WOMEN CREATING ZIMBABWE

Issued 10th July, 2007

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 2007)[2]

This issue depicts four women who each made a special contribution to creating the nation that is Zimbabwe.



$7,500: Mbuya Nehanda (died 1898)

Mbuya Nehanda has become the best known symbol of resistance to colonial rule in Zimbabwe. The Nehanda medium was said to be a major factor in the 1896 Risings. The famous medium was named Charwe, said to be the daughter of Chitaura of the Hwata dynasty in the upper Mazowe valley. Charwe was married and had two daughters and a son, the name of her husband is unknown. She probably became possessed by the Nehanda spirit in 1894.

Mbuya Nehanda is said to have been responsible for the organisation of resistance to the British South Africa Company and the settlers in the Mazowe Valley, in particular for the killing of 'Kunyaira', the extremely oppressive Native Commissioner of the area.

The resistance began in June 1896 and from then until her capture in late 1897 the Nehanda medium was a major factor in the war. Tried and sentenced to death in March 1898, she refused to convert to Christianity and remained defiant until the moment she was hanged. The memory of the Nehanda medium continued to be linked to the theme of resistance, and with the revival of armed resistance against the Rhodesian state, particularly the guerrilla war that began in 1972, the name Nehanda became of increasing importance to the nationalist movement and is an integral part of Zimbabwe's history.

The stamp shows the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, built on the site where Mbuya Nehanda was condemned and executed.



$29,000: Lozikeyi (circa 1855-1919)

Lozikeyi was one of Lobengula's early wives (the wives whom he married before he succeeded to the throne). She was born a Dhlodhlo, a member of a distinguished family under the Nqameni regiment which entered Western Zimbabwe with Mzilikazi, first king of the Ndebele. This background ensured that she would become Lobengula's senior wife. As time passed, she also became the most influential of all the women associated with the King. She was regarded as "The Queen of Bulawayo", and as such she had important military functions and was attached to the King's bodyguard and most important regiment, Imbizo.

After the war of 1893, following the King on his exodus from Bulawayo, Lozikeyi was tasked with taking the other queens and the royal cattle to safety. Eventually she settled in what is now known as Inkosikazi Communal Land.

When in March 1896 the major rebellion broke out against white rule, it is believed that Lozikeyi was at the centre of the planning and decision making in the Matabeleland area.

Lozikeyi allowed the London Missionary Society to minister to her people and it was around their stations that the nationalist movement eventually grew. Queen Lozikeyi died in the great 'flu epidemic of 1919'.

The stamp depicts a scene from Lobengula's Court



$35,000: Mother Patrick (1863-1900)

Born Mary Anne Cosgrave in County Meath, Eire, she and her siblings were brought up by relatives, both parents having died young. Convent educated, she was described as very religious, gentle and good.

At the age of 16 she answered a call from the Bishop of Grahamstown, South Africa for priests and postulants to help in the running of his diocese. In January 1881 she entered the convent of the Dominican Sisters in King Williams Town. She displayed a special talent for teaching and under the name of Sr Mary Patrick O.S.D. she served in the convent at Potchefstroom, South Africa.

When Rev Fr Daignault appealed to the Sisters in King Williams Town for help and assistance in the work of the Zambezi Mission Territory, Sister Mary Patrick volunteered and was chosen to head the group of five sisters accompanying the pioneer column to Mashonaland. Setting out in February 1890 they eventually reached Salisbury in July 1891 after a long and hazardous journey. Hospital work began at the beginning of August and in October of that year Mother Patrick started the first school. In 1898 the Dominican community was separated from the Mother House in South Africa and Mother Patrick was chosen Prioress of the local branch. In the company of another sister she returned to Dublin to complete her studies for a Matron's Certificate, and had the Order of the Red Cross conferred on her by Queen Victoria. On her return to Mashonaland she became very ill and died on 31 July 1900.

$45,000: Amai Sally Mugabe (1932-1992)



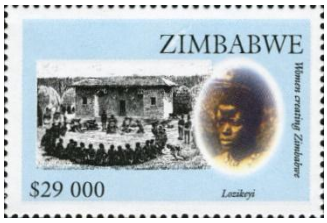
Born Sarah Franscesca Hayfron in Accra, Sally was educated in Ghana, qualifying as a teacher. In 1960 she met her husband to be, Robert Mugabe, the future President of Zimbabwe at the Takoradi Teachers Training College where they both taught. Cde Sally came to Zimbabwe in 1961 and the couple married in April of that year After a spell of teaching and imprisonment for involvement in politics, a pregnant Sally fled with her husband to Tanzania, on the orders of Joshua Nkomo. A son, Nhamodzenyika was born in 1963, but tragically died in Ghana three years later.

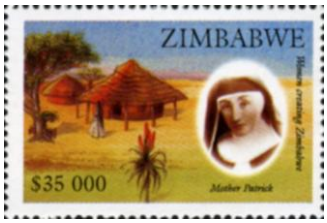
She then moved to London where she undertook further studies. Besides campaigning for the release of political prisoners in Rhodesia, she became a pivotal point for all the political exiles. In 1974 Sally reunited with her husband in Mozambique, and in 1978 was elected Deputy Secretary of the Women's Congress. Her reign in Zimbabwe as both Prime Minister's wife and then as the First Lady was characterised by her role as patron and supporter of many charities, mostly involving the welfare of children. At the time of her death she had established the Foundation for Child Survival and Development for Zimbabwe and the Frontline States. She died of a kidney ailment on 27 January 1992 and was the first woman to be declared a national heroine.

The stamp features the Chinyaradzo Children's Home in Harare.

The Stamps









Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1226	643	$7,500	Mbuya Nehanda
1227	644	$29,000	Lozikeyi
1228	645	$35,000	Mother Patrick
1229	646	$45,000	Sally Mugabe

Technical details

Stamp size: Sheet stamps: 42 x 28 mm

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

Artist: Joan Soriano

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 Miniature sheet: Imperforate margins
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe
Printer's Imprint:	Bottom Margin, below Row 5 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 R1/5, printed in black
Sheet Number:	Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R1/5, reading down

Print numbers:	\$7,500	600,000	\$29,000.	90,000
	\$35,000.	70,000	\$45,000.	70,000

Issue date: 10th July, 2007

Postal Rates

The stamps reflect the correct postal rates for local and airmail rates for the usual destinations.

Listed varieties

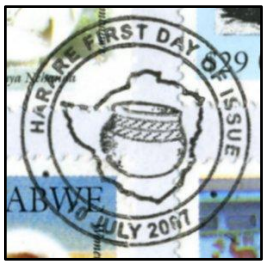
No listed varieties have been noted.

Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. No variations have been reported.

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.

ZW127.1 (Zimpost)



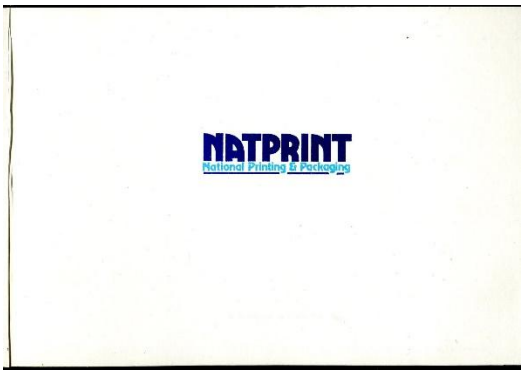
220 x 110 mm

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. The proof stamps reflect postal rates effective from 2nd April 2007. The final stamps reflect the rates as they had changed on 2nd July 2007. There had also been a postal rate change on 18th May 2007.

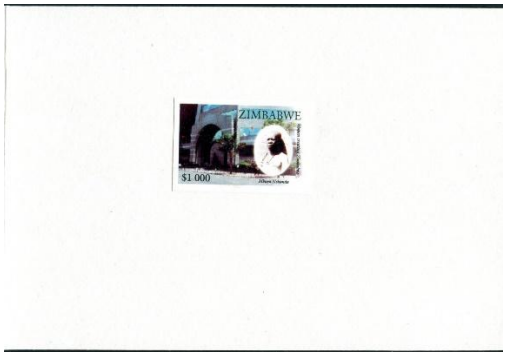
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



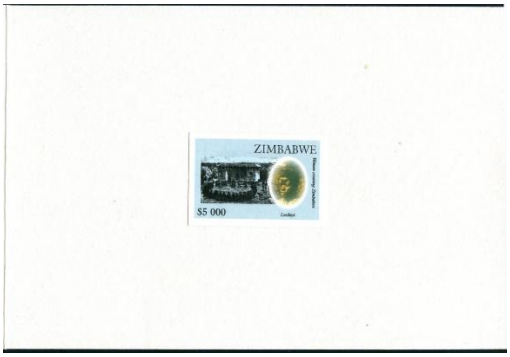
Front cover



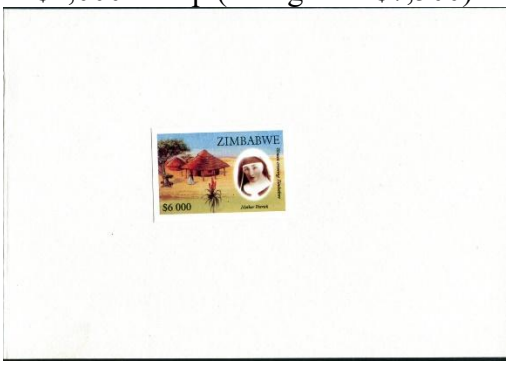
Inside front cover



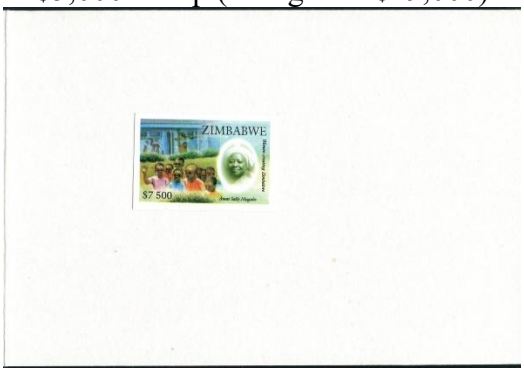
$1,000 stamp (changed to $7,500)



$5,000 stamp (changed to $29,000)



$6,000 stamp (changed to $35,000)

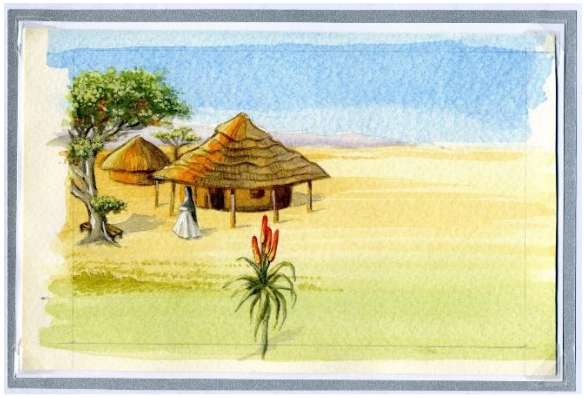


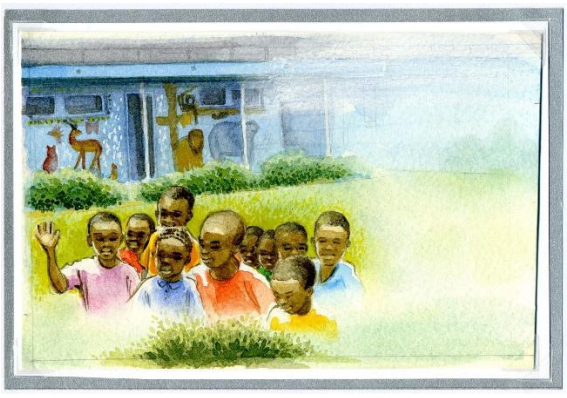
$7,500 stamp (changed to $45,000)

Artwork by Joan Soriano

For this issue Joan Soriano only needed to produce artwork for the two high values of this issue

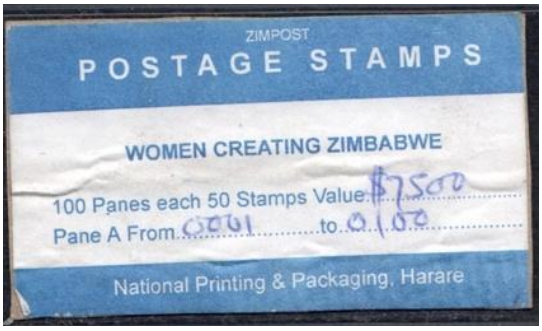
(Courtesy of Rod Kantor)

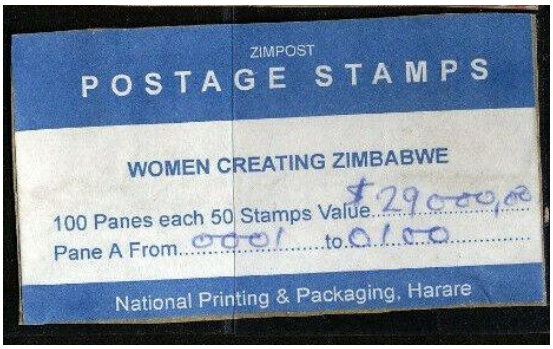


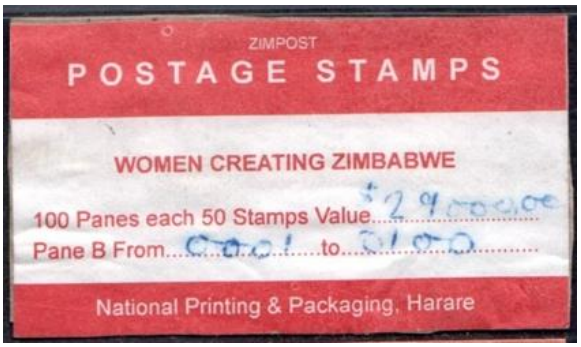


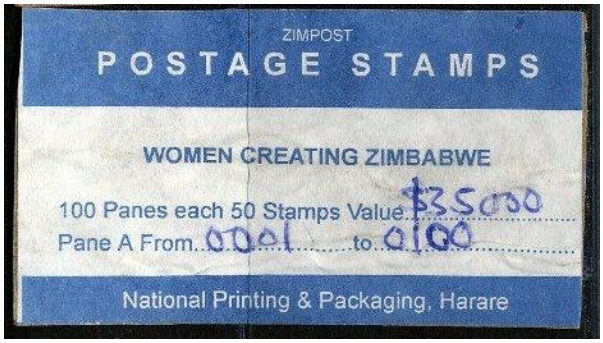
Delivery labels

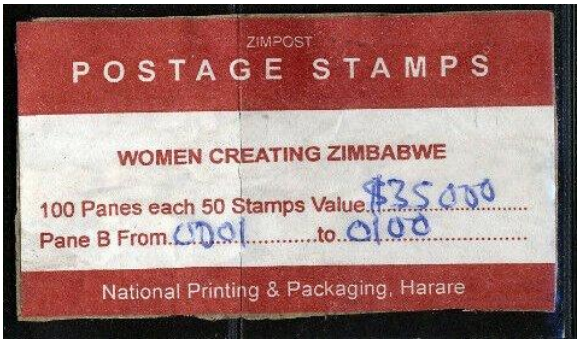
Delivery Labels from packaging containing sheets of 100 stamps. Some of the values are represented below with the Cylinder 1A on blue labels only and 1B on brown. All labels are for sheet numbers 0001 to 0100. *(Source EBay)*

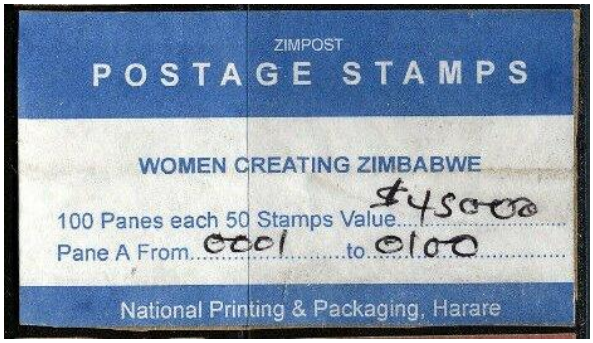


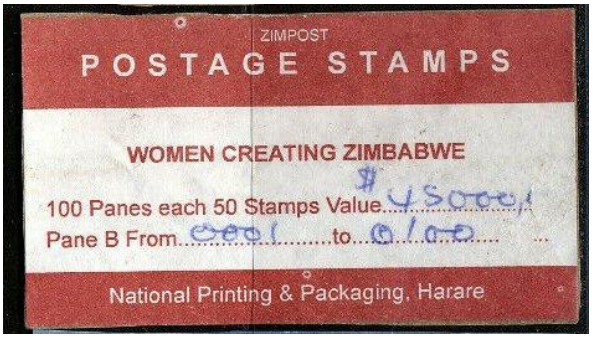












Bibliography:

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 2007

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
12-2021	Artwork of Joan Soriano
8-2026	Additional delivery labels (£7500 1A & $29,000 1B)