BUTTERFLIES OF ZIMBABWE: SERIES III

Issued 18th September, 2007

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 5 of 2007)[2]

Zimbabwe is rich in the number and variety of butterflies found here throughout the year, often with brilliantly coloured and patterned wings to scare off predators and aid camouflage. Generally, the underside is strikingly paler and mottled with different colours. These are sun-loving creatures, the jewels of our veld. Their short lives are filled with purpose, initiative, endurance, courage and beauty. Their very existence is now dependant on the conservation of our wild savannah lands.

Z: Mother-of-Pearl *Salamis parhassus*



This beautiful butterfly has wings of translucent green suffused with iridescent violet as it flies. Both fore and hind wings have dark eye-spots to divert predators. The brightly coloured red spots are smaller on the underside. It is found mainly in dense woodland and along river sides. The spiny caterpillar is dark brown with reddish orange markings.

A: Citrus Swallowtail *Papilio demodocus*



This wide-ranging butterfly is distributed over central and southern Africa, most commonly seen at Christmas time. It feeds on citrus trees, their foliage matched by the Swallowtail's beautiful green and black colouring, dappled with sunlit patches of golden yellow. It circles joyfully then settles, with quivering wings, loving the sunlight. Its eggs are laid on citrus leaves and the larvae hatching there may become a pest.

E: Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*



This butterfly has distinctive orange tips to the fore wings, with grey or black edges and a dark central spot, smaller in the male. The undersides are camouflaged with a delicate dappled effect. The caterpillar is pale greenish grey, well matching the seed pods on which it feeds, too often in the vegetable garden.

R - Blue Charaxes *bohemani*



One of Zimbabwe's most beautiful butterflies, recognisable at once by the patch of luminous glowing iridescent blue on the upper wings. It flies strongly, at high speed. The under wings point downward when the butterfly is at rest and are easily overlooked. They are a contrasting intricate pale camouflage in colour. This butterfly sucks juices from a variety of flowers, mainly acacias, but also enjoys the moisture exuding from rotting piles of manure, fermenting bananas or vegetables in hot sunshine.

$50,000: Crimson Tip *Colotis danae*



A distinctive white butterfly of Zimbabwe with red tips to the forewings of both sexes. The underside is yellowish with dark spots, variable at different seasons, and in different regions. The caterpillar is green above and pale green or white on the underside. It feeds on a variety of veld plants. The butterfly is here shown against a Flame Lily, Zimbabwe's emblem.

$100,000: Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui*



The Painted Lady is easy to recognize, with its yellow wings patterned with orange, black and white. It occurs world-wide except in Australia and New Zealand. The caterpillar is black, spotted with white and feeds on thistles and a variety of other wild plants.

(Note: this butterfly was also described in the 2001 issue of series II, but the incorrect butterfly was illustrated.)

The Stamps





(50% of actual size)

Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1234	651	Z	Mother of Pearl
1235	652	A	Citrus Swallowtail
1236	653	E	Orange Tip
1237	654	R	Blue Charaxes
1238	655	$50,000	Crimson Tip
1239	656	$100,000	Painted Lady
MS1240	MS18		Miniature sheet with all values se-tenant in block

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet stamps: 30 x 35 mm Miniature sheet: 125 x 104 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
Artist:	Lady Margaret Tredgold, laid out by Lucia Marisamhuka
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 14 x 14½, ZSC 14 x 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:

Z	600,000	A	100,000
E	100,000	R	100,000
$50,000	30,000	$100,000	30,000
Miniature sheet	5,000		

Issue date: 18th September, 2007

Postal Rates

The postal rates applicable at the date of issue were those effective from 27th August 2007, as follows:

Z	$7,500	A	$29,000	E	$35,000	R	$45,000

The $50,000 and $100,000 stamps were not applicable to any particular postal rates whether local, surface or air mails to any destination.

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 which are more noticeable with the solid colours. No variations have been reported.



Z value: Very different colours have been found with this stamp



Z value: Pair of stamps, with the right appearing to have water damage to the magenta plate



Z value: Shift of perforation down into the top of the design.



Z value: Shift of perforations up, just touching base of design.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



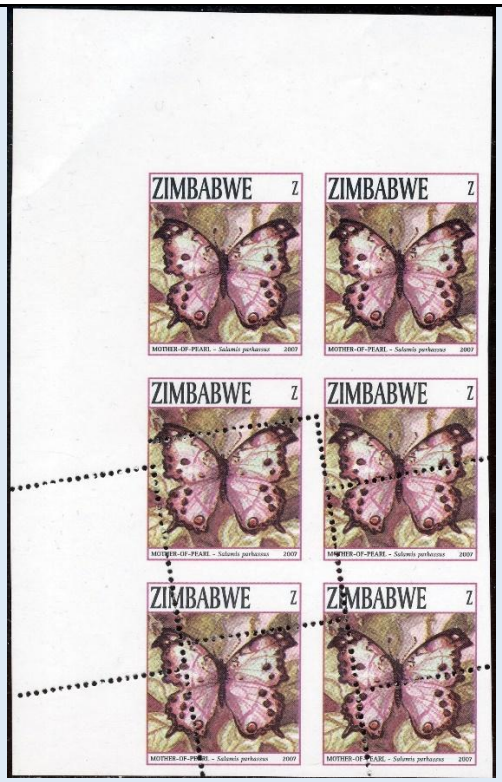
Z Value: Block of six with left column showing, possibly, water on the magenta plate preventing the printing of the magenta, and, possibly, yellow inks
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



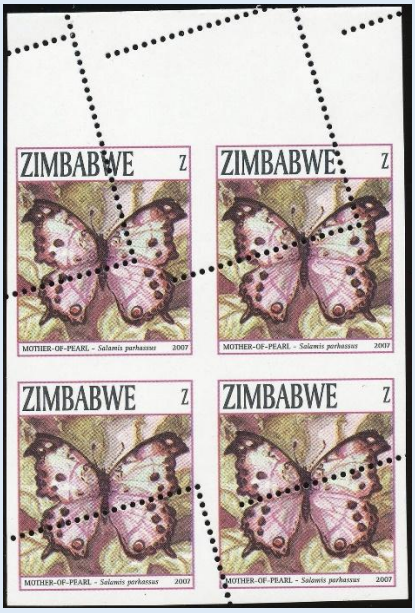
Z value: Possibly water on the cyan plate leaving orange areas on three of the stamps.



Z value: perforation shift down, with cyan area on one stamp
Possibly proof mateerial
(Source eBay March 2026)



Z value: Mis-perforation of the printing sheet, this block coming from the top of the Cyl 1A sheet.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



Z value: Mis-perforation of the printing sheets, showing the gap in the perforating the printing sheet. Note no perforation running through the centre of the block.
(Source: eBay download)



Z value: Mis-perforation of the printing sheet though the upper Cylinder 1A pane.
(Source: eBay download)



Z value: Mis-perforation of printing sheet, pair from top of, probably, Cyl. 1B pane
(Source: eBay download)



Z Value: Mis-perforation of printing sheet. This pair probably coming from either of the panes.
(Source: eBay download)



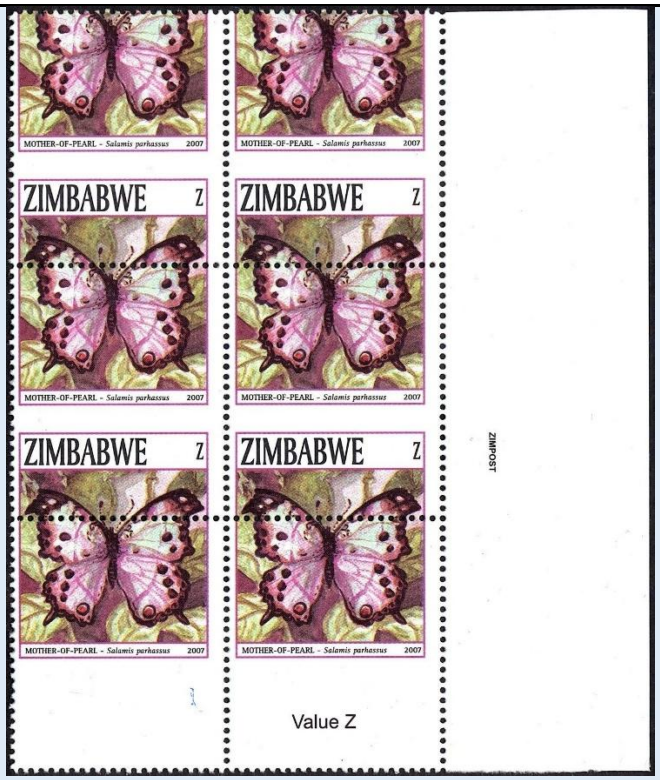
Z value: movement of perforations downwards through country's name
(Source eBay August 2024)



Z value: Shift of perforation down below the top panel with country name
(Source December 2024)



Z value: Downward perforation shift with partial cyan wash
(Source: eBay May 2024)



Z Value: Perforation shift downward to below the tips of the butterfly's wings.
Perforation also below the sheet value imprint.
In view of the lack of sheet number, it can be assumes that this is from printer's waste.
(Source eBay May 2026)



Z value: Perforated interpanneau block. Probably printer's waste due to lack of sheet number.
(Source eBay May 2025)





A value: Colour variations have been found with this stamp



A value: Shift of perforations to the right and at an angle sloping up from left to right.

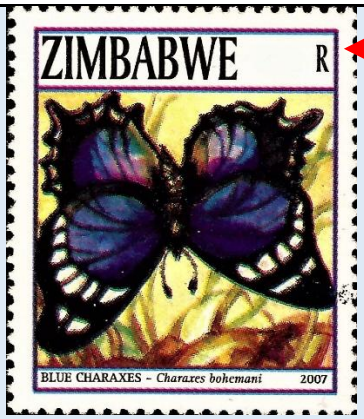




R value: Different colours have been found with this stamp



R value: Significant shift or yellow down into the white area at bottom of design. Also, small shift of cyan down



R value: Shift of cyan down.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



R value: Damage to top of 'WE' of Zimbabwe (R2)
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)

R Value:

Magenta wash over various stamps. To the left over most of the stamp and into the top margin. On the right to half of the left-hand stamp







$50,000: movement of perforations up and to right (Also seen in a Cylinder 1B block of 4)

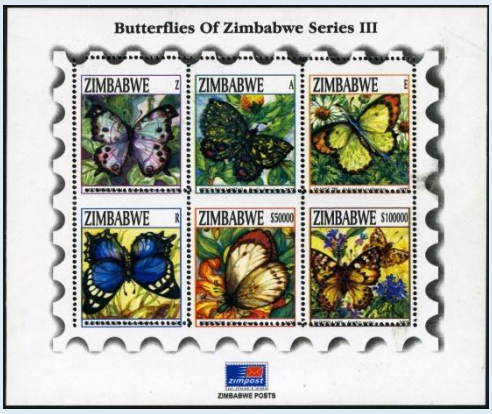


$100,000: Movement of cyan and yellow plates up (green line) above frame (green arrows). Also appear to be a double printing of the magenta, but this is only seen to the top box of the design (red arrows)





Miniature sheet: The colour variation found in the sheet stamps continues with sheetlets



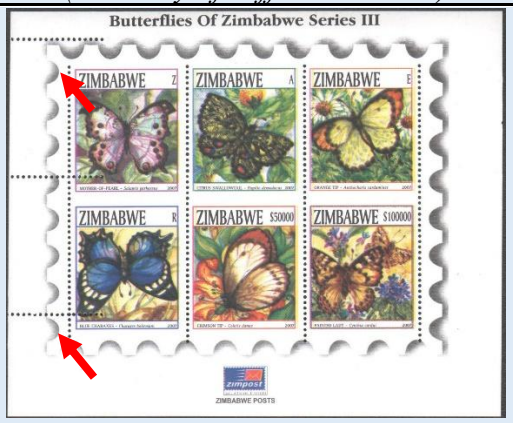
Miniature sheet: Shift of all perforations upwards into design



Miniature sheet: Shift of vertical perforation to right into design.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



Miniature sheet: Shift of vertical perforation substantially to left. No horizontal perfs
(Source eBay)



Miniature sheet: Horizontal perforation significant shift to the left, affecting left had stamps and left margin.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)

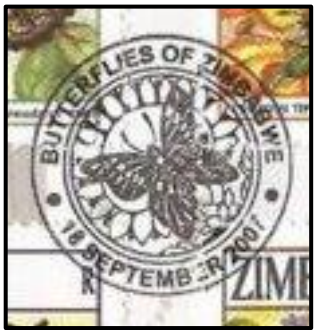


Miniature sheet: Significant shift of yellow plate to right.
(Source eBay)

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.



ZW129.1 (Zimpost)



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

ZW129.1 (MS) (Zimpost)



Miniature sheet with hand struck
First Day of Issue, Harare, cancellation for 18.09.07

Related Material

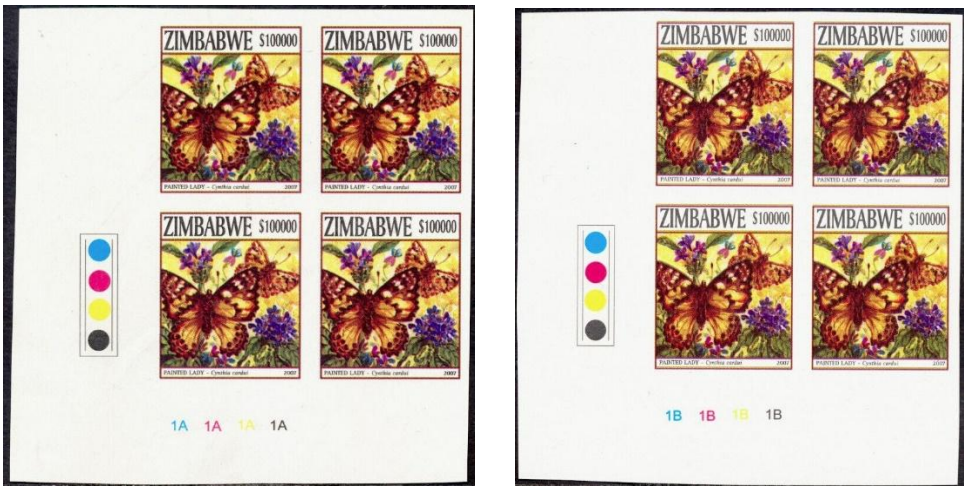
Printer's proofs



Z value: Imperforate cylinder 1B proof block
(Source eBay January 2023)



Z value: Interpanneau proof block
(Source eBay October 2024)



$100,000: Cylinders 1A & 1B imperforate proof blocks
(Source eBay November 2023)



$100,000: Interpanneau vertical proof blcok between cylinders 1A and 1B
(Source eBay June 2025)

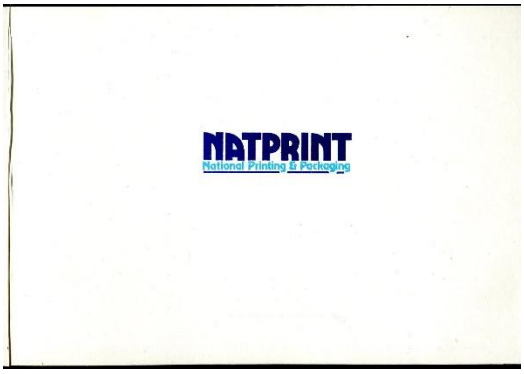


$100,000: Proof block withpaper creases across
(Source eBay May 2025)

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.

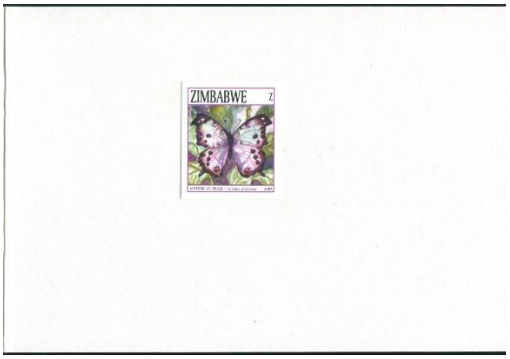
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



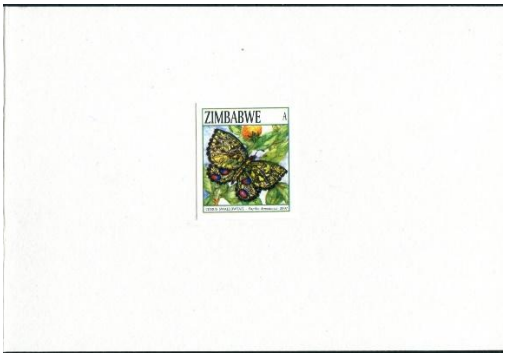
Front cover



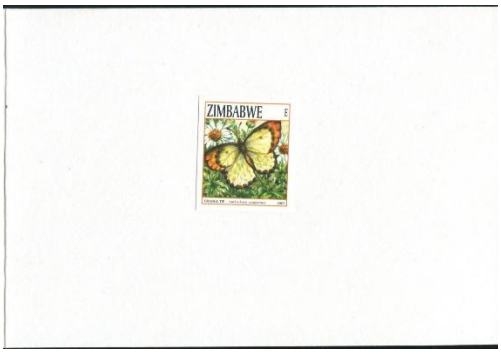
Inside front cover



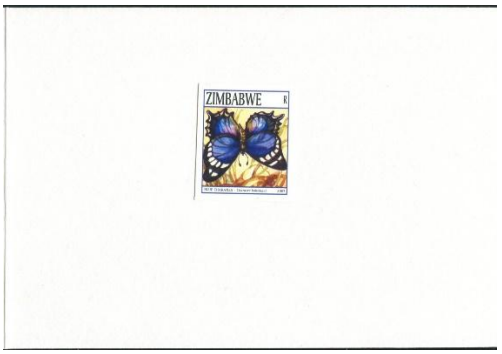
Z value stamp



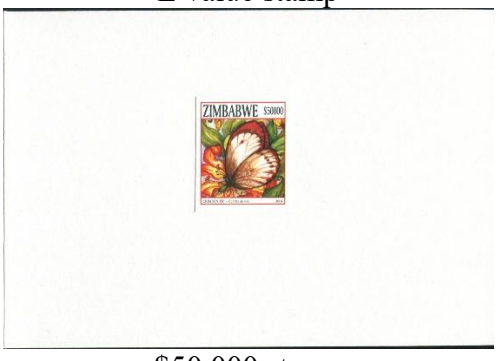
A value stamp



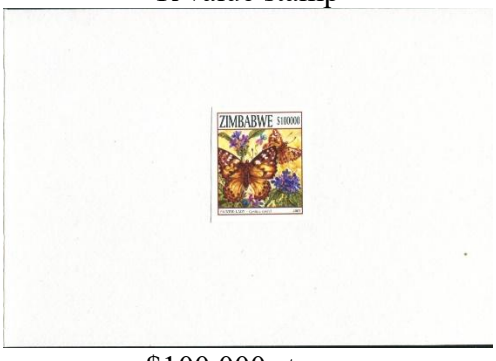
E value stamp



R value stamp



$50,000 stamp



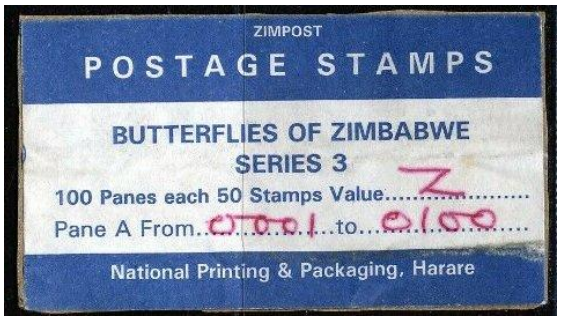
$100,000 stamp

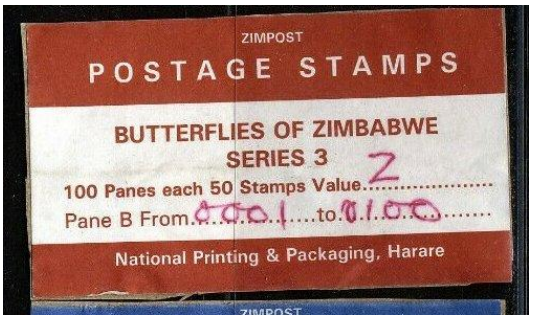
Specimen First Day Cover

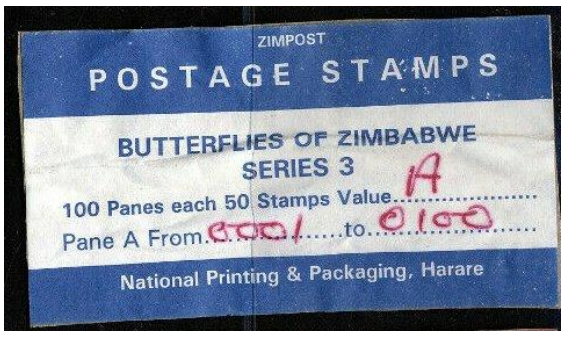


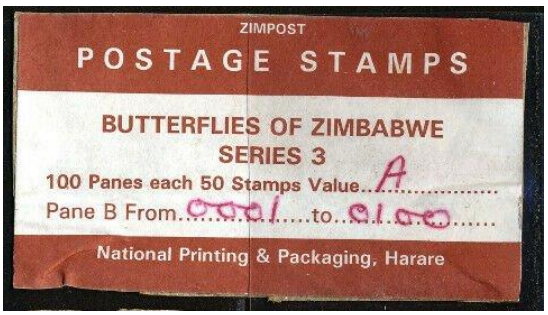
Delivery labels

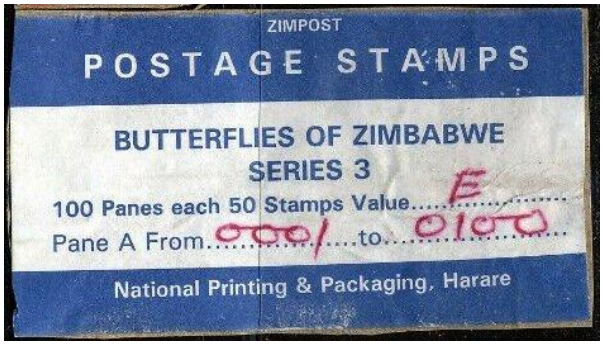
Delivery Labels from packaging containing sheets of 100 stamps. All the values are represented below with the Cylinder 1A on blue labels only and 1B on brown. All labels are for sheet numbers 0001 to 0100. *(Source EBay)*

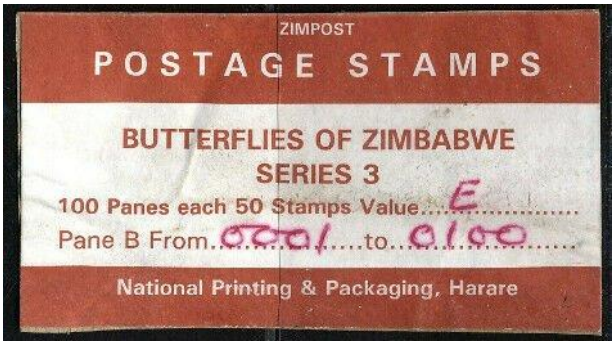


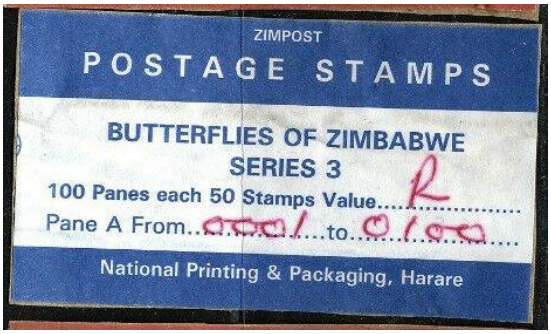


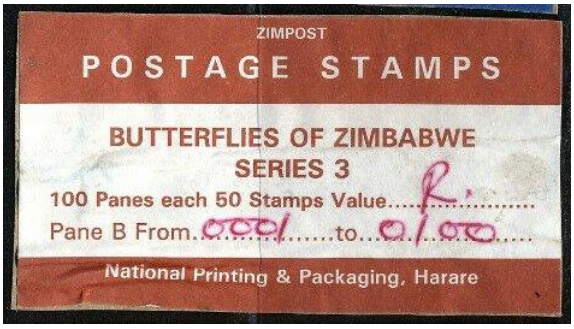


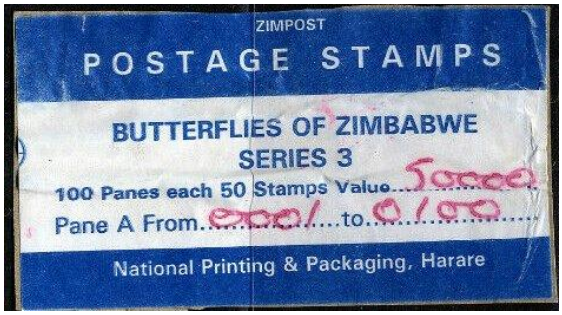


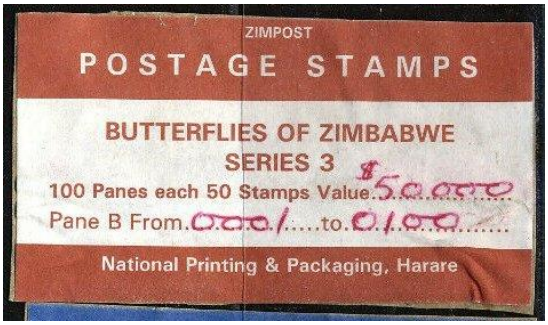


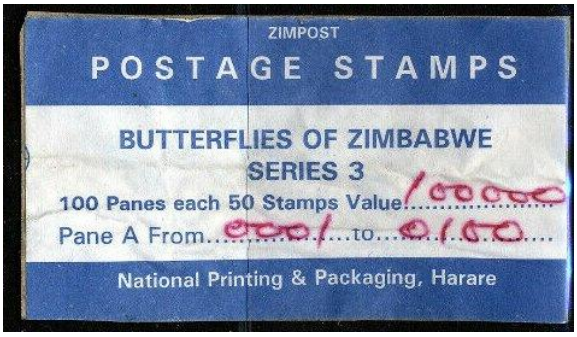


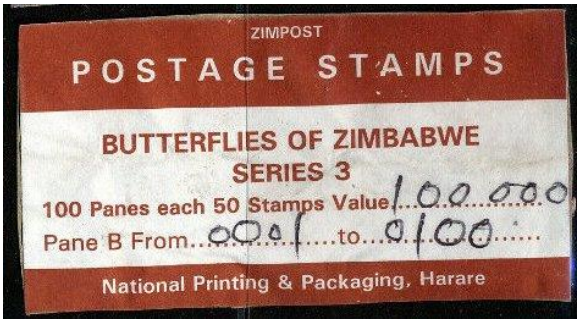












Bibliography:

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 5 of 2007

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2021	$100,000: imperforate pair of proof stamps
12/2021	Specimen FDC
12/2022	Cyl pairs of proof stamps – Z & $100k
3/2023	Imperf blk of 4 – probable proof
12/2023	Imperf proof block, rearranged, added $100k blks
8/2024	Z value: downward perf shift with partial cyan wash
12-2024	Z Value interpanneau block
	Z Value perforation shift downwards
4-2025	Z Value – shift of perfs down
8-2025	$100,000 – interpanneau proof block
	$100,000 – proof blk with paper creases
	Z value – perforated interpanneau blk
4-2026	Z value: perf shift down
8-2026	Z value – perf shift further down