

WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF ZIMBABWE

Issued 6th October, 2005

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 5 of 2005)²

This issue celebrates four World Heritage Sites within Zimbabwe. Because of their unique scenery, wildlife, historical or geological interest the following four sites Victoria Falls, Great Zimbabwe, Mana Pools and (Kame Ruins) Khami Ruins have been designated World Heritage sites under the UNESCO World heritage convention to which Zimbabwe is signatory nation.

The descriptions given within the Bulletin are extensive, these are replicated in the annexure to this section. The following are the highlight descriptions obtained from

<http://www.siyabona.com/world-heritage-sites-zimbabwe.html>



Great Zimbabwe: Date of inscription 1986

Z value: Great Zimbabwe: The Great Zimbabwe ruins with its massive curving walls, constructed from millions of granite blocks fitted together without mortar, hosts the largest stone structures south of the pyramids.

Great Zimbabwe, which means "houses of stone", is an ancient city situated 30 kilometres from Masvingo, Zimbabwe. Awe inspiring, majestic and timeless, these structures were built by indigenous African people between AD 1250 and AD 1450. At the height of its power, Great Zimbabwe had over 18,000 inhabitants. Great Zimbabwe was a main trading centre and associated with gold trading. Fragments of Persian and Chinese pottery have also been found at this ancient site.

The two main enclosures are the Hill Complex, on the steep-sided granite hill and the land below this hill where the Valley Enclosures and the Great Enclosure are situated. The stone walls, up to six meters thick and twelve meters high, are built of granite blocks without the use of mortar.

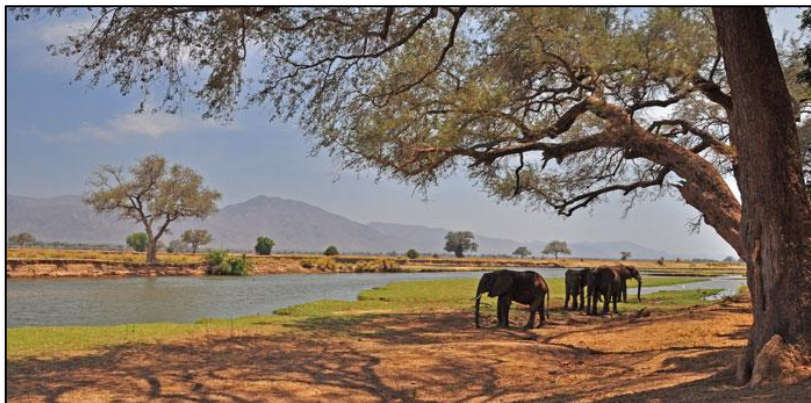


Khami Ruins: Date of inscription 1986

\$15,500: Khami (Kame) Ruins: The Khami Ruins are the second most important archaeological site in Zimbabwe after the Great Zimbabwe Ruins. Khami developed and grew between 1450 and 1650, after the capital of Great Zimbabwe had been abandoned.

Both ruins belonged to the same cultural tradition and have the same lay-out in sectors, between the chief's residence and an open area with huts for the majority of the population. Imported goods like Ming porcelain and Spanish silverware were found, which shows that Khami was a major centre for trade over a long period of time.

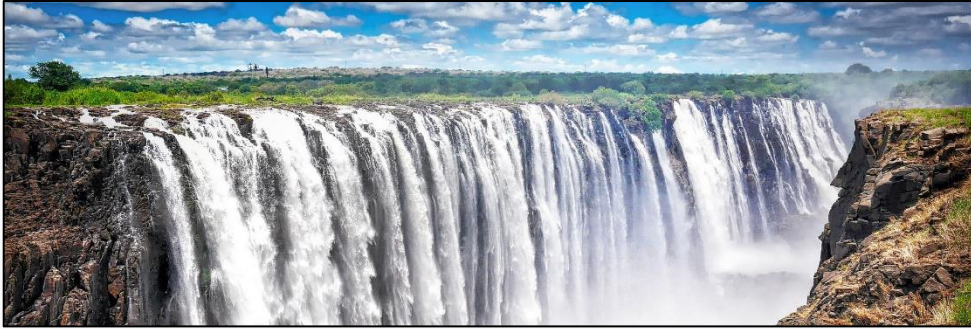
The Khami Ruins are a national monument and are an impressive but unknown attraction in Zimbabwe



Mana Pools: Date of inscription 1984

\$52,000: Mana Pools National Park: Mana Pools is a wildlife conservation area and consists of three different areas: Mana Pools National Park and the Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas. Situated in the Zambezi valley, this is a remote and spectacular area with magnificent views of the Zambezi River and mountains of the Rift Valley over in Zambia.

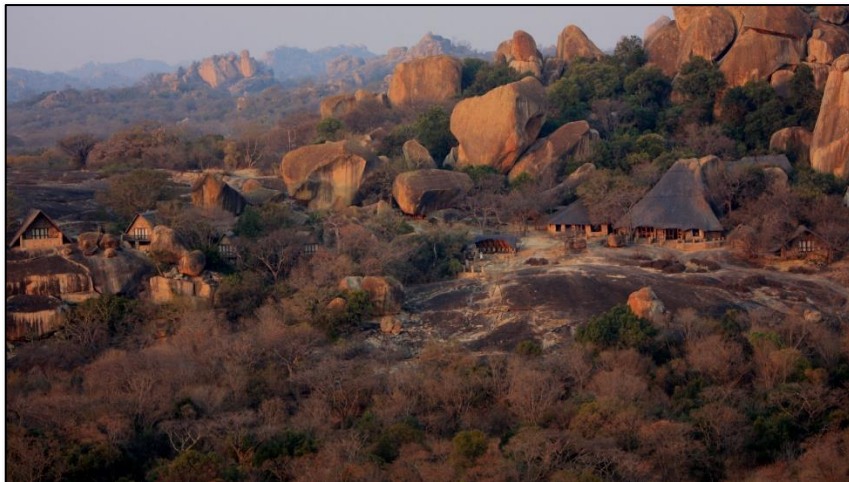
Mana means “four” in Shona which are the Main, Chine, Long and Chisambuk pools. Mana Pools is among the least developed National Parks in Zimbabwe, but is renowned for its game-viewing. Large concentrations of buffalo and elephant are found along the river's edges, while predators such as lion, wild dog, leopard, hyena and cheetah are often sighted. Greater kudu, Burchell's zebra, impala, warthog and common waterbuck can be seen on the plains. Mana Pools offers fantastic birding with over 300 species recorded.



Victoria Falls: Date of inscription 1989

\$62,000: The Victoria Falls: The Victoria Falls is one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the world. The Victoria Falls are 1708m wide and drop 99m at its highest point, making it the largest sheet of falling water in the world when the Zambezi River is at its fullest. Twice the height of Niagara Falls and one and a-half times wider, the Victoria Falls are divided into five separate waterfalls: Devil's Cataract, Main Falls, Horseshoe Falls, Rainbow Falls and Eastern Cataract. Victoria Falls (also known as Mosi-oa-Tunya, "the smoke that thunders") was seen by David Livingstone, the first European visitor, who named it in honour of Queen Victoria. He was so impressed by what he saw that he described the Falls saying "scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight."

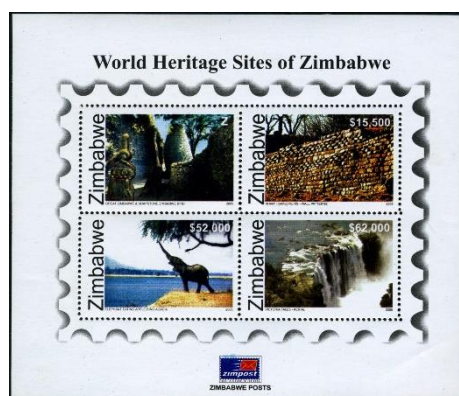
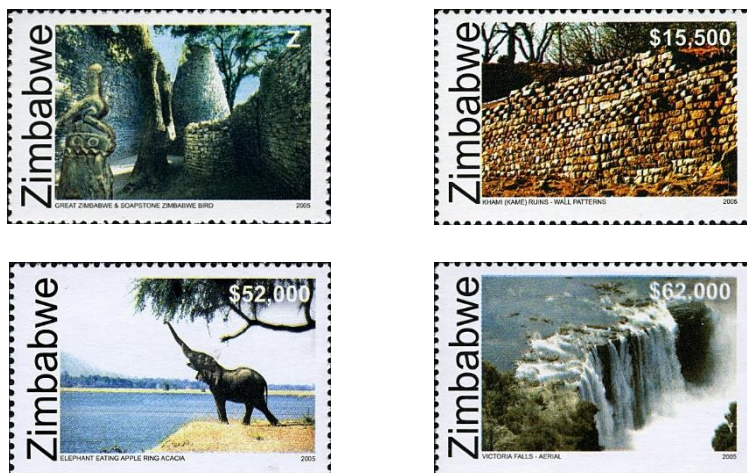
There is one other site in Zimbabwe inscribed in 2002, namely the Matobo Hills outside Bulawayo. This site was not depicted in this issue.



Matobo Hills: The Matobo Hills, southern Zimbabwe, are home to an outstanding collection of rock paintings, the largest in southern Africa. The large boulders provide abundant natural shelters and have been associated with human occupation from the early Stone Age. The hills and caves of the area are renowned for the 20,000 cave-paintings and petroglyphs that can be found there, which date from as far back as 13,000 years ago. The unusual hill formations that dot the landscape are called "Bald Heads" by the local people.

The various themes depicted in the paintings are associated with hunting and gathering and compared to Tsodilo in Botswana, the Matobo Hills are older and associated with a different cultural tradition. The Matobo Hills still provide a strong focus for the local Zimbabwe community, which use the shrines and sacred places linked to traditional and social activities.

The Stamps



(Reduced to 50% of size)

Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1171	595	Z	Great Zimbabwe & Soapstone Zimbabwe Bird
1172	596	\$15,500	Khami (Kame) Ruins – Wall Patterns
1173	597	\$52,000	Elephant eating Apple Ring Acacia – Mana Pools
1174	598	\$62,000	Victoria Falls – Aerial View
MS1175	MS11		Se-tenant block of four values.

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet stamps: 42 x 28 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			
	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 R/5, printed in black			
Sheet Number:	Type SN 7 with printed ‘ZIMPOST’ prefix, right margin opposite R1/5, reading down			
Print numbers:	Z Value	470,000	\$15,500	45,000
	\$52,000.	30,000	\$62,000	30,000
	Miniature sheet	2,500		
Issue date:	6 th October, 2005			

Postal Rates

The local postage rate for the ‘Z’ value as at the date of issue was \$10,250, the \$15,500 value does not represent the basic postal rate for any external destination, whilst the \$52,000 the Africa and \$62,000 the Europe air mail rates.

Postal Rates were to increase four days after the release of this issue, rendering the stamp values incapable of being used without make up values.

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 colour variations have been noted for this issue, this is considered normal.



\$62,000: Movement of cyan plate upwards, causing value to be blurred



\$62,000: Movement of black plate to left, causing value to be blurred.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)

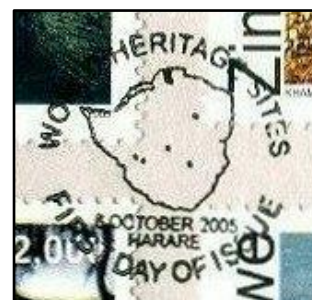


Miniature sheet: Additional vertical perforations through top margin.

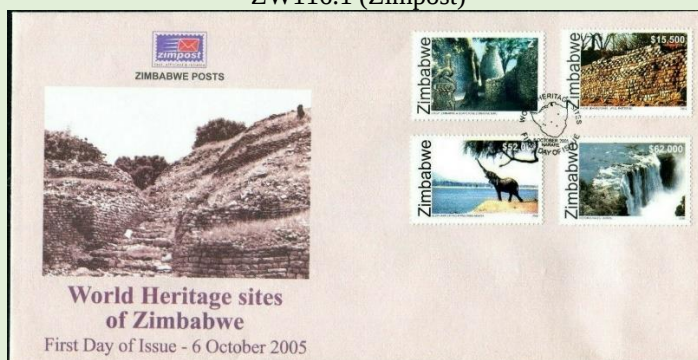
First Day Cover

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.



ZW116.1 (Zimpost)



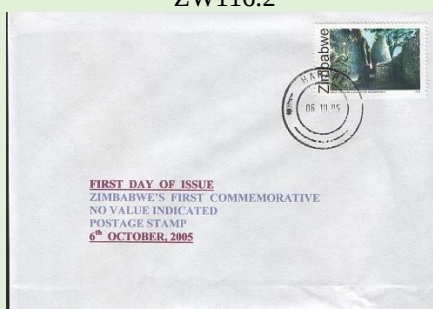
Cover with set of stamps, placed on cover using Autophix machine and printed pictorial cancellation.
220 x 110 mm

ZW116.1 MS (Zimpost)



Miniature sheet with hand struck
First Day of Issue, Harare, cancellation for 6th October 2005
220 x 110 mm

ZW116.2



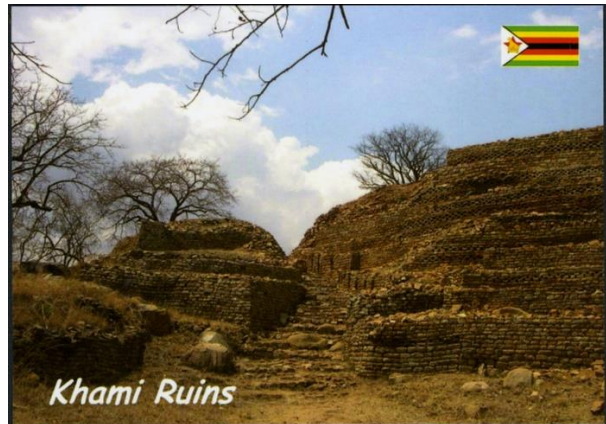
Produced by Harare Stamp Company
"Zimbabwe's first commemorative no value indicated postage stamps"
160 x 114 mm

Bibliography:

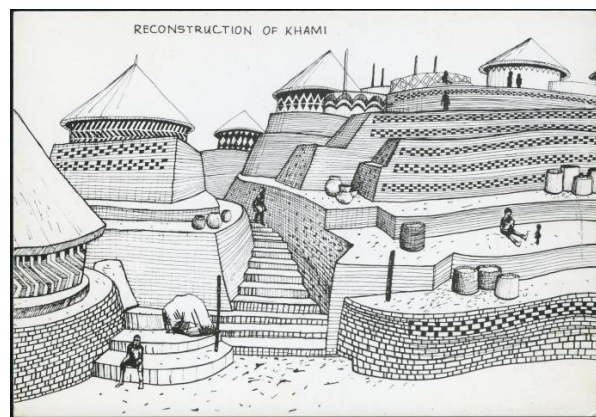
1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 5 of 2005
3. <http://www.siyabona.com/world-heritage-sites-zimbabwe.html>

\$15,500: Khami (Kame) Ruins.

These Iron age ruins are the type site for the Khami (Kame) phase of the Zimbabwe tradition. Kame is situated 22 kilometres west of Bulawayo above the west bank of the Kame River from which they take their name. The main set of the ruins is in an area of about 1.5 square kilometres; though there are also smaller isolated ruins in the area up to 8 kilometres away. The site was partially excavated between 1947 and 1956. The archaeological evidence indicates that the platform areas were occupied by people with prestige and status while the majority of the population lived in huts made of light framework of sticks and clay *dhaka* to the west of the stone wall area. It is thought that the Mambo or supreme chief lived on what is now called the hill ruin where large huts were situated on the edge of the platform. Archaeologists generally agreed that Khami (Kame) was the capital of Torwa state that emerged as a strong power in south western Zimbabwe at the time when Great Zimbabwe was in decline. Imported pottery from Europe and China, as well as radiocarbon determination, indicate that the stone wall period at Khami (Kame) dates from the 15th to 17th centuries. However, the discovery of early and late stone age artifacts show that the area was being used prior to at various times, possibly up to 100,000 years ago.



Postcard produced by Images of Africa 2009



Post card produced "From Life at Great Zimbabwe"

"Reconstruction of Khami"

© M White & P Garlake.

Printed by Mambo Press

Z Value: Great Zimbabwe

This Iron Age Site, the symbol and namesake of modern Zimbabwe, lies 27 kilometres south east of Masvingo and is the remains of an extensive town built between 1200 and 1450 AD. The word 'Zimbabwe' (plural Madzimbabwe) is derived from the Shona words *dzimba dza mabwe* meaning 'houses of stone'. Archaeologists and historians believe that from the 13th to 15th centuries Great Zimbabwe was the capital for a large area in southern Africa. Throughout this region there were smaller but similar Madzimbabwe.

The Site of Great Zimbabwe covers over 720ha and comprises of mainly stone wall enclosures and areas of hut remains. The two main areas of stone wall enclosures comprise the Hill Complex on the long steep sided granite hill that rises 80 metres above the surrounding ground; and the land beneath this hill, where the valley enclosures and the Great Enclosure are situated. The Valley Enclosure has stone walls, up to 6m thick and 11 metres high and are built without mortar. Natural granite boulders are often incorporated into a wall which usually follows a curved line. The purpose of the walls was primarily to enclose areas within which dhaka (Clay) structures and

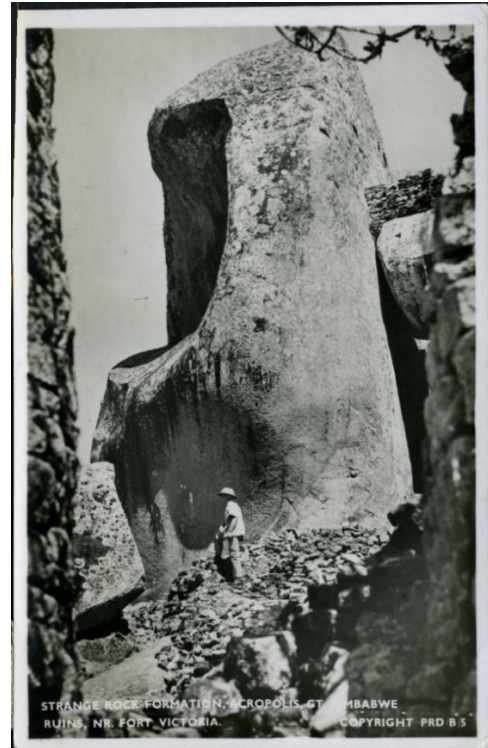
smaller partition walls were constructed. The building stone was obtained locally from the numerous large granite hills in the area. The weathering of the rock causes it to exfoliate in layers usually between 6cm and 20cm thick, which subsequently break down into parallel sided slabs. The earliest 'undressed' masonry, dated to the 13th century, is composed of dressed blocks deliberately chipped to the required shape and size. The junctions of the walls are not bonded together; instead each wall leans slightly against each other. Inside the enclosures there is evidence that some of the walls and ground surfaces were originally plastered with Dhaka (clay).

The Hill Complex - This roughly oval area about 100m by 45m, includes rocky outcrops and large granite boulders. There are also a series of enclosures connected by narrow stone passages. Many of the walls date to the earliest building style and it has been suggested that the Hill Complex was probably always the main spiritual and religious centre of Great Zimbabwe.

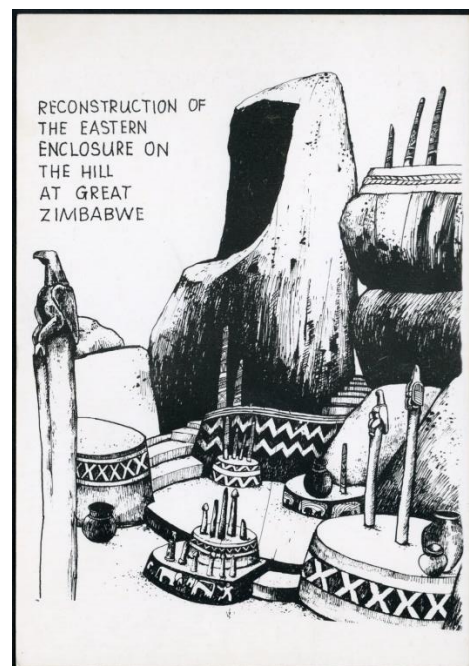
The largest hill enclosure is the Western Enclosure, with a main perimeter wall 8m high and 5m thick. Originally there were alternating turrets and monoliths equally spaced along the top of this wall. Within the enclosure valuable archaeological data was destroyed in the early 20th century during uncontrolled excavation and widespread general clearance. Small scale excavations in 1958 in the peripheral area revealed that there was continuous occupation in the enclosure for about 300 years. The accumulated stratigraphy showed that when old huts were destroyed the remains were levelled off and new huts were built on top. Ceremonial spearheads, large soapstone bowls and gold objects were amongst the items found in here and it has been suggested that this was the home of the spirit medium or chief.

The eastern end of the hill, was probably the main ceremonial area, comprising of an enclosure 20m by 20m in which there is a series of manmade stone platforms that were originally enclosed in dhaka (mud); overlooking the enclosure and the surrounding country is a natural 'balcony'. At least 30 granite and soapstone monoliths were found in this enclosure some of which were decorated with geometric designs and six of which were carved in the stylised shape of birds now known as the Zimbabwe birds.

(Opposite: Postcard produced "From Life at Great Zimbabwe", "Reconstruction of the Eastern Enclosure on the Hill at Great Zimbabwe". © M White & P Garlake)



Postcard produced by TOKIM – “Strange rock formation, Acropolis Great Zimbabwe Ruins”



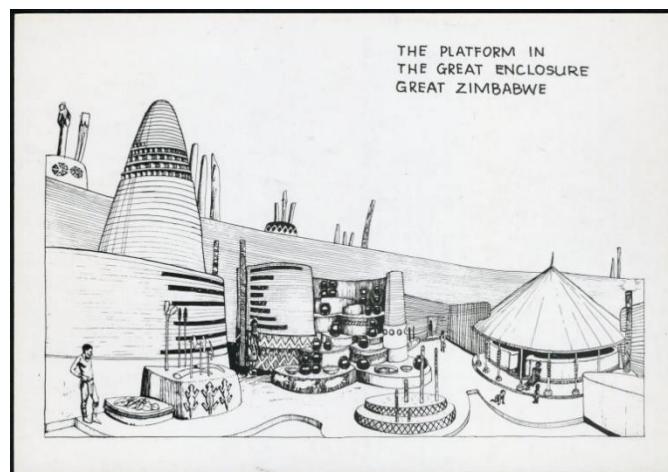
The Great Enclosure - This is the largest single ancient structure south of the Sahara. The perimeter wall is 250 metres in circumference and 11 metres high. It is estimated that nearly a million granite blocks were used in its construction. The roughly oval shaped structure encloses an area of 80 by 50 metres and contains a number of stone features including the conical tower.

The Great Enclosure evolved to its final state over the period of time during which Great Zimbabwe was a large town. Two high walls form the narrow parallel passage, 55m long, that allows direct access from the northern entrance to the Conical Tower. The inner wall of the passage was originally built as the perimeter wall; the massive outer wall was constructed later, surmounted by monoliths and two courses of chevron pattern high up on the external face in the area of the Conical Tower.



Post card produced by P.P.I Ltd "No 6 Zimbabwe Conical Tower"

The Conical Tower was one of the last structures to be built in the Great Enclosure, and measures 10 metres in height and 5 metres in diameter at the base, tapering to 2 metres at the top where originally there was an additional three courses of 'dentelle' decoration. It is solid and built of granite blocks throughout, and it rests directly on the ground with no underlying chamber. Its large size and seclusion behind an equally massive enclosure wall, together with the narrow passageway leading to it indicate that it was an important structure with no functional use and was probably symbolic. Traditionally, the Conical Tower is said to have represented a grain bin symbolising good harvests and prosperity.



Post card produced "From Life at Great Zimbabwe",
"The Platform in the Great enclosure, Great Zimbabwe".
© M White & P Garlake. Printed by Mambo Press

The remains of stepped platforms and hut floors are found within the Great Enclosure but most of the archaeological stratigraphy which would have explained its function and history, was removed between 1890 and 1910. It has been suggested that it was the chief's residence or a court for the chief's wives or a premarital initiation school.

The Valley Enclosures - It has been estimated that there were about 50 households within the stone wall valley enclosures. The archaeological evidence suggests that these were the homes of the more important people, while most of the population lived in huts set close together on the periphery of the enclosures. The population for the whole of Great Zimbabwe during its heyday is estimated at between 10,000 and 18,000. The seventh and last Soapstone Zimbabwe bird was found in one of the enclosures and this is the Zimbabwe bird used as the Zimbabwe National symbol.

\$52,000: Mana Pools National Park:

The 219,600 ha Mana Pools National Park forms part of the middle Zambezi River valley wilderness complex stretching from Lake Kariba Dam, downstream to the Mozambique border. Widely recognised as finest and least developed wildlife and wilderness parks in Southern Africa, it has good numbers of most indigenous mammals and a wealth of bird species. The focal point of the park is the system of alluvial river terraces, up to 3 kilometres wide which flank the parks entire 50 kilometre river frontage and support mature woodlands ranging from *Acacia albida* on their newer parts, to stands of Natal Mahogany, figs, ebonies and other species on the older areas and on former islands and levees. The park takes its name from the pools that still lie in the abandoned river channels that run through the terraces. The origin of the word *mana* is sometimes said to mean 'Four'. South of these terraces, the flat valley floor is covered with Mopane woodlands and Jesse bush replaced by the *Brachystegia* species on the Zambezi escarpment that bounds the valley some 50 km from the river. The fertile terraces and their juxtaposition with the harsher valley hinterland, are responsible for creating some of the largest dry season mammal concentrations in Zimbabwe.



During the rainy season, water and fodder become plentiful in the valley and most of the large mammals in the region move away from the Zambezi and become widely dispersed. At the end of the rains they are forced back towards the Zambezi by shortages of fodder inland. The *Acacia albida* trees play an important part in this movement. They have a reverse foliage cycle in that their leaves develop during dry season and fall with the onset of the rains; in addition, each tree bears up to 400kg of pods in August/September. Thus, they provide both shade and fodder, especially for the elephant when they are most needed. By 1985 the middle Zambezi valley was

believed to be home to about 11,000 elephants and it was thought to be overpopulated due to widespread ringbarking of the Acacias and the failure of new seeds to mature because of the overpopulation. It was decided to bring down the elephant population to 8,000. Buffalo herds up to 2,000 strong are a feature of Mana Pools area in the dry season.

Most other indigenous mammals are abundant throughout with the exception of white rhinoceros, wildebeest and giraffe. The park also holds one of the densest populations of black rhinoceros in the world; they have come under heavy poaching pressure and are now well protected by intensive armed ground patrols. Lions, leopards and hyenas are plentiful. Cheetahs are also seen in some areas; and there are several packs of wild dogs.

The river offers some of Zimbabwe's biggest concentrations of hippopotamus and crocodiles. The fish eagle which has become rare in many other parts of Africa is common as is the African Skimmer and beautiful Carmine bee-eater which can be seen nesting in holes in the high river banks of Mana during breeding season.

\$62,000: The Victoria Falls:

The Victoria Falls is located on the River Zambezi about 1,000 kilometres from its source. They are Zimbabwe's best known geographical feature and a major tourist attraction. "Scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight." So wrote Dr. David Livingstone, the Scots missionary-explorer when he first saw the Victoria Falls on 16 November 1855. Overwhelmed by the beauty and magnitude of the scene, his prosaic matter of fact style deserted him as he gazed at the huge 2.5 kilometre wide volume of water plunging into the 108 metre vertical gorge and rising again in great columns of misty fury. 1,700 metres at their widest, 108 m at their highest the Victoria Falls are twice as high and one and a half times as wide as Niagara Falls in North America. Their beauty is probably matched only by the Iguassu Falls in South Brazil. Along the width they divide into the Devil's Cataract, Main Falls, Horseshoe Falls, Rainbow Falls and the Eastern Cataract. In mid-April the river reaches its peak volume and some 620 million litres a minute plummet over the lip of the Falls. During April 1969, the columns of spray rose over 450 metres and were visible like the smoke from a huge bush fire 80 km away. The decreased flow from August through to September make visiting and photographing the Falls from both the Rain Forest and from the air much easier. .



Dr. Livingstone's Makalolo interpreters told him that the falls were called by the local people who lived in the area, *Mosi-oa-Tunya* – “The Smoke that Thunders”. Livingstone simply named them after his Queen, Victoria. The area of 59,570 hectares around the Falls southern bank, including the Falls themselves, is a National Park. 56,000 ha is devoted to a game reserve stretching 65 km upstream along the Zimbabwean bank. Impressive restoration work is carried out continuously to maintain the viewing area in the Rain Forest as well as the Forest itself.

