ALOES OF ZIMBABWE (SERIES II)

Issued 20th July, 2004

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 2004)[2]

These beautiful succulent plants are particularly suited to our Zimbabwe landscape. They belong to the Lily family (Liliaceae) of which it was said that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Aloes vary in form from tall branching trees to low-growing sprawling plants, sometimes stemless. They are versatile species known to grow wild in Zimbabwe, from the mists of the Eastern Highland mountains to the exposed granite of the Lowveld.

$1,500: *Aloe ballii*. John Ball's Cliff Aloe.



This aloe is restricted to Mutare and Chimanimani areas of Zimbabwe. It is a small plant with long green leaves, swollen at the base and tapering to a point; white-spotted on both surfaces and armed with minute white teeth. The stem is unbranched and sways down gracefully from the bank of a river gorge or small waterfall. The flowers are brilliant orange-scarlet, tipped with green. They are very attractive in bright sunlight and flower for most of the year.



$3,000: *Aloe rhodesiana*. Rhodesian Aloe.

First named in 1908, this is unusual in being a summer flowering succulent, at its best between October and February. It occurs throughout the Eastern Highlands and is a small plant, growing in clumps with broad thin grey-green leaves, tapering sharply and armed with white teeth. One to four flower stems per plant reach a height of some 150mm and are unbranched with salmon pink flowers, hanging down and opening to six green tips. Plants burnt or badly scorched by bush fires often show a truly remarkable recovery.

$9,000: *Aloe greatheadii*. Greathead's Aloe.
Shona: Chikowa, Chinunga. Ndebele: inhlaba, icena.



A well-known and widespread aloe, with branched flowering stems carrying pinkish orange or coral flowers striped with white. The stem grows from a rosette of brownish green leaves, paler beneath, with white markings sometimes in bands. The margins are armed with brown teeth. Flowering in winter when vegetables are scarce, the edible buds are a delicacy, cooked with dried greens such as pumpkin leaves. They must be boiled at least three times or will cause vomiting. The clear sap is said to cure conjunctivitis. Young leaves, chopped small and boiled, were used

medicinally.



$10,000 *Aloe orthologha*. Dyke Aloe.

Restricted to the Great Dyke, this aloe grows in open grassland, in serpentine soils. The broad flat leaves taper sharply and are armed with sharp brown teeth. The flower stem branches, carrying almost horizontal arrangements of crowded orange or red flowers, slanted upwards. This is an unusual succulent, difficult to propagate, but it has been grown from seed.

$13,000: *Aloe inyangensis*. Nyanga aloe.
Shona: gavakava. Ndebele: icena

An aloe of the Eastern Highlands, first named from Nyanga. It flowers in winter, but in a garden or escaping bush fires, it will flower gloriously for most of the year. The leaves are dark green; white spotted towards the base on both surfaces and armed with small teeth. The flowering stem is unbranched, with pendulous orange-scarlet flowers opening to six green tips. The plants grow on exposed rocky ledges or cliff faces, in bright sunlight.

Also featured on first day cover





$16,500: *Aloe arborescens*. Oldenland's Bush Aloe.

A succulent of the Eastern Highlands, it grows also in Malawi and Mozambique, extending to mountain areas where there is high rainfall or mist. It is a large branched shrub, reaching 3.5m in height. The leaves are grey-green, tapering to a sharp point and armed with pale yellow teeth. The flower stems curve upward from the leaf rosette, crowned with scarlet green-tipped buds and long orange or scarlet flowers, paler in colour, hanging down loosely and opening to six pale green tips. This is a handsome plant, easily cultivated.

The Stamps





Miniature sheet at 50% size

Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1132	559	$1,500	Aloe ballii
1133	560	$3,000	Aloe rhodesiana
1134	561	$9,000	Aloe greatheadii
1135	562	$10,000	Aloe ortholopha
1136	563	$13,000	Aloe inyangensis
1137	564	$16,500	Aloe arborescens
MS1138	MS8		Miniature sheet (se-tenant block of 6 designs)

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:	Lady Margaret Tredgold
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:	Stamps and miniature sheet: SG 14 x 14½, ZSC 14 x 14¼ Left margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe
Printer's Imprint:	Sheet stamps only: Bottom Margin, below Row 5 Columns 5 & 6. Imprint printed in black
Cylinder numbers:	Sheet stamps only: Bottom margin below R5/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Colour register:	Sheet stamps only: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R5/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Sheet Value:	Sheet stamps only: Bottom margin, below R5/10, printed in black
Sheet Number:	Sheet stamps only: Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading down
Print numbers:	\$1,500 1,739,000 \$3,000 459,900 \$9,000 341,200 \$10,000 271,600 \$13,000 221,900 \$16,500 237,800 Miniature sheet 15,000
Issue date:	20th July, 2004

Postage Rates

The values of the aloes stamps reflect the postal rates anticipated for the Medals issue. The stamps appear to have been issued for the anticipated postal rates that were anticipated in April 2004. When the new postal rates were announced it was too late, the stamps had already been printed.

Postal rates with effect from	1st January 2004	Medals and Aloes issues	14th July 2004
Local	$500	$1,500	$2,300
Africa	$3,000	$9,000	$12,000
Europe	$4,200	$13,000	$17,000
Rest of the world	$5,400	$16,500	$22,000

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.

What is noticeable with this issue is that the plate registration is poor, particularly with the thin frame line of the stamp image. Examples of this have been seen with numerous values.



$13,000: Doubling of black printing and movement of yellow plate to right



Miniature sheet: Extra perforations in right margin

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.



ZW108.1 (Zimpost)



Cover with set of stamps, placed on cover using Autophix machine and printed pictorial cancellation.
220 x 110 mm

ZW108.1 (MS) (Zimpost)



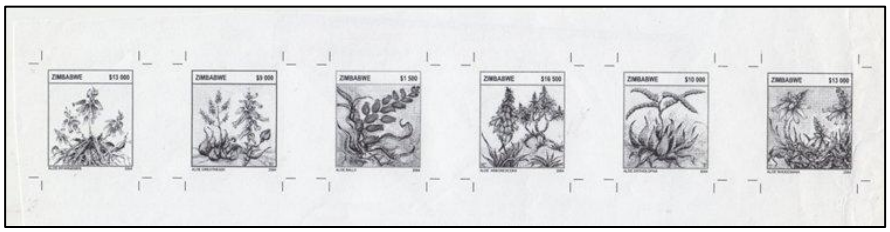
Miniature sheet with hand struck
First Day of Issue, Harare, cancellation

Related Material

Proof material



Draft printout of the six duties.
Manager of Philatelic Bureau requesting replacement of the $10,000 as $3,000. Dated 24 April 2004. Also, instruction “Please match colours with the artwork supplied”.
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



Black & white printout of the six duties, end stamp $10,000
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



Reprint of the six duties with $3,000 duty instead of $10,000.
Dated 15 June 2004
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



$3,000: Cylinder 1B imperforate proof block
(Source eBay August 2023)



$10,000: Cylinder 1B imperforate proof block
(Source eBay August 2023)



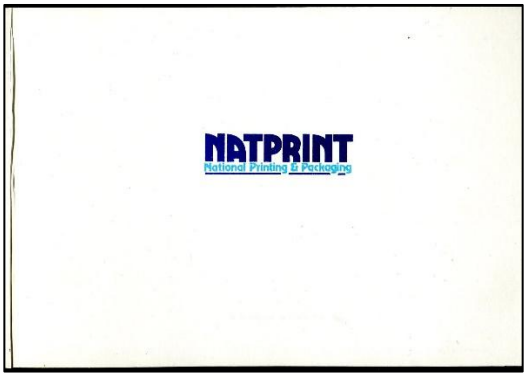
$13,000: Imperforate block from top left sheet corner
(Source eBay December 2023)



£16,500: Margin imperforate proof block
(Source eBay February 2025)

Natprint Proof Presentation Cards

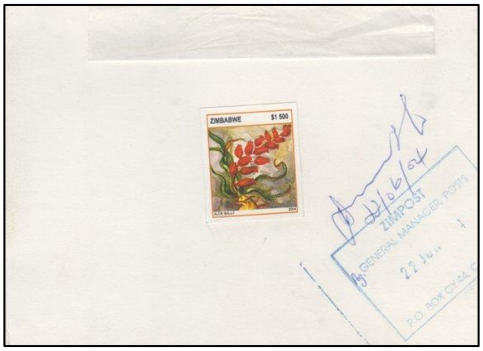
Presentation cards produced by Natprint with imperforate proofs of five of the stamps to be issued. The presentation cards were forwarded to the PTC for approval of the final product.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson & Pat Flanagan -signed material)



Front cover



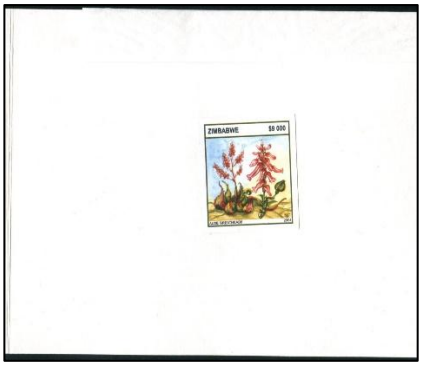
Inside front cover



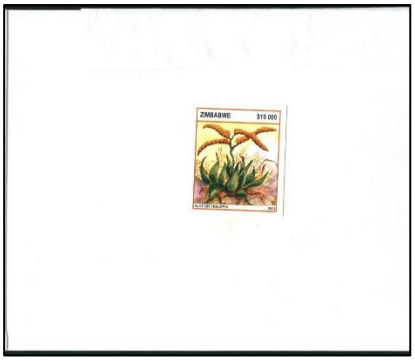
$1,500 stamp (signed 22 June 2004)



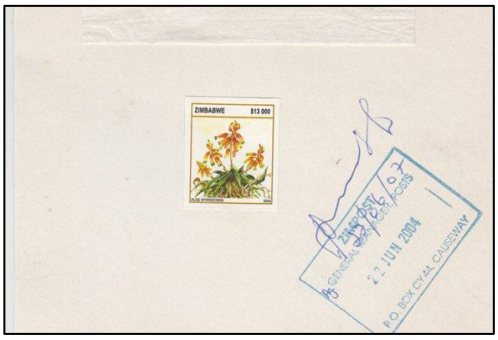
$3,000 (signed 22 June 2004)



$9,000 stamp



$10,000 stamp



$13,000 stamp (signed 22 June 2004)

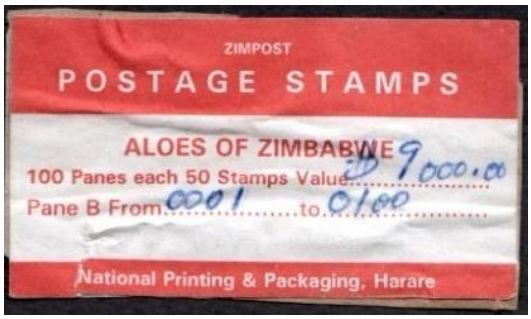


$16,500 stamp (signed 22 June 2004)

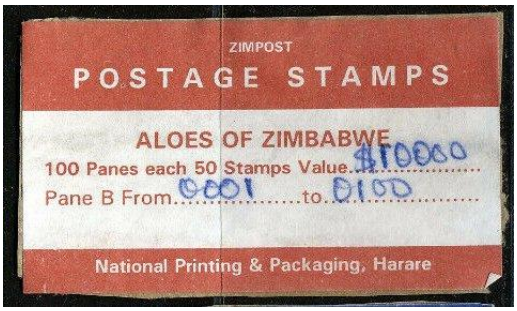
Delivery labels

Delivery labels from packaging containing 100 sheets for four of the duties, with cylinder 1A having blue labels and cylinder 1B value brown labels. Labels showing sheet numbers 0001 to 0100 were contained in that package

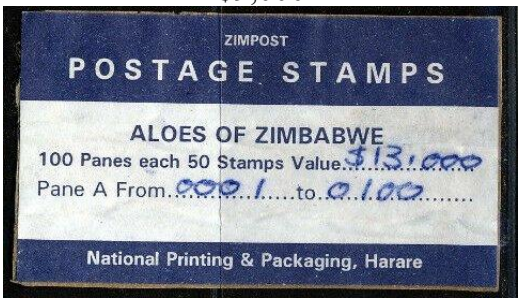
(Source eBay)



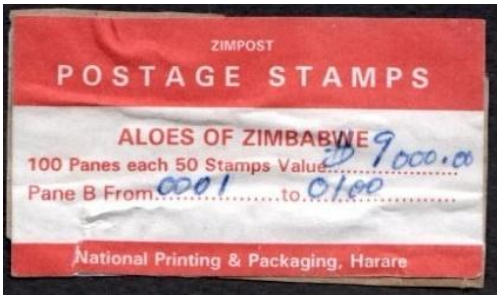
$9,000



$10,000



$13,000



$16,500

Artwork by Lady Margaret Tredgold

Copies of preparatory artwork by Lady Margaret Tredgold, only two of which are in landscape format.















Preliminary artwork for first day cover, Bulletin and postmark

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 3 of 2004
3. "The Artwork of Margaret Tredgold and more", Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, July 2018, RSCJ 269, pages 178-184

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2021	$3,000 & $10,000: imperforate proof stamps
3/2023	Additional proof material from Pat Flanagan
12/2023	$3,000 & $10,000 cylinder imperf proof blocks (removed previous proof material)
4/2024	$13,000 proof block
4/2025	£16,500 proof block
8/2026	Additional delivery lebels