

# EMBROIDERY ON SKIRT, ZIMBABWE

## OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECT

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| <b>Repository:</b>     | Crandall Public Library.<br>Folklife Center<br>Glens Falls, NY. |
| <b>Creator:</b>        | Unknown craftswoman in Zimbabwe                                 |
| <b>Title:</b>          | Embroidery on Skirt, Zimbabwe                                   |
| <b>Dates:</b>          | 1980s   |
| <b>Quantity:</b>       | 1 skirt   |
| <b>Identification:</b> | Folk Art & Artifacts  |

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

This skirt was a gift from Erica Sigauke to Erica Burke (now Erica Gonyea). Erica Sigauke is from Zimbabwe, Erica Burke is from Washington County, New York. They met at a meeting of Troy Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and from the chance of discovering they shared a name, they became friends.

## INDEX TERMS

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|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Topics:</b>           | United Methodist Church<br>African crafts<br>Textiles<br>Embroidery<br>Domestic activities - women |
| <b>Places:</b>           | Zimbabwe   |
| <b>Important People:</b> | Erica Sigauke<br>Erica Burke<br>Erica Gonyea   |
| <b>Form/Genre:</b>       | Realia   |

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Preferred Citation:** Embroidery on Skirt, Zimbabwe  
Folklife Center  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Donated to the Folklife Center April 2019 by Erica Gonyea.

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, April 2019.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

This is a bright yellow cotton wrap-around skirt. It is machine sewn and hand-embroidered. It is 32 inches long, with a 1.25 inch waistband and a 3 inch hem.

There are 12 women embroidered on the skirt, in two rows. Each figure is about 4 inches tall, and each is doing a different activity. Each one is either carrying a baby, or accompanied by a small child. The women are engaged in the following activities:

Walking, carrying a child;

Gathering grass(?), with a baby on her back;

Picking fruit from a tree, with a baby on her back;

Carrying a bundle and a child on her back;

Pounding manioc(?) In a large wooden mortar, with a long wooden pestle with a baby on her back;

Woman knitting while walking, carrying an umbrella on her head and a baby on her back;

Woman walking with a lidded cooking pot on her head, a baby on her back

Woman with a baby on her back, bending over to pick up a satchel;

Woman either pouring water into a stream or dipping water out of the stream, with a baby on her back;

Woman with a baby on her back, two bundles on her head, carrying a large cup and saucer in one hand and a basket with a rabbit (?) in it in the other;

Woman with water jar on her head, holding small child by the hand;

Woman with a baby on her back sifting grain into a basket.