at the following address: *The Secretary, Zimbabwe Medal Society, Box GD 470, Greendale Harare, Zimbabwe.*

The Stamps









Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1128	555	$1,500	Zimbabwe Independence Medal
1129	556	$9,000	Bronze Cross of Zimbabwe
1130	557	$13,000	Silver Cross of Zimbabwe
1131	558	$16,500	Gold Cross of Zimbabwe

Technical details

Stamp size: Sheet stamps: 28 x 42 mm

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

Artist: Cedric Herbert

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, ZSC 14¼
Left margin: Perforated through
Other margins: Imperforate

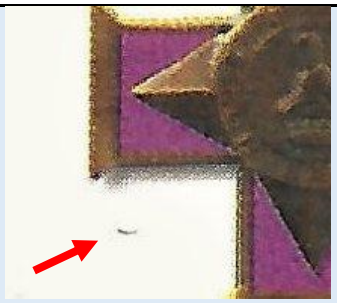
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe
Printer's Imprint:	Bottom Margin, below Row 5 Columns 5 & 6. Imprint printed in black
Cylinder numbers:	Bottom margin below R5/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Colour register:	Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R5/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Sheet Value:	Bottom margin, below R5/10, printed in black
Sheet Number:	Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading down
Print numbers:	$1,500 1,143,200 $9,000 150,000 $13,000 130,000 $16,500 130,000
Issue date:	6th April, 2004

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. Also noted that there are some minor plate shifts. No significant varieties have been reported.

 **$9,000:** Black curl to left of medal cross *(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)*		

First Day Cover

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.



ZW107.1 (Zimpost)



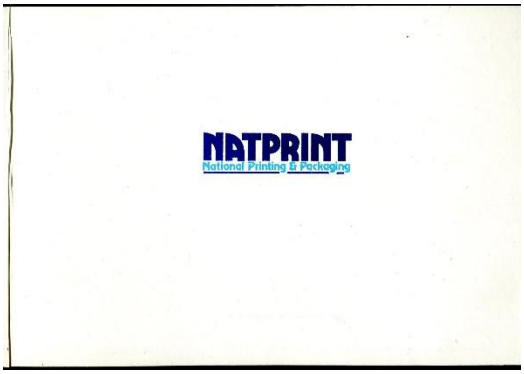
220 x 110 mm

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.

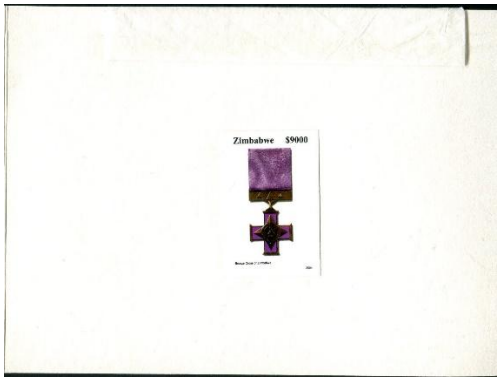
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



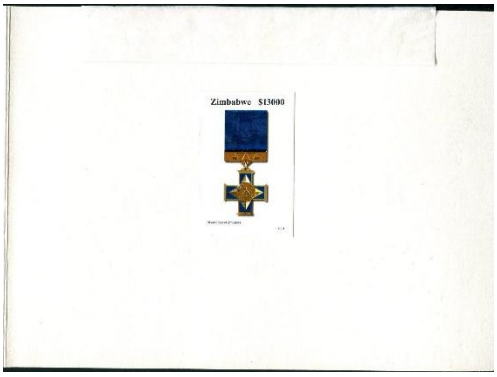
Front cover



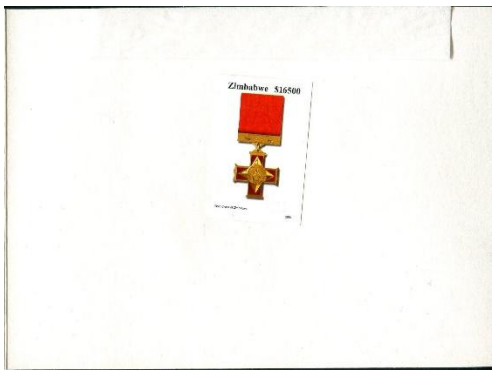
Inside front cover



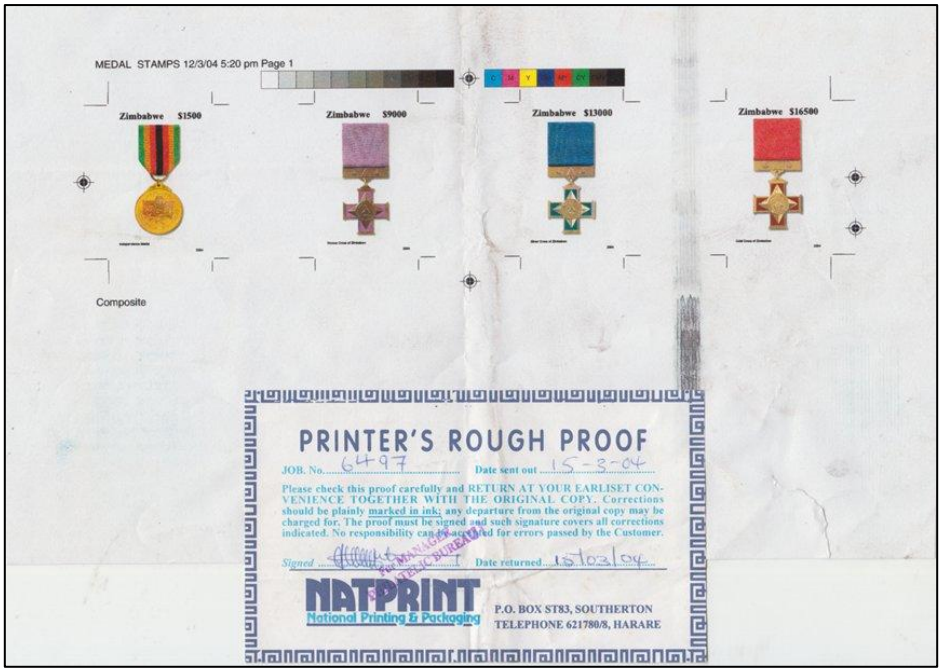
$9,000 stamp



$13,000 stamp



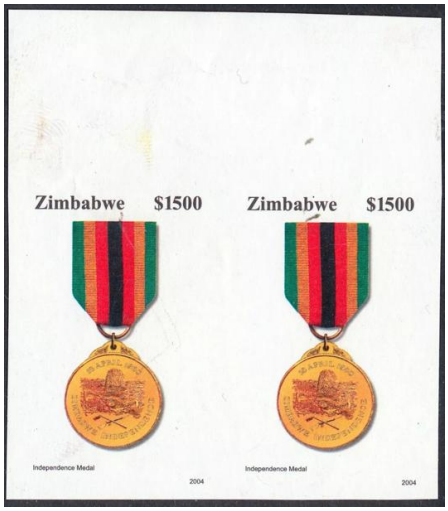
$16,500 stamp



Printer's rough proof, dated 12 March 2004.
Signed and approved by Zimpost 15 March 2004
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



Black print of the four duties, uncertain why this was produced.
Probably printed in balck and white from computer program.
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)







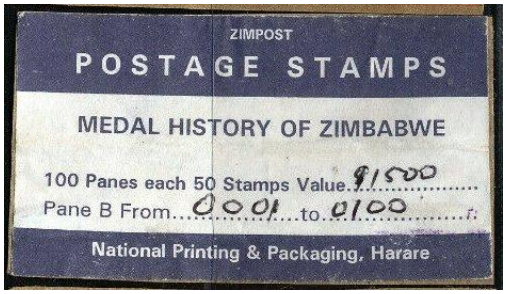


Imperforate proofs pairs of all duties
(Source eBay May 2025)

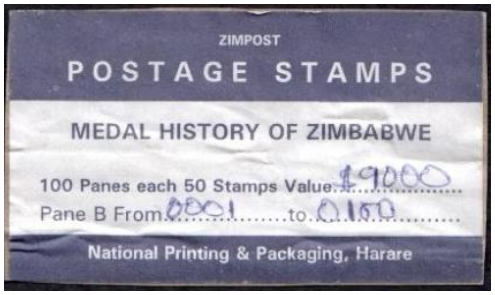
Delivery labels

Delivery label from packaging containing 100 sheets for some of the duties with blue labels for 1A sheets and brown labels for 1B sheets. Labels indicate that sheet numbers 0001 to 0100 are contained in the package.

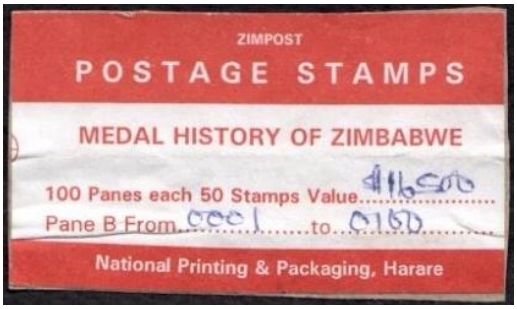
(Source eBay)



$1,500



$9,000



$16,500

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 2 of 2004

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
3/2023	Printer's rough draft and b+w reprints
8/2025	Imperf proof pairs of all duties
8/2026	Additional delivery labels