

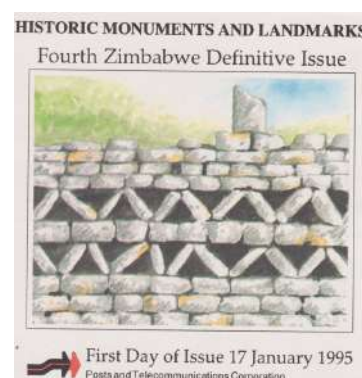
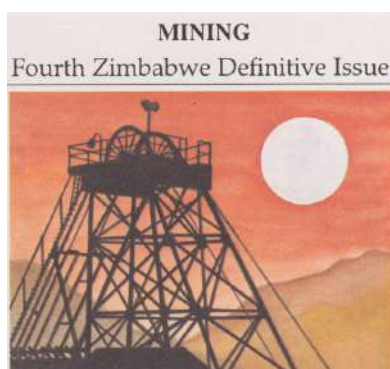
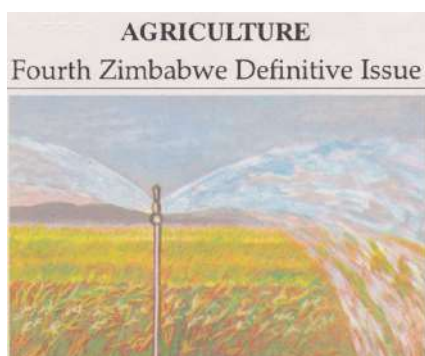
The Zimbabwe 1996 45-cents additional value: its use and misuse

Introduction

Every so often the Zimbabwe PTC has hastened into service an additional value stamp to cope with fast rising postal rates. The 1996 45-cents is an interesting instance, and it was rushed into circulation only a few months after the Fourth Definitive series had been introduced in January 1995. When internal and airmail postal rates increased a year later, the Zimbabwe authorities introduced the new 45-cents value. The relevance of this stamp was, however, short-lived because of the hyper-inflationary context.

Throughout the mid 1990s, bank statements, monthly accounts and correspondence overseas remained constant: now, teamwork from three RSC members has brought together an array of covers, variations and postmarks offering fresh insight into usage during the post-independence era.

Useful information about the 45-cents additional value can be found in the *Encyclopaedia of Rhodesia and Zimbabwe stamps* and on the RSC website; the stamp is described as an addendum to the 1995 Definitive Issue which featured Agriculture, Mining and Historic Buildings themes. The original set of Mining stamps (5c, 10c, 30c, 40c and 50 c) designed by Cedric Herbert illustrated smelting and open cast coal mining scenes; the 10 cents stamp represented blasting in a gold mine, barely recognisable as an underground setting.



A study by Adrian de Bourbon (RSC Journal 229), provides detailed analysis of Zimbabwe postal rates (in Excel worksheet format) and Rod Kantor cited this study during an Australian 2021 SWANPEX event. This database provides an essential starting point for insight as to why the Zimbabwe postal authorities decided to issue the 45-cents additional value in June 1996. From 2006, it becomes increasingly challenging for philatelists to keep track of the increases in postal rates because the Zimbabwe currency was 'revalued' every few weeks by the removal of noughts from the previous rates (three 000s, eventually 10, resulting in billions of Zimbabwe dollars).

Herewith a simplified interpretation of the ZimPost notifications from 1990 - 2000:

Basic Zimbabwe Postal Rates 1990 – 2000

	1990	1991	1995	1996	1997	2000
Internal Mail Letters 20g	15c	20c	35c	45c	80c	\$8
Registration fee (internal)	\$1 extra	\$1.67	\$2.40	\$3	\$5.10	\$12.80
Surface mail to Europe 20g	25c	43c	\$1.30	\$1.20	\$2.40	\$14
Airmail to Europe 10g	35c	60c	\$1.75	\$2.20	\$3.80	\$21
Airmail to Rest of World (Asia) 10 g	38c	65c	\$2.30	\$2.50	\$5.10	\$28

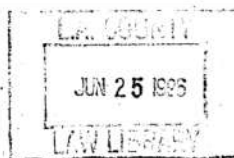
Source: *ZimPost Philatelic Bulletins 1990 – 2000*. Geoff Brakspear, Adrian de Bourbon and Rod Kantor, *RSC Journal 229*, pages 148-149 'From 1c to ZW\$1 Billion in 28 years' and 'Zimbabwe Postage Rates – an Exercise with Noughts.'

The Zimbabwe Posts and Telecommunications Corporation context in June 1996

Extracts from the Government Gazette in June 1996 instituted guidelines for the forthcoming elections whilst the PTC sought tenders for the upgrading of certain services and facilities. According to these records, Matabeleland postal services were on the brink of digitalisation and the Central Post Office in Harare was to be equipped with two brand new escalators. Neither of these realisations were attained whereas an electoral straitjacket was indeed imposed.



ZIMBABWEAN



GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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CONTENTS

Statutory Instrument Issued as a Supplement to this Gazette
Extraordinary

Number

83A. Electoral Act, 1990: Proclamation 4 of 1996.

Tender number

CD007796. Supply and delivery of ATEC 5000 computer spares. Closing date, 25.7.96. Tender documents are available from the Purchasing Officer, Air Zimbabwe Corporation, P.O. Box A11, Harare Airport.

ZESA 886. Tenders are invited for the construction of Administration and Printing Blocks at Arobenne Complex, Harare. Non-refundable deposit of \$400.00. Closing date, 25.7.96.

ZESA 4096. Supply and delivery of tie-line metering scheme and energy data acquisition system. Closing date, 25.7.96. Non-refundable deposit fee of \$50.00.

ZESA 4596. Supply and delivery of new motor vehicles. Closing date, 25.7.96.

Documents can be inspected at and are available from the Procurement Manager, Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority, Sixth Floor, Megawatt House, corner Samora Machel Avenue/Lopold Takavira Street, Harare.

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION PTC/OBCE

MATABELELAND DIGITALISATION PROJECT

Invitation for bids
Tender No. 9065

The Zimbabwe Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (ZPTC) has received a loan from the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan (OECF) towards the cost of the Matabeleland Digitalisation Project to improve the quality of service and meet the increasing demand on telephone lines. The ZPTC intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract(s) issued from the present Invitation for Bids.

Eligibility

This Invitation for Bids is open on equal terms to natural persons, companies, firms or joint ventures with experience in comparable projects from eligible source countries in an international competitive bidding procedure. Eligible source countries are all countries and areas.

Scope of work

The Tender comprise four volumes (Lots).

VOLUME I (Lot 1): External Line Plant covers the following supplies and services at Bulawayo (11 switches), Hwange (3 switches), Gwanda, Victoria Falls (3 switches).

Supply of material and equipment—

- *175,000 m optical fibre cable.
- *2,400,000 m copper cable of different number of pairs and wire gauge.
- *900,000 m PVC pipes.
- *720 concrete manholes.
- *Other telecommunication equipment.

Civil works and installation—

- *430,000 m³ excavation for trenches.
- *100,000 m² surface restoration.
- *252,000 m installation of duct system.
- *Laying and installation of the supplied cable.
- *Installation of manholes.
- *Testing and commissioning of the network.
- *Establishing various maps and engineering drawings.

Subscriber installation—

- *Transfer and new installation of about 45,000 (customers) subscribers.

VOLUME II (Lot 2): Switching—covers supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 75,000 digital line units at Bulawayo (11 switches), Hwange (3 switches), Gwanda and Victoria Falls including power and air-conditioning.

VOLUME III (Lot 3): Transmission—covers supply, installation, testing and commissioning of transmission equipment at Bulawayo (11 switches), Hwange (3 switches), Nyamanklovu, Tsholotsho repeater (Silverstream), Tsholotsho exchange, Benoni, Kenema, Lipane, Mafikwa, Tsholotsho, Gwai, Crossroads, Dera, Kamativi,

Binda, Sikahala, Chisura and Victoria Falls including power plant facilities and civil works for tower and access road construction.

VOLUME IV (Lot 4): Subscriber (Customer) Line Management System (SLMS)—covers supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a SLMS. The SLMS shall consist of a multi-terminal computer network capable of a subscriber (customer) data base system including cable record system and service order system.

Contracting authority

Zimbabwe Posts and Telecommunications Corporation.

Purchasing of tender documents

A complete set of bidding documents per lot may be obtained on submission of a written application to the address below against payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$1,000 (one thousand dollars) per volume (lot).

Payments shall be effected to PTC Account No. 25-03566-1 at Zimbank, Union Avenue Branch, Harare.

In case of dispatching by mail or any other method, ZPTC cannot be held responsible for non-reception of the documents by the bidder.

Tender documents are available at:

The Secretary,
ZPTC Purchasing Committee,
P.O. Box 231,
Causeway,
Harare,
Zimbabwe.

OR

The Secretary,
ZPTC Purchasing Committee,
Office 10 N 13,
107, Union Avenue,
Runhare House,
Harare,
Zimbabwe.

Telex: 22821, PTC HQ ZW
Telephone: 728811 Ext. 2417
Telefax: 731683

Bidding period

All bids must be accompanied by a tender guarantee of US\$500 000 per volume (lot) and must be delivered on or before 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 19th September, 1996, to the following address:

The Secretary,
Government Tender Board,
P.O. Box CY 408,
Causeway,
Harare,
Zimbabwe.

OR

The Secretary,
Government Tender Board,
62, Robert Mugabe Road,
Fourth Floor, Atlas House,
Harare,
Zimbabwe.

Telex: 22662
Telephone: 753132

BULAWAYO TV DISTRIBUTION—ZIMBABWE

Invitation for bids
Tender No. 9197

21st June, 1996

Sector: Telecommunications
IPB No: Tender No.

1. The Posts and Telecommunications Corporation invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, installation and Commissioning of equipment for TV Distribution in Bulawayo.

2. Interested bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Secretary, PTC Purchasing Committee, P.O. Box CY 331, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe. Telex: 24821, PTC HQ ZW, Physical Address: Tenth Floor, Runhare House, 107, Union Avenue, Harare.

3. A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Z\$500.00. In case of dispatching by mail or any other mode, the purchaser cannot be held responsible for no reception of the document.

4. All bids must be accompanied by a security of 5 per cent. of bid amount and must be delivered to the following addresses:

By post

The Secretary,
Government Tender Board,
P.O. Box CY 408,
Causeway,
Harare,
Zimbabwe.

By hand

The Secretary,
Government Tender Board,
62, Robert Mugabe Road,
Fourth Floor, Atlas House,
Harare,
Zimbabwe.

on or before 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 19th September, 1996.

The tenders must be enclosed in sealed envelopes and endorsed on the outside with the advertised tender number, the description and the closing date.

4. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 hours on 13th June, 1996, at the address in paragraph 3 above.

R. MUTAMBIRWA,
Postmaster-General.

10-5-96.

General Notice 199 of 1996.

POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES ACT [CHAPTER 250]

Information Concerning the Invitation for Bids (Postal Notice 10 of 1996)

IT is hereby notified that the Posts and Telecommunications Corporation invites bids for the following tender:

Tender number

9201

Description

Supply, delivery, installation, commissioning and testing of two escalators at Harare Main Post Office.

1. Tender documents are obtainable from the Secretary, PTC Purchasing Committee, Room No. S18, Tenth Floor, South Wing, Runhare House, 107, Union Avenue, Harare, or by writing to P.O. Box CY 331, Causeway. A non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per set of bidding documents is required.

2. All bids must be delivered to the following addresses:

By post

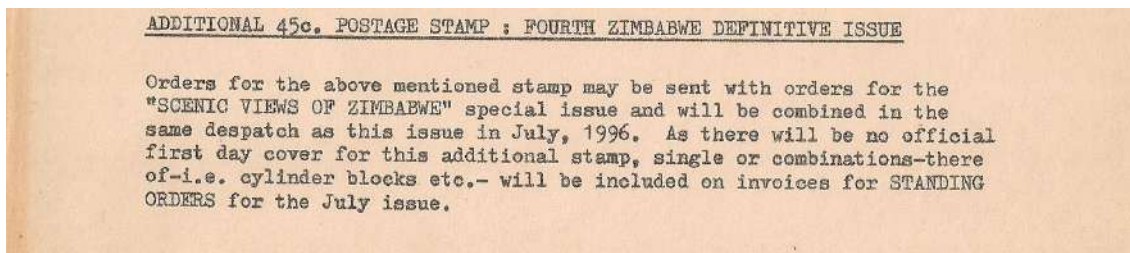
The Secretary,
Purchasing Committee,
Posts & Telecommunications
Corporation,

By hand

The Secretary,
Purchasing Committee,
Posts & Telecommunications
Corporation,

The additional 45 cents value was introduced on 3 June 1996.

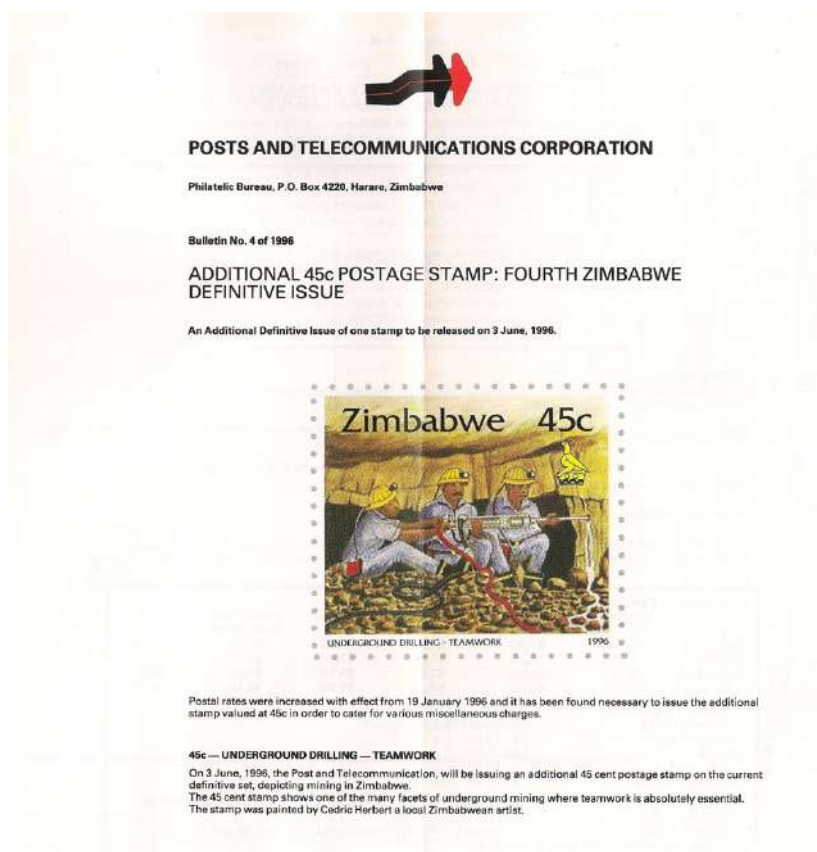
The design depicts three mineworkers drilling in an underground tunnel and surrounded with extracted ore. No 'official' PTC First Day covers were made available to the public, but a small number of privately produced first day of issue covers have been tracked down. The designer, Cedric Herbert, intended the 45-cents stamp to represent teamwork in the mining sector.



The designer



Cedric Donald Herbert (1937 - 2011) was an ex-Rhodesian airforce veteran who had also trained as a draughtsman and commercial photographer. After independence, he designed many of Zimbabwe's most distinctive stamp series; these include the UN Decade for Women, Harare Conference Centre and 4th Definitive issue, among others.



Below: an extremely rare FDC that was printed for Geoff Brakspear's philatelic circle –



Making sense of the four print runs and numbers of stamps in circulation

There were four printings between 1996 - 97 on two different paper types, D and E.

The Concise Zimbabwean Stamp Catalogue is a first stop for guidance:

'Type D: 1987 -1996. *Harrisons HS6 was replaced by their HS8 which is another type of lithographic paper. Fluorescent front and back. PVA cream gum. Also used briefly in 2000.*

Type E: August 1996 - January 1997. *An altogether different paper. It is slightly thicker than HS8 and the gummed side is noticeably non-fluorescent and very dark (mud coloured) under UV'.*

Checking through our stock sheets and during exchanges with David Trathen, we ascertained that the shiny Type D stamps are rather scarce on surviving covers, whereas the buff Type E printing predominates. The two corner blocks (*shown below*) are good mint examples of the Type D HS8 print runs.

Establishing precisely how many of the 45-cents additional value were in circulation has proved something of a riddle. The *left-hand block* numbered 0145 on fluorescent paper is from the original run. The second corner block, number R3 PTC 353874 carries the code used for the last September 1998 print run on shiny paper.



In a bid to clarify issues in connection with the four 45-cents printings, we turned to Geoff Brakspear for his expertise. Here are some of his thoughts on the matter -

'As you know the 45-cents additional value was issued on 3 June 1996 with three further printings on 7 August 1996 (known as R1), on 14 November 1997 (R2) and in September 1998 (R3).

But why was the 45-cents stamp required in mid 1996? The postal rates were increased for local postage to this amount on 19 January 1996, almost 6 months before. The local postage rate had again increased from 11 April 1997 to 65-cents, and as far as I can see there was no particular reason for the 45-cents duty to continue, so why the R2 and R3 printings?

Colour shades, colour shifts and variations. There are three distinct shades (**lavender, violet** and a darker **purple**.) On later 45-cents printings, the miners' overalls tend to be a distinctly darker shade, verging on purple and their helmets appear a bit blurred. The item on the (*left, below*) shows a fine example of a downwards shift of the yellow background.



Images above: on the left an interesting piece with two (likely the 2nd and 3rd printings) and (in the middle) comparison of the miner holding a drill in the early printings and a later printing. On the right: **colour shift (yellow)** which shows behind the text at the bottom of the stamp:



Image below: perforation shift to the left on Type D paper (Courtesy of Geoff Brakspear)



Zimbabwe 1996 45-cents additional value

A comparison of the original June 1996 issue Type D and later R2 print on Type E paper. On the left, a piece dated Harare 19 JUL 97 from the original fluorescent print run. Below: examples of the R2 'dark' purple miners' overalls on buff Type E paper.



As postal rates soared, the 45 cents value was used together with an assortment of other 4th Definitive values, and frequently on underpaid letters to Europe. A 1996 cover addressed to 'Soon Education', a correspondence institution in Derby, UK is shown (below, left) - the cover has a MOUNT DARWIN postmark – and it hints at the confusion that existed during this hyperinflationary period with regard to overseas postal rates: postage due was collected on delivery in Britain. The second item (below, right) is a quite rare example of the 45-cents stamp used with a **surface mail sticker**: surcharge was levied on delivery in Britain.



Images above: a selection of rather muddled usages of the 45-cents on airmail, a 1997 registered letter from KWE KWE to Jersey ZW\$10.90: a cover from ZAKA to Herne Bay, Kent was surcharged 38p on delivery.

Image below: a 1997 cover from BELMONT, Bulawayo addressed to Leven, Scotland carrying ZW\$3.10 postage.



The 1995 Zimbabwe Fourth Definitive issue comprising 16 values ranging from 1 cent to ZW10 is a most attractive series ; it was used during this period of hyperinflationary economic turmoil. The additional 45-cents value was employed continuously in the 1996 – 98 period.

Zimbabwe 1986 45-cents additional value: postmarks Avondale – Kariba



Above : Kariba tourism cancel

Zimbabwe 1986 45-cents additional value: postmarks Kwe Kwe – Marondera



Zimbabwe 1986 45-cents additional value: postmarks Masvingo – Southerton



Zimbabwe 1986 45-cents additional value: postmarks Raylton – Zengeza



Later covers bearing the 45-cents additional value stamp. The cover (below) is rather unique because the 45-cents stamp used is quite evidently 'recycled'.

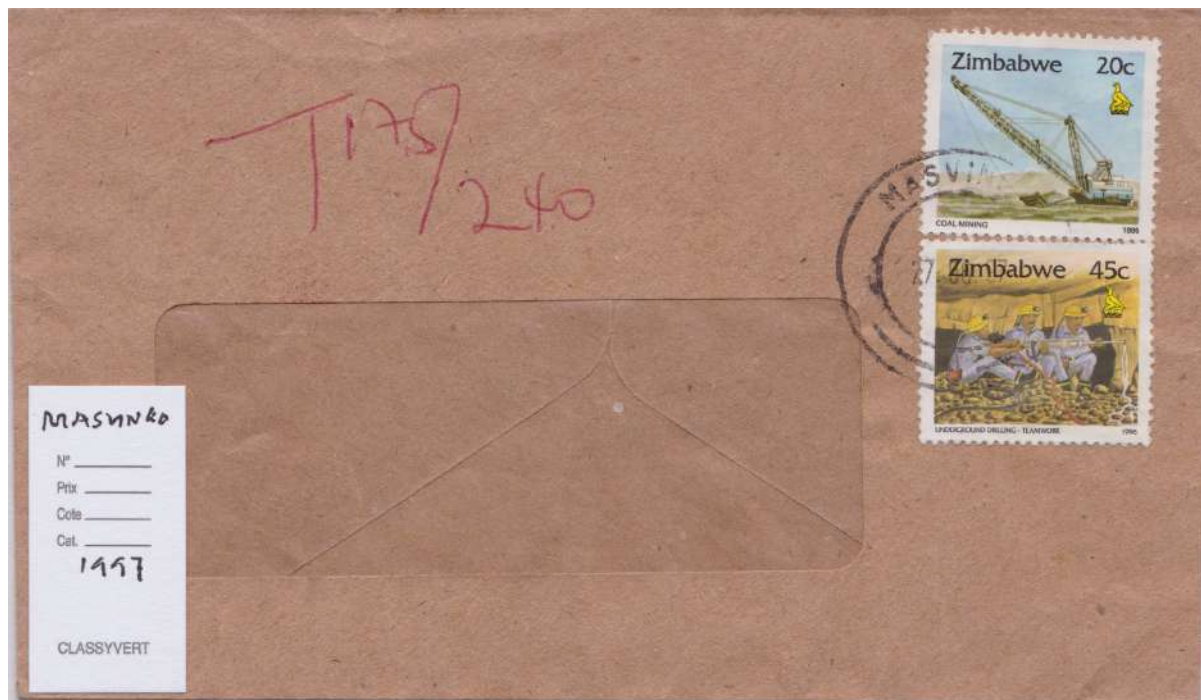


Below: a registered later cancelled 23 March 1998 carrying stamps valued ZW28.90. It has a Hillside. Bulawayo postmark sent to Mrs Susan Gibbs, the daughter-in-law of the former Governor Sir Humphrey Gibbs.



Later covers bearing the 45-cents additional value stamp.

An internal mail cover to **MASVINGO** 1997 (*below*) with the typical combination 20-cents open caste coal mining stamp. The second cover, an airmail letter from **WEDZA** 20 March 1997 to Sandbach in England was taxed 26p on delivery.



Multiple uses of the 45-cent stamp and unusual postmarks.

A 1996 cover (*top*) from **LUEVE**, Bulawayo to the IYS Finland. The postmark is exceptionally crisp, dated 06.09.96. Two later covers, 1998 from **NGEZI** to Transvaal and (*below*) from **KAROI**: additional tax was levied on delivery in each case



Below: a cover dated 24 December 1996 from **KAROI** to Derby UK 'insufficiently paid for transmission by airmail'. Much of the correspondence to Derby concerned distance leaning courses.



Below: a 1998 cover from **SEKE** to Scranton, Pennsylvania, United States. ZW\$7.60 was paid by the correspondent and cancelled by hand on the rear of the envelope. Taxed on delivery.



In conclusion, the 45-cents additional value, 17th in the series, was something of an administrative afterthought; nevertheless, the public found innovative ways of using multiples of 45 for their correspondence. The stamp was used quite randomly for about two years, both for local and overseas correspondence. As is so often the case with hasty print runs, the humble 1996 45 cents additional value featuring miners toiling underground provides plenty of scope for further in-depth philatelic study.

Finally, an unusual cover: the letter (below) sent from **HARARE** in July 1997 bears five 45-cents stamps and the **correct amount: ZW\$2.45 to Holland**. Interestingly, these stamps are all from the first HS8 'shiny' or fluorescent type D paper.



Acknowledgements

This study of the 1996 45-cent additional value is the result of collaboration within the RSC membership: Ian Menzies, Dave Trathen and Geoff Brakspear's offered his expertise on all matters pertaining to Zimbabwe's postal rates..

References:

Encyclopedia of Rhodesia and Zimbabwe stamps on the RSC website

Geoff Brakspear Excel postal rates worksheets and Rod Kantor's SWANPEX 2021 Exhibit.

PTC Philatelic Bulletins 1990 – 2000

RSC Journals: 215/65, 215/84-5, 220/87, 222/27-8, 224/91, 229/149-150, 233/138-9, 233/147, 235/81-3, 255/85-7

Stamp Art blog, 2017. <http://artinstamps.blogspot.com/2017/05/cedric-donald-herbert-1st-part-19781995.html>

Zimbabwean Concise Stamp Catalogue, page 3