THE HISTORY OF TRANSPORT IN ZIMBABWE

Issued 3rd June, 2014

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2014)[2]

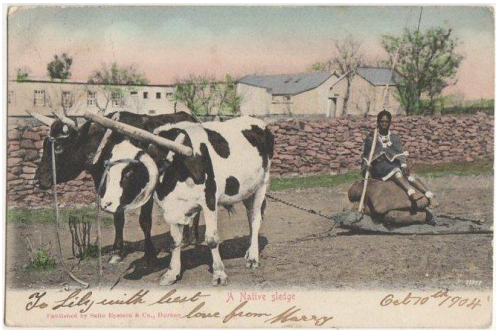
The first tracks were created by humans carrying goods, and these often followed the game trails. As animals became domesticated, donkeys and oxen were used by man for transport.

In Zimbabwe the sledge was pulled by oxen or donkeys but this caused erosion of the soil. With the introduction of the wheel, a solid wheel was formed out of a log of wood for the sledge. This then led to the adaptation of the colonial Scotch cart which is still widely used in Zimbabwe.

Transportation changed people's lives over time. It made it possible to travel to different destinations and to move goods and produce easily and quickly. Transportation made the world a smaller place

25c: The Sledge used in the 1890s

The Tonga sledge was drawn by donkeys. Cattle could not be used due to the presence of foot and mouth disease in the Zambezi Valley. The sledge had a reed basket built into the 'Y' shaped branch cut from a large tree.




Model A Ford belonging to J E Needham

30c: Model 'A' Ford Pheaton 1928

Successor to the famous Model T'. This very reliable and inexpensive Model 'A' was one of the most popular cars in Zimbabwe at the time. Country of origin - USA Engine - 3 cyl.S.V.3285cc Years built-1927-32 Price when new - £132

30c: Winston Churchill Train 1929

The Winston Churchill train was manufactured by Hudswell Clarke and Company in Leeds (works number 1627) and was a 36 tonner. It and its sister train were brought to Beira to work on the wharf, but were soon found to have a too rigid wheel base for the tight curves on the docks and were then withdrawn to Mutare. It was mainly used in the shunting yards. In 1941 it was named after Churchill.



Hudswell Clarke & Co engine (1371)



De Havilland DH – Fox Moth

75c: De Havilland DH - Fox Moth 1932

E.H Spencer of Spencer's garage in Victoria Falls had operated a DH Puss Moth aircraft from July 1935, providing charter flights around Victoria Falls. By 1946 Spencer's Airways, Victoria Falls, were using one Avro Anson, one De Havilland Fox Moth, one Tiger Moth and one Fairchild UC.61A to provide short pleasure flights over the Victoria Falls.

85c: Bristol Bus 1946

This bus was a wartime bus which was rebodied by Bence at Longwell Green around 1946. The Bristol bus was manufactured by Bristol Commercial Vehicles located in Bristol, England. In Zimbabwe the bus was used by Guinea Fowl School in Gweru. It was then donated to the National Museums and Monuments in December 1980.




Donkey drawn Scotch cart

$1: Ox-Drawn Cart 1964

Ox-Drawn Cart (Scotch Cart) is normally drawn by a pair of oxen or donkeys and is used to carry produce, firewood or shopping by small farmers. It consists of an axle with bearings or bush wheels, a load container and a drawbar (called a diesel boom). The wheels rotate separately for cornering.

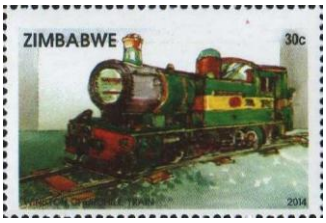


A variant of the Scotch Cart!

The Stamps













Catalogue Listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1368	769	25c	The Sledge used in the 1890s
1369	770	30c	Model 'A' Ford Pheaton 1928
1370	771	30c	Winston Churchill Train 1929
1371	772	75c	De Havilland DH – Fox Moth 1932
1372	773	85c	Bristol Bus 1946
1373	774	$1	Ox-drawn Scotch Cart 1964

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: Leslie Johnson

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: Left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down –cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Colour register: Type TL 4– round boxed – top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – black. yellow, magenta, cyan

Sheet Value: Sheet stamps only: Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black

Sheet Number: Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R1/5 reading down.

Bar codes: Opposite R9 & 10/5, printed in black, numbers:

20c	2 009113 000011
30c (Model A)	2 009113 000028
30c (Train)	2 009113 000035
75c	2 009113 000042
85c	2 009113 000059
$1	2 009113 000066

Print numbers:

25c	300,000	30c	150,000
30c	150,000	75c	10,000
85c	10,000	$1	10,000

Issue date: 3rd June 2014

Cylinder numbers and colour register

This is the only instance, to date, where the positioning in the margin of the cylinder numbers and colour register and swopped round as can be seen in the block of four opposite. The 'traffic lights' would normally be found in the left sheet margin, not in the top margin.



Bar codes

This is the first issue where bar codes have been introduced to the sheet margins. Each value has a separate bar code, see numbers above. Uncertain if the bar codes are used in the sale of the individual sheets or to audit the distribution of the sheets. If it is for the individual stamps, then why have a different bar code to the two 30c values?

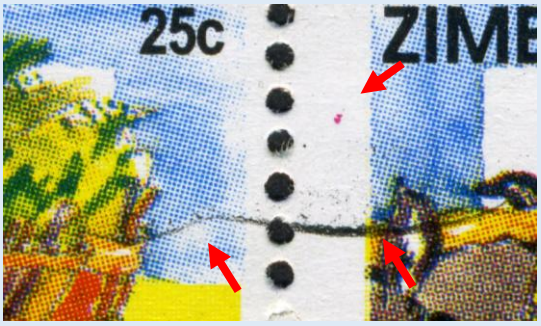


Listed Varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

Unlisted Varieties

Numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps were noted in the examination of the sheets with missing black printing.



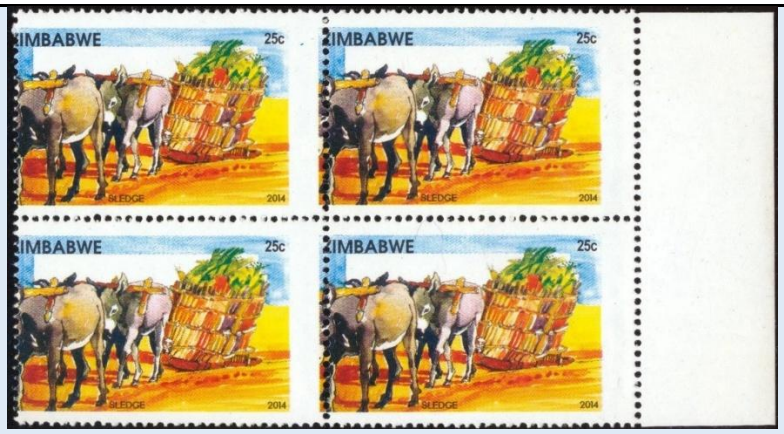
25c: black line stretching between stamps, with magenta dot above
(Courtesy of Milton Mutengezanwa)



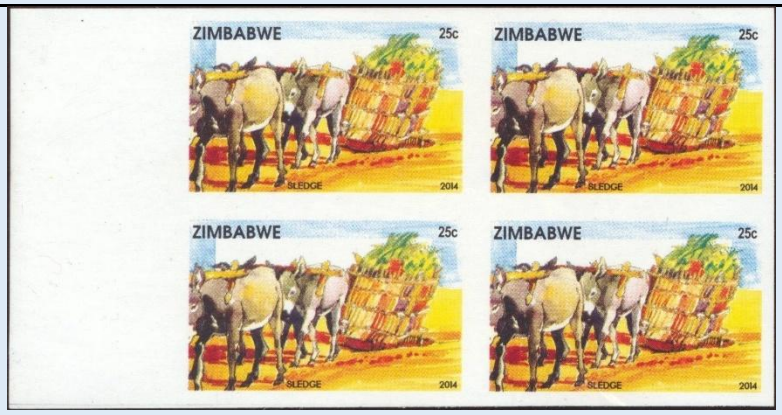
25c: Movement of perforations down, with black line between stamps
(Courtesy of Milton Mutengezanwa)



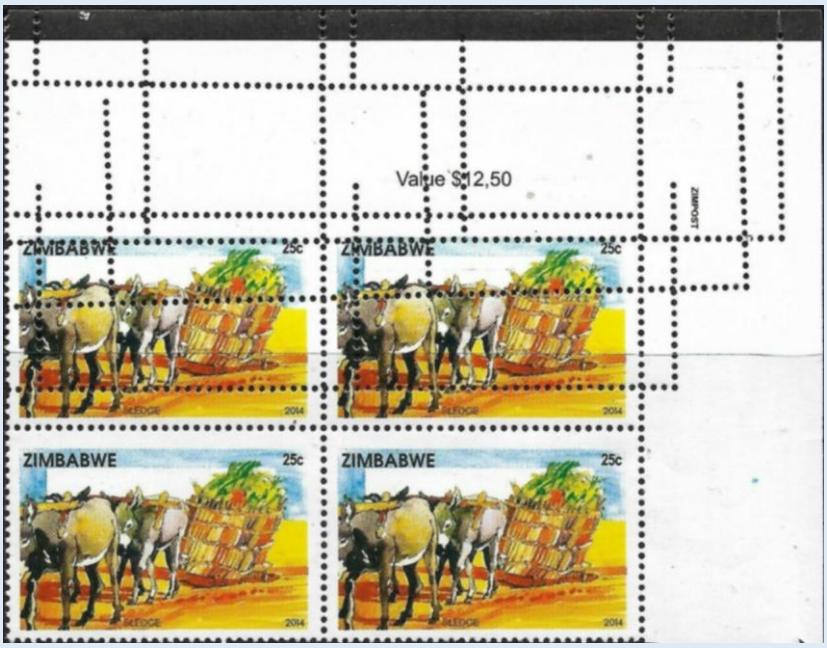
25c: Magenta vertical lines throughout stamps
(Courtesy of Milton Mutengesanwa)



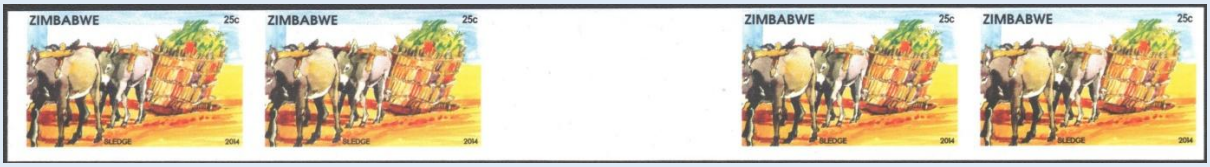
30c: Shift of perforations to right
(Source eBay August 2025)



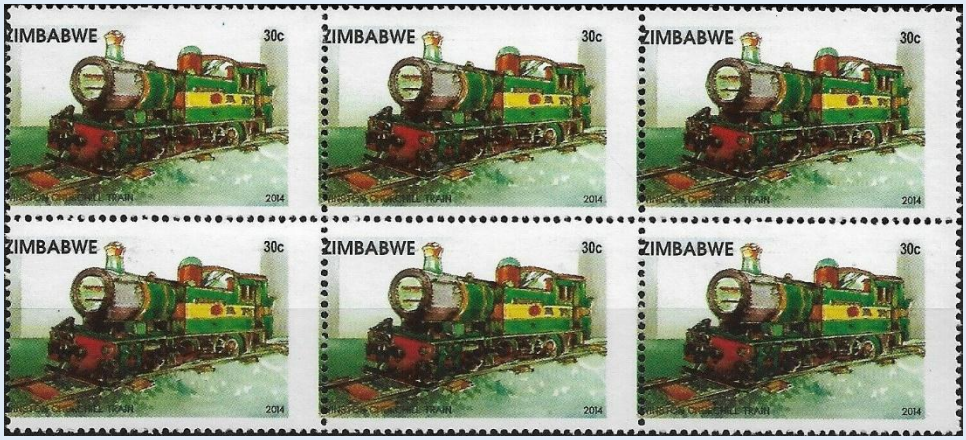
30c: Imperforate proof block
(Source eBay October 2025)



25c: Multiple perforations, suspect this is printer's waste
(Source eBay September 2021)



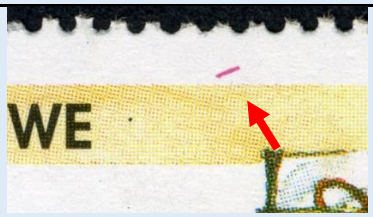
25c: Interpanneau imperforate strip spanning the 1A & 1B panes
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



30c: Movement of perforation to the right
(Source eBay November 2021)



30c: Interpanneau block, with imprint and bar code
(Source eBay May 2022)



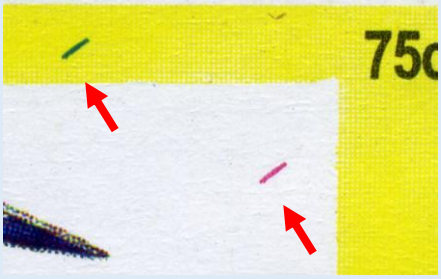
30c (Model A): Magenta mark to top margin.
Cyl 1A R3/4



30c (Train): Cyan spot below main engine.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



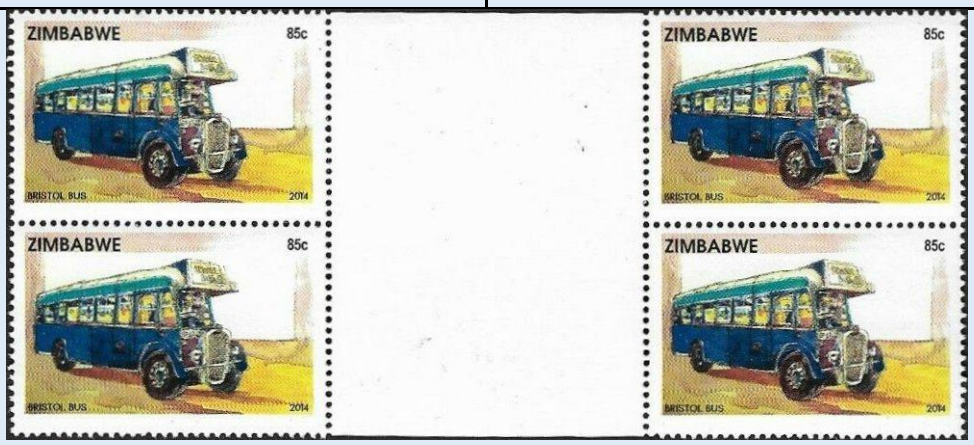
75c: Cyan & Magenta spots near propeller
(Courtesy of Milton Mutengezanwa)



75c: cyan & magenta lines between plane and value
(Courtesy of Milton Mutengezanwa)



75c: Cyan & magenta dots around 'Zim'
(Courtesy of Milton Mutengezanwa)



85c: Perforated Interpanneau
(Source eBay February 2022)



$1: Vertical strip of three with double perforations. The vertical peforations are not that easy to see, and are slightly smaller than usual.
(Source eBay June 2022)

First Day Cover

No first day covers were made available by the Philatelic Bureau, covers can, however be found with the Harare First Day of Issue canceller on plain covers and Bureau manila stationery.

Related Matters



Single sheet, with printer's other notations removed, prior to sheet receiving the sheet number and being split into the two 1A & 1B sheets.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)

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, and is now published on the Rhodesian Study Circle website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2014

Additions/Changes since January 2021	
2021-12	Number of varieties on 25c & 75c values
	25c – multiple perforations
2022-03	25c – Interpanneau strip
	30c – Perforation movement
	85c Perforated interpanneau
2022-08	30c – Train – Interpanneau block
	$1 - double perforations
2022-12	30c – magenta vertical lines
2025-12	30c – perforation shift to right
	30c - imperforate proof block