WORLD POST DAY

Issued 9th October, 2014

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2014)[2]

9th October 1874 marks the day when the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Treaty was signed in Berne, Switzerland. The Union was faced with numerous challenges in its history, including the mail delivery during the two world wars. The UPU treaty was mainly concerned with "letter post". In the 1960's the Universal Postal Union decolonized its membership resulting in the numerous memberships of less developed countries, Zimbabwe being one of them and these countries were technically assisted by the United Nations Development fund.



30c: Ancient Post-Runner

A messenger used for delivering less urgent documents and were selected among the young and energetic men. The "Post Runner" was also known as the "Chasqui". However, in case of urgent documents dispatch and delivery, horses and express wagons were used. The main challenges faced by the "Post-Runner" were unfavourable geographical conditions and unpredictable weather.



Mail coach at Mazoe

75c: Horse Borne Post

This was one of the ancient means of announcing the arrival of mail. The method was mostly associated with the Romans during the ancient times in France, under the rule of King Louis. However, this Postage method was also used in the then called Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. For the easy announcing of the arrival of mail, the "Horse-Borne Postman" would blow a horn to draw villagers' attention.



85c: Harare Main Post Office

Established in 1890 in Salisbury, now Harare. The post office operates under ZIMPOST (Pvt) Ltd, which is a government parastatal of Zimbabwe. The Central Post Office has been and still offers Postal-related services. ZIMPOST is a member of the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) and Universal Postal (UPU). Significantly, ZIMPOST is currently operating in line with the Global Postal Strategy (GPS) in the dimensions of human resource, physical resource, financial and digital.



$1: **The Post Bus**

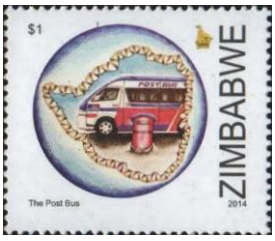
The ZIMPOST has recently purchased the post buses and other vehicles as part of assets meant to assist in the provision of services in under-serviced areas. These areas include the underprivileged and marginalised, which are normally shunned by businesses as a result of lack of commercial viability. Presently, ZIMPOST has achieved some tangible results including modernising the post boxes, converting rural post offices into rural ICT centres. Some of the Post Buses an being used as Mobile Post Office Vehicles (MPOV).

The Stamps









Catalogue Listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1378	779	30c	Ancient Post-Runner
1379	780	75c	Horse Borne Post
1380	781	85c	Harare Main Post Office
1381	782	$1	The Post Bus

Technical details

Stamp size: Sheet stamps: 35 x 30 mm

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

Artist: Fredy Tembo

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 x 14; ZSC 14¼ x 14 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 R1/5, printed in black
Sheet Number:	Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R1/5 reading down
Bar codes:	Right margin opposite R9 & 10/5, printed in black, numbers: All values 2 009113 000028 (Note: for an unknown reason all sheets contain the same bar code number, which is also the same one used for the 30c Model A stamp of the Historic Transport issue)
Print numbers:	30c 200,000 75c 10,000 85c 10,000 $1 10,000
Issue date:	9th October 2014

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

Unlisted Varieties

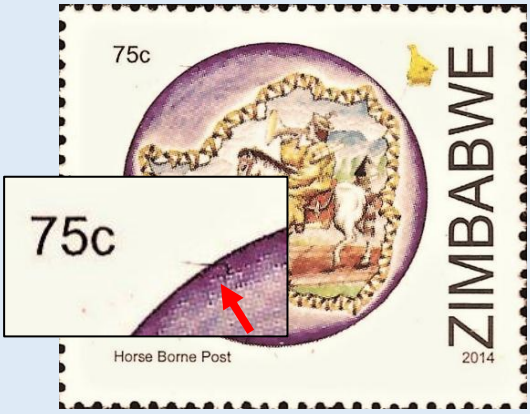
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds which are more noticeable with the solid colours



30c: Downward perforation shift
(Soirce eBay October 2025)



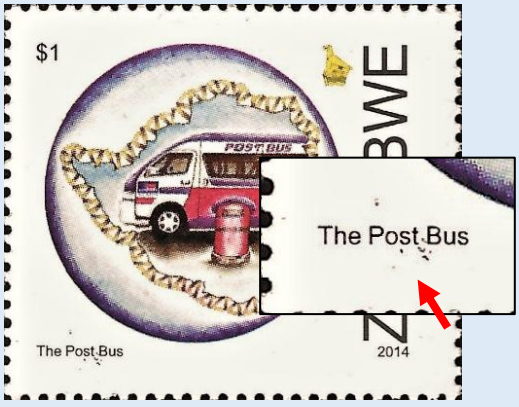
75c: Black marks above value and to left of 'Z' of Zimbabwe
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



75c: Curl on globe to right of value.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



85c: Smudging of ink
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



$1: black marks around 'The Post Bus'
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)

Proof Material

A significant amount of proof material came available on eBay during 2022, unless overwise stated material sourced from eBay in May 2022. Note, smaller blocks or proof material was also noted on eBay.



30c: Top right corner of the printing sheet, cylinder 1A, with colour indicators and cylinder number. Strip of various shades of magenta.



30c: Bottom right corner of cylinder 1A of printing sheet with imprint and bar code.



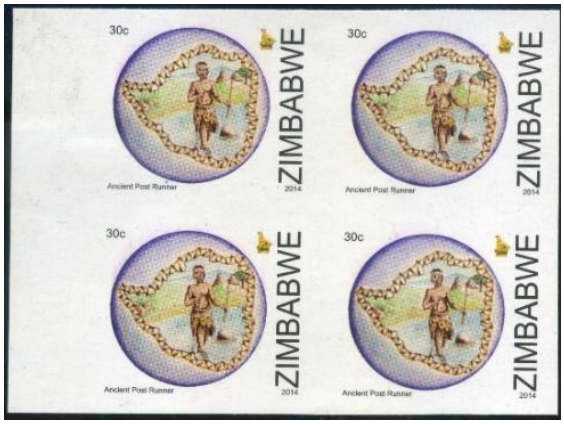
30c: Proof printing of magenta only
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



30c: Proof printing of cyan and magenta only
(Source eBay December 2023)



30c: Proof printing with magenta, cyan and yellow
(Source eBay June 2024)



30c: Proof printing with all colours.
(Source eBay July 2022)



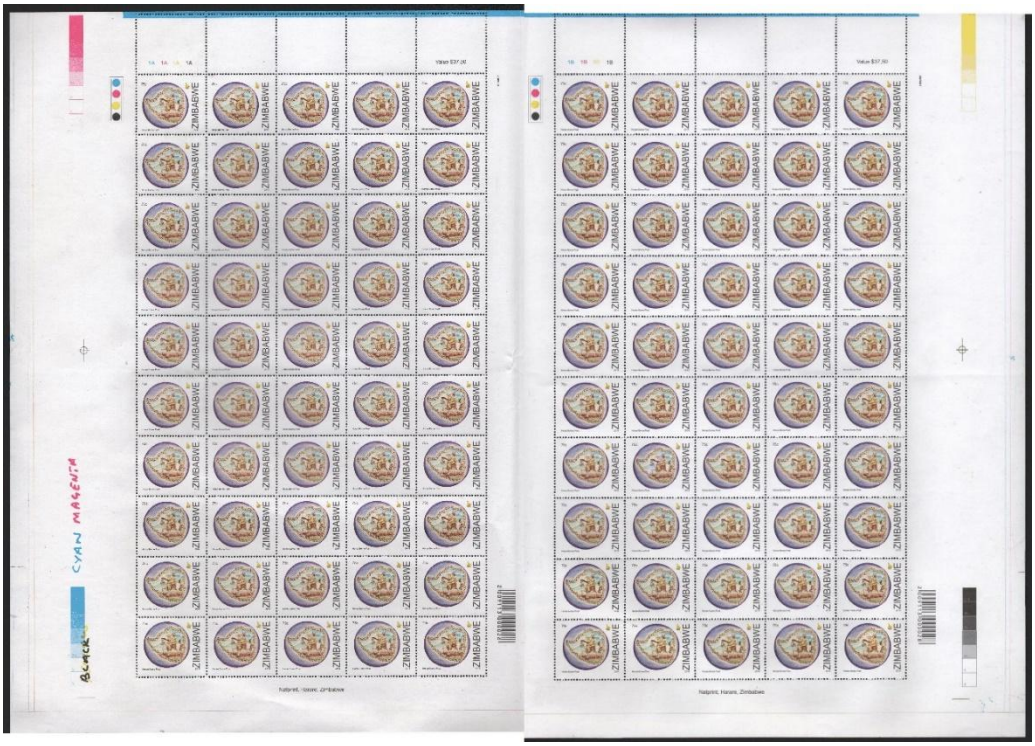
30c: proof printing with all colours but with significant plate shifts
(Source eBay June 2024)



30c: Block of 4 with movement of perforations up and to right. Likely from proof sheet, see below
(Source eBay April 2022)



30c: Interpreneau block with movement of preforations up and to right.



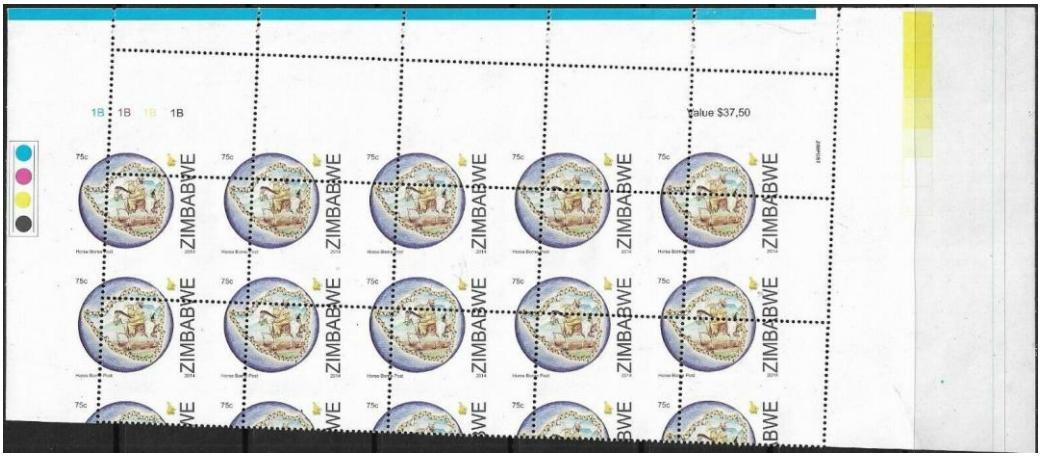
75c: Single sheet, with printer's other notations, prior trimming of the printing sheet, receiving
the sheet number and being split into the two 1A & 1B sheets.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



75c: Top right corner of the printing sheet, cylinder 1A, with colour indicators and cylinder number. Strip of various shades of magenta.



75c: Bottom right corner of sheet, cylinder 1B, with imprint and bar code. Strip of various shades of black



75c: Top left corner of printing sheet with significant perforation shift.
(Source eBay December 2022)



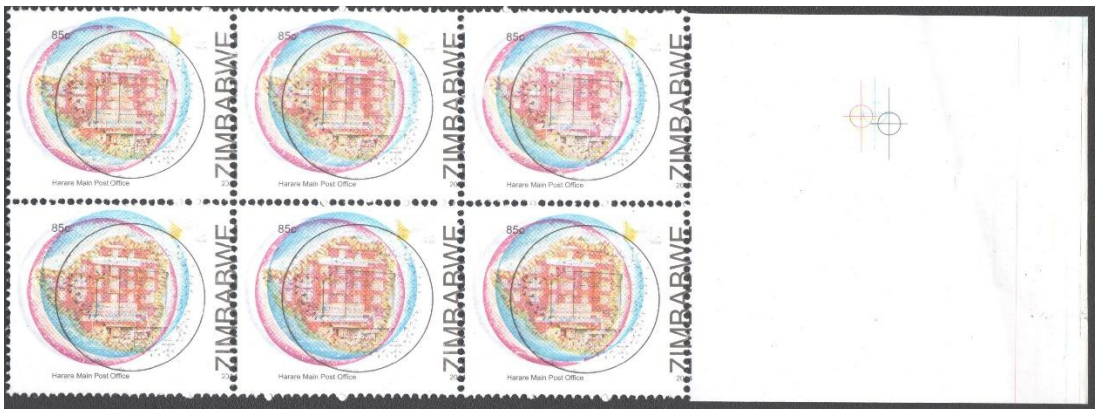
75c: block of four to perforation shift at angle, possibly from sheet illustrated above.



85c: Top right corner of the printing sheet, cylinder 1A, with colour indicators and cylinder number. Strip of various shades of magenta.



85c: Bottom right corner of sheet, cylinder 1B, with imprint and bar code. Strip of various shades of black



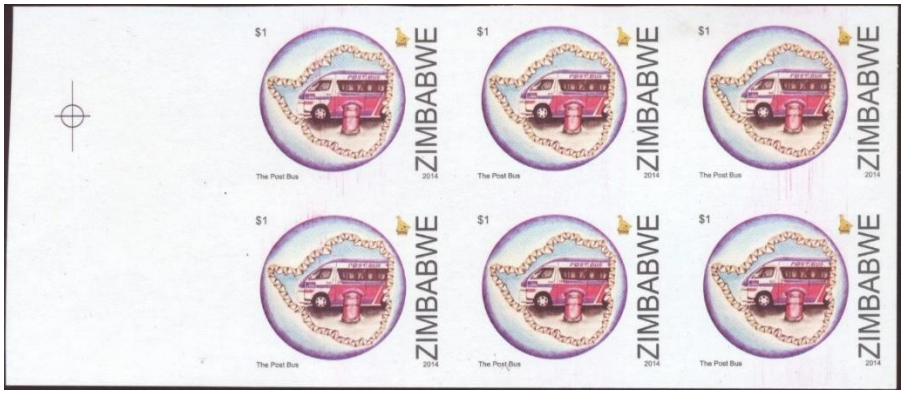
85c: Perforated printing, with significant plate and perforation shifts. C5 & 6 Cyl 1B
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



$1: Top right corner of the printing sheet, cylinder 1A, with colour indicators and cylinder number. Strip of various shades of magenta.



$1: Bottom right corner of sheet, cylinder 1B, with imprint and bar code. Strip of various shades of black



$1: Imperforate proof block
(Source eBay October 2025)

Progressive proofs of the four duties
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



Maganta only



Magenta and cyan



Full colour (also seen in indiviual sections for all duties)

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.

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 4 of 2014

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
3-2022	30c: magenta only proof and proof
	85c: perforated blocks, one with plate and perf shifts.
8-2022	Download of proof material and section re-written
12-2022	30c – imperforate proof
3-2023	Progressive proofs of duties
	75c – imperforate proof block
4-2023	30c – proof with magenta & cyan printing only
8-2023	30c – further proof material
8-2024	30c -further proof material
12-2025	30c- downward perf shift
	$1 – imperforate proof block