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THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

VOLUME 20—1944

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The

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UNION NOTES

Mr. A. C. Muller, in *Stamp Collecting*, reports a plate variety of the large 1d. war stamp, found in one per cent. of the specimens examined. The left-hand upright of the "U" in SUID, in the vertical panel, is extended downwards until it joins up with the left-hand corner of the "I" immediately beneath it.

The chronicler of new issues in *Mekeel's Weekly* gives some of our collectors and writers a welcome pat on the back. She says it has long irked her that the collector of classic issues can make so much of split hairs, cracks and pockmarks and be admired and encouraged for such studies; whereas the student who does the same thing with modern issues is considered beneath notice and rather jeered at as a "flymark" collector.

The careful study given by South African collectors to their modern issues is commended, especially the scrutiny being given to the bantam roulettes. Finally, she says, it is wholesome to note that stamps are still being produced worthy of exhaustive study.

Mobile Post Offices.—Following up the note in our October issue, identifying Nos. 4 and 5 as used in Cape Town, the location of them all can now be completed as Mr. G. K. Forbes has sent a specimen of No. 3 from Port Elizabeth. This mark is a double circle one with the wording "MOB PO / PK No. 3—PORT ELIZABETH" with the date across the centre in one line.

The custom at this office seems to be different from the others, only registered letters receiving this stamp; ordinary letters are taken along to the head office for cancellation.

Nos. 1 and 2, it will be remembered, are in Johannesburg, No. 6 in Durban and No. 7 in Pretoria.

New Form of Active Service Letter Card.—There appeared on sale last month a new

modification of Active Service Letter Card. The form, before folding, has a wide bevelling of the two upper corners cut off. A serial number if printed on the inside of those with Afrikaans stamps; vertically, alongside of where the stamp is situated on the outside. Forms of this type with English stamps have not yet been seen.

Christmas Stamps.—This year's design shows two heads in profile looking up thankfully at the shining cross of Lorraine, the accepted symbol of the anti-tuberculosis campaign. The colouring is effective in crimson, black and white.

V V V V

MOZAMBIQUE.

The annual charity stamps of 50c this year have the design of what appears to be a swan and cygnets, in red. These stamps have no postal value; they have to be applied to correspondence compulsorily on certain appointed days, and may be put on voluntarily at any time.

V V V V

BRAZIL.

Dr. Mario de Sanctis reports that in addition to the ordinary "Bull's Eye" commemoratives, noted last month, there were also issued 50,000 special small sheets in black and white, with reproductions of the 30c in the lower left corner, the 60c in the lower right corner, the 90c in the centre with wording meaning "First centenary of the stamps of Brasil. 1843-1943." These all appeared on 1st August.

On 8th August there were also issued in Rio de Janeiro three air stamps, of 1, 2 and 5 cr denominations, in black and white with coloured corners (yellow, green and red respectively), perforated. These have AEREO and 1843-1943 in the design.

Of these there have also been 20,100 special miniature sheets printed in sepia with the stamps in the centre in rose. These sheets have the wording "Exposicao Filatelica" at the top, "1843-1943" at the bottom, "Nacional BRAPEX" at the right and "Centenario do Selo Postal" at the left.

ESSAY, DIE AND PLATE OF THE UNION 2½d. COMMEMORATION STAMP OF 1910

By A. HILTON SYDOW, A.S.A.A., C.A.(S.A.).

LINE-ENGRAVED DIE PROOF USED AS AN ESSAY.

The illustration referenced as Fig. A represents a photographic enlargement of a die proof in blue which emanated from the atelier of Thos. De La Rue and Company, Limited, and presently is housed in my Union collection. It is a proof taken from a line-engraved die. The portrait is different from the one on the issued stamp. The design on the proof in its pristine state evidently was deemed unsatisfactory, and the proof was subsequently subjected to certain alterations by hand-painting as described hereunder. It is affixed to a thick card which bears the manuscript instruction thus—

"This design
names under shield
4.7.10."

On the die proof as illustrated by Fig. A, the two lower shields, depicting the Republican Coats-of-arms of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic, are cut-outs and are affixed separately to the die proof by some adhesive. For the purpose of this monograph two additional copies were made of the photographic enlargement as per Fig. A. From one copy the two lower shields were cut and affixed to the other copy in positions lower down diagonally in the lower corners as illustrated in Fig. B. In my opinion the die proof in my collection was dealt with similarly, to wit, two proofs were taken from the

die with its design in its pristine state and inter alia the lower shields in the positions shown in Fig. B. From one proof the two lower shields were cut out and affixed to the other proof in the positions shown in Fig. A.

On the die proof as illustrated by Fig. A the names "Cape of Good Hope," "Natal," "Orange Free State" and "Transvaal" are discerned immediately below their respective shields and are hand-painted in white on dark blue hand-painted name-ribbons contiguous to the shields. The two top name-ribbons partly traverse the outer and inner upper ovals which semi-circumpose the inscription "Union of South Africa."

The outer oval is hand-painted in light blue and covers certain embellishments, whilst the inner oval is hand-painted in dark blue and covers the name "Cape of Good Hope" which is not visible to the naked eye. Under a magnifying glass, however, the letters "C A P E" are seen above "UNI" of Union and the letters "H O P E" above "OF S" of South. The name "Natal," which is a short word, is not discernible under a glass, but certain circular ornamental prefixions and suffixions are visible.

The lower outer and inner ovals semi-circumposing the inscription "Unie van Zuid Afrika" also are hand-painted in light and dark blue respectively. The outer oval covers certain embellishments. The two lower shields,



Fig. A.



Fig. B.

being separately affixed to the die proof, partly superimpose the dark blue inner oval but under a magnifying glass the letters "O R A N G E" are partially visible below "UNI" of Unie as well as the letters "S T A T E" below "VAN." Similarly certain portions of the letters comprising the name "T R A N S V A A L" are visible below "AFRIK" of Afrika.

Fig. B represents the appearance of the proof taken from the die as originally engraved except that the outer oval covers certain embellishments, the inner oval covers the names "Cape of Good Hope," "Natal," "Orange Free State" and "Transvaal," and the shields appear in the four corners without name-ribbons.

Fig. A represents the appearance of the proof after the two lower shields were separately affixed thereto; and the name-ribbons hand-painted at their bases with the names "Cape of Good Hope," "Natal," "Orange Free State" and "Transvaal" of their respective shields, together with the hand-painted ovals.

Thus it will be seen that a line-engraved die was cut by Thos. De La Rue and Company, Limited, for the first commemoration stamp of the Union of South Africa, but the design according to a proof taken (Fig. B) from this die was rejected. This die proof, after certain alterations were effected as regards the design (Fig. A), served as an essay for the engraving in line of another die for the 2½d. Commemoration Stamps which eventuated on the 4th November, 1910.

THE DIE AND PLATE OF THE ISSUED STAMPS.

The monocoloured 2½d. Commemoration stamps of the Union of South Africa were issued on the 4th November, 1910. Each sheet comprised 120 stamps arranged in one panel of 10 horizontal rows of 12 units each. These stamps were printed on white wove paper watermarked multiple quaterfoil. The sheet margins were plain with the exceptions that the central point of each exhibited a blue cross to indicate the points of division of a sheet into quarter sheets. The stamps were recessed-printed in blue by Thos. De La Rue and Company, Limited, from an intaglio or line-engraved plate.

Some years ago I formed the opinion that these stamps were printed from an intaglio plate produced by the electrolytic process and *not* from an intaglio steel plate produced by the transfer-roller process analogous to that which was employed by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Company, Limited, for the production of their intaglio plates from which were printed the Union triangular and rectangular recessed-printed stamps as I have described in previous issues of the "South African Philatelist."

My conception of the method employed by Thos. De La Rue and Company, Limited, for the production of their electrolytic intaglio plate utilised for the Commemoration stamps was as follows:

I. Master-Die of Steel (Flat)—lines of de-

sign engraved negative in recess—from which

II. 120 impressions were taken on 120 lead blocks or moulds—lines of design on each mould positive in relief—these moulds were

III. clamped 120-set in 10 horizontal rows of 12 in an iron chase—the chase was

IV. immersed in a depositing-bath and an electro-deposit of copper grown on the clamped moulds in the form of a thin copper shell—which was removed and

V. placed face downwards and strengthened by a backing of type metal—which became

VI. an Electrotpe Copper Master-Plate 120-set in 10 horizontal rows of 12—lines of design negative in recess—from which

VII. one or more working plates were electrotyped—lines of design negative in recess.

VIII. ready for printing 120 line-engraved stamps—positive.

In order to procure some form of verification of the afore-described process I wrote to the printers, Thos. De La Rue and Company, Limited, and Mr. B. C. Westall, the Managing Director of the Company very kindly favoured me with the following reply:

"Replying to your letter of 5th July (1943) the following is an extract from the report for which I asked our Control Department:

"Unfortunately the first South Africa file we hold is dated 1912 and no die or cylinder of this 2½d. Stamp is recorded or held here. A search of the strong room at Bunhill Row has also failed to yield any result."

"From my own knowledge of De La Rue's processes I think it is most probable that the plate was an electrotpe made, as you say, from 120 lead moulds. This practice was altered somewhere between 1922/23, since when our plates are invariably made by transfer from a roll or cylinder. While, therefore, I cannot give you an unqualified answer, I consider it highly probable that the 2½d. Commemoration Stamp of 1910 (copy of which I return herewith) was made from a copper electro."

Thus it would appear that the 2½d. Commemorative is the only representative in Union Philately of stamps printed from electrotyped intaglio plates.

Ament the issued stamps I own a die proof in black on a white card measuring 2¾ ins. x 3 ins. approximately. From the impression seen on this card it is observed that the size of the steel block on which the die was engraved measured 1 7/10 ins. by 2 ins. approximately. Also I own a plate proof in the issued colour of unwatermarked paper.

All types of stamps wanted in quantity, packets, singles, sets; especially Empire and Foreign Colonies, in exchange for Australasians. Permanent contacts also desired to supply and receive new issues. Basis wholesale or . . . ?

S. G. Walton. (Member A.P.T.A.),
Canley Vale, N.S.W., Australia.

O.V.S. POSTALLY USED FISCALS

Gibbons list no fewer than 17 Fiscal Stamps of the Orange Free State as having been used for postal purposes. They run from 6d. denominations up to £5.

We presume there is evidence of postal use of these stamps, but what is it? A correspondent has written asking if we can produce any: he also wants to know what cancellations (if any) will of themselves prove postal use.

The easy answer, of course, is "Don't accept any fiscals as postally used unless you get them on cover with indubitable evidence of postal use." Well, if you follow that plan your collection will not be a very large one. It would be interesting to know how many readers own such covers, or have even seen any. O.V.S. covers of any kind are notoriously hard to find and those with fiscal stamps used postally are no exception.

Cancelled fiscal stamps are, of course, not particularly difficult to pick up; they can be found with numeral or town cancellations, although the most common are those with the boxed "Geregistreeerd" cancellation. Can any of these be taken as indubitable evidence of postal use?

Our correspondent suggests cancelling to order by obliging clerks or postmasters. Perhaps a more likely explanation is that most of the stamps one sees were genuinely used fiscally on documents and that the same cancellers were used as were employed for ordinary postal use.

Answers to these questions will be much appreciated: What evidence is there of the postal use of fiscal stamps? and can any postmark by itself be taken as proof of postal use?

V V V V
POLAND.

A second set of eight pictorial stamps was issued on 1st November by the Polish Free Government in London, to replace those which have been in use since December, 1941. Six of the set depict various aspects of the Polish war effort—in France and Norway, over the Atlantic and in North Africa; the other two portray phases of the underground resistance movement in Poland itself.

V V V V
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
GREETINGS.

This being an "Austerity Season" we have sent out no official greeting cards to contemporaries or to any philatelists, but we take this opportunity to wish them and all our readers "Alles van die beste" for 1944. It promises to be an exciting year, philatelically as well as otherwise.

Meanwhile thanks to the "Aero-Field," Sutton Coldfield, Eng., for an artistic airgraph greeting with Aero-Philatelic memories.

CANCELLED TO ORDER.

Below is a copy of a letter which has been sent by the Mashonaland Philatelic Society to the British Philatelic Association requesting that body to use its influence to have this practice stopped in British colonies—where, apparently, the practice is spreading.

We commented on this matter, specifically in relation to Liberia, last February. We know, of course, that it is done in many countries and any effort to minimise it has our sympathy, as it is not for the good of philately. If we mistake not, instructions have been given by the Colonial Office that it is not to be done in British Colonies but, alas, such instructions are not always obeyed. It is unfortunate that the Mashonaland Society did not give more actual examples of occurrences—general accusations are never easy to deal with. However, we trust their appeal will have good results.

Mashonaland Philatelic Society.

P.O. Box 229,

Salisbury, S. Rhodesia,

21st November, 1943.

The Secretary,
British Philatelic Association,
3, Berners Street,
London W.1.
Dear Sir,

I have been requested by my Committee to write to you about the cancelling to order of CURRENT British Colonials: some of our members have recently noticed stamps most obviously cancelled to order with full gum, etc.

We consider the apparent spread of this practice to be very harmful to philatelic interests generally, and wondered if you would think it worth while to use your influence with the appropriate authorities with a view to curtailing the practice as far as possible.

Unfortunately I cannot at the moment furnish any specimens or details, beyond the fact that prominent amongst such cancelled to order stamps are those of St. Helena.

I trust I am not worrying you unduly with such a matter under present conditions, and remain,

Yours faithfully,

L. C. LEACH,

Hon. Sec. Mashonaland Philatelic Society.

V V V V

RUANDA—URUNDI.

Dr. G. Lefebvre reports that the 1942 issue (palm trees, leopards, askaris, etc.) has been completed for Ruanda-Urundi, as it was for Belgian Congo, by the addition of two more values, 50 fr. and 100 fr. The 50 fr. is in black and brick-red, figuring an Askari (with rifle on the right shoulder) and the 100 fr. is in black and green, figuring a Watussi chief, as on several of the lower values.

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CANADA 1897 dollar values compl. £22 10 0	†26 block £7 10 0
†CAPE WOODBLOCK used on cover £50 0 0	†27 vert. pr. £17 10 0
CAYMANS CENT. £20 0 0	2 "Afrika" over "South West" block £40 0 0
FALKLANDS CENT. (except £1) £20 0 0	†SOUTH AFRICA 1925 mint £1 5 0
†GREAT BRITAIN p.a. £1 £1 10 0	used £1 12 6
†S.G. 177a £10 10 0	cover £2 0 0
JUBILEE compl. £35 0 0	26.10.18 p.c. "Make Your Sixpence Fly" Blue Wing on Red Cross £4 10 0
MONTserrat CENT. £12 10 0	1925 Air mint £1 5 0
†NATAL S.G. 171 ver- tical pair pmk 17 July, 1911 £25 0 0	used £1 12 6
	cover £2 0 0
	†S.G.107 Block £15 0 0

(Note.—In November, a specimen of Canada S.G. 22a, described merely as "fine," fetched 200 dollars at Harmer Rooke's auction)

†Indicates used, otherwise mint.

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S.G. Nos: 24, 25, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 111, 112, 113a, 117, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 126, 127, 128, 157, 158, 159, 160, 231, 238, 239, 247, 274, 275, 276, D5, D6, D9.

ARMENIA.

79, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 198a, 200.

BELGIUM.

361a, 391, 392, 393, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 390, 511, 527, 530, 531, 558, 559, 559a, 559b, 560, 560a, 561a, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 584, 585, 588, 591, 592, 601, 607, 608, 622, 634, 637, 655a, 670a, 670b, C9, C10, C11, C12, C13, C14, C21, C22, C23, C24, C47, C49, C50, C60, C61, C66, C71, C77, C78, C79, C80, C82, C83, C84, C85, C86, C101, C106, C108, C109, C116, C121, C122, C123, C124, C125, C129, C130, C132, C133, C134, C135, C136, C137, C138, C139, C140, C141, C142, C143, C144, C145, C146, C153, D23, D36, N19, N22, N24, N25, N26, N27, N28, N29, N30, N31, N32, N33, N34, N35, N36, N37, N38, N39.

One copy of each of above required
Mint for preference.

50% cat. for well-centred Mint.

One-third catalogue, for fine used.

Want list of other countries on
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E. HUNT

Box 2437, JOHANNESBURG

MIDDLE EAST "COMBINATION" COVERS

A form of "combination" cover has come into existence not very uncommonly on letters sent from the armed forces in this part of the world, viz., the use of the stamps of two, or even more, countries on one and the same cover.

Such covers do not come under the definition of a "combination cover" used by writers such as Mr. Jewell and Mr. Basden (see *S.A. Philatelist*, January, 1943, p. 4) i.e. one which requires the affixing of adhesives of two nations in order to complete its journey as a pre-paid cover. The combination of "stamps used abroad" in the instances to be noted is not required, but it does serve the purpose of prepayment.

Some curious enquirer may say "But why stamps at all on soldiers' mail from Mid-East, seeing they have the privilege of free postage?" The answer is easy: they have free postage on surface mail, but for air mail, which they use largely, there is a charge made. Registration and parcels also account for some use of stamps.

This type of combination cover is quite familiar to us in South Africa, for we saw the same sort of thing in the days of the Anglo-Boer War; British stamps used in combination with stamps of the South African colonies.

The various forces in Middle East have their own postal services using the stamps of the country from which they have come. Apparently, however, there is no difficulty made about accepting letters franked with the stamps of a country other than that of the army post office at which the cover is posted. For example, one has seen stamps of Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Palestine and Egypt (Army Post) which have been cancelled in British Army Post Offices; British stamps with the cancellations of Indian and South African Army Post Offices; and British, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, and South African in the numbered "Egypt-Prepaid" offices. (Incidentally, can anyone inform me what is the status of these offices? Are they civil or military units?)

Now to come to combinations. These, of course, do not form a big proportion of the covers one has seen, but they do not seem to be so scarce as to be great rarities. Some may have been made by philatelically minded individuals, but the majority I think are of straightforward usage. They probably come mostly from persons who, either individually or in a small unit, are or have been serving for a time away from their own particular force. As the sort of thing which may happen, let me just refer to the two examples of triple combinations which I give anon. These are on letters sent by a South African officer who served in the early stages of the African campaign with a non-South African unit in the Sudan and Eritrea. Here he used, at one time or another, Sudanese, British and Indian stamps. Later on he joined a South African unit in the Western Desert and, as he told me later when on leave, "I had some of these

stamps left, I found they were quite agreeable to accept them at the nearest office (a numbered "Egypt-Prepaid" one) so I just used them up."

The combinations I have seen all refer to correspondence coming to South Africa. Collectors in other parts of the world, and in touch with other armed forces will doubtless be able to list numerous other combinations. Here are those I can vouch for:

British and South African—the commonest combination seen here.

British and New Zealand.

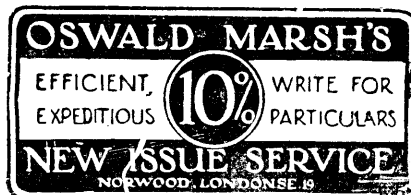
British and Australian.

British, South African and Indian.

British, South African and Sudanese.

Stamp Collecting of 2nd October reports the combination of a Kenya and a Somaliland stamp cancelled in a South African Army P.O. in July, 1943. I can record British and Kenya cancelled in an E.A. A.P.O. in March, 1943.

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.



REVIEWS

Priced Catalogue of Local Postage Stamps, Part 3. Compiled by E. F. Hurt and L. N. and M. Williams. Price 5s.

Parts 1 and 2 of this catalogue have already been noticed in our columns. Part 3 carries on from Levanger to Randers. Of special interest to South African readers in this part are the blue Mafekings, the Mount Currie Express, the Norwegian Missionary Society's post in Madagascar (which gives a much fuller account of its stamps than has been available hitherto), and the Bakker post from Pretoria to Marabastad.

Stanley Gibbons, Part II. (Foreign Countries). 2nd Supplement to 1941 Edition. (No price shown).

The standing type of Gibbons' Catalogue was destroyed by enemy action in 1940, so that, pending a new edition they have gathered together here new issues recorded during the period September, 1940, to October, 1943, together with price alterations made during the same period. The issues of enemy countries or enemy occupied countries, are not included.

The publishers point out that, owing to import restrictions, they cannot supply a number of the stamps listed, particularly those of the Americas.

The booklet runs to 69 pages of list and illustrations, and a further 46 of price alterations.

COLLECTORS' WANTS AND OFFERS

(Twopence per word per insertion with minimum of 2/- per insertion)

Transvaal, Griqualand West, O.F.S.
covers and varieties wanted by
A. E. Basden, Box 238, Pretoria.

Collections Wanted to Buy.—Old and Modern Collections, Single Rarities and Errors, Duplicates and Office Mixtures.

Prompt cash on acceptance of offer:
E. M. Lacy (Globe Postage Stamp Co.),
117 Longmarket Street, Cape Town.

For Service, promptness and satisfaction.

Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni.
Phone 54-1692.

If interested in S.A. Colonies or Union Mint Blocks, Postage Dues, Officials, write to:

E. Tamsen, Box 13, Nylstroom.

Orange Free State.—Approval selections wanted. Must be fine, well-centred copies.

William Redford, Box 7012, Johannesburg.

Those wishing to sell British African, Great Britain or Zanzibar stamps, Apply for want list to:
E. J. Brierley, Morkel Street, Somerset West.

Britain: Wanted Penny Blacks, all Line-engraved, Embossed Surface printed and items of interest, highest prices paid for stamps in good condition. Collections or single items.
Offers to J.A. Bremner, Box 5041, Johannesburg.

FOR SALE: The following collections intact:

South - West Africa, in four albums, catalogue well over £400 £250

Above can be seen by appointment.

G. N. GILBERT, Grosvenor, Westminster

Coins and Medals wanted. Send offers to:
Alec Kaplan, Box 132, Germiston.

N. RHODESIA IMPERF. BETWEEN.

Commenting on the rarity of errors of commission or of omission in modern British Colonials, *Stamp Collecting* reports a Dominican 2½ perf. on three sides only. It is stated that this is only the second variety of the kind coming to light in the past two years, the other being a pair of 1½d. Sierre Leone imperf. between.

Mr. J. Robertson states that he has seen a photograph of a pair of the 1½d. red K.G. VI N. Rhodesia imperf. between. He has not seen the actual specimen, however, nor does he know where it is. Probably it will emerge some day.

+

U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Union has recently issued two sets of stamps illustrative of their war effort, one set of six in photogravure and one of five typographed.

+

GAMBIA.

The 2d. has been issued in new colours, rose-carmine and red-brown.

FOR SALE

RARE AND INTERESTING AIR COVERS

1911. First S.A. Kenilworth Card ..	£5
1932. First De Aar-England (8)	£5
1934. First Grahamstown S.A. Airways, autographed by crew ..	£8
1934. Victor Smith, Windhoek-England	£10
1936. Tommy Rose record Cape-England	£10
1936. Crash Cover Capt. Halse in Air Race	£7/10/-

Various 1925 flights and stages, and practically all Imperial Airways and feeder services covers from 1931 to 1939.

Prices and particulars from Robertson Stamp Company, P.O. Box 5826, Johannesburg, where most of the covers can be inspected, with the exception of the priced items above for which apply direct to:

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STUDY YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS

NATURAL HISTORY IN THE STAMP ALBUM:—"THE WHALE"

By J. BEYERS.

Not the least interesting feature of modern issues is the portrayal of animals on stamps.

It does seem passing strange that the largest of all mammals only made its appearance on a stamp when the Falkland Islands Set of 1929 made its debut.

A better picture of the whale is reflected in the sixpenny value of the famous centenary set of 1933 issued by the same country. The animal is in the act of "breaching," i.e., leaping, a truly imposing sight.

The 1d. value of the current Geo. VI. Series shows us the jawbones of a whale.

A century ago the English, Norwegian, Dutch and New England whalers were renowned for their skill and prowess in chasing and killing the leviathan prior to the advent of the deadly and efficient bomb-lance of our own day.

It is only in comparatively recent times that we have acquired more knowledge of this gigantic creature and its habits. There are several different species of whales, the most well known of which are the sperm whale or cachalot as the French call it, the fin-back and the hump-back; of these only the sperm whale has teeth, the other types having the baleen or fringe.

Consideration of time and space having to be taken into account, I propose giving a short resume of the sperm whale and its habits and concluding with a few interesting facts about the fin-back whale. The gigantic sperm whale is the typical representative of a family which includes the lesser cachalot and a number of extinct cetaceans. In both living species functional teeth are restricted to the lower jaw.

The tongue and the interior of the mouth are a glistening white and the diameter of the throat is very large. The eyes, of which the left is smaller than the right, are placed somewhat above the angles of the mouth, and a short distance behind them are the minute apertures of the ear, which are said not to exceed a quarter of an inch in diameter.

The peculiar butt-ended head of the sperm whale with its pointed lower jaw armed with sharp teeth, when studied in the light of the contents of the stomach, enables the naturalist to reconstruct something of the methods of feeding of these fierce cetaceans.

Taking in a tremendous draught of air at the surface and filling his huge lungs to their fullest capacity, he plunges down to the depths of the ocean, his enormous horizontal tail acting both as propellor and diving plane.

If he had a vertical tail like a fish, he probably could not descend to nor rise from the great depth with the speed so necessary to his mode of life. He is not built for swift forward speed like a fish, but for practical straight up and down work.

With lungs full of air he plunges almost vertically downwards till he reaches the ocean floor. There he browses about seeking a big, appetising octopus. The cachalot's enormous flat ended snout—as large as the end of a big railway engine—pushes around this rock, then into that cave, then over this piece of "pastureland," till his pig-like eyes, set back some fifteen feet from the tip of his nose, catches sight of an octopus crouching on a rock, with its long tentacles spread out, and here the significance of the strange scissor-like under-jaw of the sperm whale becomes apparent. The whale, hovering over his prey, lowers himself until his huge head rests on the body of the octopus.

The weight of the head almost squeezing the life out of the victim and causing it slightly to relax its hold, the whale forces its sharp pointed lower-jaw beneath one of the tentacles and with one crunch bites it off.

Writhing with pain the octopus releases one or more of its remaining arms and encircles the head of the whale, hoping to hold it down until it is drowned or so weakened from lack of air that it will relinquish the attack and be only too glad to escape to the surface. Then follows a battle royal. The whale is well aware that he cannot remain more than forty to fifty minutes in the depths without a fresh supply of air and it devotes itself to the task of killing its prey in the shortest possible space of time.

With three or more of the cuttlefish's arms around its head the whale makes titanic efforts to wrest its enemy from its hold on the rock. Here is a tug of war in very sooth! Again the trick of forcing the point of the jaw beneath it, another mighty crunch and another tentacle is severed. The process is repeated until the octopus is so weakened that it cannot maintain its hold on the rock, and with one mighty heave the whale tears him loose, bites him in half a dozen places until the creature is dead, then to be bitten off into convenient sized pieces and consumed at leisure.

Apparently a surfeit of cuttlefish sets up a state of indigestion of some form of stomach irritation, for occasionally the sperm whale ejects a huge mass of cheesy matter from its stomach. This substance is occasionally found floating on the surface, and is worth a small fortune to the lucky finder, for it is the famous ambergris, although formerly employed in medicine it is now exclusively used in the preparation of perfumery and is worth £5 an ounce. Some 15 years ago two young Englishmen touring South Island, New Zealand, discovered ambergris on the beach, which, when realised, brought them the nice sum of £10,000.

Despite the ferocious nature of the sperm whale, the mother is devoted to her calf and

becomes a veritable fury should any danger threaten. The newborn calf is from five to five feet six in length. There is a preserved specimen in the Cape Town Museum. It has been mounted so as to show the peculiar formation of the mouth and the lower-jaw, in which the powerful baby teeth are already showing this indication that baby cachalot will be expected to be weaned and to start upon solid food at no distant date.

And now, in conclusion, a few interesting facts about the fin-back whale:

Recently Mr. D. Quiring, a resident in the State of California, U.S.A., brought the following particulars to light regarding a 71 foot fin-back whale:

Estimated weight, 65 tons; weight of brain, 18 lbs.; weight of tongue, 2,705 lbs.; weight of kidneys, 461 lbs.; weight of liver, 1,783 lbs.; eyes, 3½ lbs.; heart, 842 lbs.; lung, 868 lbs.; stomach, 685 lbs.; blubber, approximately, 12 tons.

I am indebted to the following sources of information from which I have constructed this paper.

The Harmsworth Natural History as also an interesting series of articles which appeared in the Cape Times entitled "Tales of the whales," by a writer who wrote under the pen-name of "Pisces" and finally to the "Volkstem" of 21st June, 1943, for the particulars anent the fin-back whale. One reason which induced me to prepare this paper was that I cannot call to mind a paper on similar lines being read previously and I thought it might be of interest.

CORRESPONDENCE

"EGYPT."

Dear Sir,

No doubt some of your readers will be interested in the following story concerning the 5 mills Princess Ferial Birthday stamp issued in 1940.

This last month advertisements appeared in local papers calling for applications for the issue of this Birthday stamp. It was stated that the 10 mills stamp issued in 1940 would be re-issued overprinted 1943 in European and Arabic figures. Apparently there

were many applications and these exceeded the quantity available by some 400 or 500 per cent. for dealers reported that they only received about 20 per cent. of the quantity for which they applied. The stamp, apparently, was only available for sale for one or two days at the most and I was one of many to be told that as I had not made an application no supplies were available. There is as yet no final information but it appears that not more than about 400 sheets of these stamps which contain 100 stamps per sheet were issued. We have been told that a number of sheets, never issued, will be destroyed because they contain some inverted overprints. One error has been found; it is the 98th stamp in the bottom right-hand corner. The Arabic figures for 9 and 4 have been reversed which means that 1943 has been wrongly translated into the figures 1493. The corner block containing these six stamps is now selling as high a £12!

There is another interesting feature of the sheets of these stamps which would interest specialists in the stamps of Egypt. The overprints have been made up by typographical process and the result is that each and every figure varies on every stamp. I met a man yesterday who said he had sold a sheet for £25.

Recently there has been great interest in the current set of Trans Jordan stamps. A set of eight stamps, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15 and 20 mills, has been issued without watermark, and also the three postage due values, 1, 2 and 10 mills. The stocks of the two highest values of the postage stamps are now exhausted and there is now a keen demand for the complete set without watermark.

In conclusion, may I say that through the kindness of a friend I now receive the S.A. Philatelist regularly, and it is a pleasure to read your excellent publication so far away from home.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN P. SHINGLER,
U.D.F.I. M.E.F.

KENYA.

Stamp Collecting notes that the 20c is now being printed from plates 3-4a, 4b and the 5s. from plates 2-1.

Collectors of REALLY FINE BRITISH COLONIALS should get into touch with me AT ONCE

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SOCIETY NEWS

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, K. Alexander; *Hon. Secretary*, S. Kaganon, 16 Military Road, Cape Town. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Medical House, 35 Wale Street, Cape Town, at 7.30 p.m.

25th November.—Although Mr. E. C. Solomon, M.P.C., was merely scheduled "for a display," one need never have any qualms of what sort of exhibition Mr. Solomon will put up, and this evening's display was quite as outstanding as any of his previous exhibits. He showed a fine lot of Abyssinia with various overprints, also a wonderful collection of Afghanistan stamps. Then there were a fine lot of Indian States and a number of Chinese Locals shown. Greece and Crete were well represented, including a fine set of Greek stamps, postally used, issued in connection with the wedding of the Crown Prince Paul in 1938. Another fine item was an envelope with the full set of Union 1st Air Mail stamps, which had been autographed by Mr. E. Sturman, the then Postmaster General.

The Society is in full swing for the forthcoming "Cavalcade," and stamps are now being solicited for the cause.

9th December.—The customary philatelic display was dispensed with for this evening as Mr. Playfair, Organising Secretary of the Cape Town Cavalcade, had very kindly consented to exhibit the film of the Port Elizabeth Liberty Cavalcade.

The film, in colour, was shown by Major White and his assistants. Major White explained that Mr. Playfair fully intended to be present and address members on the work of the Cavalcade, but owing to other pressing engagements couldn't just do it. Major White, however, deputised for him, and explained the various sections as they were thrown on the screen.

W.A.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

President, A. L. Bevis; *Hon. Sec.*, G. Milner Palmer, P.O. Box 588, Durban; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street (in the rooms of the Durban Camera Club, top floor), 7.30 p.m.

The December meeting, held at 319 Smith Street on 1st December, was chiefly notable for an auction of stamps donated in aid of St. Dunstan's Home. Skilfully handled by our Hon. Auctioneer, Mr. A. S. Maskell, the sale produced the sum of £23 7s. 9d., and as an extraordinary coincidence it was found after the sale that this total coincided exactly with the catalogue valuation of the stamps.

A display of the stamps of Natal had been promised but had to be postponed. In its absence Mr. Bishop, deputising for the President, who was away on holiday, invited ideas for a discussion.

Mr. McCall raised the question of the insurance of the Society's exchange packets while in the hands of different members or in transit from member to member. Mr. Mudie asked what would be the position in the event of a member having his house burgled at the time when a packet was in his keeping. There were other speakers on the subject and Mr. Bishop, replying, explained the Society's failure to secure a satisfactory insurance contract on any reasonable basis. It was decided to make a new approach to Lloyd's agents in Durban.

In the meantime our Society would be most interested to hear what has been the experience of other Societies in this matter.

G.M.P.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, C. Hampson; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. Fowler, P.O. Box 168, East London.

At the November meeting the highlight of the evening was a superb display of Egypt by Mr. Lazarus. To say that it was magnificent seems an underestimate of the showing which was complete to the last detail. After the tea interval Mr. Lazarus again engrossed the attention of those present when he displayed Sudan. It is difficult to say which was the better exhibition as it was apparent that Mr. Lazarus had aimed for perfection, but the complete General Gordon Commemoration set received

a good deal of comment and admiration. The beauty of the displays was further enhanced as both contained mint blocks.

The December meeting was held on the 10th at the Colosseum Buildings at 7.45 p.m., at which Mr. Hampson also presided. Members had been requested previously to bring six sheets, and as a consequence a very creditable exhibition in miniature resulted. It is impossible to enumerate all the types displayed, but members certainly extended themselves in putting forward an attractive selection. It is hoped that this idea will become popular as it certainly does provide philatelic enjoyment.

At this meeting the chairman expressed his thanks to all those who had displayed, and at the same time he extended his good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, A. E. Basden; *Hon. Secretary*, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

6th December.—Dr. Broughton in the chair. Mr. Hawke read some interesting philatelic extracts.

Mr. Giovanetti read a paper on Papua which was important philatelicly chiefly on account of its air mail services. He described some interesting episodes and difficulties encountered in the fighting between the Japanese and Australians which he had received at first hand from members of the fighting forces there. The chairman thanked Mr. Giovanetti and pointed out that the development of the important gold mine in the mountains of Papua would not have been possible except for the transport of the necessary machinery by air.

Dr. Broughton tabled a fine collection of Belgian Congo.

20th December.—Dr. Broughton in the chair. Mr. Oppenheim gave a detailed account of the recent advance in prices of many of the colonial issues.

President's Night.—Mr. Basden gave a very instructive talk on the Inter-Provincials of Southern Africa. He gave a clear exposition of the stamp position in all the Provinces at the time of Union and explained how stamps of all the Provinces came to be used throughout the Union. Dates during which stamps could be used interprovincially were given and he pointed out why the prices of many of them with the exception of the Transvaal had been considerably increased.

Dr. Broom proposed a vote of thanks to the President, Mr. Basden, for a most enjoyable evening, and this was carried with acclamation.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, F. J. H. Lang; *Hon. Secretary*, L. Buchen, Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays, Public Library, Johannesburg, 8 p.m.

Although there was only an average attendance at our December meeting held on December 14, an enjoyable experience was had by all present as Mr. E. Jourdan's exhibit of the Classics of Australia was something really worth while seeing. In commenting on this exhibit Mr. Carleton Jones expressed his opinion that the early Australians were among the finest of the old Classics. Insofar as Mr. Jourdan's collection was concerned, Mr. Carleton Jones made the following observations.

The Western Australians, which comprised mostly the old classical issues, were of the highest quality.

He considered the New South Wales issues the best of the countries exhibited, and remarked about the one penny Sydney View, the many fine imperfs. specimens and the 5s. Coin Stamps.

The New Zealand stamps were in exceptionally fine condition and included many imperfs. with the four sides showing. These New Zealand imperfs. were so closely printed together on the page, as was illustrated by exhibits of blocks, that it is understandable why so relatively few good imperfs. are extant with all four margins showing.

The Queensland group included many fine examples of difficult-to-secure items. Also there were many good items among the South Australias and Victorias.

Another new member was elected at this meeting, in fact it is rare now that we do not take in at least one new member each month, but we are always

(Continued on page 12).

South African Meter List – UNIVERSAL – By G. W. Hockey

(Continued from page 144 December issue)

Identification Number.	Licence No.	Place.	Name of User.	Authorisation Date.	Cancellation Date.	First Date Seen.
U142	957	Pretoria	Iscor, Ltd.	3. 7.40	—	30.12.40
U143	939	Cape Town	Central News Agency, Ltd.	8. 3.40	—	11. 3.40
U144	989	Cape Town	Municipality	6.12.40	—	14.12.40
U145	994	Johannesburg ..	Berks Bros.	6.12.40	—	—
U146	1001	Durban	Standard Bank of S.A., Ltd.	1. 2.41	—	24. 3.42
U147	1006	Johannesburg ..	W. Lipworth & Co.	20. 2.41	—	—
U148	1031	Johannesburg ..	Lever Bros. (S.A.) (Pty.), Ltd.	27. 5.41	—	10. 7.41
U149	1016	Johannesburg ..	S.A. General Electric Co., Ltd.	26. 3.41	—	20. 7.42
U150	1040	Johannesburg ..	The Bantu Press (Pty.), Ltd.	21. 7.41	—	—
U151	963	Johannesburg ..	Union Unity Fund	2. 8.40	—	2. 8.40
U152	1036	Johannesburg ..	Woolworths (Pty.), Ltd.	13. 6.41	—	—
U153	727	Johannesburg ..	Piel's Cold Storage, Ltd.	27. 8.41	—	28. 4.42
U154	1014	Cape Town	Stuttaford & Co., Ltd.	26. 3.41	—	—
U155	1030	Cape Town	Cape Explosives Works, Ltd.	27. 5.41	—	3. 6.41
U156	1034	Durban	C. G. Smith & Co., Ltd.	5. 6.41	—	2. 3.42
U157	1056	Johannesburg ..	General Optical Co.	1. 9.41	—	27. 8.42
U158	1059	Cape Town	S.A. Nat. Life Ass. Co., Ltd.	23. 9.41	—	3.10.41

Numerical Summary, as at 4.3.43

	Number of Machines.	No Record.	Number of Usages.	My Representation.
Neopost	278	9	339	193
Midget	365	1	592	342
Francotyp	27	—	50	33
Universal	158	2	192	143
TOTALS	828	12	1,173	711

ADDITIONAL

Identification.	Place.	User.	Authorisation.	Cancellation.
N4	Cape Town	Galvin & Sales, Ltd.	1.11.26	28. 9.31
N19	Cape Town	Vacuum Oil Co. of S.A., Ltd.	27. 5.29	17.12.36
N30	Durban	H. Pollack & Co., Ltd.	10. 6.29	11. 2.35
N42	Port Elizabeth ..	A. Fisher & Co., Ltd.	9. 8.31	27. 4.31
N67	Cape Town	Sheel Co. of S.A., Ltd.	25. 8.30	—
N77	Johannesburg ..	L. Botha	29. 1.34	27. 2.34
N77	Johannesburg ..	International Correspondence College	26. 2.34	28. 4.41
N103	Port Elizabeth ..	Teikandas Bros.	9. 1.34	11. 6.34
N157	Johannesburg ..	Jacoby & Co.	8. 4.35	6. 1.36
N212	Johannesburg ..	Belfast Warehouse	20. 6.37	1. 1.38
M2	Pretoria	McDowell & Jardine	10. 1.27	19. 3.28
M3	Johannesburg ..	Tunley & Co.	10. 1.27	19. 3.28
M4	Durban	Tunley & Co.	10. 1.27	19. 3.28
M5	Port Elizabeth ..	Tunley & Co.	10. 1.27	30. 5.28
M6	Cape Town	Tunley & Co.	10. 1.27	21. 8.28
M22	Bloemfontein ..	Office Appliances	6. 6.27	1. 2.28
M51	Cape Town	S.A. Mutual Ass. Soc.	27. 1.30	17. 3.30
M57	East London	Malcomess, Ltd.	6. 2.28	29. 4.29
M78	Durban	Natal Office Appliances	8. 7.29	28.10.29
M81	Johannesburg ..	W. Jacobson (Pty.), Ltd.	30. 9.41	—
M96	Cape Town	Sun Life Assurance	6. 8.28	—
M186	Cape Town	Mathieson & Ashley, Ltd.	29.11.33	—
M273	Port Elizabeth ..	African Oxygen & Acetylene, Ltd.	19. 9.38	27. 3.39
M273	Johannesburg ..	Dairy Industry Control Board	27.11.39	10. 3.41
F5	Johannesburg ..	Colin Munro	21. 4.30	26. 5.30
F6	Durban	Harvey Greenacre	21. 4.30	26. 5.30
F7	Durban	K. Gundelfinger	21. 4.30	26. 5.30
F8	Durban	P. Henwood Son & Soutter	21. 4.30	—
F11	Johannesburg ..	Rillstone Motors	14. 8.33	29. 7.35
F13	Johannesburg ..	Cohen Goldman	9. 1.31	1. 6.31
F14	Johannesburg ..	Auto Elec. Supply Co.	25. 8.30	22. 2.32
F16	Cape Town	Modern Office Equipment	20.10.30	15. 5.31
U35	Johannesburg ..	New Consolidated Goldfields	17. 9.34	25. 7.36
U132	Johannesburg ..	S.A. Broadcasting Co.	15. 7.40	—

ADDITIONAL DOUBTFUL

M69	Cape Town	Benjamin & Lawton	26.11.28	12.10.36
M72	Cape Town	A. Burchell	25. 6.28	17. 8.31
M87	Cape Town	General Assurance	4.11.28	—
M95	Johannesburg ..	Board of Executors	28. 6.37	4. 9.38
M116	Johannesburg ..	Reunert & Lenz	5.10.31	14.12.31
M302	Johannesburg ..	Land Bank	13. 2.40	—
M314	Johannesburg ..	P. Henwood Son & Soutter	31. 3.41	—
F19	Johannesburg ..	Rillstone Motors	5. 2.34	29. 7.35
F24	Cape Town	Taenber & Corssen	1932	—
N82	Cape Town	Nasionale Pers	3. 9.31	—

The dates of the above items clash with others already published, hence the doubt.

Identification.	Place.	User.
DELETE :		
N12	Cape Town	Woolworths (Pty.), Ltd.
M3	Johannesburg	P. Henwood Son Soutter & Co.
M41	Johannesburg	W. Jacobson (Pty.), Ltd.
ERRATA :		
N258	Reverse N258 and the ditto ticks above it.	
N185 } N186 }	—Reverse the entries against these two meters.	

Collaboration with other meter specialists has brought to light some additional items, which, together with corrections, are here given. The record of meters to 4.3.43, allowing also for duplicate authorizations, is therefore as follows:—

Identification.	No record.	Users.
N 278	5	341
M 365	1	599
F 27	0	57
U 158	2	194
828	8	1191

(10 doubtful records not included.)

The "no record" meters are N. 7, 10, 162, 266, 267; M 360; and U 36 and 38. The latter two Universal meters were issued in Southern Rhodesia in 1935, this date according to Harris. The top and bottom panels were re-engraved "Southern" and "Rhodesia" respectively, while the "Postgeld betaald" was removed and replaced by a second "Postage Paid." These meters are, therefore, missing

(Continued from page 10).

on the lookout for new recruits to our hobby, even if it is not possible for them at present to have the benefit of attending our monthly meetings.

So far our war funds have contributed over £226 to twenty different organisations rendering service or relief in some form to the fighting forces throughout the world. We want to continue this good work, but in order to be able to do so we must be able to count on the full support of all of our members in some tangible form. Although cash donations will be gratefully accepted, we prefer donations of stamps, which can be auctioned at our monthly meetings for these war funds; such donations have the double blessing of helping worthy causes and putting otherwise frozen stamp stocks into circulation at a time they will do the most good.

H. E. B.

OF.S.-BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. G. Lyon, Box 702, Bloemfontein; Meetings, 3rd Fridays, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloemfontein.

December.—One of the many new and valuable members the Society has acquired from the Bloemfontein Air Scholes, namely, Flight-Lieut. G. W. Horton, gave a very fine display of his Egyptian stamps at the December meeting.

Starting with a printers' proof set of the first issue, he presented all catalogued items with very few exceptions, and many uncatalogued ones besides that, in excellent condition. In the Port Fuad set he showed the 15m with the obliterating bar double, a variety of which only 6 copies exist. Of the Suez Canal Co. issue, a genuine and a forged set were shown. There was a complete array of the various Christmas Seal issues which included the Silver Jubilee seal. Of interest were also some philatelic items which Flight-Lieut. Horton found when entering the ruins of the Tobruk Post Office.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the exhibitor. During the evening, a successful auction sale was held. One new member was enrolled. The policy

from the South African list.

It is interesting to note that commerce and its branches has employed meters to the extent of almost exactly one firm per identification. Earliest authorizations for the four main types are, Neopost, 1st Nov., 1926; Midget, 4th Jan., 1927; Francotyp, 21st April, 1930; and Universal, 13th Feb., 1933.

Francotyp has not been seen for some years now, and type 1 Neopost is also out of use, except for a solitary ½d., No. 13 seen occasionally. In Neopost type 1, identifications 7, 10 and 12 have not been seen, and only in 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 is the key letter N found. 15 has one feature missing from all the others. The lower curved panels containing "Postgeld" and "Betaald" are closed by vertical lines either side of the identification number.

In Neopost type II., the minor type characterised by small differences in design is a fixed value, and has been seen only in N 1, ½d. Cape Town; N 3, 2d.; N 8, 2d.; N 12, 1d.; N 13, 1d.; and N 35, ½d. N 31 is a special on its own, differing both in perforations and minor points of design from its like.

The opening of the description of Neopost type I. should read: "Double lined frame." This frame consists of a fine thin outer line and thicker inner one, whereas in the minor types of II. the lines appear nearer equal thickness.

Further Universal identifications are appearing in 1943, but Midget and Neopost remain static.

G. W. HOCKEY.

of the Chairman, Mr. Larsen, to keep formal business ruthlessly down to a few meagre minutes, was welcomed by everybody and contributed to the success of the evening.

VARIETY IN THE £5 TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC STAMP.

Mr. Tom Stiehl, Hay Springs, Nebr., U.S.A., reports via Stephen G. Rich, a variety in the Transvaal Republic £5 stamp, S.G. No. 187. In an unused copy, a perfectly round white dot occurs between A and F of "Z.AFR.REPUBLIEK," even with the top of of the letters, and approximately twice the size of the stop after the Z. The copy is a genuine one, on the basis of the tests for genuine and forgery in Curle and Basden's book. Whether it is a reprint is not certain; paper is hardly dead white enough to make such identification sure; perf. is correct 12½ comb; colour of ink agrees with used copies with correct date showing in cancellation. Mr. Rich thinks it is a reprint, and suggests, as to the nature of the variety, that this may be a bubble in the ink.



The accompanying illustration is a scale-drawing of the variety from Mr. Stiehl's stamp. Further information, and record of further copies of this variety, would be useful.

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South African Railways





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Proprietors and Publishers :

THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Price 6d. REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. Price 6d.

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Whole No. 227.

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CORRESPONDENCE

October 29th, 1943.

The Editor,
South African Philatelist.

"KIMBERLEY REEFS."

Dear Sir,—By a remarkable coincidence the interesting correspondence in your journal regarding the postmarks of Kimberley Reefs, has revealed the fact that, I believe, the only mistake in the list of more than eight hundred postmarks described by me in the *London Philatelist* and my book "The Romance of the Posts of Rhodesia," from copies in my collection, was due to an accident in typing, which transposed the details of Kimberley Reefs and Killarney Mine (near Bulawayo). They should, of course, read:

KILLARNEY MINE. SOUTHERN RHODESIA. D.C. Opened in 1907, closed 1913.

KIMBERLEY REEFS. SOUTHERN RHODESIA. D.C. Opened in 1904 changed to BINDURA in 1913.

and

BINDURA. SOUTHERN RHODESIA. D.C. Opened in 1904 as KIMBERLEY REEFS re-named BINDURA in 1913.

(D.C. means Double Concentric circles).

Will those who have copies of the "L.P." or my book, kindly make the necessary corrections.

The details were authenticated, as were all the other S. Rhodesian postmarks, by the late postmaster, Mr. Collyer.

I enclose a portion of the KIMBERLEY REEFS postmark, and have had several complete impressions, one of which I sent to my friend the late Major Harrington, for his information.

(This is different in type from any contemporaneous Kimberley postmark, such as has been chronicled as having been found in Rhodesian stamps.—Ed.)

Kimberley Reefs (Bindura) is situated about forty miles (not 56 as mentioned by a correspondent) N.N.E. of Salisbury, and about 15 miles west of Shamva.

And here is something of topical interest regarding these places, as recently related to me by the Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur T. Harris, K.C.B., O.B.E., etc., Commander-in-Chief Bomber Command (The Scourge of Germany) and published in the September issue of the *London Philatelist*. In the early days he drove one of Kimpton's "Buffalo Bill" mail coaches, with a team of sixteen mules or six horses, from Salisbury to KIMBERLEY REEFS, Mazoe and Shamva, and in fact over the whole district from Mount Darwin in the north to Umtali in the south. Later on he drove his own Mail car, when an outbreak of horse sickness interrupted the services, and motor cars took the place of the old coaches.

I do not know the number used in the oblong space in the centre of the "Barred Oval" at Kimberley Reefs, and, unless a cover happens to turn up with this postmark as well as the town name, it is very unlikely that it will ever be identified. It was usually impressed on the stamp (or stamps) and the town name in circles, as above, somewhere else on the envelope. Very few of these "oval barred" with number postmarks have been traced, only Fort Victoria, Iron Mine Hill, Tuli, Salisbury, Gwelo, Plumtree, Umtali and Fort Rosebery, and there are to my knowledge thirty-eight others (in my collection) awaiting identification. These given are the only ones Mr. Swift, the present Postmaster-General at Salisbury, can trace. I would be grateful to any of your readers if they could render any help by examining covers in their possession, and would let me know if they come across any others, in order that they may be added when my book is "resurrected" after the war.

Yours truly,
H. C. DANN.

S.W.A.

The Union 1s. miniature war stamp has appeared with the S.W.A. overprint in smaller type (the same size as on all the other bantams, except the 1½d.). Previously the overprint was in a larger type.

THE AIR-MAIL STAMPS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

METHODS OF PRODUCTION

A. HILTON SYDOW, A.S.A.A., C.A.(S.A.).

(A). THE 1925 ISSUE.

The first air-mail stamps of the Union of South Africa comprising the four denominations, 1d. red, 3d. blue, 6d. magenta, and 9d. green, were issued on the 25th February, 1925.

These stamps were printed by the Cape Times, Limited, at Cape Town by the lithographic-photographic-zinc plate-offset process.

A sheet consisted of 120 stamps divided into two panels, upper and lower, each of 6 horizontal rows of 10 units. Coloured circles enclosing large white denominated figures appeared (1) on the margin above vertical rows 5 and 6 of the upper panel, (2) opposite horizontal rows 3 and 4 on the right-hand margins of each of the upper and lower panels, and (3) on the margin below vertical rows 5 and 6 of the lower panel. A white margin of about 15 mm. separated the two panels on each sheet, horizontally.

The undenominated design, approximately four times the size of that depicted on a printed stamp, was engraved in recess on a copper die by Mr. A. J. Cooper, formerly of Waterlow and Sons, Limited. The lines cut in recess and negative on the copper die corresponded with the lines of colour which delineated the design on a printed stamp with the exception of the circular tablets enclosing the figures of value in white. The figures of value tablets were engraved separately on copper in the same size as the large figure of value tablets printed on the margins of a sheet in the positions referred to afore.

Transfer-paper impressions were taken from the undenominated copper die and patched up into a group of four. Eight transfer-paper impressions were taken from the four figure of value copper dies and 2 of each, i.e., of the 1d., 3d., 6d., and 9d., added to the four already taken from the undenominated die. Thus four denominated transfer-paper impressions were transferred to a lithographic stone, in a group of four. Black and white impressions were printed in quadriform from the lithographic stone, one each for the 1d., 3d., 6d. and 9d. denominations. Thereafter 60 of the best lithographic sheets were selected from an unknown quantity printed and cut up into 240 single copies, 60 of each of the four denominations. The single copies were mounted very carefully on large cards in groups of 60, 6 horizontal rows of 10 each; thus four cards, one for each of the four denominations, namely, 1d., 3d., 6d. and 9d., in panels of 60. In mounting the individual lithographic prints provision for space was made for the perforation gutters vertically and hori-

zontally. At this stage the size of each lithographic stamp image on the cards corresponded to the size of the image on the original copper die, i.e., four times approximately the size of a printed stamp.

Each of the four 60-contained cards was then photographed and four 60-set negative prints obtained, one for each denomination; the size of each image on the negative prints corresponding to the size of a printed stamp. Before the said cards were photographed lithographic prints of the large figure of value tablets were affixed to the cards above vertical rows 5 and 6, and opposite horizontal rows 3 and 4. After the said photographs were taken the said large figure of value tablets were removed and similar ones affixed to the cards below vertical rows 5 and 6, and opposite horizontal rows 3 and 4. Each of the four 60-contained cards was again photographed and further four 60-set negative prints obtained, one for each denomination.

Four zinc plates were taken and each one coated with a bichromated albumen solution. Two negative prints, one for the top panel and one for the bottom panel, of one of the denominations were contacted with one of the zinc plates and exposed to light in a special photographic printing frame. The exposed plate then held images of the lines of design of insoluble albumen affected by light, and the undelineated portions coatings unaffected by light in soluble condition. The plate then was coated with a thin film of special ink and immersed in water, the soluble portion of the coating was washed off and left inked images of the lines of design adhering to the insoluble coating still on the plate. The remaining three zinc plates were similarly contacted with the remaining six negative prints. Four 120-set plates were then ready for use on the Mann Baby Offset machine, which bore a tablet with the name of its manufacturer, George Mann and Co., Limited, Leeds and London, British No. 7218.

The photographic and lithographic work anent these stamps was performed by Mr. A. P. Myers, and for the first printings of these stamps the machine was operated by Mr. Henry Kline.

Thus the progeny of the Master-die is as follows:

- (1) Undenominated Master-die (and Tablet dies); Intaglio; Negative.
- (2) Transfer-papers; Planographic; Positive.
- (3) Lithographic Stone; Planographic; Negative.
- (4) Lithographic Prints; Planographic; Positive.

- (5) Photographic Prints; Planographic; Negative.
- (6) Zinc Plates (Four); Planographic; Positive.
- (7) Offset Roller; Planographic; Negative.
- (8) Printed Stamps (Four denominations); Planographic; Positive.

(B). THE 1929 ISSUE.

The second air-mail stamps of the Union of South Africa consisting of only two denominations, 4d. green and 1s. orange, were issued on the 21st August, 1929.

These stamps were printed by the Government Printer at Pretoria by the Line-process, i.e., Photographic-etching without the use of a screen.

Each sheet consisted of 120 stamps divided into two panels, upper and lower, each of 6 horizontal rows of 10 units. A white margin of about 12 mm. separated the two panels on each sheet, horizontally. The outer margins were blank, but a continuous "jubilee" or guard line surrounds the stamps, with breaks at the centres of the outer margins.

Apart from these stamps no undenominated master-die was engraved on metal, but an undenominated artist's design was drawn by one of the officials of the Government Printing Works, as well as four separate tablets with the denominations 4d., 4d., 1s., 1s. From the artist's master-design undenominated, two subsidiary designs also undenominated were prepared. To the one, the two 4d. tablets were added, and to the other the two 1s. tablets. From these two denominations designs two photographic line negative prints were obtained, the image on each one measured 2½ ins. by 1 11/16 ins. The two photographic negative prints were contacted with sensitized metal, and two line blocks obtained, one for the 4d. denomination and the other for the 1s. denomination. From these two line blocks, 120 black and white impressions were pulled on art paper, 60 for the first-mentioned denomination and 60 for the latter. The single black and white copies so obtained were then mounted on boards in groups of 60, 6 horizontal rows of 10 each; two boards, one for each denomination. In mounting the individual copies provision for space was made for the vertical and horizontal perforation gutters.

Each of the 60-contained boards was then photographed, and two 60-set negative prints obtained, one for each denomination; the size of each image on the negative prints corresponding to the size of a printed stamp. These negative prints were contacted with sensitized metal plates, and two 60-set line blocks were obtained for each denomination. Two line blocks were mounted together to form a 120-set typographic plate for the 4d. denomination, and the other two line blocks were mounted together to form a 120-set typographic plate for the 1s. denomination. The two 120-set plates were then ready for use on a typographic or letterpress machine.

Thus the progeny of the Master-design is as follows:

- (1) Undenominated Master-design (and Tablet designs); Planographic; Positive.
- (2) Single photographic line negative prints

- (2); Planographic; Negative.
- (3) Single image line-blocks (2); In relief; Positive.
- (4) Line-block prints (60 and 60); Planographic; Negative.
- (5) 60-set photographic line negative prints (2); Planographic; Positive.
- (6) 60-set line-blocks (4); In relief; Negative.
- (7) 120-set line-block plates (2); In relief; Negative.
- (8) Printed Stamps (2 denominations); Planographic; Positive.

Succinctly, the Line-process or the process of photographic-etching is that of photographing a design and simultaneously impressing the lines of design photographically upon a sensitized metal plate, usually copper or zinc, and thereafter subjecting the metal plate to the process of etching. The impression on the metal is made by contacting the photographic negative with the metal plate in a special frame which is exposed to a powerful arc lamp. When the impression on the metal is obtained it is developed in order to remove the surface parts not acted on by the light and to retain the surface parts acted on by the light, i.e., the lines defining the design. The surface of the plate is coated with an acid-resist which renders the lines of design capable of resisting the subsequent etching. The process of etching consists of immersing the metal plate in diluted acid which erodes those portions of the surface metal other than where it is protected by the acid-resisting lines of design. The plate may be etched to any depth desired, leaving the lines of design in relief.

Examination of the backs of the 1929 air-mail stamps generally reveals slight ridges in relief of the lines of design which is characteristic of stamps printed from typographic or letterpress plates.

M.E.F. OVERPRINTS.

These get more complicated. From an account given by Sir John Wilson at the "Royal" recently it seems that four settings are now recognised.

The first two are fairly easy:

- (a) 1st London overprint 14 mm. long, square stops. Put in use at Asmara on 3rd March, 1943.
- (b) Cairo overprint 13½ mm. long, stops mostly round, but some rows had square stops and in at least one row there was a mixture of square and round. A comparatively small printing.
- (c) 3rd overprint (? Cairo or London) Type and measurement identical with 1st printing, but has a less finished appearance. To this belong the half sheets returned from Cairo to meet the requests of clamant collectors in Britain, but it is not yet definitely settled where they were overprinted.
- (d) 4th printing. Early in 1943. Low values in the new pastel shades and on values up to 2s. 6d. Done in London, overprint 14 mm. long in smaller but heavier type with square stops.



OFFERS OF SETS

5. Albania 1913. Valona Indep. epl. used.	3/6
7. Albania 1924 lg-1 fr. epl. mint	2/6
10. Albania 1940. Greek Occupation m.	3/6
7. Argentina 1938/40. Official 2c-1 peso m.	2/6
5. Armenia 1923. 1,000-10,000 r. m.	1/6
13. Bosnia 1916. 3h.-3 kr. m.	4/6
5. Brasil S.G. 399/401, 622, 654	1/9
6. Chile 1928/34. 30c.-5 pesos u.	1/-
9. Chile 1938/39. Pict. 5c-2 ps. u.	1/-
3. China 1933 Tap Yuan Chang u.	1/-
4. China 1936 New Life epl. used	2/6
4. China 1939 U.S.A. Constitution epl. u.	4/6
6. China 1941 Pict. 8c-1 dollar epl. m.	2/6
5. Czech 1932/3. Dr. Tyrš. u.	1/-
4. Dominic Rep. 1938/42. Commemos. 1-10c	1/-
4. Dutch Indies 1923 Jubilee 5c-1 g u.	1/6
7. Ecuador 1930 Independence 1-50c u.	1/-
14. Djibouti 1943 5c-20 frs. epl. m.	12/6
10. Fiume 1920 D'Annunzio 5c-1 L. m.	3/6
4. Honduras 1935 Airmail 8c-20c. u.	1/6
14. Jugoslav 1935 Boy King Peter 25p-20d. u.	3/6
12. Latvia 1940 1 sant.-1 lats u.	6/6
5. Lithuania 1932 views, imperf. m.	1/6
6. Lithuania 1933 triang. Air perf. & imperf. m.	2/6
6. Lithuania 1933 Child welfare do. do. m.	2/-
8. Manchuria 1936/39. 3-12 fen. u.	1/-
4. Manchuria 1937 Hsiuking epl. m.	3/-
6. Mexico 1929/31. Airmails u.	1/-
15. Mexico 1934/35. post and air 1c-1p. u.	1/6
19. Montenegro 1918 "Exile issue" epl. m.	1/6
24. Mozambique 1938 1c-20 Esc. u.	6/6
7. Paraguay 1932/40 Gran Chaco 50c-5p.	1/3
8. Poland 1932. S.G. 284/289 epl. u.	1/-
5. Portugal 1925/31. S.G. 659/61, 853, 864, u.	4/6
17. Portugal 1936/41. 4c-20 esc. epl. u.	5/-
7. Portugal 1936/37. Parcels Post 1-10 esc. u.	2/6
16. Portugal 1937/40. Commemoratives u.	3/6
6. Portugal 1940. Sir Rowland Hill u.	3/6
8. Portuguese India 1938. 6 reis-3 rupees u.	5/6
9. Russia 1919 Denikin, imperf. 5k-10r. m.	1/6
7. Russia 1939 New Moscow epl. u.	3/9
10. Russia 1939 Agric. Fair epl. u.	4/6
8. Russia 1939 Caucasus epl. u.	3/6
17. Russia 1940 Pavillions epl. u.	7/6
8. San Marino 1923 Red Cross epl. m.	3/6
9. Spain, Pope and King, 2-25c. m.	1/9
6. Spain 1930 Airmail 5c-1p. m.	2/6
9. Spain 1930 Airmail 5c-4p. epl. m.	5/6
9. Tanna Touva 1934 Airmail 1k-2 tng. m.	2/6
9. Tanna Touva 1936 Airmail 5k-3 aska. u.	3/6
8. U.S.A. 1940/42. Commemos. m.	3/-
4. U.S.A. 1943. "United Nations" m.	2/6

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U.S.A. AND U.S.S.R. FLAG STAMPS.

Stamps of the U.S.A. "Overrun Nations" series with the flags of Greece, Jugoslavia and Albania have now reached us and there are only two more of the set to come, those featuring the flags of Austria and Denmark.

Discussion as to the method of printing of these stamps is very active in the American philatelic press. The discovery that the names of the countries are sometimes in a somewhat different shade from other parts of the stamp of the same colour and the finding of occasional doubling of the name (particularly in the case of Norway) are the latest problems awaiting solution.

A U.S.S.R. report states that a stamp is being issued with the flags of Russia, Britain and the U.S.A. featured.

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E. A. Church, Box 112, Durban.

If interested in S.A. Colonies or Union Mint Blocks, Postage Dues, Officials, write to:

E. Tamsen, Box 13, Nylstroom.

Orange Free State.—Approval selections wanted. Must be fine, well-centred copies.

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E. A. Bennie, Box 57, East Rand.

Coins and Medals wanted. Send offers to:

Alec Kaplan, Box 132, Germiston.

AIR MAILS.

The October number of *The Aero Field* features the development of the French services to South America from 1927 onwards, and the *Air Mail Magazine* ("Green Lists") continues its listing of Brazilian first flights. The latter paper also carries on its cataloguing of the rapidly growing Airgraph types.



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REVIEW

British Postage Stamp Design, by John Easton. Published by Messrs. Faber and Faber, Ltd., 24 Russell Sq., London W.C. 1. Price 25s. net.

This work, although the title does not make it quite clear, deals with the designs of all British Empire stamps from 1840 to 1940. In addition to British designers, it also includes the work of those in Canada, Australia, South Africa and India.

Mr. Easton looks at his subject mainly from the point of view of a practical printer; as he states himself, he has read almost no philatelic literature. This occasionally sticks out rather obviously, but it does not really affect the general soundness of his views. His effort is to trace the trend or plan (if there is one) on which stamp design has developed or evolved, and he discusses with first-hand knowledge (but without going into unnecessary detail, wearisome to the non-technician) the suitability or otherwise of different printing processes to varying types of stamp designs.

The book is beautifully printed and magnificently illustrated with no less than 508 illustrations. A work of this kind might be terribly dull and prosy but the reviewer had a very pleasant surprise in this case. Thanks to the author's whimsical humour the story can be read almost like a novel—there are gems of unconventional description on almost every page. Take, at random, the North Borneo issue of 1909 "which dazzled the hearts and conquered the hearts of every schoolboy"; after mentioning the various animals and birds depicted, he adds "one wonders a little why they should have included in such a menagerie the Sultan of Sulu with his staff!" Or, speaking of the Gambia issue of 1922, "If one starts off by saying the design reminds one of a beer-bottle label one is either prejudicing the issue or indicating one's preference in bottled beers."

In the writer's opinion South African printing fell short in its early days through using steel-engraved dies, or the imitation of them for photogravure. "The essence of photogravure is its exploitation of the half-tone and its need for solid colour to play about with." The Coronation stamps he describes as striking and successful in design but not up to Harrison standard in workmanship; then he adds: "These stamps, together with the Voortrekker issues and the Huguenot series, which we are about to examine, reflect, as we now know, the shape of things to come." He ends up with the somewhat cryptic remark: "South Africa has concentrated on the development of the rotary photogravure process. Her greatest achievement, which may prove to have considerable influence, for better or worse, on the whole trend of British

stamp design, does not come within the scope of this examination."

One puts down this book rather with the feeling that there has only been one perfect stamp design, the penny black, nevertheless there is a tremendous lot of interesting and amusing description and commentary on stamp designs to be found in this work, and the author is to be congratulated on the task he undertook in his spare moments in the black-out of the past three years.

V V V V

POLAND.

The note in last month's issue about the issue of a new set of Polish stamps was based on information seen in overseas magazines. Since then we have received from the Polish Ministry of Finance in London a set of photographs of the series and full descriptions; the envelope was franked by a full set of the stamps and posted on a Polish warship. We regret space does not permit of reproduction, but it might be added that the envelope and the photographs were put up for sale for War Funds and fetched a very considerable sum.

This series, and stamps of other Governments functioning in Britain, such as Norway, are receiving a mixed reception. Some critics like them, perhaps for patriotic reasons or because they sell well. Others are damning them as simply exploiting philatelists.

We agree that probably their main function is fund raising, but why this sudden Simon Pure attitude to these particular sets? Are they any worse than propaganda sets that are issued in dozens of countries to-day? The advertising of them as "indispensable for postal use" may be, in Churchill's classic words, "a terminological inexactitude," but surely something can be forgiven a hard-up ally in exile. As we have stated before, collectors have a right to be mugs if they like, and we do not consider them any greater mugs for buying these sets instead of say, Bahamas Landfalls. This Polish set is serving some postal use, even if it is not absolutely necessary for that service. Can the same be said for, say, sets being made in Vichy to-day for French Colonies?

All types of stamps wanted in quantity, packets, singles, sets; especially Empire and Foreign Colonies, in exchange for Australasians. Permanent contacts also desired to supply and receive new issues. Basis wholesale or . . . ?

S. G. Walton. (Member A.P.T.A.),
Canley Vale, N.S.W., Australia.

S.W.A. 1/3 OVERPRINT VARIETY.

A writer in the *Philatelic Magazine* reports the cross-bar of the "A" in an "S.W.A." on an Afrikaans 1s. 3d. stamp as entirely missing. Is this a permanently broken letter and, if so, what is its position on the sheet?

BISECTS—PARTICULARLY WEST AFRICANS.

This is the subject of an interesting article in the *Philatelic Magazine* by Brigadier Montresor. The writer accepts Melville's definition of a bisect as "A term applied to a moiety of a stamp used as of half the value of the entire label," with emphasis on the "used as of half the value." He classifies them into four groups:

- (1) Those allowed by authority of the Postal Service.
- (2) Those allowed and passed by the Postal Service by reason of common usage though not specifically authorised.
- (3) Those not authorised or in common usage but apparently allowed by the Postal Service either through laxity or connivance.
- (4) Those rejected by the Postal Service.

Classes 1 and 2 are true bisepts, those in 3 are suspect until their merits have been established, while those in class 4 are not true bisepts within the definition.

As regards West Africans the *Niger Coast Protectorate* has one authorised bisect coming under class 1:

Gold Coast has several catalogued in the early issues, but why they should have been necessary, in view of lower value stamps being on sale, is not clear. Possibly temporary shortages in up-country P.O.'s may be the explanation. Sporwart, in his booklet, advises only collection of specimens on entires. As re-

gards the bisepts of the 1884-89 issues, met only on piece, the writer says, "Shun them entirely."

Messrs. L. N. and M. Williams throw further light on the early bisepts. One of them has, we believe, been on the Gold Coast on service and has taken the opportunity to delve into official records. This search adds nothing in the way of proof of actual authorisation of bisepts, but it has shown that there was a serious famine of stamps, particularly of the low values, during part of 1883-84. This was brought about primarily by the damp climate, gumming sheets together and damaging them for use.

Correspondence on this matter is quoted extensively and it seems to bear out the writer's contention that these bisepts filled a pressing need and they should be placed for ever beyond the reach of the detractor.

Sierra Leone has more belonging to class 1. Specimens on piece should be rejected; those on entire must be investigated to see whether they fall into class 2 or class 3.

Gambia and *Lagos*. None.

V V V V

BRITAIN'S FIRST AIRMAIL STAMP.

The *Stamp Lover* reports the issue of special airmail letter cards with a printed 6d. stamp in mauve, for the use of troops overseas. Although not an adhesive stamp, this is the first issue by the British P.O. made expressly for airmail use.

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We wish to purchase collections of British Empire Stamps, mint and/or used, in good to fine condition. Specialised collections of individual countries or groups or straightforward general collections are all equally welcome. Individual sets of any obsolete issues and odd lots also wanted. Any British Africans particularly wanted.

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POSTAL MARKINGS OF THE GERMAN EAST AFRICA CAMPAIGN OF 1914-1918

By J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

Actual stamp issues of this campaign have been well written up, but so far as I am aware, nothing has been published about the army postmarks, censor's marks and such like of the Allies' side in this theatre of the first world war.

Material is hard to find, at any rate in South Africa, despite the large Union forces which participated and the number of letters which must have been written. This communication is intended merely as an introduction, in the hope that it will bring about further material being recorded and so lead to something approaching a complete story.

For assistance in compilation I have to express my indebtedness to the late Surgeon-Captain Bishop for a list given me some years ago of Indian Army F.P.O.'s operating in East Africa; to Mr. E. Jagger of Cheadle Hulme, England, for tracings of a considerable number of army postmarks and information about them; and to Mr. G. W. Hockey of Cape Town for several specimens.

A brief summary may be given of the military situation and forces involved in this campaign. At the outbreak of war in August, 1914, there were in the territories surrounding German East Africa (British East Africa, Uganda, Belgian Congo, Rhodesia and Nyasaland) only a very few native troops available, together with some hastily assembled local European forces. The first reinforcements (Indian Expeditionary Force "C") reached Mombasa on 1st September, 1914. Another force (I.E.F. "B") sailed from India on 16th October, 1914, made a landing at Tanga on 2nd November, but failed to make good there and had to retire by sea on Mombasa. From then till February, 1916, operations were mainly defensive; the offensive not being possible till the arrival of large forces from South Africa. General Smuts took over full command on 6th February, 1916, and his advance from Voi into the Kilimanjaro area began early in March. There were also advances from the Nyasaland side under General Northey (he had some South African and Indian troops along with locally raised units) and by the Belgians in the Ruanda-Urundi area.

By the end of the war there were, in addition to locally raised units, British Imperial troops, South Africans, Rhodesians, Indians, West African regiments, Belgian and Portuguese troops. In the final phases the fighting was actually not in German East Africa but in Portuguese and N.E. Rhodesian territory.

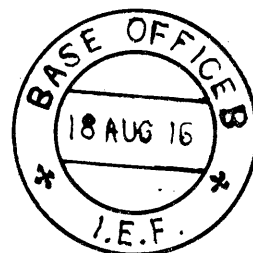
Forces having definite postal services of their own in operation were the Indian, Belgian, Nyasaland and N. Rhodesian. I have not so far come across clear evidence of any postal units belonging to British, South African or local East African forces, although it is possible that some of the marks recorded (with no definite indication of their source) belong to one or other of these groups.

INDIAN ARMY POSTMARKS.

(1) What are probably the most abundant army postmarks of the campaign are those of the numbered Indian Field Post Offices. These have been seen with dates ranging from 9.12.15 to 6.8.18. As these post offices moved with the army, any individual office may have been in a variety of different places from time to time. A few can be located from other data on covers, etc., at some date or other; such locations are very scanty, but the few recorded are given in the list in brackets after the number. The following numbered



(1)



(3)



(4)



(5)

F.P.O.'s are known: 21, 23 (In Kenya and at Wilhelmsthal), 24, 25, 32, 34, 42, 51, 52, 71, 73, 74, 302, 303, 304 (Tanga), 305, 306, 307, 309, 320, 321, 322 (Zanzibar), 337, 338 (Kilossa), 343 (In Kenya and at Zanzibar and Dar-es-salaam), 348, 349 and 350 (Lindi). All marks in black; cancelling Kenya or I.E.F. stamps, on stampless covers, and as back-stamps.

(2) Some covers with these numbered F.P.O. marks also show a rubber stamp endorsement in two lines reading I.E.F. "B" F.P.O. No. 302 (or whatever the number of the particular office was) / POSTAGE-FREE. This mark may be on the same side as the postmark or on the other side of the cover; it has not been seen apart from the numbered F.P.O. mark. Also always in black,

except in one instance when a No. 25 is in violet, although the F.P.O. mark itself is in black.

(3) and (4) Base office B/I.E.F. Two slightly different types of marks. Known used, apparently contemporaneously, between the dates as shown.

(5) Base Office C. On Kenya stamps, date as shown, i.e., soon after arrival of Force "C" at Mombasa.

NYASALAND FORCE POSTMARKS.

(6) Nyasaland F.F. This squared circle type is recorded by Mr. Jagers with F F only (no number). The numbered offices seen are FF2 and FF3.

As the tracing shows, NYASALAND is set rather lop-sidedly on the mark. Dates 1 Nov. to 3 Aug. 18.



(6)



(8)

A special use of FF2 is recorded, and, as the story is not very well known, it may be repeated here.

In July and August, 1918, operations were mainly in Portuguese East African territory. A British force was using Mtangula, a Portuguese port on the eastern shore of Lake Nyasa as a base; they wanted stamps but the Portuguese authorities objected to the use of British Nyasaland stamps in their territory. A compromise was reached by the Chefe de Conselho at Mtangula allowing the Field Postmaster of the British force to frank (? cancel or overprint) Portuguese Nyassaland stamps with the cancelling stamp of the Nyasaland FF2 office and these stamps were then placed on sale in the Mtangula civil post office.

The stamps so treated are said to number 2,484 in all, being 207 of each of the twelve denominations, 2½r to 500r, of the 1911 issue of Portuguese Nyassaland (Pictorials with the diagonal overprint REPUBLICA in red. S.G. Nos. 53-64).

I have not seen specimens used on cover and cannot say whether they received any further cancellation when used. This information is necessary to determine whether to regard this occurrence as simply overprinting, or as pre-cancelling, or perhaps as both. I have these stamps with dates (in the FF2 opt.) 15 and 22 July and 3 August, 1918.

(7) A similar squared circle mark but, instead of "Nyasaland" at the top there is FPO

No . . . Nos. 1 and 6 are known. Dates Sep. 7, 16 and 24 Mar. 17.

(8) Of this type Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 are known. Marks usually in black, but No. 2 has been seen in violet. Dates Jan. to Apr., 1917.

(9) Nos. 5, 7, 8 and 9 are known of this type. No. 9 has been located at Zomba at one period. Dates Apr., 1917 to Dec., 1918.



(9)



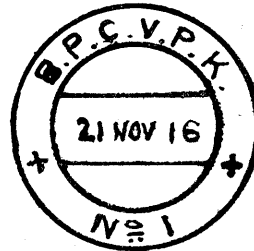
(10)

N. Rhodesia.

(10) Nos. 1 and 2 are known of this mark, with dates from Dec., 1915, to Sept., 1916; Then I have one whose number is not discernible on G.E.A. stamps and the very late date of 26th Oct., 1920.

Belgian Congo.

(11) Nos. 1 and 15 have been seen of this type (obviously this is a mere sample of the Belgian marks. I have no opportunity at present of looking up any other records of



(11)

them). The former is in blue, the latter in black. Dates Nov., 1916 and Oct., 1917. Both on stampless covers, endorsed "Service Militaire" and M/S censoring by officers.

(12) Similar to No. 11, but with the lettering at the bottom and undecipherable wording at the top.

(13) Mr. Jagger reports an oval (probably rubber stamp) mark with "Est Africain/ Occupation Belge" around and "Office Postal/ Kigoma" in the centre.

Also:—

(14) The Ordinary (presumably German) Kigoma postmark endorsed "S.M." (presumably "Service Militaire").
Of Uncertain Origin.

(15) Base Office E, Probably located at Mombasa, as it occurs on covers passed by the censor there. Dates Jan., 1915, to Mar., 1916.



(15)



(16)

(16) and (17) The two following marks are probably British Army marks. They have been noted on envelopes from the area of the G.E.A. campaign, but there is not conclusive proof that they were actually in use there. One has the wording shown; the other, recorded by Mr. Jagers, is of the same type but reads at the top "Field Post Office," and below has "V5).

(18) Mr. Jagers records a mark, double lined circle with merely F P O at the top and the date, in two lines, 4 JU/17. This was probably from the Nyasaland side.

(19) The following may not strictly be a postal cancellation although it is definitely known cancelling Keyna stamps with the G.E.A. overprint; probably the use has been telegraphic. It is a large circular rubber stamp mark 45 mm. in diameter, ARMY SIGNALS top and bottom and, across the centre between bars, the letters KWA and the date 26 NO 20. The very late date and the source of the specimen rather suggests usage in Northern Rhodesia. (See above, Mark No. 10).

CENSOR'S MARKS.

Most soldiers' letters show a censoring endorsement in the form of an officer's signature.

The following marks, rubber stamps, have been seen either on civil correspondence or on soldiers' letters (with or without an officer's previous censoring).

1. **Mombasa.**—(a) Double lined rectangle 38 x 23 mm., with fancy bevelled corners. "Passed by/Postal Censor/Mombasa" in 3 lines. In violet, 25 Ap. 1915.

(b) Single line rectangle 42 x 22 mm. Same wording as before; in green 1 July 1916.

(c) Four straight lines, open at ends. Between the lines "N.E./Postal Censor/Mombasa." In a bluish green, Feb. and March, 1916.

2. **Kampala.**—As 1(b) but lines wavy and Kampala in place of Mombasa.

3. **Entebbe.**—Like (2) but with Entebbe in place of Kampala.

4. **N. Rhodesia.**—Rectangle 53 x 24 mm. with "Postage Free/Base . . . N. Rhodesia/Passed by Censor" in 3 lines. In violet. Have this mark from Bases 1, 4 and 6.

5. **Daressalaam.**—(a) Double lined rectangle 44 x 28 mm. with "Passed by/Postal Censor/Daressalaam" in 3 lines, in faded black.

(b) Single line rectangle 47 x 27 mm. Same wording, but in smaller lettering and with a short line between Postal Censor and Daressalaam. Blue-black.

6. **Tanga.**—Single line rectangle 44 x 22 mm. with "Passed by/Postal Censor/Tanga" in 3 lines, in grey-black. Have this cancelling a 6c Kenya stamp with G.E.A. overprint, on cover.

7. **Beira.**—Double circle 25 mm. diameter. Between the lines "PASSOU (5 more letters)/CENSURA" with BEIRA across the centre. In purple.

The following have no definite location included in the marks themselves; in the case of Nos. 9 and 10, there were apparently several of the same type in use at different places:

(8) ?Zomba. On a cover from Zomba to England. "Passed By/ Censor" in two lines, with small arrows opposite "Censor." In green, Jan., 1916.

(9) A double circle mark, circles 25 mm. and 11½ mm. in diameter. "Passed Censor" between the circles; a large "D" in the centre. In red, purple or black.

(10) Squares of 27 mm. side. Inside, in four lines "Passed by/(a crown)/ No. . . . /Censor." In red or purple. Have seen 3287, 3322 and 3534. The first is on a cover marked "On Active Service" with the Indian F.P.O. No. 321 postmark and a manuscript censoring by an officer. The second has an M/S signature and a Nairobi civil post office cancellation across it. The third is an interesting one, on a German Field post cover with the postmark of Field post Station No. 3. It has a Schutztruppe cachet with "Durch Parlamentar" (Under Flag of Truce) in M/S across it. The cover came in from the field to an addressee in Morogoro, which was then in Allied occupation.

CENSORS' SEALS.

(1) **Nairobi.** Printed in black on buff-coloured paper ca. 3½in. x 2½in. There is "Opened by Censor/Under/Martial Law" in a box 3½in. x 1½in. In small type outside the box is the printer's name, viz., "The Standard P. and P. Works, Nairobi. The seal is tied to the envelope by a number stamped in black, 269,249.

(2) **Zanzibar.** A pale mauve-coloured label 4½in. x 2½in. perforated on the lower long side. A box 2½in. x 2in., with the same wording as the Nairobi seal.

This cover is interesting because it came from Mafia, addressed to an Arab in Zanzibar; it has the Zanzibar pmk. of 9 July, 1915. It has no stamps but is franked by the Type 2 overprint "G.R./Post/6 cents/Mafia" (3 mm. between G and R) supplied to the Mafia authorities from Zanzibar in May, 1915. This type of franking has been recorded as occurring in an interval when supplies of stamps ran out.

(3) **Daressalaam.** On cover addressed in Arabic from Mafia. Buff label 4½in. x 2½in. with a 3/16in. wide black line ½in. from the left margin. Has "Opened/Under/Martial Law" printed on it. Postmark date 16 Nov. 1916. The cover has an ordinary I.E.F. 1a stamp, although at that date Mafia stamps with italic overprint were supposed to be on issue.

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(Note.—In November, a specimen of Canada S.G. 22a, described merely as "fine," fetched 200 dollars at Harmer Rooke's auction)

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79, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 198a, 200.

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SOCIETY NEWS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, C. W. Sheffield, P.O. Box 88; *Meetings*, Room 5, City Hall, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

Although so near to the Christmas holidays, the attendance on December 21 was large, 31 members and one visitor.

The president welcomed into the Society two new members, Mr. Staandernacher and Mr. Warren. Two new members were proposed.

We regret to announce that owing to illness the secretary, Mr. T. Sheffield, was unable to attend, and all members wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Deschamps was responsible for the evening and displayed 233 pages of his general collection.

From February, the Society will meet twice a month, the first and third Tuesdays, as the membership has grown so large, it is impossible to get through the business in one evening.

Mr. Forbes wished all members compliments of the season, and after giving Mr. Deschamps a vote of thanks the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

L.E.C.

+

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, K. Alexander; *Hon. Secretary*, S. Kaganson, 16 Military Road, Tamboer's Kloof, Cape Town; *Meetings* are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Medical House, 35 Wale Street, Cape Town, at 7.30 p.m.

December 23, 1943.—Owing to a little misunderstanding, the Medical Hall was not available for this evening's meeting; our secretary, however, rose to the occasion and very quickly secured the Board Room of the Guardian Savings Bank, to which members adjourned.

The display for the evening, by Mr. W. L. Ashmead, was a varied collection of stamps depicting animals, vehicles, etc.; it was somewhat marred by the smallness of table space, which necessitated the stamps being set out twice. It would be quite impracticable to give details of the many items exhibited.

The Australian Silver Jubilee issue of 1935, depicting King George V on horseback, looked very effective in blocks of four. Another item which seemed to attract attention was a sheet with some "Lubeck Locals" showing the design of the American "Pony Express."

January 13, 1944.—Another "Bourse" was arranged for members this evening: it proved as successful as any previously held—many fine items were offered, spirited competition was evoked, and good prices realised. During the evening the secretary handed out about 70 badges for admission to the "Liberty Cavalcade" to those members who wished one for the Cavalcade week. The Society is going all out to make their effort a big one, and it will not be surprising if we top the £500 mark.

W.A.

+

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

President, F. J. H. Lang; *Hon. Secretary*, L. Buchen, Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays, Public Library, Johannesburg, 8 p.m.

At the January meeting the programme was provided by visitors from the Pretoria Philatelic Society under the chairmanship of Dr. Broughton. Mr. Basden being unfortunately unable to attend through ill-health.

The Pretoria exhibitors were said to be beginners; the feeling of the Johannesburg Society at the close of the evening was that if there are many more beginners like those we listened to, we need have no fears for the future of philately in South Africa.

Mr. Ferguson opened with a paper on the Ocean Floor post office in the Bahamas. He first of all described in considerable detail the submarine chamber and its telescopic entrance tube used by the biological expedition to study and photograph the life of the sea-bottom; he then went on to detail the arrangements for a post office in this chamber, and ended up with an exhibit of covers from this unique post office.

Lt.-Col. Horne showed a beautifully mounted collection of Egypt; it contained a very fair representation of the early issues (these cannot be picked

up at a moment's notice by beginners) and a very full assortment of the later issues. He included also a selection of the early locals (vulgarly known as beer-bottle labels) and of the Suez Canal stamps, both genuine and forged.

Sergt. Oppenheim, normally a Johannesburg member, but at present serving in the Pretoria area, followed with "straight" collections of Falkland and Cayman Islands.

Finally Mr. Wright brought the exhibit to a close with a very nice diversified collection of locals from many lands.

The evening closed with a successful auction on behalf of war funds.

During the evening members heard with regret of the coming departure of the Rev. W. Loxley-Chamings from the city. During his term here he has been a very active member, but as he is only going as far off as Klerksdorp it is hoped that he will still be able to keep in touch with us.

L.B.

+

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, A. E. Basden; *Hon. Secretary*, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

January 3.—Dr. Broughton in the chair. Mr. Hawke read an article on the Rhodesian early mails and one on advice to investors.

Short Papers. Dr. Broughton showed some interesting specimen stamps. He pointed out how specimens could be found on stamps that had for some reason never been issued. Mr. Ferguson read a paper on the undersea P.O. at Nassau in the Bahamas that had been established in connection with an undersea scientific expedition. He showed some of the interesting covers sent out from this P.O. Mr. Giovanetti read a paper on some aspects of philately. He rather deprecated the financial side in connection with the hobby. He thought that the hobby in itself with all its ramifications provided a sufficient and lasting interest. Col. Horne gave a talk on the different ways in which collectors had been drawn into the hobby and described his own experiences. He suggested a debate on the advice that should be given to beginners as to the way in which to start collecting.

Mr. Wright showed a lot of interesting sheets from different countries.

January 17.—Mr. Hawke in the chair. He read some philatelic extracts and Mr. Oppenheim some philatelic notes.

Mr. Beyers read a paper on the later Commemoratives of France. He commented on the excellence of the work in reproduction. He picked out some of the more striking and interesting stamps and gave a description of the designs depicted on the stamps. These were mostly historical and he pointed out that a study of these stamps led into a very wide survey of French history. Mr. Beyers was thanked for his paper, the speakers being Mr. Oppenheim and the chairman.

Mr. Watson showed a fine lot of sheets of mint stamps.

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TRANSVAAL £5 VARIETY.

Mr. A. Lichtenstein, Bloemfontein, writes: "It is gratifying to note the interest shown by U.S.A. collectors in issues of Southern Africa. The variety recorded in your last issue, however, is known (although I do not know where it is actually recorded, if at all). It occurs on stamp No. 1 of row 5. Another even more striking plate variety of the 1892 £5 stamp occurs on stamp No. 2 of row 2—the A of AFR having no cross-bar, or, in other words, looking like an inverted V. Naturally the same varieties can be found in the V.R.I. overprints.

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MARCH, 1944.

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UNION AND S.W.A. NOTES

Following on the information given in our issue of December, 1943, here are notes supplied by the P.O. Publicity Department in respect of printings of postage stamps, etc., carried out during the period 9th October, 1943, to 8th January, 1944, both dates inclusive.

- (a) War Postage Stamps.
1d.—Job No. 1,777, 82,000 sheets of 360 stamps each delivered subsequently to 21.10.43, on an order for 250,000. Cylinder 6,922, as before.
1s. 3d.—Job No. 6,221, 5,300 sheets of 240 stamps each delivered on 9.12.43. Cylinder 37, as before.
- (b) Postage Due Stamps.
1d.—Job No. 4,898. 12,000 sheets x 60 (Full sheets 360), delivered 9.12.43. Cylinder 50, as before.
- (c) Active Service Letter Cards.
3d.—Job No. 3,032. 1,560,000 delivered subsequently to 14.10.43 on an order for 5,000,000. Cylinder 59, as before.
- (d) Pictorial Inland Postcards.
1d.—Job No. 3,036. 289,920 delivered subsequently to 7.12.43 on an order for 2,000,000. Cylinders 86 (stamps) and 87 (Pictures), as before.
- (e) Overprinted S.W.A.
Sheets supplied by the P.M.G.
1s. 3d.—Job No. 32,758. 500 sheets of 240 stamps. Delivered 9.12.43, old form.
3d.—Job No. 32,237. 1,000 sheets of 360 stamps. Delivered 9.11.43, old form.
1s.—Job No. 32,238. 1,000 sheets of 240 stamps. Delivered 9.11.43, old form.

(Stated by the Government Printer, correctly from his point of view, to be overprinted from an old form, inasmuch as the form had been used for overprinting other denominations previously. From a philatelic point of view, however, it was a new form

in so far as the 1s. stamps were concerned. In other words, this batch of 1,000 sheets represents the stamps recorded in our February issue with the S.W.A. in small letters.—Ed.)

VARIETIES.

Mr. A. Lichtenstein, of Bloemfontein, writes that the variety noted in our January issue (1d. large war stamp with "U" of SUID vertically joined with the "I" below it) occurs regularly on stamp No. 9 of Row 3.

In the bantam 2d. he notes what might be called the "half-crown" variety. On stamps No. 1 of Row 19 the left-hand figure of value looks more like 2s. 6d. than 2d.

A note in *Stamp Collecting* reports what may be a worn plate production in the bantam 3d. A pair from the right-hand edge of the sheet shows the top right-hand corner shading beside the words "Postage—Revenue" almost entirely lacking. On the right-hand stamp of the pair also, all shading above the value tablet and inscription is missing. Have any local readers noticed anything like this? S.W.A. Overprint Varieties.

Mr. Jack Shepherd of Brakpan reports that the "No crossbar to A" on the 1s. 3d. stamp is constant and is on stamp 8 in the 16th row. He also states that another minor constant variety is to be found on stamp 6 in the 20th row, viz., a "solid A."

Mr. A. Lichtenstein of Bloemfontein confirms these two findings and adds No. 2 in the 20th row as another "solid A."

He also adds that the 1s. 3d. stamps themselves show the following minor printing defects: (a) stroke of "H" in SOUTH prolonged to left in stamp 2 of row 3; (b) Lower part of "H" in SOUTH "solid" in stamp 3 of row 4; (c) A large flaw covering the "id-A" of Suid-Afrika in stamp 6 of row 8. Presumably these occur in both the Union stamps and those overprinted with S.W.A.

STUDY YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS

KENYA.

Mr. W. Tunstall writes: "You make mention in your December issue about requests for relaxing regulations about export of stamps from this territory. Actually they are being made worse; up to a short time ago one could send stamps to Britain and to one or two other countries, now they cannot be sent anywhere."

He further reports having received from Pretoria last November, an air mail cover which had a 1s. revenue stamp as part of its franking. A friend received a similar one about the same time. We can learn of no authorization of such usage—it may be a little bit of philatelic horseplay which has escaped the official eye, but it is curious that it should have happened almost simultaneously on two covers, from and to different people.

The 5s. is now reported to have appeared perf. 14; this leaves only the 3s. and the 15c. to come in this form.

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RHODESIA

In the November number of the *London Philatelist*, Mr. H. C. Dunn has commenced with some addenda to his "Romance of the Posts of Rhodesia"; he hopes it will be possible to have these included in their proper place in his book of that name which was destroyed in the raids on Plymouth. The present addenda add some fresh information about the earliest missionary postmasters (1888), the arson at Bulawayo post-office in 1895 and the arrival of the first train at Bulawayo in 1897.

INDIAN PHILATELIC BUREAU.

The Indian Post and Telegraph Department has established a Philatelic Bureau for the convenience of philatelists. Supplies from it will be strictly limited to the current issues of British Indian postage stamps, but including "Service" stamps. The address is "The Presidency Postmaster, Indian Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Bombay, India."

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LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

The wrappers of the two latest numbers of this publication to arrive here bore, in addition to the 1½c. U.S.A. stamp pre-cancelled Sidney, Ohio, a ¼c. Canada excise stamp which was not cancelled in any way. It is wondered if this indicates some new routing of mails, or if it is merely a philatelic joke on someone's part.

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1/2 Benjamin: Row 1 No 6 Sworn of bees to RT of Aronson
Row 4 No 1 dark spot of left Hand Aronson

1/2 Row 2 No 15 Vertical white line under A of Aronson
Row 11 No 18 dot under S of Sworn
Row 20 No 14 dot below left bottom corner

2 No 1 m short hugging bee RT of Sworn

1 Row 12 No 11 long white blot below F R of

1 Row 18 No 10.

Row 11 Red line between 8 + 9

Row 3 light behind name No 16 + 17.

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THE "UGLY DUCKLING" OF THE PHILATELIC WORLD

By NOEL ROBERTS.

The Mount Currie Express is an exceedingly rare stamp—more rare, indeed, than the Cape Triangular "Wood-blocks"—and yet little interest has been shewn in it by collectors, even in South Africa, the home of its birth. Many philatelists explain this apathy by saying that the "Mount Currie Express" was *only a "local" stamp*, and is therefore not included in orthodox collections of authentic Postage Stamps. This, however, cannot be the true reason, for many "local" stamps are eagerly sought after, and prized, even by the most discriminating collectors. Who, for example, would ban the Z.A.R. stamps of Jeppe's day from a Transvaal collection? And yet these early republican issues were "locals" in exactly the same degree that the "Mount Currie Express" stamps were. They were valid only within the Transvaal, and all letters from the Republic to the Cape had to be franked with Cape of Good Hope stamps before they would be handled by the Cape Post Offices. You have only to read Curle and Basden's description of the Transvaal, and the evolution of the postal system under Jeppe, and compare it with Dower's account of Nieuw Griqualand, and the solution of postal problems by Darby's "Mount Currie Express" service, to see the obvious parallel. Walker (*History of S.A.*, p. 369), in describing the financial straits of the S.A. Republic in the "Seventies," wrote: "The Postmaster General took his salary in stamps and the Surveyor-General in land, the other civil servants went without, and the neighbouring colonies had to finance the Transvaal mail contractor." In other words, the "Otto" stamps were really privately issued by Jeppe, with the sanction of President Burger's Government, just as the "Mount Currie Express" stamps were privately issued by Darby, with the sanction of Adam Kok's Government.

There are some who blame the bigger dealers for this indifference. They issue catalogues, and create interest in particular issues by their propaganda, but the "Mount Currie Express" stamp is not even mentioned.

There may be just an element of truth in this, but the charge is hardly a fair one. Dealers who secured stocks of (say) New Republic, Stellaland, or Pietersburg stamps naturally advertised them for sale, and thus aroused public interest in them. But the

very existence of the "Mount Currie Express" stamp was unknown to collectors until years after it had been in use, and contemporary dealers could hardly be blamed for not listing stamps in their catalogues, when they themselves knew nothing about them. The stamp was not chronicled in the *Philatelic Record* in London until 1884—twelve years after it was issued. Even then it was so rare that nothing further was heard about it until 1889, when information reached the ears of Mr. Emil Tamsen of Nylstroom, of the discovery of a number of these stamps among the papers in a deceased estate in Kokstad. He promptly bought the lot, and set to work to gather information about them. The results of his enquiries were published in the *Philatelic Record* in 1890, and reprinted in the Philatelic Society's book "Africa," in 1900. If it had not been for Mr. Tamsen, it is probable that the "Mount Currie Express" stamp would have been forgotten by this time, for, in spite of the fact that it had been mentioned in Lockyear's *Handbook of Colonial Stamps*, and that it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in *The Local Postage Stamps of the World* in 1899, *no further light has been thrown on its history during the past forty years*. In fact, the "Mount Currie Express" stamp is so rare that, apart from the famous strip of four in the Tapling Collection in the British Museum, and a few privately-owned specimens, it is still practically unknown to collectors. Furthermore, not a single postally used specimen—on cover, or solo—has yet been recorded.

So far from blaming cataloguists for this omission, therefore, they deserve high commendation for their caution in refusing to publicise an issue of whose history so little was known, and whose claim to be a genuine postage stamp had not been fully established.

The recent growth of interest in "hand-struck" stamps, and pre-stamp covers, however, has led an increasing number of philatelists to turn their attention to local issues, and the "Mount Currie Express" stamp is now being featured in the *Regent* and *Hurt and Williams* Catalogues.

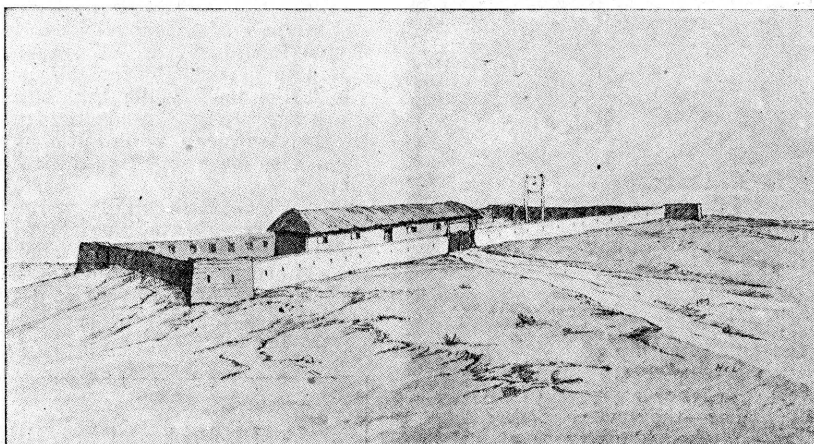
Now, after the lapse of seventy years, new light has been thrown on the history of the stamp, which leads us to the conclusion that, after all, it is, in reality a treasure of the first order.

“MOUNT CURRIE.”

One of the first questions asked by the stranger who has never seen the stamp before, is: “Where is Mount Currie?” It is the name of a mountain peak, and also of a Postal District in the Cape Province; but the “Mount Currie” of the stamp refers specifically to the original “Hoofstad” of Adam Kok, Chief of the Griquas, who lived there for ten years before the foundation of the present town of Kokstad. *It ceased to exist in 1874*, but the site is still marked on Government maps as “The Laager.” The territory was officially called “Nieuw Griqualand,” but the older name of “No Man’s Land” continued in common use until it was finally annexed by the Cape Colony in 1877, when it was renamed “Griqualand East.”

“laager,” surrounded by mud-walled, grass-roofed “pondokkies,” which they named after Sir Walter Currie.

Nieuw Griqualand was recognized by the British Government as “an independant sovereign State,” until 1874. Theal says: “They had never received protection, or been in any way interfered with.” (Hist. V. 185). When Adam Kok applied to Sir Philip Woodhouse for the appointment of a High Commissioner “he was told to manage as best he could, he would not be interfered with”; and when he visited the Governor at the Cape in 1868, he was told that he was “entirely independant of the (Cape) Government.” It was not till February, 1875, that the Griquas were accepted as British subjects. The territory was finally annexed to



Mount Currie Laager in 1870.*

Most of our knowledge of “Nieuw Griqualand” is derived from a book entitled “*Early Annals of Kokstad and Griqualand East*,” by the Rev. William Dower, who was appointed as official “predikant” to the Griquas, by Adam Kok, in 1869—a rare, but exceedingly valuable record of the history of those times.

The “Mount Currie” Griquas were descendants of the Philippolis clan which had achieved notoriety in Britain and America in 1823 by going to the rescue of Robert Moffatt when Kuruman was threatened with annihilation by the Mantatees. Shortly before the discovery of diamonds in Griqualand West, and the settlement of rival claims to ownership, the British Government offered the Griquas asylum in “No Man’s Land” on the western borders of Natal. A suitable site for establishing a new home was pointed out by Sir Walter Currie to a Commission sent to inspect the country. The offer was accepted, and about 2,000 of these “coloured” people, under the leadership of Adam Kok III, left Philippolis in 1861 and reached their destination on the southern slopes of “Mount Fifty” in 1863. Here they built an imposing

the Cape Colony by Act No. 38, 1877, after Adam Kok’s death.

During the period under review, therefore, Adam Kok (who, as we shall see later, granted the postal monopoly to Mr. Darby), was the unquestioned ruler of Nieuw Griqualand. He presided over the “Raad,” made treaties, negotiated exchange of territory with Natal, and ratified boundaries. Official documents were sealed with the country’s Coat of Arms. Paper money was actually printed—but was never put in circulation. The Government engaged in war, tried and convicted criminals and executed men convicted of murder. But Adam Kok retained the real power in his own hands. (*Annals*, p. 17.)

Describing conditions of life at Mount Currie in 1870, Mr. Dower wrote:—“The nearest Post Office was Umzimkulu Drift, fifty miles away, from whence we received letters and papers, once a month, if we chose to send for them. Regular post there was none.” (*Annals*, p. 31.)

About this time pressure was brought to bear on Adam Kok to move his headquarters to a more convenient site, about three miles to the south-east, and, after the ground had

*From Dower’s “Annals.”



Adam Kok III.

been laid out by Mr. Dower and the Rev. W. Murray, the new township of Kokstad was formally proclaimed in 1871. Many of the Griquas, however, did not approve of having to move their homes—they were noted for procrastination—so the transfer was not completed until 1874.

(To be continued).

WARNINGS

CEYLON.

The *Philatelic Magazine* draws attention to a swindle being perpetrated on service men to whom are offered folders filled with Ceylon stamps at fancy prices; 99 per cent. of the stamps are cleaned, repaired, damaged, previously used, bank-cancelled or perforated.

GERMANY.

Stamp Collecting reports that the great destruction of property in Germany has caused a rush of people wanting to put their capital into easily transportable goods, and stamps are specially favoured.

As a consequence, there has been a spate of forgeries of all sorts of stamps of any appreciable market value. So much so that the Government has opened an office in Berlin where stamps may be taken or sent to be tested for genuineness.

Be wary, therefore, of *any* stamps emanating from Germany, not only of German issues but any stamps of international value and repute. British Colonial £1 stamps are thought to be particularly affected.

EGYPT.

A correspondent states he has recently seen a number of collections purchased by service men in Egypt and brought back here. These are all alike; attractively mounted in albums, with selections of Interpostals, old issues and modern pictorial sets. In his opinion the last-mentioned are probably all right, but he thinks a warning should be given about the interpostals and some, at all events, of the older stamps—they look too good to be true.

FREE FRENCH BATTLESHIP "RICHLIEU."

Stamps of Senegal overprinted "Par Avion/Batiment de Ligne/Richlieu," supposed to be prepaid for the use of sailors of the "Richlieu" while that ship was at New York for repairs, are being featured in some of the American philatelic papers and they have also been mentioned in some British papers.

Mr. S. G. Rich kindly writes us by air to say that everything points to these being quite unauthorized and probably made by some unscrupulous dealer for his own profit. Although seen on covers and properly cancelled, they certainly never franked any such covers for air post.

RUSSIA — PICTORIALS

26 diff. large pict. Commemos, 1937/43	
used at	7/6
43 diff. large pict. Commemos, 1933/43	
used at	12/6
54 diff. large pict. Commemos, 1914/43.	
incl. 1914 War Charity, etc. mint and	
used at	15/6

Russian Constituent Republics:

(according to latest news these may issue their own stamps again.)

25 Azerbaidjan (Baku Oilfields, etc.) cat.	
26/- at	6/6
12 Armenia (Mt. Ararat, etc.) price ..	2/6
16 Georgia (Stalin's country) cat. 14/10	
price	4/6
18 Transcaucasian Federation, cat. 6/-	
price	2/6

Nett, c.w.o., post free.

Approval selections, with stamps priced singly, available, on request, against references.

A. LICHTENSTEIN

P.O. Box 576,

BLOEMFONTEIN, O.F.S.



COLLECTORS' WANTS AND OFFERS

(Twopence per word per insertion with minimum of 2/- per insertion)

Seychelles and Sierra Leone fine used copies wanted. Particularly Edward and George. High prices willingly paid.

William Redford, Box 7012, Johannesburg.

Transvaal, Griqualand West, O.F.S. covers and rarities wanted by A. E. Basden, Box 238, Pretoria.

Collections Wanted to Buy.—Old and Modern Collections, Single Rarities and Errors, Duplicates and Office Mixtures.

Prompt cash on acceptance of offer:

E. M. Lacy (Globe Postage Stamp Co.), 117 Longmarket Street, Cape Town.

For Service, promptness and satisfaction.

Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni. Phone 54-1692.

If interested in S.A. Colonies or Union Mint Blocks, Postage Dues, Officials, write to:

E. Tamsen, Box 13, Nylstroom.

New Hebrides: Free French. Complete set 17 mint—£11.

Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni.

Canada: Wanted collection and rare items of high value.

E. A. Church, Box 112, Durban.

Britain: Wanted Penny Blacks, all Line-engraved, Embossed Surface printed and items of interest, highest prices paid for stamps in good condition. Collections or single items.

Offers to J.A. Bremner, Box 5041, Johannesburg.

Basutoland: Wanted covers, or stamps postmarked in Basutoland before 1910.

Harding, Box 108, Ladybrand.

Belgian Congo: Wanted Single stamps or collection.

E. A. Church, Box 112, Durban.

Wanted: Foreign African, all issues, selections to address below. Also Sudan Palms 1, 3, 4 mils, 6, 8, 10 piastres, good used.

Morton, Box 328, Pietermaritzburg.

Air Mail: Rare South African Air Mails wanted for Specialists collection.

E. A. Church, Box 112, Durban.

Coins and Medals wanted. Send offers to:

Alec Kaplan, Box 132, Germiston.

(Concluded from page 36).

exhibit on this subject, and as his paper will undoubtedly be published at length with illustrations from his exhibit of the stamps as well as his slides, suffice it to say here that all present felt that Rev. Roberts deserved the very high commendation and praise for the information he has unearthed and presented about these most interesting of all South African stamps. Whether as a result of his efforts the Mount Currie Express stamp will in due course be classified as a "regular" official issue or not remains to be seen, but in the minds of many present Rev. Roberts certainly proved his point in classifying this issue as being entitled to be considered as an official issue. Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie certainly expressed the views of all present in his vote of thanks to Rev. Roberts for his very fine piece of philatelic research and most interesting lecture and presentation.

There was no time for the usual monthly auction at this meeting and so all of the items put in for auction in February will be offered at the March meeting.

+

H.E.B.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. Gutsche; Hon. Sec., E. N. Rigg, 103 Kemston Avenue, Benoni; Meetings, 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Hotel Regent, Benoni.

January Meeting.—At this meeting there was no fixed exhibit; members brought their albums and all had the pleasure of seeing various countries, from about 8 albums. There was also a competition; portions of stamps were shown and the country and the value of the stamp had to be guessed, there were 20 stamps in all, and the total number of points were 40. This competition was won by Mr. Shepherd with 24 pts., there were two members with 23 pts. An auction sale was also held in aid of war funds.

February Meeting.—At this meeting we had a very good turn out. Mr. Jack Doyle, who was Secretary before joining the forces, was in attendance, also Mr. Doyle (Sen.). Exhibits for this meeting were Mr. Gillmore's collection of Australia which was very well written up, and starting from 1913 there were very few vacant spaces.

The second exhibit was Mr. Reckling's collection of Holland. This collection was also very well written up and ran from the very early issues up to the beginning of the present war. E.A.R.

All types of stamps wanted in quantity, packets, singles, sets; especially Empire and Foreign Colonies, in exchange for Australasians. Permanent contacts also desired to supply and receive new issues. Basis wholesale or . . . ?

S. G. Walton. (Member A.P.T.A.), Canley Vale, N.S.W., Australia.

TERRORS OF THE TRANSVAAL.

Under this title the Rev. H. J. A. McKee has an article in the December 31st number of the *Philatelic Magazine* grouping together usefully the points necessary to determine the genuine and the fakes of the various printings of the first Z.A.R. His final bit of advice is that nobody should attempt to separate these issues if he finds it a bore. If he doesn't, these notes may help to make it easier for him.

TWO GAUGES OF PERFORATION OF THE UNION STAMPS PRINTED BY BRADBURY, WILKINSON & CO., LTD.

By A. HILTON SYDOW, A.S.A.A., C.A.(S.A.).

The Gibbons' Catalogue assigns the gauge of 14 to the pictorial stamps in large format of the Union of South Africa recess printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., Limited, namely, Nos. 34 to 39. Actually two gauges of perforation were utilised (a) 14 x 14 and (b) 14 x 13½.

(a) Described in the Simenhoff Catalogue as the "First Setting," illustration 12, page 29.

Under this category the sheets of stamps which consisted of two panels of 60 units each were perforated by a comb machine which operated horizontally across a sheet from left to right to the gauge of 14 x 14, and in many instances across horizontally from right to left. Pictured as working from left to right, a comb had one vertical row of 18 needles (the two apex needles included), and two horizontal rows of 21 needles (each inclusive of the top and the bottom apex needles).

(b) Described in the Simenhoff Catalogue as the "Second Setting," illustration 13, page 29.

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Under this category the sheets of stamps which consisted of four panels of 60 units each were perforated by a comb machine which operated vertically across a sheet bottom to top to the gauge of 14 x 13½, and in many instances from top to bottom. Pictured as working from bottom to top, a comb had two vertical rows of 17 needles (each inclusive of the left and the right bottom apex needles), and one horizontal row of 22 needles (the two apex needles included).

(c) Described in the Simenhoff Catalogue as "Oval perforations."

Stamps in blocks of four or more may be found with complete horizontal oval perforations, the ovals in various sizes larger in area than the normal circular ones, and measuring to various gauges. Such stamps derive from sheets perforated as described

under category (a) from the 14 x 14 machine. For example, a sheet of two panels of stamps was laid on the bed of the machine with the first vertical row of stamps horizontally nearest to the needles of the combs. The sheet then received progressively six descents of the combs of needles and thus perforated all sides of the stamps with the exception of the right-hand sides of the sixth vertical row. Simultaneously, the seventh descent of the combs perforated vertically the right-hand sides of the sixth vertical row of the first panel and horizontally the gutter margin between the two panels and the first vertical row of the second panel partly. The whole sheet was then retrograded and received the eighth descent of the combs and thus perforated the left-hand side of the first vertical row of the second panel and horizontally above and below the stamps, but not the right-hand sides. Portions of the margins above and below the stamps of the first vertical row of the second panel thus received penetrations of the combs from the seventh and eighth descents, thus (a) the seventh descent and (b) the eighth descent:

Thus the horizontal oval perforations between pairs catalogued by Simenhoff on page 31 were caused by the eighth descent of needles Nos. 11 to 21 passing through the holes previously perforated by the seventh descent of needles Nos. 2 to 12 but with needles Nos. 11 to 12 slightly out of alignment enlarging the holes already made by Nos. 2 to 12. The foregoing illustrates their causation where a sheet was perforated across from left to right. The precise reverse was obtained when a sheet was perforated across from right to left.

The following is a list of the Union stamps overprinted, and perforated by:—

(a) 14 x 14 machine.

Official — Offisiel reading upwards without stops.

2d. 17½mm. between lines of overprint (S.G. O5).

2d. 19mm. between lines of overprint (S.G. O6).

South-West Africa and Suidwes Afrika reading upwards.

2d., 3d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s. and 10s. (SG. 49 to 54).

S.W.A.

2d., 3d., 4d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s. and 10s. (SG. 60 to 67).

Official S.W.A. and Offisieel S.W.A. (Gibbons' Type O3 and O4).

2d. (S.G. O7).

Official S.W.A. and Offisieel S.W.A. (Gibbons' Type O7 and O8).

2d. (S.G. O11).

(b) 14 x 13½ Machine.

Official — Offisieel reading upwards without stops.

2d. 19mm. between lines of overprint (S.G. O6).

S.W.A.

2d., 3d., 4d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s. and 10s. (SG. 60 to 67).

Sheets perforated by the 14 x 14 machine showed 7 additional holes on the top margin and 7 on the bottom margin of each panel, and the gutter margin between the panels 11 horizontal rows. Sheets perforated by the 14 x 13½ machine showed 11 additional holes on the right and left of each panel and the gutter margin without horizontal perforations. When the machine worked downwards across a sheet the top margins were blank whilst the bottom were traversed vertically. When the machine worked upwards across a sheet the bottom margins were blank and the top margins traversed vertically. The differences of perforation may be easily discerned from blocks of four stamps by examining the five perforation holes located near the four inner corners of the stamps as illustrated in the following sketch:—

It shows the approximate positions of the perforation holes nearest to the intersections of the margins:—

"A" from a sheet perforated by the 14 x 14 machine which worked across horizontally either from the left to the right or from the right to the left.

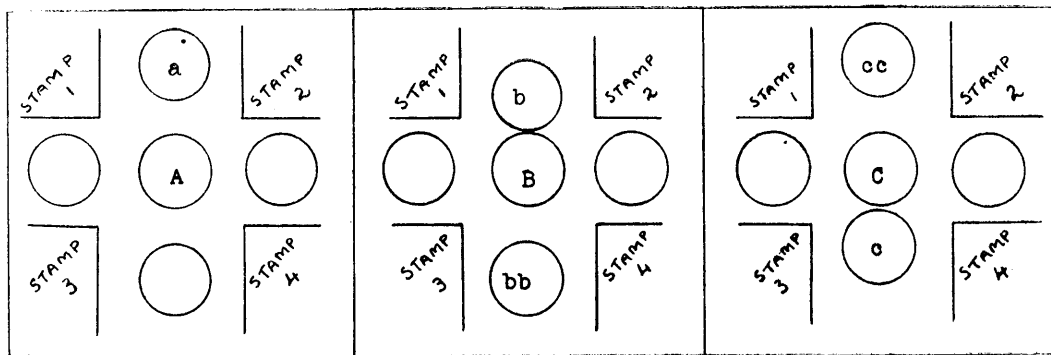
"B" from a sheet perforated by the 14 x 13½ machine which worked downwards vertically, and it will be observed that hole "b" was made by the 17th vertical needle of an immediate prior descent and almost impinges on hole "B" made by the 1st vertical needle of the immediately subsequent descent.

"C" from a sheet perforated by the 14 x 13½ machine which worked upwards vertically, and it will be observed also that hole "c" was made by the 17th vertical needle of an immediate descent and almost impinges on hole "C" made by the 1st vertical needle of the immediately subsequent descent. Descents "C" in a direction inversive to descents "B."

I have allocated stamps in my collection as follows:—

"A" (Plate 1)	"B" (Plate 2)	"C" (Plate 2)
2d.	2d.	2d.
3d.	3d.	—
4d.	4d.	4d.
1/-	1/-	1/-
2/6	2/6	—
5/-	5/-	5/-
10/-	10/-	10/-

The 2d. inverted watermarks from Plate 1 "A" and the 4d. inverted watermarks from Plate 2 "C." I have not so far seen the 3d. and 2s. 6d. from Plate 2 "C" and they must be extremely scarce in mint condition. The split "D" variety I have only seen in Plate 2 "C." I have pairs of the 1s. denomination with printers' imprints on the margins partly perforated upwards (Plate 2 "C.").



EGYPT—POSTAGE PREPAID.

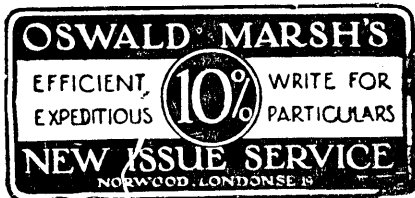
Numbered postmarks, with the wording of the heading above, cancel stamps on most letters from forces in Egypt these days, and have done so for some considerable time.

Lieut. J. P. Shingler, serving in Egypt with U.D.F.I. (a Y.M.C.A. and Toc H Institute) writes that these are definitely military postmarks in use throughout army post offices in Egypt. He further states that the Union Defence Force post offices in Egypt only use their own numbered cancellers (A.P.O.—U—M.P.K.) for internal purposes.

Actually this is not quite the case for they still appear on most registered letters and on some, but not all, parcels coming to the Union from forces in Egypt.

Presumably the same arrangement applies to the army post offices of other forces in Egypt as the numbers of these Egyptian cancellers run at least as high as 138.

There would appear to be truth in the suggestion made by Col. G. R. Crouch in a British paper some time ago, that these postmarks represent some arrangement come to with the Egyptian Government whereby these cancellers take the place of the "Army Post" stamps of Egypt issued originally in 1936 for British forces there and replacing the seals previously used. In a recent issue of *Stamp collecting* it is stated that precious few used copies of the 3m. King Farouk stamps are to be seen, as they had a short life through the suspension of the arrangement that they were used in the correspondence of British troops. That may be, but there are quite a lot of the 10m., with British Army P.O. marks of 1940 and 1941, floating around South Africa.



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NORWAY.

During the past two years there have been a variety of stamps issued in Norway, some respectable, some not. Amongst the latter may be mentioned the stamps overprinted with a large "V," a barefaced attempt to annex the Allies' V for Victory; a charity stamp in aid of the Norwegian Legion, a so-called voluntary force for service against the Allies; and those with a head of Vidkun Quisling.

The former category include a pictorial set commemorative of the historian Sturluson; a series honouring the memory of Nordraak the composer and one commemorating the centenary of the birth of Edward Grieg.

DUTCH WEST INDIES.

Sets have been issued commemorating the birth in Canada last year of another Princess of the House of Nassau. Those for Curacao are of 1½, 2½, 6 and 10c denominations, and those of Surinam of 2½, 7½, 15 and 40c. The stamps have been printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. and the design is the same throughout, viz., a group of the Dutch Royal Family, Queen Wilhelmina, Princess Juliana and her husband and three children.

SPLIT "A" KEYPLATE.

This variety in Gambia stamps was noticed in our December issue, and it was pointed out that it might well be found in stamps of other colonies. Writers in the *Philatelic Magazine* now report finding it on a 4d. St. Helena and on a 30c Seychelles.

Mr. P. Riordan, writing from Namaqualand, adds yet another stamp to the growing list of stamps with this key-plate variety. He has in his collection a 45c. Seychelles (SG. No. 85) which shows it.

AN INTERNATIONAL STAMP.

We have not yet attained an international postal stamp (the Franco-British one under way early in 1940 did not materialize), but the U.S.A., Canada and Britain 1943 Christmas Anti-Tuberculosis Seal is one common to these three countries.

CATALOGUES.

Although we have not seen a copy, the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* reports Messrs. Whitfield King's 1944 Catalogue as having been issued in 2 volumes. The Foreign section reports many war issues of enemy and enemy-occupied countries, though, of course, without quotations. Mr. P. L. Pemberton in reviewing this extensive, although incomplete list, pities catalogue publishers at the end of the war, when all the monstrosities are let loose and the many thousands of them have to be sorted out into those worthy of recognition and those not.

M.E.F. "COMBINATIONS."

Mr. Lichtenstein states he has handled covers, bona-fide correspondence, shewing Union stamps combined with stamps of Malta and also with stamps of Basutoland.

WANTED

La Aguera—S.G.2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 25.
 Port Said—E122, E167, E168, E169, E139a.
 Algeria—51, 52, D10, D11, D13, D14.
 Angola—139, 140, 155, 189, 195, 201, 202, 205, 206, 211, 212, 240, 246, (or 246a), 275, 324, 326a, 334 (or 335), 341, 342.
 Abyssinia—170, D53, D54, D55, D56, D57, D58, D59, 179, 177, 196, 199, D60, 287, 290, 295, 1931 set of 5 officials, 310.
 Azores—9 (or 10), 11, 14 (or 15), 16, 21, 39 (or 62), 63 (or 64 or 65), 84, 90 (or 91 or 94), 130, 198, 235, 236, 237, 243, 244, 245, 251, 254, 255, D13, 403, 408b, 382a, 452, 453, 454, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 528.
 Benin—1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 201, 203, 204 (must be guaranteed).
 British East Africa—20 (or 22 or 23), 26, 40, 44, 46, 99.
 Dahomey—10, 13, 17, 25, 90, 93, 86.
 Diego Suarez—101, 102, 103, 105, 110, 112, 113, 20, 26, 16 (or 18).
 Jubaland—D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10.
 Eritrea—52, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 80, 81, E4, E5, E3, 82, 83, 84, 98, 100, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 101, 102, 102a, 114, 115, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130a, 131, 132, 133, 135, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 152, 153, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 166, 167, 168, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, D14, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 194, 198.

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Regent No. 89	10 0	SIERRA LEONE cent. (except £1)	£18 10 0
BERMUDA 1920-21	£5 10 0	RHODESIA 166a	£6 0 0
BRITISH GUIANA CENT.	£2 0 0	S.W.A.	
BR. SOMALILAND 1938	£8 0 0	†13 hor. pr.	£8 0 0
†CAPE WOODBLOCK used on cover	£50 0 0	†26 block	£7 10 0
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†GREAT BRITAIN p.a. £1	£1 10 0	†SOUTH AFRICA 1925 mint	£1 5 0
†S.G. 177a	£10 10 0	used	£1 12 6
JUBILEE compl.	£35 0 0	cover	£2 0 0
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†NATAL S.G. 171 vertical pair pmk 17 July 1911	£25 0 0	Blue Wing on Red Cross	£4 10 0
		1925 Air mint	£1 15 0
		used	£2 0 0
		cover	£2 5 0
		†S.G.107 Block	£15 0 0

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SOCIETY NEWS

ORANGE FREE STATE AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. R. G. Lyon, Box 702, Bloemfontein; *Meetings*, 3rd Fridays, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloemfontein.

The bill of fare at the January Meeting was full of variety and must have satisfied every taste. The following is a résumé of the brief displays given:

Mr. F. Carter: Early stamps of Great Britain, with the 1d. red complete except for plate 77. Mr. A. Scheffer: A fine collection of Holland with hardly any blanks. Flight-Lieut. G. W. Horton: Picked copies of the British Empire. Mr. C. A. Larsen: Various philatelic curiosities. Mr. W. S. Robertson: Union varieties, one of which was a 1s. roto pair with part of the design missing. Mr. H. L. Kaplan: U.S.A. adhesive meter mark labels used on covers. Mr. J. Lewis: European Airmail pictorials. Dr. K. Freund: Making blocks one of which was a sheet of 29 stamps of SG. 6, showing in each row the 6 types of setting.

A successful auction sale of stamps, conducted in an able and humorous manner by Mr. W. Dickie-Clark, concluded an interesting evening.

The main part of the February meeting was taken up with another successful auction sale in aid of War Funds. Members came spontaneously forward with more and more stamp lots which, under the "hammer" of Mr. M. Liss, found ready buyers at satisfactory prices.

The displays of the evening had the subject "Unions," and the "King's Heads" of Mr. J. B. Levy and the "Postage Dues" of Mr. J. Lewis deserve a special mentioning.

K.F.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, C. W. Sheffield, P.O. Box 88; *Meetings*, Room 5, City Hall, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

At the meeting on January 18th we had the large attendance of 37 members and one visitor.

It was a great pleasure to welcome back Mr. Sheffield after his illness.

Three new members were elected, one, Mr. Braybrook, well-known to Port Elizabeth members as he belonged to the Society for many years, and only resigned when he left the town.

It was a great pleasure to have with us a distinguished visitor, Lieut. Martin of the S.A. Naval Forces, who was enjoying a few days' leave after his strenuous trip on the high seas. He is well known to the P.E. members and is always sure of a hearty welcome.

The evening was in the capable hands of Mr. G. K. Forbes, who displayed 30 pages Switzerland and 16 pages of South Australia.

L.E.C.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. C. Hampson; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. F. Fowler, P.O. Box 168. *Meetings*, Colosseum Building, 2nd Fridays, 7.45 p.m.

At the meeting held on 14th January there was a very good attendance including one visitor, Mr. A. Shapiro, of Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia.

The meeting was opened with an auction in aid of War Funds. Mr. J. Paviour then displayed Antigua, Barbados and Cayman Islands. Outstanding items were the Tercentenary Set of Antigua and the complete set of Cayman 1932; also the ½d. and 1d. on 5s. of the same country.

After tea interval, our Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. F. Fowler, came to light with a showing of Egypt. Both displays were much appreciated and a very successful meeting closed with a vote of thanks from the chair.

C.S.

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, K. Alexander; *Hon. Secretary*, S. Kaganson, 16 Military Road, Tamboer's Kloof, Cape Town; *Meetings* are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Medical House, 35 Wale Street, Cape Town, at 7.30 p.m.

January 27th, 1944. Mr. Lugan displayed his fine collection of "Danzig" in mint condition and practically complete. The first stamps were the German issue of 1905-20, overprinted "Danzig" in 1920. Then followed the 1921 "Free State" issue with design

of a sailing vessel, subsequent issues of air mail and charity stamps, etc. Stamps of Poland used in Danzig were also exhibited. Mr. Lugan gave a very lucid and instructive commentary on his display. During the evening Mr. W. L. Ashmead presented a sheet of 60 stamps of the 1d. Transvaal. "Introduction of Penny Postage," also an "Icelandic" Post Card which bore a 1 kr. stamp overprinted "Zeppelin 1931," for Cavalcade Funds, and realized 36s.

10th February, 1944.—Mr. Alexander in the chair. Mr. F. Sinnott put up a most interesting display designated "Bits and Pieces," possibly for want of a better title. It consisted of items of Great Britain, Canada, Rhodesia, Soviet Russia, Bechuanaland, etc. Amongst the British were some very fine Penny Blacks. Most noticeable was the shilling queen of 1862 with label, another interesting item was the five shilling of 1867 with the figure "5" instead of "five," then there was the 2s. 6d. of 1890 on blued paper. Full sets of the "Queen's Head" and "King Edward" issues were shown up to One Pound value.

In the current Georgian issues, the early issues of Canada were exceedingly fine. It was a pity Mr. Sinnott did not give more detailed particulars in the writing up of his display. Our Cavalcade effort is going well, and various stunts are being organized to give it a big bang.

W.A.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

President, A. L. Bevis; *Hon. Sec.*, G. Milner, Palmer, P.O. Box 588, Durban; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street (in the rooms of the Durban Camera Club, top floor), 7.30 p.m.

At our January Meeting three new members were elected.

The City Museum Authorities are acquiring a new cabinet of 40 frames to house the Hurst Natal Collection. In the meantime a portion of this collection is being displayed in the existing cabinet.

Further discussions took place in regard to Insurance of Exchange Packets.

Display.—Mr. A. S. Maskell showed some 40 selected sheets from his Collection of Germany. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Maskell for his display.

February Meeting.—Another three new members elected. Captain George G. Smith, a new member, displayed his Collection of Siam. In view of his long stay in Siam he had a wonderful opportunity of building up his collection and the sheets shown were only part of his collection. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Captain Smith.

G.M.P.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

President, F. J. H. Lang; *Hon. Secretary*, L. Buchen, Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays, Public Library, Johannesburg, 8 p.m.

Mr. Lang was in the chair at our February Meeting held on the 8th. This was one of the most interesting and unusual meetings we have had in a long time and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

Five new members were elected.

Mr. L. Buchen expressed the appreciation of the Club to all those who have so generously contributed stamps or cash for the benefit of our war fund, and at the same time pointed out that as there are still many demands on this fund further donations will be gratefully received.

The philatelic fare of the evening was made up of a very outstanding mint collection of the Admiral Heads of Rhodesia by Mr. F. J. H. Lang, and a lecture illustrated with lantern slides and an exhibit of the Mount Currie Express stamps presented by the Rev. N. Roberts.

Mr. Lang's Rhodesian Admiral mint collection was beautifully mounted and neatly typewritten up. This superb collection included many shaded varieties of all values of the various types and perfs. and imperfs. Mr. Lang considers the most outstanding item the imperf. variety of the one-penny aniline dye. Mr. I. Isaacs expressed the thanks of those present for Mr. Lang's exhibit.

The Rev. N. Roberts in his illustrated lecture on the Mount Currie Express stamps not only presented in a most interesting manner all of the previously known information about these stamps, but much new data which he has unearthed as a result of extensive research and study. There is not space in these short notes to do justice to his paper and

(Concluded on page 31).

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APRIL, 1944.

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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

Narrow Margins.

In our issue of April, 1943, we referred to the magazine being "not so sleek"; we had been warned that a measure of paper saving might be due and we fully expected that issue to appear close cropped, shaven and shorn. It didn't happen just then, but quite unexpectedly last month's issue arrived from the printers with "margins cut close," and so we shall continue, no longer being entitled to the description of "imperf., with wide margins all round." Sad, but it might have been worse; we might have been reduced by another four pages or cut to a "bantam size."

New Griqualand.

Mr. Roberts makes out what seems to be an unanswerable case for the listing of the "Mount Currie Express" stamp under the territorial heading of "Nieuw Griqualand." That territory was an independent sovereign state and the postal service and stamps had its official sanction although the Government delegated its power to a private firm. Admittedly the stamps had only franking power within their own territory, but this applies equally to many stamps listed in standard catalogues.

Dismantled Cliches.

In his paper in this issue on the Union Postage Dues of 1922-28, Mr. Sydow brings to light something—two things, in fact—new in Union philately.

During the life of at least one plate, it was dismembered and some of the cliches constituting it were re-assembled in a different position. The circumstances are reminiscent of what occurred with the Cape "Woodblock" plates.

It is also brought out that although a stereotyping process was employed for most of the denominations, zincotyping was used in one case.

"Large War Effort" Varieties.

Dr. Nöckler of Swakopmund has drawn our attention to the fact that in the 4d. large war effort stamp overprinted S.W.A. the stamps in the first vertical row of the right-hand

half of the sheet are all rather smaller (from perf. to perf.—not the printed part of the stamp) than the other rows, and asks if the same occurs in the Union stamps.

In reply we quote the following note which appears after this issue in the "Rex" priced catalogue of the postage stamps of King George VI, compiled and edited by A. D. Crane, 2nd Ed., 1944:

"Owing to a technical difficulty encountered in the perforating of stamps of type 6 (the 4d. denomination) and similar types, all 2d., 4d. and 6d. stamps from the 11th column in the sheet are slightly narrower in overall width than those from the other columns. A similar but much less noticeable reduction occurs in the height of stamps of the other denominations from the 9th or 10th row in the sheet, and is due to the same cause."

Incidentally, the Editor would like to know if our local Union specialists have been asleep, that they haven't brought this interesting occurrence to our notice sooner.

Bantam Varieties.

The 1d. has been for some little time a definite rose colour, not the original red.

Mr. C. J. Dekema has shown us (a) some 1d. stamps from the top of a sheet, with marked displacement of the perforation lines. The first line comes just under "Certificates" in the marginal imprint, the second just under "South Africa" in the stamp, and the next just at the limit of colour of the stamp.

(b) 2d. and 4d. stamps with misplacement of the marginal imprints, the word "Certificates" or "Sertifikate" is on the stamp itself in the white margin between the colour and the perforation. He believes the same has been found in the 1½d. and 6d. also, but had no actual specimens of these.

A similar occurrence on the 3d. was illustrated in our April, 1943, issue.

Mr. C. A. Armstrong writes with reference to the note last month about 1d. stamps from the top right corner of the sheet with missing shading. He states that he got stamps at the Pretoria post office some months ago and the shading was missing in the whole of the top row. This looks like a small flaw in the process of printing, rather than wear.

Mount Currie Express

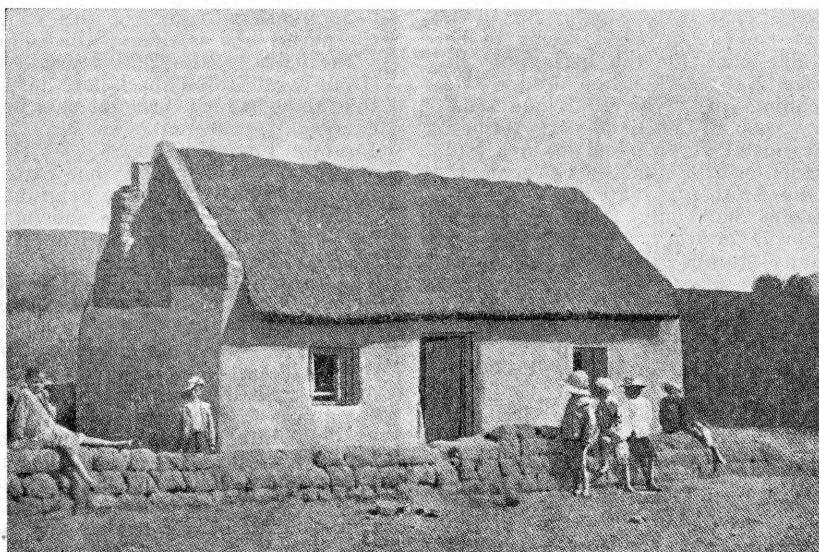
THE "UGLY DUCKLING" OF THE PHILATELIC WORLD

By NOEL ROBERTS.

(Continued from page 30 March issue).

During the *interim* (in 1872) Trafford's old trading store at Mount Currie was bought by Messrs. Goodliffe and Ballance of Durban for £75, and Mr. W. Wesley Darby was placed in charge as manager. (*Annals* p. 37). The requirements of the business demanded regular postal communication with Natal, so Mr. Darby instituted a weekly service of native "runners" between Mount Currie and his headquarters at Harding. As a result he was inundated by requests from other residents to take their letters, too, and have them posted at Harding. In order to comply with their wishes, and at the same time to serve his business interests, he applied to Adam Kok for permission to establish what he called "The Mount Currie Express," and to provide a distinctive postage stamp to cover the cost of the venture. The charge for this service was 6d. per half ounce for letters, but only 1d. if the letter was franked with a "Mount Currie Express" stamp.

procure stamps, and to use them like anyone else." (*Annals* p. 40.) Practically all the inhabitants who were likely to make use of the postal facilities provided had moved to Kokstad—three miles away—by this time, so the establishment of the only equivalent of a Post Office in the territory, at Mount Currie, and Darby's insistence on the use of his stamps, was really a clever business move, since it must have brought many customers to his store who otherwise might never have visited the place. In spite of this, the exodus from Mount Currie to Kokstad went on, and Mr. Dower writes: "Sooner than was expected, the "Laager" was deserted, and Messrs. Goodliffe and Ballance found that they had to move also." (p. 40.) As we have no record of the business being re-opened in Kokstad, we must assume that the "Mount Currie Express" came to an end during the same year (1874). The life of the Mount Currie Express stamp,



Old Store at Mount Currie in 1870.

(From Dower's *Annals*).

"This," wrote Mr. Dower, "was the first attempt at a regular postal service. If the Government wished to avail itself of the 'Mount Currie Express,' it was required to

therefore, may be computed at not more than two years.

So much for the historical background. Let us now turn to the stamp itself.

1. WAS THE "MOUNT CURRIE EXPRESS" A GENUINE POSTAGE STAMP?

A "Postage Stamp" may be defined as a printed adhesive label, authorised by the Government or ruling power of a country, and supplied to the public for attaching to a postal packet to indicate that certain charges for transmission have been pre-paid. Its validity depends on the authority under which such a stamp is issued.

In the early days of Rhodesia, before Mashonaland and Matabeleland were annexed by the British Government, such authority was vested in the "Chartered" or "British S.A. Co.," which organised its own internal postal service and issued its own postage stamps.

The first postage stamps of Uganda, however, were merely *typewritten labels* issued by a missionary. In the case of the "Mount Currie Express" we are specifically told that there was *no postal service* in 1870, but that when such a service was established in 1872 the Nieuw Griqualand Government had to use the "Mount Currie Express" stamps if it wished to make use of it for the transmission of correspondence within its own territory.

We may safely conclude, therefore, that the philatelic status of the "Mount Currie Express" stamp was at least equal to that of the "B.S.A." Co. stamps of Rhodesia, and considerably higher than that of the typewritten missionary stamps of Uganda—both of which are acknowledged by philatelists to be legitimately collectible postage stamps.

2. WHO PRINTED THE STAMP?

The problem of providing a suitable postage stamp for affixing to letters carried by the "Mount Currie Express" was probably solved by Dr. Callaway (afterwards first Bishop of Kaffraria). Our reason for believing this is based on the following facts, but we await confirmation from Mission records: The doctor had established a printing press at Springvale in 1865, which was subsidised by the Natal Government, and was run by a very capable printer (Mr. Blair). As there was constant communication between Mount Currie and Springvale, it is reasonable to assume that the work of printing the stamp would have been entrusted to Dr. Callaway,

rather than to some commercial firm in Pietermaritzburg, Durban or Capetown. (The Rev. Dower established a printing press in Kokstad in 1878 (vide *Annals* p. 115), but this was much later.

3. A PUZZLING DISCREPANCY.

In 1943 the accidental discovery of a pair of Natal stamps (S.G. 11) cancelled with an oval rubber stamp bearing the name "Goodliffe and Ballance" aroused the curiosity of the present writer for though the *names* were the same, their *order* did not correspond with the order on the Mount Currie Express stamp, nor with that used by Mr. Darby himself. (vide *Africa* I. p. 86.)

In response to an appeal for information broadcast in the *South African Philatelist*, Mr. T. M. Mullins, of Pietermaritzburg, drew attention to the references to this firm in Dower's *Annals* (quoted above) in which it is always referred to as "Goodliffe and Ballance." This was a confirmation of the rubber stamp evidence, and led to more intensive research. A closer study of the stamp itself revealed an interesting clue to the solution of the mystery.

It will be noticed that the name "Ballance" in the left hand border of the stamp (vide Fig. 3) reads *upwards* instead of downwards. If the ampersand is correctly placed at the *base* of the stamp, this arrangement is obviously wrong. Let us try to imagine what happened, and assume that the *format* of the proposed stamp was discussed by Mr. Darby and Dr. Callaway (or whoever was responsible for the printing), and that the simple design represented in Fig. 1 was decided on. The doctor, on his return to Springvale, would give instructions to the printer, who had the type set up. When a "proof" was submitted to Mr. Darby (as Fig. 2) he corrected the error in the order of the names by sending back a message: "Very good—only you've got the name the wrong way round."

The compositor (quite probably a native) misunderstood the message, and, instead of transposing the two names—putting "Goodliffe" in the left hand border, and "Ballance" on the right—as intended by Mr. Darby, he merely reversed the word "Ballance" so that it faced 'the other way round,' (Fig. 3) and

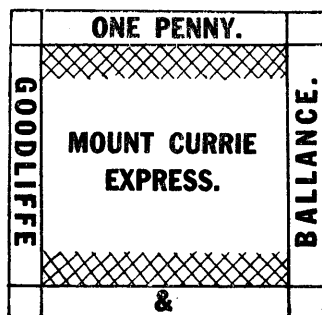


Fig. 1.

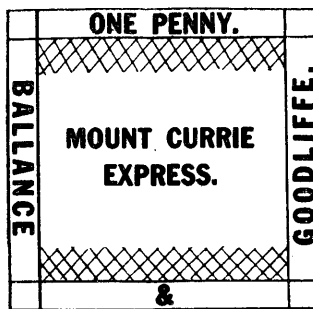


Fig. 2.

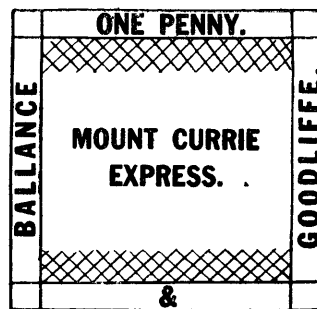


Fig. 3.

then printed off the required number of sheets, as we have them to-day.

If this solution of the problem is correct, we can only surmise that Mr. Darby, in his querulous letter to Mr. Zietsman (*Africa* I. 86) used the order "Ballance and Goodliffe" because he was writing about the stamp on which that was the order in which the names appeared. If he had used the correct title, it would have involved a lengthy explanation, which, under the circumstances, he would not have deemed necessary. His correspondents would naturally have followed suit as they did not know any better.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

The following information is condensed from Mr. Tamsen's notes published in *Africa*: The stamps were issued in sheets of twelve—four horizontal rows of three stamps each—perforated *between* rows, but not on outer borders of the sheet. The three stamps in each horizontal row are identical, but they differ from those in each of the other horizontal rows. A vertical strip of four stamps, therefore, includes four different varieties. This leads to the conclusion that only four *clichés* were composed, and that they were set up vertically one above another, instead of side by side, and then three separate impressions were taken from this *forme* on each sheet.

The chief points of difference in the stamps printed from these four *clichés* are:

Type I. (top row):

- (a) line of outer frame on right is bent outwards at top right-hand corner.
- (b) long, vertically elongated stops.
- (c) narrow ampersand (&).

Type II. (second row):

- (a) long, vertically elongated stops, but
- (b) broader ampersand (&).

Type III. (third row):

- (a) small square stops.
- (b) narrow ampersand.

Type IV. (bottom row):

as Type III, but lattice ornament at top is broken.

These points of difference, taken in conjunction with the perforations enable us to "plate" any individual specimen.

L'ENVOI.

In the light of the evidence now before us we come to the conclusion that the "Mount Currie Express" was a genuine Postage Stamp, officially sanctioned and used by the Nieuw Griqualand Government. Unlike the Stellaland, New Republic, and Pietersburg "locals," or the swarm of Boer War surcharges, or even the beautiful stamp issued in the Transvaal to commemorate the "Penny Post," the reputation of the "Mount Currie Express" stamp was untarnished by the greed of speculators. Like Gray's "gem of purest ray serene," which "dark, unfathomed caves of ocean bear"; or the "flower born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air," the "Mount Currie Express" Stamp served the purpose for which it was created, unnoticed by the world outside its orbit. Even its simple history was undiscovered for sixteen years; and now, after being neglected for seven decades, it returns, as the "Ugly Duckling" did, to claim its rightful place among its fellows as Queen of South African stamps in the philatelic album.

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E. A. Church, Box 112, Durban.

Basutoland: Wanted covers, or stamps postmarked in Basutoland before 1910.

Harding, Box 108, Ladybrand.

O.V.S.

POSTALLY USED FISCALS

Replying to the queries raised in our January issue, Mr. C. Johs. Oberholzer, of Ladybrand, writes:—

"I do not believe that O.V.S. Fiscals were ever used authoritatively on postal covers; I have never seen a postal cover with O.V.S. Fiscals on it and I very much doubt if any living soul has seen—let alone possessed—such a cover.

"The possibility of such stamps having been postally cancelled by 'obliging clerks or postmasters' seems to me to be very improbable. Philately in those days was not the specialised business which it is to-day and I simply cannot conceive that any collector during the last quarter of the previous century would ever have dreamt of obtaining such cancellations merely for the purpose of having a rarity in his collection.

"That O.V.S. Fiscals were postally cancelled—not used—is well known. I am sure that every collector has a few of those stamps so cancelled.

"Your correspondent comes very near to the truth when he says that such stamps were merely cancelled by postal cancellers. In the late eighties and early nineties of last century, I remember that the post office in my home town in the Southern Free State was a room at the back of the Magistrate's Court, and adjoining the office of the Assistant Magistrate, or, as that official was then known, the Landdrost Klerk en Publieke Vervolger. And, believe it or not, this official was also the post master. This, I am told, also obtained in other Free State towns. Now just imagine your Landdrost Klerk-Publieke Vervolger-Posmeester on a 'rush' day—and there were 'rush' days even in those far off times.

"A Power of Attorney is brought to the Landdrost Klerk, or a summons to the Publieke Aanklaer, while he is busy in his capacity as Posmeester at the Post Office counter, to cancel the stamps on a document. How easy for the busy Posmeester to either mix up the cancellers, or simply to use the postal canceller to cancel the fiscal stamp on the document presented.

"Further, it is also well known that O.V.S. Fiscals, overprinted 'Telegraaf' were authoritatively used on telegrams, and one can quite imagine that at times the supply of overprinted stamps may have been exhausted and that the Post Master, without authority, simply used Fiscals without the overprint for telegrams.

"Regarding the 'Geregistreerd' boxed cancellations, I cannot understand any collector maintaining that this is a postal cancellation used on registered envelopes, etc. It is nothing of the sort. It is a cancellation used in the Deeds Office in those days and merely served to indicate that the document on which it appears was registered. I have several stamps bearing this cancellation in my O.V.S. Revenue collection, which I personally removed from old documents."

After writing the foregoing, Mr. Oberholzer got into communication with ex-Senator Brebner, of Bloemfontein, and sent the following additional note:—

"Mr. Brebner is an old official of the late O.V.S. and during the nineties, and up to the commencement of the Anglo-Boer War, he was Inspekteur van Kasse, or what is now known as auditor.

"He writes that he cannot recollect that O.F.S. Fiscals were ever used postally and he should certainly know if this were the case or not. It was part of his duty to check the supplies of Revenue Stamps in the possession of Landdrosts (Magistrates), and the postage stamps in the possession of Post Masters, and if ever authority was given for using Fiscals on postage covers he would have known about it."

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INTERESTING 20th CENTURY DATES.

As we are rapidly approaching one of those unique dates which crop up every now and then, I hope you will invite the attention of collectors to the row of fours which will constitute the date on the 4th of April next—4.4.44.

Many years ago I was shown a stamp on envelope cancelled in Berlin. The date was 11.11.11; the time was 11 a.m. and the post office number was 11—surely an item richly deserving of a prominent place in a collection.

It is most unfortunate that most British date-stamps show the month in letters, as this, of course, spoils the date; e.g., 12 Dec 12 is not anywhere near as interesting as 12.12.12.

There are so many collectable dates in a century that I suggest collectors gather them in.

The indifference of most people to dates, however, is surprising. True, a date is of little practical importance, but little things often add interest to life, and the person who can enjoy a date, or row of identical figures on his car's speedometer, or the number on a receipt or cheque or banknote; to quote a few examples, is to that extent better off than one who disdainfully sniffs at such things as being beneath his notice.

But, as our technical and scientific achievements rest upon just such an ability to see the unusual and the apparently trivial, the superior person's disdain can be easily tolerated and interpreted. Here is a list of the main dates for the first half of the 20th Century:

8.9.10	13.12.11	2.3.45
10.10.10	10.11.12	12.3.45
19.10.1910	12.12.12	
12.11.10	19.12.1912	
1.1.11	11.12.13	
11.1.11	2.2.22	
9.10.11	22.2.22	
1.11.11	3.3.33	
11.11.11	1.2.34	
19.11.1911	4.4.44	

By adding the time, these dates can be made still more interesting, e.g., 4.4.44—4.44 p.m. (or a.m.) though of course the minutes are not added to a post office date-stamp.

Finally, as dates can easily be manufactured to order at any time, they will never command a high price and will thus always be within reach of the collector with limited means.

B. L. CAIRNCROSS.

G.E.A. CAMPAIGN MARKS.

Mr. C. D. Twynam, of Zomba, writes suggesting that the letters KWA in the mark listed as No. 19 in the paper in the February issue probably stand for Kilwa in Tanganyika. He possesses a similar type of mark, but with "Army Telegraphs" instead of "Army Signals." This has MBA (probably for Mombassa) and is dated 10-IX-16. He points out that the name of the Portuguese port referred to under Mark 6 should be Mtengula, not Mtangula; thanks for the correction.

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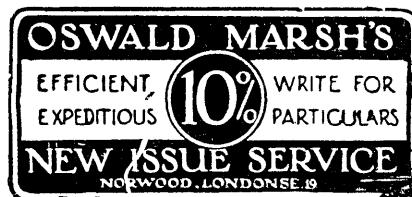
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THE PLATES OF THE TYPOGRAPHED POSTAGE DUE STAMPS—1927/28 OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

By A. HILTON SYDOW, A.S.A.A., C.A.(S.A.).

This issue of Postage Due stamps comprised five denominations, namely, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. black and green (1928), 1d. black and red (February, 1927), 2d. black and mauve (September, 1927), 3d. black and blue (1928), and 6d. black and slate (July, 1928). The figures of value were printed in black and the frames in the colours mentioned. I own a pair of the 3d. denomination with the figures of value in blue and the frames in blue which emanated most likely from a trial sheet, as well as imperforate pairs of the frames in green, red and slate without figures of value.

These stamps were surface-printed on unwatermarked paper at the Government Printing Works at Pretoria from a common frame plate or plates made at the Royal Mint in London, and from numeral plates set up at the Government Printing Works, Pretoria.

THE FRAME PLATE OR PLATES.

A frame plate contained 120 subjects arranged in 2 panels of 60 each separated by a vertical gutter, and each panel contained 10 horizontal rows of 6. The two panels were surrounded by co-extensive jubilee or guard lines. A guide point appeared to the left of subject 36 of the left panel, and another to the right of subject 31 of the right panel of the plate. These two points were printed conversely on the blank lateral margins of the sheets. Thus the frames were printed 120-set in two panels of 60, but each printed sheet was bisected into two 60-set issue sheets, after they received the imprints from the numeral plates, with the exception of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. denomination plates which were 60-set.

Each stamp exhibited the following text matter in white lettering, viz., "SOUTH AFRICA" and "SUIDAFRIKA" horizontally at the top and bottom respectively, and "POSTAGE DUE" and "TE BETAAL" vertically at the left and right respectively. Examination of panes of these stamps revealed the following characteristics in respect of the five denominations:—

Left-hand pane:—

- Row 1, No. 2.—White dot after "Due."
- Row 2, No. 4.—White vertical line below first "A" of "Africa."
- Row 4, No. 3.—White dot between "P" and "O" of "Postage."
- Row 5, No. 2.—Thickening of bottom limb of "E" of "Betaal."
- Row 5, No. 3.—White dot in centre of "O" of "Postage."
- Row 7, No. 1.—White dash below "T" of "Betaal."

Right-hand pane:—

- Row 5, No. 1.—Small break in "S" of "Suidafrika."
- Row 8, No. 2.—White dot above "B" of "Betaal."

Some years ago the late Mr. J. Ritchie stated that four frame plates were ordered from the Royal Mint. Hitherto my research has failed to reveal the use of more than one frame plate unless all four plates were exactly similar and that the plate characteristics mentioned afore occurred on them all and derived from the Master Plate. Mr. Ritchie also stated that "the plates were of copper and faced with steel."

A Master Frame Die was engraved on steel en epargne and negative from which impressions were made on 120 lead blocks or moulds in recess and positive. These lead moulds were clamped 120-set in an iron forme, arranged in 2 panels of 10 horizontal rows of 6 each and surrounded by guard line moulds. The iron forme was suspended and immersed in a depositing-bath, and an electro-deposit of copper was grown on the moulds in the form of a thin copper shell. Subsequently the copper shell was carefully removed from the moulds and backed with a thick layer of type-metal which became the Master Frame Plate, en epargne and negative. A wax mould was then obtained by impression from the Master Frame Plate. On this wax mould, 120-set, in recess and positive, a nickel deposit was grown in the form of a thin shell. This nickel shell was carefully removed from the wax mould and heavily backed with copper and became a Working Frame Plate, 120-set, en epargne and negative. Probably three additional working frame plates were made similarly by wax-moulding from the Master Frame Plate. I have, however, no evidence of stamps printed from the additional plates, unless as I have stated previously that the plate characteristics afore-mentioned are Master Frame Plate ones and were repeated on such additional working frame plates. The Royal Mint plates are nickel plates and not steel-faced as Mr. Ritchie stated.

THE NUMERAL PLATES.

(A) The #1 numeral plate contained 120 subjects arranged in 2 panels of 60 and each panel 10 horizontal rows of 6 each. The plate was a stereotyped one and made as follows:—A Master Die was prepared in the form of a line-block, en epargne and negative, showing a figure "6" and a letter "d" as a symbol for pence but without a stop under the "d." From the Master Die a mould was made, very likely of papier-mache, which received twelve separate impressions in recess and positive, thus:—

6d 6d 6d 6d 6d 6d 6d 6d 6d 6d 6d 6d

From this multiple mould a longitudinal cliché of 12 units was cast in stereo metal, en epargne and negative. This process was repeated nine times and nine multiple clichés were obtained additionally. The ten said clichés were then mounted on wood or metal to form a 120-set stereotyped printing plate in two panels of 60, each and in 10 horizontal rows of 6. Certain blemishes developed on the 12-set mould which

The numeral plate which bore the blemishes responsible for the flaws on the sheets in the positions mentioned afore and asterisked I designate as PLATE 1A. After the said plate had been in use for some time, for some unknown reason the 6-set cliches which constituted the plate were dismantled, but these were re-assembled subsequently for further use. Certain of the 6-set cliches were mounted in new positions. For example, the flaws detailed afore in the positions asterisked anent PLATE 1A appeared in the following positions on sheets printed from the re-assembled plate, which I designate PLATE 1B, viz.

Both Panes :—

- Row 5, No. 4—No serif to “d.”
- Row 2, No. 5—White dash on curve of “d.”
- Row 8, No. 4—Dot in lieu of serif to “d.”
- Row 8, No. 6—Front of foot of “2” broken.

(D) The 1d. numeral plate contained 120 subjects arranged in 2 panels of 60, in 10 horizontal rows of 6 each. The Master Die was prepared in the form of a line-block, en epargne and negative, showing a figure “1” and a letter “d” as a symbol for pence with a stop under the “d.” The plate was a stereotyped one. From the Master Die a mould was made, but I am unable to state the number of impressions the mould received from the said die and the order of their arrangement, as I have been unable to examine complete right-hand panes of this denomination.

On the left-hand panes examined I found a mould flaw repeated on certain numerals but not in regular order and in different positions on different panes of stamps. This mould flaw marked “m” repetitiously on the diagrammatic outline of numeral positions and flaws on stamps printed from plates designated 1A and 1B, consisted of a minute indentation midway on the right edge of “1.” I found also two plate flaws, both in different positions on different panes of stamps, viz :—

- (a) A white dot on a numeral “1.”
- (b) Top of a “d” rounded and bent to the left, and minus a top serif.

The following shows the positions of the mould flaw “m,” and the plate flaws “a” and “b” as described afore :—

Left Pane of Plate 1A.						Left Pane of Plate 1B.					
Row 1	...	1	2	3	4 5b 6	Row 1	...	...	1	2	3m 4 5 6
Row 2	...	1	2	3m	4 5 6	Row 2	...	...	1	2	3 4 5b 6
Row 3	...	1	2	3	4 5a 6	Row 3	...	...	1	2	3m 4 5 6
Row 4	...	1	2	3	4 5 6	Row 4	...	...	1	2	3 4 5a 6
Row 5	...	1	2	3m	4 5 6	Row 5	...	...	1	2	3 4 5 6
Row 6	...	1	2	3	4 5 6	Row 6	...	...	1	2	3m 4 5 6
Row 7	...	1	2	3	4 5 6	Row 7	...	...	1	2	3 4 5 6
Row 8	...	1	2	3m	4 5 6	Row 8	...	...	1	2	3 4 5 6
Row 9	...	1	2	3	4 5 6	Row 9	...	...	1	2	3m 4 5 6
Row 10	...	1	2	3m	4 5 6	Row 10	...	...	1	2	3 4 5 6

As far as right-hand panes are concerned I have examined only portions of panes, and I have found one flaw in two different positions on two different portional panes, viz :—a stubbed serif to the numeral “1,” Row 4, No. 1, in one instance, and as Row 9, No. 1, in another.

From the foregoing data it will be observed that, as in the case of the ½d. denomination, after a 1d. numeral plate had been in use for some time, the multiple metal cliches, which constituted the said plate (PLATE 1A), were dismantled, but subsequently these cliches were re-assembled as a plate for further use (PLATE 1B).

(E) The 2d. numeral plate contained 120 subjects arranged in two panels of 60, in 10 horizontal rows of 6 each. Stops appeared under the “d’s” as symbols for pence. No repetitional flaws occurred anent the numerals of the plate of this denomination as I have described in connection with those of the ½d., 1d., 3d., and 6d. denominations. The plate was not prepared by the process of stereotyping from moulds. From a photographic negative a line-block was made showing a figure “2” and a letter “d” with a stop thereunder. 60 impressions were printed in singles from this line-block, which were pasted up 60-set in 10 horizontal rows of 6 each. This 60-set paste-up was photographed and a negative obtained. This negative was used to print 120 subjects, 60-set twice, on to a sensitised zinc plate. The plate was then etched and routed and became a 120-set Zincotyped plate, en epargne and negative for the 2d. denomination.

The bottom serif of the “d” is shown practically missing on Row 6, No. 1 of the right-hand pane.

OFFICIAL STAMP NEWS.

Do we realise how well off we are in respect of news given us by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs? A recent number of *Linn's Weekly* compares their “splendid co-operation” with the “hit and miss” information supplied to the philatelic press in America, with a verdict very much in our favour.

The “Philate” of South Africa gets service, yes, sir! Our knowledge of the American language must be out-of-date; we haven't come across “Philate” before, but assume it to be a comprehensive term for the general body of philatelists. It isn't basic English!

EAST AFRICAN AIR MAILS.

Mr. Godfreys sends a cutting from the *East African Standard* of 10.2.44 which states, “The P.M.G. announces the immediate extension of the air mail service from Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika to British Somaliland (Hargeisa) and Aden. The service is a weekly one in both directions and the usual air mail rates of postage for Empire countries will apply, i.e., Letters 1s 30c for each ½ oz. or part thereof; postcards, 50c each. The air mail service to Seychelles has been suspended until further notice.

KIMBERLEY POSTMARKS ON RHODESIAN STAMPS.

Sir,—I have followed with interest the various communications about Kimberley and its possible confusion with Kimberley Reefs, but I do not think this explains the occurrence of Kimberley (Cape) postmarks on Rhodesian stamps. I have so far avoided writing you on this matter, hoping that some one else might come forward with an explanation, but as no one appears to be doing so I am now going to tell something I know.

Rhodesian stamps, might, of course, legitimately and rightly be postmarked in Kimberley if they arrived there having missed being cancelled in Rhodesia. This sort of thing can happen anywhere and at any time.

But there is another way in which Rhodesian stamps could be, and were, cancelled in Kimberley, and also in Vryburg and Mafeking. There are some individuals who may be described as practical jokers, or, if not being intentional jokers, freak collectors whose actions later on give poor philatelists headaches in trying to give rational explanations for their freakish actions.

I know, or, rather, knew (for he is dead now, poor fellow) one such individual, a post office official. You are aware, of course, that when collectors woke up, a year or two after Union, to the interest of "Interprovincials" weird and wonderful combinations of these were made up and pushed through the post. It wasn't difficult, if you had a postmaster pal, even to get the dates adjusted on a date stamp so as to make them pukka interprovincials.

Well, my friend conceived the bright idea of having Rhodesian stamps included in this game. To my certain knowledge (for I have seen them) he had Rhodesian Large Arms, Small Arms, and some of later issues postmarked in the three towns I have mentioned. Some of them even, apparently, did postal duty, for covers showed backstamp arrival stamps. But it was all done by complaisance.

I must add in all fairness that this party had no intention of defrauding anyone; I believe he never sold any of these items—he just liked having freakish or queer things in his

collection. But, of course, on his death they probably were dispersed and hence, perhaps, this pother now.

A. A. JURGENS.

[This explanation might quite well account for the stamps seen by Major Harrington. They were dated in 1911 and, particularly if they were "off cover," might well be connected up with this silly prank.—Ed.]

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100 NOT OUT.

It was recently reported in the press that Sir Wm. Mulock, at one time Postmaster-General of Canada, had celebrated his hundredth birthday. To philatelists he is best known as the designer of the famous map-stamp of 1898 which commemorated the introduction of Empire Penny Postage.

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Angola—139, 140, 155, 189, 195, 201, 202, 205, 206, 211, 212, 240, 246, (or 246a), 275, 324, 326a, 334 (or 335), 341, 342.
Abyssinia—170, D53, D54, D55, D56, D57, D58, D59, 179, 177, 196, 199, D60, 287, 290, 295, 1931 set of 5 officials, 310.
Azores—9 (or 10), 11, 14 (or 15), 16, 21, 39 (or 62), 63 (or 64 or 65), 84, 90 (or 91 or 94), 130, 198, 235, 236, 237, 243, 244, 245, 251, 254, 255, D13, 403, 408b, 382a, 452, 453, 454, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 528.
Benin—1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 201, 203, 204 (must be guaranteed).
British East Africa—20 (or 22 or 23), 26, 40, 44, 46, 99.
Dahomey—10, 13, 17, 25, 90, 93, 86.
Diego Suarez—101, 102, 103, 105, 110, 112, 113, 20, 26, 16 (or 18).
Jubaland—D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10.
Eritrea—52, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 80, 81, E4, E5, E3, 82, 83, 84, 98, 100, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 101, 102, 102a, 114, 115, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130a, 131, 132, 133, 135, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 152, 153, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 166, 167, 168, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, D14, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 194, 198.

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SOCIETY NEWS

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, K. Alexander; *Hon. Secretary*, S. Kaganson, 16 Military Road, Tamboer's Kloof, Cape Town; Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Medical House, 35 Wale Street, Cape Town, at 7.30 p.m.

24th February, 1944.—K. Alexander in the chair. There was a "full house" at this evening's meeting. The special attraction being Mr. Simenhoff's display of stamps depicting "Education" in its various phases, stamps from all parts of the world were to be seen showing architecture, aviation, commercial, botanical, engineering, literature, mythology, portraiture, zoological, native life types, etc., etc. Needless to say the writing-up was a feature of the work, Mr. Simenhoff being famous for his artistry in this respect.

Mr. Simenhoff gave a very interesting and illuminating address regarding the exhibit. Mr. E. C. Solomon in eulogistic terms congratulated the exhibitor on his marvellous display. During the evening several lots of stamps were donated for the "Liberty Cavalcade" fund and auctioned, realising good prices.

W.A.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. C. Hampson; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. F. Fowler, P.O. Box 168. Meetings, Colosseum Building, 2nd Fridays, 7.45 p.m.

Mr. Hampson was in the chair and welcomed the visitors, among whom were a number in uniform; one new member was elected. After the usual business Mr. Storey displayed mint British Africans. The display was particularly strong in Transvaal and the three Rhodesias. Every stamp was mint and mounted on Blue Flint paper which showed them off to perfection. After tea break, our worthy secretary showed U.S.A. which were also very well received. Visitors always welcome.

C.G.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, A. E. Basden; *Hon. Secretary*, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514; Meetings, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

7th February.—Mr. Basden in the chair. This was the annual general meeting and all the officials presented very encouraging reports on the various activities of the Society. This was especially the case with the exchange department. Mr. A. E. Basden was unanimously re-elected president with Mr. F. C. Ferguson as vice-president. The other officials remained the same. Dr. Broom, in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman and officials, pointed out what a pleasure it was to see a Society so efficiently run.

The Fournier collection of Forgeries was tabled after Mr. Hawke, Mr. Basden and Mr. Oppenheim had outlined their history.

21st February.—Mr. Ferguson in the chair. Mr. Hawke read an article on the stamps of Gibraltar.

Mr. Hawke read a paper on Slogans. He first pointed out that slogans, together with the name of the town, were really postal cancellations and as such could be looked upon as one of the sidelines of philately. Slogans were really advertisements, in the form of propaganda, for Government departments, such as telephones, railways, state loans, etc. Mr. Hawke gave some very pithy slogans from different countries. He then tabled an interesting display of slogans cut from envelopes, very attractively mounted and written up.

Prof. Wager gave an exhibit of Denmark and Luxemburg.

March 6.—Mr. Basden in the chair. Mr. Hawke read an article on the issue of stamps in St. Lucia.

Mr. Basden gave a talk on the stamps of Griqualand West. He outlined the history of the country and its development after the discovery of diamonds. He described the events leading up to its incorporation as a part of Cape Colony. Special stamps came into use but they were all Cape stamps overprinted in black or red with a G, of which there were many varieties. Much later these overprinted stamps came to be used in other parts of the Union, so that typical Griqualand West cancellations are of great value. To illustrate his talk, Mr. Basden tabled his fine and extensive collection of Griqualand West stamps.

March 20.—Mr. Basden in the chair. This was a competitions evening. Three competitions were arranged, two of them a series of questions on philatelic knowledge prepared by Mr. Wright and a sheet of various stamps suitably arranged as a spotting test prepared by Prof. Wager. The results were judged on the aggregate marks, and prizes were awarded to Mr. Oppenheim, Mr. Hawke and Dr. Broom in order of merit.

H.A.W.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, C. W. Sheffield, P.O. Box 88; Meetings, Room 5, City Hall, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

On 1st February an auction was held which was a great success. Thirty-six members and two visitors attended. Ninety-two packets were handed in and nearly all were sold. Bidding was brisk and the auctioneer was Mr. G. K. Forbes, assisted by Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Slaten.

The second meeting was, on 15th February and the attendance had fallen as only 22 members and one visitor attended. One new member was admitted.

The evening's display was to have been the collection of Mr. Harmer, but unfortunately he was ill and unable to be present.

Mr. G. K. Forbes and Mr. Braybrooke jointly displayed some pages, Mr. Forbes put down 80 pages as he humorously called them, bits and pieces, and Mr. Braybrooke 37 pages of Free State and Rhodesia.

The club received a letter with Christmas greetings from Mr. Borthwick of Australia, and the letter had taken three months to get here.

On 21st March, the main meeting of next month will be called the "Borthwick" night, and each member must display two sheets of Australia, as a tribute to Mr. Borthwick, as he had kindly sent a donation for a social evening in recognition of the many kindnesses the President and members have shown him.

L.E.C.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

President, F. J. H. Lang; *Hon. Secretary*, L. Buchen, Box 4967, Johannesburg; Meetings, 2nd Tuesdays, Public Library, Johannesburg, 8 p.m.

The large number of members and visitors who attended the meeting held on March 14 were treated to another superb exhibit by Mr. G. Carleton Jones, who tabled further pages from his great collection of British North America. The items shown were mostly proofs, essays, ship letters, "specimens" and other essentials to a specialised collection. Only the early and middle issues were dealt with and, in addition to the items just mentioned, Mr. Carleton Jones exhibited a number of pages of rarities in fine condition of normal stamps, including the twelve pence black, the rarest Canadian. Although most of the items shown were of Canada, there was also a fine display of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, etc.

In proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Carleton Jones, Mr. Robertson stressed the fact that the value of such a collection lay less in its great financial value than in its philatelic interest. Too often those who are looking at rare stamps in fine condition are concerned mainly with the cash value of the exhibit, but it is much more important to take note of their beauty and fine condition, and to realise the important place in specialised collections held by proofs, essays, early covers and similar material.

Another point mentioned by Mr. Robertson was that of mounting. One often sees fine collections that are mounted in a manner that does not do them justice. Fine stamps deserve fine homes and the best treatment and the magnificent mounting and writing-up of Mr. Carleton Jones' collections are in keeping with the superb quality of his stamps.

Mr. Carleton Jones replied in his usual modest way, after which the usual auction in aid of war funds terminated a very successful meeting.

Middle East "Combination Covers."

Mr. A. H. Sydow adds the use of South African and New Zealand stamps together, to the list given in our January issue.

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South African Railways



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MAY, 1944.

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Vol 20. No. 5.

MAY, 1944.

Whole No. 230.

UNION NOTES

LIBERTY CAVALCADE, CAPETOWN.

This great fair, held from 25th March to 1st April, to raise money for the Governor-General's War Fund, has been prolific in commemorative postmarks.

The regular post office provides two, one in English, one in Afrikaans. These are 24 m.m. single-circle marks with "Liberty Cavalcade" and "Vryheids Kavalkade" respectively and the date in two lines in the centre.

The Defence Force, which put up a truly magnificent display, representative of all sections of its work, had its own P.O. with the postmark No. 50 of the standard A.P.O.—U—M.P.K. type.

The Railways and Harbours section had a special P.O. at their convenient rest and writing room in the section dealing with the Game Reserves. This office had a double circle postmark with the appropriate wording "Sanctuary" above, and "Toevlugsoord" below, the date being in one line across the centre.

The Cape Town Philatelic Society staged exhibits of stamps, changed daily, which attracted a lot of attention. The conditions under which they exhibited were not very satisfactory as regards protection from rain, dust, etc., and they are to be congratulated on their public spiritedness in carrying on despite these drawbacks. The Society had special miniature sheets on sale—these will be described next month.

PRINTING FLAW ON THE 10/-

Flaws on the high values are not often recorded, even of the fly-mark type, but Mr. A. E. J. Currell, of St. Matthews, has submitted a pair of the current 10/-, of which the Afrikaans stamp shows a white spot or break at the top of the "R" of Afrika.

ALL RED 1d. COIL VARIETIES AND FLAWS.

Mr. U. Milunsky, of Johannesburg, has submitted three strips showing well-marked differences in depth of shade which appear to be purely the result of variations in the intensity of inking of the cylinder. In the lightest shade the sun and its rays are practically indistinguishable, merging into a general white background.

One stamp in the "medium shade" strip shows a rather striking printing flaw, in the shape of a white area almost $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter over the centre of the right-hand part of the frame, between the medallion and the edge of the stamp.

Mr. A. Lichtenstein carries knowledge of this flaw further by showing that it is a recurring one, on every twenty-third stamp in the coil. On a strip of twenty-five it will be found, say, on stamp number one, then again on stamp number twenty-three. At the same time, on such a strip, there is to be found a similar, but smaller white spot flaw near the left bottom corner of stamps numbers three and twenty-five of the strip. From this recurrence it may be inferred that the printing cylinder for these stamps has twenty-two vertical components.

ACTIVE SERVICE LETTER CARDS.

The cards with upper corners bevelled are now on sale with stamps in English. Unlike this type with Afrikaans stamps, these have no serial number.

$\frac{1}{4}$ d. BANTAN.

Several correspondents report finding this denomination with the shading lacking in the top right-hand corner. It may be present over a sheet-wide strip, but it is noticeably more marked in the English stamps than in the Afrikaans.

CENSOR'S MARK.

We have been pretty familiar with the Union Coat of Arms, followed by a letter, tying Censor's seals on opened letters. A form of this mark, only just brought to notice although used in December, 1942, is a circular rubberstamp, the circle enclosing the Union Arms, which have the word "Released" and an "A" underneath. This is applied to a cover which has been passed without opening.

S.W.A. VARIETIES.

Mr. A. Lichtenstein records the following:

- (a) Large war effort deep blue-green $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and the 1d. with overprints near the top of the stamp instead of in the centre.
- (b) One shilling Bantam with large S.W.A. A pair (place on sheet unknown, as any sheet seen has not got this item) in which the overprints are considerably out of vertical alignment with each other. In one the overprint is almost exactly centred, in the other the A of S.W.A. almost touches the edge of the stamp.

Active service letter cards with S.W.A. overprints have appeared with a new type of lettering. The letters of the overprint are about $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. high on the English stamps, and 5 m.m. on the Afrikaans stamps. The cards themselves are of the bevelled type and serial numbers are not present on either language variety.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Mr. W. G. Nodder has a short article in the February 11th number of the *Philatelic Magazine* on varieties of the "Small Falls" issue. The main variety, described and illustrated, is in the basal portion of the right-hand border design. The writer is unable to decide, from lack of sufficient material, whether the different appearances found are due to faulty printing or to plate wear. Four definite shade varieties of the 2d. and two of the 3d. are given.

Attention has been drawn locally, and it is also noted in recent British stamp magazines, to the fact that the recently issued 2d. Matabeleland commemorative, having been printed in Pretoria, shows the same narrower 9th vertical column (overall measurement from perf. to perf.) as does Union stamps of the same format. Mr. R. Roberts in the *Philatelic Magazine* writes fairly fully upon this curious adjustment of the comb perforator and, incidentally, notes, as does not seem to have been done before, that it occurs also in the Union "bantam" series with bisecting roulettes, but not, of course, on trisected roulettes. *Stamp Collecting* notes that there is, in alternate vertical rows, a minute "place" dot in the left-hand margin between the vignette and the perforation; also that there is a constant plate flaw in last stamp of each sheet taking the form of a short white line across the saddle-rod behind the trooper.

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MAFEKING BESIEGED.

The *Stamp Lover* of January-February, has an interesting fairly long article on these stamps, the various circumstances about their issue and containing extracts from various sources anent their status, value, etc., with notes on forgeries.

WANTED

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LABUAN—S.G. 11, 37, 38, 77, 78, 80, 96, 209, 140, 141, 142.

MONGOLIA—All 1925 - 1926 - 1927 - 1931 issues.

DUTCH INDIES—S.G. 210a, 211a, 211c, 211b, 225, 237, 241, 195, 214a, 251, 253, 254, 347a.

NORTH BORNEO—S.G. 2 - 8 - 9 - 54, - 65, 85, 108, 140, 143, 182, 183, D5, D7, D8, D11, D15, D44, D49.

TRANSJORDANIA—S.G. 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, D33, D34, D37.

PERSIA—S.G. 57, 207, 226, 392, 411, 412, 413, 426, 447, 461, 463, 464, 550, 620, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 632, 633, 655, 656, 661, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 712a, 714, 714a, 714b, 721, 727, 756, 760, 761, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 783, 784, 791, 804, 806, 807, 808, 810, 020, 029, F1, F5.

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THE WOLMARANSSTAD LOCALS

By J. H. HARVEY PIRIE

(Read before the Cape Town and Johannesburg Philatelic Societies.)

STUDY your country's stamps. This is a slogan which has frequently appeared in the *South African Philatelist*. I have felt impelled to follow it in connection with a number of points raised by Stephen G. Rich in his *Philately of the Anglo-Boer War*, which was reviewed in our November issue. Two features especially relating to the Wolmaransstad issue appear to me to need investigation—their date of appearance, and the characteristics of the overprint.

For the story of this issue we have hitherto been dependent on B. W. H. Poole's little booklet, *The South African Provisional War Stamps*, published in 1901. Rich states that he also wrote an article on them in *Mekeel's Weekly* of 20th January, 1930, with more personal detail. I have not seen this article, but according to Rich, Poole was in South Africa and met the man responsible for the issue a few months later. Here are the essentials of Poole's story.

When the town was occupied by the British, it was found that all the stamps had been removed from the post office. It no stamps could be obtained it would have meant that the newly appointed Commissioner would have had to frank all letters with his signature. The manager of the local store of Messrs. Thomas Leask & Co. (a Mr. Clouston, as given by Rich, but it should be Clouston) came to the rescue with the stamps he had on hand, amounting to about £10 worth. These were requisitioned and paid for.

It was necessary to transform these Z.A.R. stamps into a British issue and Mr. Clouston again obliged with loose rubber type used in his office for marking price tags. Type was set up to put the word "Cancelled" over the name of the Republic and the letters "V-R-I" with dashes and final period, lower down on the stamps.

According to Rich the stamps were overprinted two at a time. He apparently takes this assertion over from Curle and Basden's "Transvaal Postage Stamps," where, on p. 148 it states that the overprint on the 1896 issue was set in pairs, one with 7 m.m. between the lines, the other with 6 m.m.

Continuing with Poole's story, he states that the occupation took place about June, 1900, that the stamps were available for about a fortnight and that, at the end of that period a large Boer force came along and recaptured the town and the Commissioner and his few men had to retire at short notice.

THE DATE OF THE ISSUE.

It would be desirable, in any case, to have this established for the sake of accuracy, but it is now, perhaps, more desirable than ever, as Rich rather stars the issue as being "The First Transvaal Occupational Stamps."

Gibbons merely give them as "June, 1900" with the 1d. commemorative separately as of "July, 1900"; Poole says "about June"; Curle and Basden give no date.

Rich writes: "General Hunter entered the Transvaal, at Christiana, on 17th May. . . . This column reached and took Wolmaransstad, some seventy miles within the western edge of the Transvaal, and on the road to Johannesburg, apparently early in June, 1900." The exact date of occupation has not been located. *But it is clear that the temporary issue here was the first occupation series within the Transvaal.* (Italics not in the original. J.H.H.P.)

But is it really so clear? After consulting two standard histories of the war I could find no mention of either the occupation or the evacuation of Wolmaransstad; apparently, in retrospect, it was not considered an event of much importance. What did emerge was that General Hunter's column did not appear to go through Wolmaransstad at all. On leaving Christiana they did not move north-eastwards in the direction of Wolmaransstad but northwards to Vryburg (24th May), leaving, it is true, a small garrison on their flank in Schweizer Reneke. Their subsequent moves were Lichtenburg (4th June), Ventersdorp (7th June) and Potchefstroom (11th June). From the last mentioned a detachment was sent to Klerksdorp (14th June) and one was left in Potchefstroom when the main body moved on (16th June) to the Witwatersrand.

It is conceivable, of course, that a detachment might have been sent to Wolmaransstad as well as to Schweizer Reneke in May, in which case the issue might easily have been the first Transvaal occupational. Alternatively, the occupying troops might have come from Klerksdorp (on or after 14th June). In this case it would have been a neck and neck race for first place between the Wolmaransstad issue and the general issue of the Transvaal V.R.I.'s on 18th June.

I have a Wolmaransstad stamp postmarked 19th July, on a cover sent to Warrenton and back-stamped as arriving there on 24th July. If Poole's statement that the stamps were available, only for about a fortnight were correct, then the date of issue could scarcely be put further back than the end of June.

Such military and philatelic evidence as I could gather at this stage left me therefore with two incompatible statements, viz., (1) that the issue was the first Transvaal occupational one (i.e., issued before 18th June) and (2) that the issue was available for only about a fortnight.

Some other line of attack on the problem seemed indicated and I decided on local enquiry in Wolmaransstad itself. Here my luck was in, for I was quickly put in touch with Dr. T. S. Leask, a medical practitioner in the town, also connected with the firm of Thomas Leask & Co. Dr. Leask was in Wolmaransstad throughout the war; the Officer Commanding the occupying British troops in June, 1900 billeted in his house, and the Wolmaransstad stamps were actually prepared there

in his presence. He has a very good recollection of the circumstances connected with the issue and it seems unlikely that any fuller or more authentic account of it will ever be obtainable.

When I was first put in communication with him he sent me a short note; this was later filled out by replies to a number of specific questions put by me and he also sent me a number of stamps for inspection. It would be confusing to quote all his letters verbatim, so I have tried to weld them into one story, using, as far as practicable, his actual words. Statements by him are given hereafter between quotation marks.

"Wolmaransstad was occupied by a small British column under the command of Lieut. Huddleston on 15th June, 1900; they came across country from Kroonstad, arriving about daybreak, just about the time that Klerksdorp was re-occupied by the Boers. They left again at 4.45 p.m. on 26th July.

"Lieut. Huddleston was responsible for the preparation of the issue. I think he anticipated making a more or less prolonged stay as some 400 rifles had been surrendered to him on his arrival. Stamps were required for the use of his men and for any residents whose letters might be passed by him as censor. There was still a mail coach plying between Klerksdorp and Warrenton, passing through Wolmaransstad *en route*.

"All stamps had been removed from the post office by the Boer forces, so when I learned that he wished to obtain some I gave him all the stock in the possession of our firm; they were not requisitioned or paid for. Being a stamp collector I realised that the Republican stamps would become practically worthless under British occupation, whereas the overprinting done under Lieut. Huddleston's instructions would make them saleable items. I was able to purchase a number of them; some I kept for my own collection, some I used on correspondence to Scotland. (I had two daughters at school there and this was the first opportunity I had of writing to them since the outbreak of war), the rest I disposed of later by auction in London. After the end of the war I heard that Lieut. Huddleston had sold those he had reserved for himself to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons. I presume that he accounted to the army authorities for the face value of the various stamps sold, but of that I have, of course, no personal knowledge.

"The actual overprinting of the Republican stamps was done by Mr. John L. Clouston, an employee of my firm, on my dining room table in the presence of Lieut. Huddleston, a Captain of the Cape Mounted Police who was in command at Schweizer Reneke and who had ridden over on the afternoon of the 15th June, and myself. The job was started and finished on the evening of that day.

"The magistrate's office had been taken over as the occupying column's headquarters and part of it was used as the army post office."

From this part of Dr. Leask's story it may be assumed, I think, that the Wolmaransstad issue went on open sale on 16th June, and that the stamps would have remained available until at least 25th July—that is, a period of forty days.

Rich's claim that they are the first of the Transvaal occupational stamps is correct, by the narrow margin of two days, although the grounds on which he based that claim (occupation of

Wolmaransstad by General Hunter) were incorrect. The claim is only correct, of course, if 18th June be accepted as the date of issue of the general Transvaal V.R.I.'s. Poole gives the date as 12th and 13th June, but the evidence in favour of 18th June seems to be much stronger (see Curle and Basden, p. 60, and Rich, p. 88).

Having settled the date of issue there were other features connected with the stamps on which I sought information, and Dr. Leask was able to throw considerable light on most of them.

NUMBERS AND DENOMINATIONS OVERPRINTED.

"The denominations overprinted were the eight lower values ($\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1/- both inclusive) of the Republican issue of 1896-97 (S.G. Nos. 216-223) and the 1d. commemorative of 1895 (S.G. No. 225). There were none of the 2/6 and 10/- stamps as originally stated by Poole, and there were actually very few only of the 1/-; I have no example of that in my own collection. There were also a very few other odds and ends done (not mentioned in Gibbons' catalogue or anywhere else, so far as I know), viz., some $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. postcards, some registered envelopes and some of the Halve Penny on 1/- green (S.G. No. 213).

"As regards the number of each denomination overprinted I have, unfortunately, no record and cannot give definite information. It would have been available if the firm's books had been in existence but they were either looted or destroyed later in the war by the combatants, along with most of my personal effects, furniture, and part of the building of my home. I may say, however, that I think the total face value of the stamps overprinted was less than £10. My firm was recognised by the Z.A.R. postal authorities as a postal agency, that is, we were authorised to sell postage stamps and received a small commission on sales. As in the ordinary course, mails came regularly twice a week from Pretoria, it was not necessary to keep any big stock as we could replenish at short notice. It was our custom to purchase £5 worth at a time from Pretoria and it was unlikely, therefore, that we would have had much more than that in hand."

Having in my possession a 1d. on 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. bright mauve (S.G. No. 214 with what purports to be the Wolmaransstad overprint and which was stated when I acquired it "to have come from a reliable source" I sent this to Dr. Leask for an opinion. I may say that the Royal Philatelic Society's expert committee had already declined to give a verdict on it, but I still had hopes. Dr. Leask's reply was that he had no recollection of any of those being done. So my hopes were dashed. I can only add that the overprint is an exceedingly good imitation of the genuine article, indeed, I doubt if anyone could turn it down on the character of the overprint alone.

THE OVERPRINTING.

"The actual overprinting, as already stated, was all done by Mr. Clouston with loose rubber type obtained from my firm's office. The inks used were from what remained of our stocks. With the exception of a few of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps done in red and a few of the 2d. stamps done in black, it was all done with blue ink. This ink seems to have been slightly transparent and it was applied in varying density, depending on its renewal on the type from the ink pad from time to time during the

course of the operations. The result was that the shade of blue varies, partly on account of the colour of the backgrounds shining through, partly on account of the varying amount of blue ink from stamp to stamp.

"I do not remember now, if I ever knew, why a different type was used for the "Cancelled" on the 1d. commemorative stamp. The type was available and it may just have been that Lieut. Huddleston thought it more suitable on the larger stamp."

Reference is made earlier to the statement that the set-up of the type was such that two stamps were done at a time, with a difference in the distance between the two lines of the overprint—6 m.m. in the one, and 7 m.m. in the other.

Doubt arose in my mind as to the correctness of this statement after measuring the overprints in my own small collection and the doubt was accentuated after seeing the stamps sent me by Dr. Leask for inspection. What I found was that scarcely any two stamps had the two lines of the overprint exactly the same distance apart, the distances being anything between the extremes of 3½ m.m. and 8½ m.m. In Dr. Leask's lot there were two pairs; in each component the distance differed, but in neither case were they 6 m.m. and 7 m.m. respectively.

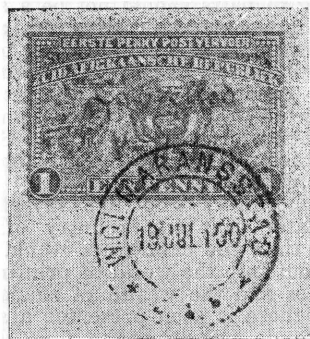
Further, I found that the two lines varied in their relationship to each other in the other plane; the "V" of the V-R-I might be directly under the "C" of Cancelled, but it was just as likely to be to the left of the "C," under the "a" or even a little more to the right.

This great variability in the relative position of the two lines seemed to me only explicable on the assumption that they had been applied separately. The only thing that appeared to be against this view was the fact that the two lines were usually quite parallel—this hardly seemed compatible with a two-stage operation. Closer examination showed, however, that they were not always absolutely parallel, they were sometimes slightly off the true.

The accompanying illustrations show (a) the hitherto unrecorded adhesive, S.G. No. 213 with the Wolmaransstad overprint (b) several stamps showing the variability in the distance apart of the two lines of overprint.

I put these findings to Dr. Leask and asked if he could account for them by describing how the overprinting was actually done. His reply was terse but satisfying.

"The overprinting was done one stamp at a time. The 'Cancelled' and the 'V-R-I' were on separate holders and the overprinting was done by hand on each stamp in two separate operations. This explains the varying distances apart and the



right or left shifts. That the two lines were always parallel or very nearly so can be attributed to the fact that Mr. Clouston was a very neat-handed person in all his work and had a very straight eye. To the best of my recollection he used no ruler or guide of any kind when doing the overprinting."

I might just add that in the case of one of Dr. Leask's stamps—on an envelope but not used postally—the overprinting must have been done after the stamp was affixed because the 'd' of 'Cancelled' is on the envelope, not on the stamp itself.

I put it to Dr. Leask: Had he arranged for this for himself on the evening of the overprinting? His reply was definitely NO, that he had not acquired any stamps for himself until 21st June, other than those he had used on the 16th to post letters to his daughters.

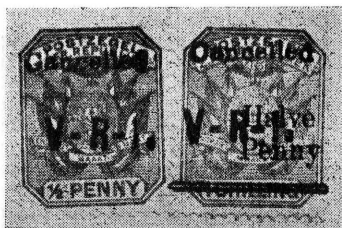
I wish to express my indebtedness to Dr. Leask for all the information he has given me and for allowing me to publish it. By doing so he has added very substantially to our knowledge of the Wolmaransstad issue.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The *British Philatelist* records the finding of the current ½d. in imperforate condition, the first imperforate variety of K.G. VI stamps of Great Britain. It came from a 5/- booklet.

The *Philatelic Magazine* illustrates the 2½d. tete-bêche; this also came from a booklet.

Airmail services are being greatly restricted "for operational reasons"; the Western European and Mediterranean areas, also services to prisoners-of-war and internees being most affected.



COLLECTING SOUTH AFRICAN STAMPS.

So many South African collectors are turning to the stamps of their own country these days that I feel it would not be out of place to set out a few of my experiences in trying to get together a comprehensive collection of what is normally looked upon as an "easy" country.

To the casual observer flicking through the pages of Gibbons' catalogue, South Africa would appear to be an ideal choice for a newcomer. Completion is possible and, with one or two exceptions, easily attainable. There is the proper admixture of portrait and pictorial, and the dispensation of bilingualism that calls for collecting in pairs should not be a serious deterrent where commemoratives are always of low values and general issues are of long standing. Our system of rotogravure printing may not be conducive to the production of "things of beauty" but in a world gone mad about pretty-pretties (to borrow Mr. Stanley Phillips' phrase) they have the advantage of being different.

To those, however, who like myself feel sooner or later that our country offers a wider scope than the catalogues would show, and branch out into the world of printing and plate varieties and the wealth of shades that are offered, there is soon presented a serious snag! Where do we draw the line? Do we wander off endlessly via Mr. Simenhoff or the Natal Society catalogues and have forever those irritating blanks which show no sign of being filled or do we go back to our original compact and complacent little collection framed a la Gibbons? The decision is a serious one.

Personally I have compromised with a collection to date of two and a half volumes mint, arranged in catalogue order with each stamp occupying one page in singles, pairs and blocks with the stress on shades and major varieties. On those pages completed and neatly written up the effect is singularly attractive, and there is no doubt that even our most determined specialists are unaware of the extent to which shades alter in different printings. But it is the uncompleted pages that worry me—not that I am impatient for any varieties, because their blanks can be filled with other shades in the meantime—but it is irritating to find yourself without specimens, which, if the catalogues are any guide, should be fairly common.

Where are our Union high values mint? Why is a stamp like SG 21 quoted at 9s. when it is about 50 times less common than SG 29 at 27s. 6d.? What has happened to mint singles (let alone blocks) of 22—24a? I have ransacked hundreds of dealers' stockbooks but cannot get more than two pairs and one block (and even these are poor specimens) of SG 32 printed in Pretoria. 30b and 31a I have never seen despite their absurd catalogue prices of 9d. and 1s. per single specimen each. 37 and 38 are well known as being very, very

scarce, but what about 39? I am still battling to complete pages of 46 and 48 which are most elusive but what has happened to 61a in its original paler shade?

Officials, despite their enhanced prices, are much more freely offered but I cannot obtain any of the early roto 2s. 6d. printings. Postage Dues, too, are easily obtainable except that mint well-centred blocks of D6 and D7 are just never seen.

I should like to hear of other collectors' experiences. Let us hope that my own are purely unfortunate and that we do not have to wait for the end of the war in order to try to buy Union stamps in England. Though of course it might pay us to do this if catalogue prices remain what they are.

PATRICK RIORDAN.

P.O. Box 15,
Nababeep,
Namaqualand, C.P.

ANTARCTIC STAMPS.

The Robertson Stamp Co. informs us that the current Falkland Island stamps, ½d. to 1/- inclusive, are to be overprinted for use in no fewer than four of its dependencies or places claimed as such, viz., South Georgia, South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Grahams' Land. This is sad news. In the case of South Georgia there may be justification for the island having a distinctive issue, but in the case of the others we can only see two possible motives.

(1) Exploitation of stamp collectors for revenue-raising purposes. These territories can only be reached during the short summer season and (except in the case of the South Orkneys) the only users could be the crews of whalers. Are there any whalers going there at present?

(2) The other possible reason is that the stamps are being issued as a counterblast to Argentina's claim to the South Orkneys (additional to her permanent claim to the Falkland's themselves) and recent employment of Argentine stamps and postmarks there. The Argentine, it may be remembered has had a meteorological station in continuous operation in the South Orkneys since 1904. One of the staff of the first year's crew was officially appointed Postmaster, with a supply of stamps, canceller, etc. (see *S.A. Philatelist*, Vol. XI, 1935, p. 54). Since then, postal services seem to have been in abeyance till 1942. There is no real need for them as, except for the relieving ship coming yearly, there is no contact with the outside world other than by wireless. In February, 1942, however, envelopes came back from the South Orkneys with the inscription "Inauguración de Oficina Postal Islas Orcadas del Sud" and bearing an Argentine stamp with the cancellation "Islas Orcadas del Sud/Argentina."

This looks like the Argentine staking a claim to possession of the South Orkneys (and forty years of occupation seems to give some justification) and the action of the Colonial Office in sanctioning these overprints on Falkland Island stamps may be a declaration of war by postal propaganda. But surely in this year of grace, some better method might be found of settling international disputes, or, does the Atlantic Charter not extend down into the Antarctic.

(Concluded from page 60)

Mr. Clay brought up the matter of the formation of a junior section, but it was decided to hold this over for further discussion.

The displays next month will be in the capable hands of Messrs. Courlander and Ritter.

Having disposed of the business, the chairman called on Mr. Arenson, who displayed a wonderful lot of triangular Capes. Among a large number of outstanding items, the following were particularly noticeable: *Woodblocks*, 4d. pale blue on original, 1d. vermilion mint, all the catalogued shades of both values used and the 4d. with right corner retouched. There was a full array of both the Perkins Bacon and De la Rue issues, mint and used, including strips of eight of S.G.1 and 7 used, and mint blocks of eight of S.G.18 and 21, also a pair of S.G.8. Then followed the unofficial roulettes, these being shown both on and off cover, and a number of the very rare bisects used in combination with other stamps or alone.

After the tea interval, Mr. Watson, the new President, tabled a small portion of his well-known Gold Medal collection of Great Britain. Included were many proofs and essays of the Queen Victoria and King Edward VII reigns, together with "specimen" stamps in complete sets. Also worthy of particular note were several copies, mint and used, of the £5 Queen Victoria, complete mint panes of the Queen Victoria Jubilee issue, a tete-beche pair of the 1½d. K.G.V. the "Pencf" varieties of the same stamp and a strip of five of the £1 Postal Congress, used.

Both displays were exceptionally fine, the condition of practically every specimen being superb. In every way, a philatelic feast.

T.A.H.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—MR. FERGUSON.

Hon. Secretary—H. A. WAGER, Box 514, Pretoria.

Meetings—Technical College, 1st and 3rd Mondays, at 8 p.m.

3rd April. Mr. Basden in the chair. Mr. Hawke read a humorous article on perforations.

The announcement of Mr. Basden's retirement and consequent removal from Pretoria was received with great regret.

Mr. Konya gave a very instructive talk on methods of printing stamps. He described in detail the different processes and pointed out how important it was to be able to distinguish types. He described how master-dies were made, and showed some which he himself had made, illustrating a stamp of his own design. By means of a small press he ran off two printings by two different methods. Mr. Konya presented the design and the dies to the Society, and the chairman said how greatly that was appreciated. Mr. Konya was thanked for the immense amount of trouble he must have taken in preparing the demonstration.

17th April. Mr. Basden in the chair.

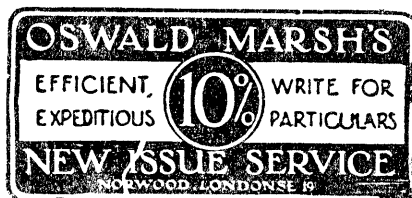
Dr. Broom paid a tribute to the excellent work done by Mr. Basden as chairman of the Society for so many years and pointed out what a great loss his retirement was to the Society. He himself had received great inspiration from his efforts and he was sure other members had also. Mr. Ferguson was elected President and Mr. Hawke Vice-President.

Allan Cup Competition. Three entries were received. Mr. Wright showed a nice clean collection of Seychelles, Mr. Weil showed a collection embracing most of the countries of S.A., and Colonel Horne showed an extensive and beautifully mounted collection of Egypt. The chairman commented on the excellence of all the exhibits, but the judges considered the exhibit of Colonel Horne a most outstanding one, and the cup was awarded to him. After receiving the cup, Colonel Horne made a suitable reply.

H.A.W.

ANOTHER WARNING.

Stamps announces that at least forty dealers in the U.S.A. are rushing to Europe whenever peace is declared to buy up everything they can in the way of war issues. One has announced that he has 200,000 dollars to spend and expects to convert it into a million within six months. The warning goes on "suckers will doubtless grab everything that even faintly resembles a stamp, paying anything to get it. When four-fifths of the stuff has been denied catalogue listing and prices on the one-fifth that does make the grade come tumbling down to one-tenth, one-twentieth and even one-fiftieth of what they were, impatient collectors will only have themselves to blame for their losses—the importers will long since have unloaded."



AIR MAIL COLLECTING.

In the December number of the *Aero Field*, our former air mail columnist, Lieut. Godfrey, raises the question of how air mails should be collected. He himself favours by countries, with the proviso that a first flight should only be considered where it is definitely over a new route, or new portion of an established route.

The Air Mail Brains Trust, as might be imagined, vary considerably in their replies. Mr. T. F. Field puts in a plea for the historical angle and collecting by routes or services rather than by countries. Colonel Crouch strongly deprecates any attempt at "complete coverage," i.e., all possible permutations and combinations as regards points of despatch and destination. Miss Penn-Gaskell says that in general collecting (by far the most interesting, in her view) one cover of each historical flight is enough; only specialists in a particular country or particular service should dream of taking in all the points touched in that country or in that flight.

Collectors of REALLY FINE BRITISH COLONIALS should get into touch with me AT ONCE

Selections of choice Mint or Used

AFRICANS, AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, WEST INDIANS, Etc., on approval to medium and advanced collectors. These books can be selected from at ONE-THIRD of Catalogue price. Also a choice lot of EDWARDIAN and GEORGIAN issues, Mint or Superb Used, at 50% off Catalogue. REFERENCES ESSENTIAL.

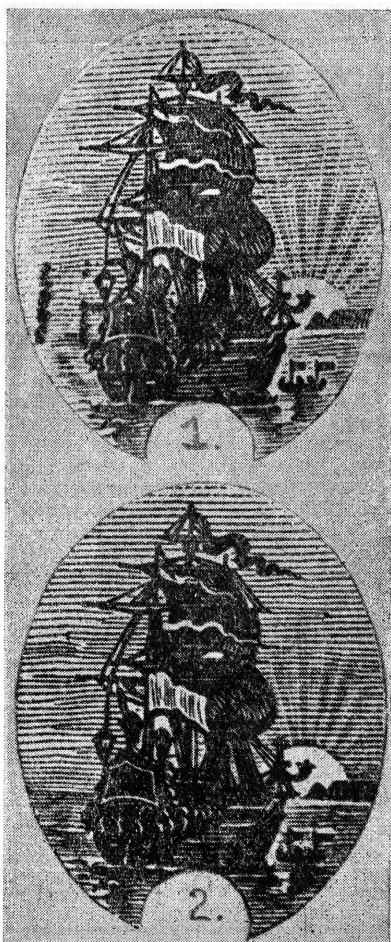
J. BIRD 6 Westhill Rd. London S.W.18, England

Two Dies of the Ship Vignette of the Electrotyped 1d. Stamps of the Union of South Africa

By A. HILTON SYDOW, A.S.A.A., C.A. (S.A.).

THE penny denominated stamps, each of which pictured Van Riebeeek's ship entering Table Bay and the sun setting behind Devil's Peak and Table Mountain were issued initially on the 1st January, 1926. These stamps were surface printed by Waterlow & Sons, Limited, from an epargne electrotyped plates made by the Royal Mint in London. The stamps were bicoloured and were printed from separate vignette and frame plates which were made by the electrolytic process *via* lead blocks or moulds derived from an epargne steel master vignette and frame dies engraved at the Royal Mint.

From the two enlarged illustrations of the vignette it would appear that two vignette dies were utilised for making at least two vignette plates.



(1) From Fig. 1 it will be observed that the sky immediately above the sun is depicted by a series of short thick and thin bars and large and small dots all in black, whilst the rays of the sun are represented by the interstices in white between the said bars and dots. The remainder of the sky higher up to the right of the ship is depicted by a series of horizontal elongated lines and sequent short lines which do not extend to the edge of the oval in well-centred copies. The sky to the left of the ship similarly is depicted by a series of horizontal elongated lines which extend to the edge of the oval but in attenuated form near the said edge. Immediately above the main mast the sky is represented by a series of shortlines. For the present, Fig. 1 is designated Die A.

(2) From Fig. 2 it will be remarked that the sky immediately above the sun is depicted by horizontal lines, portionally thinned and thickened, with very minute interstices in white between some of these lines, representing the rays of the sun. The remainder of the sky to the right and to the left of the ship is depicted by a series of horizontal elongated lines which extend to the right and to the left edges of the oval in well-centred copies. No short lines or attenuated portions of elongated lines appear near the respective edges of the oval except north-east of the pennant in certain instances. For the present Fig. 2 is designated Die B.

No major differences will be discerned, however, as far as the ships themselves are concerned. It would appear that an entirely new vignette die was not engraved, but that Die B was obtained from Die A, the original master vignette die, as follows:—

- (1) Original Master Die A.—Hardened flat steel die—lines and dots of design in relief and negative—taken up by
- (2) Softened cylindrical steel transfer roller—lines and dots of design hereon in recess and positive—additional lines engraved hereon in recess, e.g., connecting elongated and short lines by recess cutting interstices previously between them—hardened and transferred to
- (3) Subsidiary Master Die B—previous Die A plus additionally engraved lines of design in relief and negative.

Examination of a large quantity of used copies of the Waterlow printings revealed that stamps derived from Die A were used during the period January–July, 1926, whilst stamps derived from Die B were used between August and December, 1926.

Eventually the printing plates were forwarded to Pretoria and the Government Printer undertook the printing of these stamps until the advent of the rotogravure issues in 1930. The said Pretoria printed stamps were issued firstly on the 1st January, 1927. The vignette plates utilised by the Government Printer showed distinguishing nicks

on the jubilee lines below stamp No. 240, viz., Plate 1, nil; Plate 2, two nicks; Plate 3, three nicks.

I first drew attention in the *South African Philatelist* of November, 1935, to the probable existence of two vignette dies anent these stamps, but I noted no further reference in the philatelic press to this matter until I read the remarks of the late Mr. L. D. Moore in *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly* of November, 1943, to the effect that "two dies of the ship vignette in the first issue of South Africa" have not yet acquired catalogue status by Gibbons, as separate entities.

Anent what appears to be two separate vignette dies referred to in this monograph I should like to have the valued opinions of Messrs. S. G. Rich and C. P. Rang, through the *South African Philatelist* and *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly*, respectively.

The following is a list allocating the progeny of the two Dies A and B:—

Die A.

London Printing—Plate 1A.
London Printing—Booklet Plate.
London Printing—Plate proofs in black without frames.
London Printing—Plate proofs in red with frames in black.

Pretoria Printing—Plate 3.
Pretoria Printing—Booklet Plate.

Die B.

London Printing—Plate 1B.
Pretoria Printing—Plate 1.
Pretoria Printing—Plate 2.

PAPER SHORTAGE IN U.S.A.

Stamps announces that publishers have been cut to 75 per cent. of the paper they used in 1942. Exchange copies and copies to all but fifty-two times a year advertisers are being eliminated.

E. BLUM

P.O. BOX 1689

CAPE TOWN

recommends his services to Dealers and Collectors alike for Selling and Buying stamps from all countries. Price List now ready and can be sent to applicants free on demand. Collections and Accumulations bought for spot cash. Highest prices paid. Established in South Africa since 1930. First class references.

SPLIT "A" IN K.G.V. KEYPLATE.

The *Philatelic Magazine* states that it may now be taken as established that this keyplate was used only in Gambia, St. Helena and Seychelles, further, that the split "A" has been found on all the Gambias and all the Seychelles, so far only on some St. Helenas, but presumably it occurred on all.

WANTED TO BUY

All types of African stamps, mint and used, especially Empire and Foreign Colonies. Prompt settlement by cash, mint current Australian stamps at face, or used ditto at wholesale rates, as desired. Fair prices please.

S. G. Walton. (Member A.P.T.A.),
Canley Vale, N.S.W., Australia.

COLLECTORS' WANTS AND OFFERS

(Twopence per word per insertion with minimum of 2/- per insertion)

Seychelles and Sierra Leone fine used copies wanted. Particularly Edward and George. High prices willingly paid.

William Redford, Box 7012, Johannesburg.

Transvaal, Griqualand West, O.F.S. covers and rarities wanted by
A. E. Basden, Box 238, Pretoria.

Collections Wanted to Buy.—Old and Modern Collections, Single Rarities and Errors, Duplicates and Office Mixtures.

Prompt cash on acceptance of offer:
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For Service, promptness and satisfaction.

Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni.
Phone 54-1692.

Wanted: Great Britain 1d. Red Plate No. 218; No. 49; No. 49 Plate 1.
J. P. Martin, P.O. Immerpan.

Air Mail: Rare South African Air Mails wanted for Specialists collection.
E. A. Church, Box 112, Durban.

Basutoland: Wanted covers, or stamps postmarked in Basutoland before 1910.

Harding, Box 108, Ladybrand.

Australia, send 50 different South African Stamps and receive 50 different Australian in return.

C.A. Brown, Box 12, Lidcombe, N.S.W., Australia.

Canada: Wanted collection and rare items of high value.

E. A. Church, Box 112, Durban.

All South African Stamps wanted, Wholesale quantities.

S. Curtis & Co., Ashhurst, New Zealand.

Belgian Congo: Wanted Single stamps or collection.

E. A. Church, Box 112, Durban.

BOER PRISONERS OF WAR IN CEYLON

In a previous article (*S.A. Philatelist* Vol. 18, 1942, pp. 104 and 116) we listed the censor marks of various camps in the Union and oversea to which Boer prisoners of war had been sent. Since then S. G. Rich has amplified the subject in his book "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War."

Recently one of us (A.W.) came across a scrap-book made by a P.O.W. in Ceylon. Its condition was a philatelic tragedy. To begin with most covers had been made into "fronts" and pasted down on both sides of the album leaves; in later years grandchildren had torn off a big proportion of the stamps—finally the album had been thrown into an outside storehouse where rats had gnawed into it. Despite all this, examination yielded a few new items of interest, which we here record.

(1) A mark which at first sight is very similar to the 24 mm. double bordered circle mark with no place name, but used possibly at all or any of the following places: Green Point, Belle Vue, St. Helena and Ceylon. The outer circle in this case, however, is 25 mm. in diameter and is not a double lined one. The wording is "Prisoners of War" between the circles and "Passed Censor" in the centre; the mark is in violet and is on a cover addressed to Mount Lavinia from somewhere in Natal.

Several covers in the collection are addressed or re-addressed to Mount Lavinia but there are none with any actual marks of this place. It is probably in close proximity to Diyatalawa as one cover is addressed to "Mount Lavinia Hospital, Diyatalawa."

(2) A mark seen in violet on two of the covers sent to Diyatalawa is a 30 mm. sided double triangle with the wording "Not For P.O.W./Deliver." This appears to be on correspondence for Camp Guards or staff, not for prisoners.

(3) Ragama Camp. In our previous article (l.c.) we recorded the occurrence of this postmark but we had not seen any censor marks from it. This collection has provided several, the mark being an oval, double border, 63 x 35 mm. with the wording "Ragama Camp/Passed / /Censor." The line for censor's name or initials is left unfilled in all specimens seen. In violet.

(4) The smaller Diyatalawa censor mark with initials as part of the mark may show initials E.J.B., O.H. or F.R.N.F. The first occur in several marks cancelling the stamps of postcards which have evidently been sent from a prisoner in one part of the camp to a prisoner in another.

(5) and (6) Two marks, practically certainly applied in South Africa, are not uncommon. One is a large "PR. OF WAR" (almost 2 inches long, and underlined) in purple;

all of these are on covers with the Winburg postmark. The other is a small-type "Prisoner of War" in red, all of which are on covers with the Ladybrand postmark.

There are also in the collection quite a few South African censor marks and censors' seals which are not recorded in Mr. Rich's book. These we have never listed in the *S.A. Philatelist* but we have sent a note of them to Mr. Rich for inclusion in any supplement or new edition he may contemplate.

Germane to our subject, although not coming under our actual title, we may here record a variety of the Bermuda No. 4 Prisoner of War censor mark, brought to our notice through the kindness of Mr. A. A. Jurgens. This is a perfectly printed mark, only the number "4" is missing. It occurs to us that the explanation may lie in the late date of the cover; the Hamilton Bermuda postmark is dated JY 11 1902. As peace was made on 31st May, 1902, may it not be that censoring was diminishing, that there were no longer four of them on the job and that therefore the number was cut out, although the individual previously using No. 4 was still at work.

Mr. A. J. van Rensburg, of Pretoria, who was himself a P.O.W. in Ceylon, has sent us the following note:—

Diyatalawa was the first, and remained the main camp in Ceylon. When Ragama camp was started, the foreign legionaries were all sent there, burghers of the two Republics remaining at Diyatalawa.

Mount Lavinia was a hospital and convalescent depot near Diyatalawa, but serving both it and Ragama. The only other camp, Urugasmanuandiya, was a small affair started mainly for prisoners in transit returning to South Africa.

ANDREW WATSON.
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JERSEY STAMPS.

Gibbons' Stamp Monthly quotes a Berne philatelic paper as illustrating four pictorial labels inscribed "Jersey Postage" and bearing crude views. *G.S.M.* regards them as of doubtful status, considering that the Germans, with their flair for stamp propaganda, would, if they had produced anything at all, have issued a flamboyant set for this piece of occupied British territory.

"POTCHEFSTROOM ENVELOPES"

Mr. A. A. Jurgens writes:—"Dear Mr. Editor,—In my original article (*S.A. Ph. Nov.* 1943 p. 123) on Transvaal pre-adhesive letter stamps, I confined myself to facts confirmed by producible evidence. In your comments published in the Nov. and Dec. issues you raise other questions on which I can contribute some evidence of a different order, viz., recollections. These are not capable of being proved, but failing the production of more tangible evidence may be of some value.

"In 1904, I made the biggest philatelic mistake of my life—I would almost call it a crime now. I had the opportunity of looking over some 500 covers sent to the late Mr. E. J. M. Syfret of Cape Town from Natal during the years 1850-1878, and about 300 from the Transvaal and O.F.S. from 1864 to about 1878. But—I did not keep any of them; at that time I was only interested in stamps, not in postmarks. Many of these covers had already had the stamps removed, but I was able to tear off a few for myself. I can well remember, for instance, taking a 6d. Transvaal imperf., a pale rose 6d. O.V.S. and a 4d. Cape, thus spoiling a very fine combination cover.

"I do remember, however, that numerous covers showed the date-stamp figured in Mr. Basden's comments (Fig. 6 'the small Potchefstroom dater'), but they were all covers either with stamps or from which stamps had been removed. There were also covers marked 'In Dienst' in manuscript, but these had been marked in the Cape Town office, in manuscript, 'To Pay' together with the amount payable.

"From this, therefore, I agree with your conclusion that there is no evidence proving the 'small dater' to be a pre-adhesive stamp; it was merely a despatching office date stamp carrying no franking power.

"I think if there had been any other type of mark than the 'large' and the 'small' Potchefstroom daters I would have had some recollection of them, but I have none.

"With regard to your apologia for Mr. Jeppe producing the envelopes with daters shewing 6d. in place of the date I must say my sympathies lie with Messrs. Hardy and Bacon in putting these productions in the 'almost swindle' class."

Mr. L. A. B. Sharpe, after reading Mr. Jurgens's article in the Sept issue, but before seeing the further comments, reports having three envelopes, all different in size and quality of paper, with Potchefstroom daters and 6d. in place of the date. Two of these are of the large dater and one of the small. But the interesting feature is that one of the two with the large dater is addressed to the Treasurer General at Pretoria and is back-stamped as having arrived there on August 9th, 1871.

Mr. Sharpe suggests that the envelopes may have been intended to be "postal stationery." Perhaps they were, but there seems to be no getting away from the fact that they were specially made to oblige a collector.

[This perhaps brings us to the "bridge to be crossed" referred to by me in Para. 8 of my additional comments on these emissions (*S.A. Ph. Dec.*, 1943, p. 135), viz., Would the status of these envelopes be changed if they were found postally used, accepted by the Z.A.R. post office? I say "perhaps" because Mr. Sharpe's specimen would appear to have been on official service and therefore may not have needed any prepayment at all.—J.H.H.P.]

MAY SPECIALS

8 Aegean Islands 1932, 10c-1,25L. mint	2/6
6 Bahamas pict. 4d., 6d., 8d. mint, with and without "Landfall" o/pt. . . .	6/6
4 Bulgaria 1940 airmail, 1-6 leva, mint	2/-
4 Egypt airmail 40-100 mils, used . . .	5/6
10 Labuan 1902, 1-25c. mint cpl. . . .	7/6
5 Lebanon 1937 Paris Exhibn., mint . .	2/6
8 Samoa 1887/95 ½d.-2/6 mint	5/6
8 Samoa 1899 Prov. Govt. ½d.-2/6 mint	4/6
6 Slovakia 1939, 2-300h. mint	2/-
10 Spain 1930 Columbus airs, 5c.-1p.m. . .	2/-
16 Venezuela 1930 airmail 5c-20b. cpl. . .	10/6

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FOR IDENTIFICATION, PLEASE.

A reader has submitted four stamps, one of which is here illustrated, which cannot be identified in either Gibbons or Yvert. Can anyone help? The stamps are S.G. Nos. 506-509 of Type U postage dues, general French colonial issue of 1884-85, all in black and imperforate. But the overprints cannot be identified; they are 20 cents on the 10, 15 and 30 centimes, and 1 franc on the 20 centimes. In addition to the overprint (in black) there are also initials on each stamp.



SOCIETY NEWS

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Chairman—MR. C. HAMPSON.

Hon. Secretary—MR. S. F. FOWLER, P.O. Box 168, East London.

Meetings—Colosseum Tea Room, Second Fridays, 7.45 p.m.
At the March meeting the chairman welcomed the visitors, especially those in uniform.

Mr. Hoal gave the first display, New Zealand, which ran to about eighty sheets; very strong in first types (fullface Queens), and all issues were very well represented. Among the outstanding items in latter types was the 7d. Centenary; 1940, a most difficult stamp to get hold of.

After tea, the dark horse of the Society, Mr. Chas. Wilson, displayed British Central Africa (and gave all present the shock of their lives). His display of Nyasaland, Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya was outstandingly fine, particularly the latter country.

The mounting was superb, each stamp being mounted on blue flint with a one-eighth margin of blue, and then on white sheets—the effect must be seen to be appreciated.

The chairman asked Mr. Thornton to propose the vote of thanks to the members who displayed and the applause nearly upset the air-conditioning system.

C.S.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—G. K. FORBES.

Hon. Secretary—C. W. SHEFFIELD, P.O. Box 88.

Meetings—Room 5, City Hall, First and Third Tuesdays. The meeting held on 7th March, 1944, was attended by twenty-one members. This was just a social and exchange evening.

The second meeting held on 22nd March, 1944, was for business.

We were sorry to hear that Mr. Forbes will be away for the next few months, as business compels him to live in Grahamstown.

Three new members were elected and three more proposed. This meeting was "Borthwick Night" and the display was Australia. Mr. Forbes tabled about twenty pages. These were neatly mounted and written up and some beautiful and rare specimens were shown.

Mr. Nicholson also tabled some pages which were keenly scrutinised.

The annual general meeting takes place in May and members are asked to attend in full force. We are pleased to say Mr. Harmer is recovering from his operation and has left hospital.

The first April meeting was given over to an auction.

Attendance was good, and most of the packets were disposed of.

The meeting held on 18th April was attended by twenty-six members, and owing to Mr. G. K. Forbes being away, Mr. Nicholson took the chair.

It was with pleasure we greeted Mr. Harmer's return, looking fit after his recent operation.

The demand for the new issues from Stanley Gibbons was greater than the supply, so they were drawn for. Gibbons tated they were unable to send larger amounts for the time being.

The rest of the evening was given over to a sale of stamps for war funds, and the pleasing amount of £10 was collected.
L.E.C.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—MR. P. R. GUTSCHE

Hon. Secretary—E. N. RIGG, 103, Kemston Avenue, Benoni.

Meetings—Third Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Hotel Regent, Benoni.

There was a fair attendance at the March meeting.

After the formal business had been dealt with there was an auction of stamps for war funds. Mr. Shepherd acting as auctioneer.

The evening's exhibit was provided by Mr. Legator and was outstandingly comprehensive. It consisted of envelopes and stationery of South Africa; air mails of 1918, post cards "Make your Sixpence Fly" series; experimental air mail covers from various places in South Africa, including the 1½d. ship stamp, and both issues of the South African air mail stamps; various post cards used in South Africa and train letters.

E.N.R.

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—K. ALEXANDER.

Hon. Secretary—S. KAGANSON, 16, Military Road, Tamboer's Kloof, Capetown.

Meetings are held at Medical House, 35, Wale Street, Capetown, on the Second and Fourth Thursdays of the month at 7.30 p.m.

March 23rd, Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie, from Johannesburg was the guest of the evening. The meeting was unfortunately delayed awaiting the arrival of the President, owing to a breakdown in the railway service on the suburban line, and

Mr. W. D. Vallance, Vice-President, took the chair and welcomed the Dr. in his absence. Dr. Pirie brought down his collection of Transvaal locals, representing Rustenburg, Lydenburg, Volksrust, Wolmaransstad, Schewizer Reneks, etc., which he placed on the table for the edification of members, subsequently giving a most interesting and instructive discourse on these stamps. Lt.-Com. Enoch proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Pirie. The President, who had arrived in the meantime also voiced his pleasure at renewing acquaintance with the Dr., reminding him of the narrow escape they all had on their motor trip from Johannesburg to Pretoria to attend the Philatelic Congress, some years ago.

The sale of stamps by public auction on the 23rd March proved a great success and realised £131, which will go to swell the funds of the Society's efforts. The Liberty Cavalcade at Green Point Common, 25th March to 1st April, was a wonderful effort and no doubt the Society's aim to reach the £500 mark will be more than realised.

April 13th. K. Alexander in the chair. Mr. B. L. Cock was scheduled to display what he described "a Philatelic Medley," but gave way when it was known that Mr. F. J. H. Lang, President of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society was on a visit to Capetown, and had brought down his Rhodesian collection which he was prepared to exhibit. Had our Secretary been able to notify members of the changed arrangements in time, there would no doubt have been a very much larger attendance, although the hall was well filled.

The great feature of Mr. Lang's display was that the stamps were all in perfect mint condition and practically complete with the exception of a few of the great rarities, such as the Bulawayo Provisionals of 1896, e.g., the 3d. on 5/- with the T of three inverted, although he showed a fine block of four this issue. The 4d. Cape of Good Hope overprinted "British South Africa Company, but with the word Company missing. Mr. Lang hoped to capture these very elusive stamps at some future date. He had a full range of the 1891 issue showing the large overprint ½d., 2d., 4d., and 8d. There were also many blocks of four and larger blocks of various other issues. The Victoria Falls set overprinted "Specimen" was rather interesting. Then there were many of the arms type overprinted "Rhodesia" with various errors, such as "no stop" after Rhodesia and imperforate between, etc. The double-head issue of 1910-16 was particularly fine and included all the "Gash" errors. The admiral type, dies one two and three, made a fine show, and were much admired; they included many of the imperforated between varieties. The £1 values of this issue, showing the various shades in violet and purple were outstanding. Captain Jacobs proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the exhibitor and expressed the pleasure it had given him to view his collection, and he felt sure he was expressing the sentiments of all present. Mr. Simenhoff and Mr. Alexander also expressed their thanks and admiration at the display. Mr. Lang expressed his pleasure at being able to show his stamps and be amongst philatelists, also renewing his acquaintances with old friends and assured members that if at any time they visited Johannesburg, a warm well come would be accorded them.

W.A.

NATAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. L. BEVIS.

Hon. Secretary—G. MILNER PALMER, Box 588, Durban.

Meetings—1st and 3rd Wednesdays, London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street (top floor) 7.30 p.m.

At our March meeting we elected two new members.

Our auction was well supported and we raised £3 for the Victoria League. Mr. J. Lyle showed his collection of Australia and read a few notes.

April Meeting.—The chairman asked all present to stand as a token of sympathy in regard to the death of Mr. E. S. Phillips. Two new members were elected.

The chairman drew members attention to the undesirable practice of smoking while inspecting exhibits, as it endangered valuable stamps which might be damaged by ashes. An interesting article entitled "News from Africa," by Mr. P. C. Bishop was read from the *Stamp Collectors Fortnightly*. Mr. H. Schroder showed a selection from his collection of covers entitled "Souvenir and Commemorative Covers and Stamps of the U.S.A. and Other Countries," and read a few notes. Mr. L. Petiet also showed selected covers from his collection of U.S.A. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to both.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. WATSON.

Hon. Secretary—S. F. FOWLER, Box 168, East London.

Meetings—Colosseum Building, Second Fridays, at 7.45 p.m.

One of the most successful annual general meetings was held on 14th April, twenty-six members and visitors being present. Mr. Hampson presided and, after the usual preliminaries, called for nominations for the various offices, which resulted in Mr. Andrew Watson being elected President for the ensuing year, Mr. S. F. Fowler retaining the secretaryship. The committee was completed by the inclusion of Messrs. Paviour and Lazarus.

(Concluded on page 55)

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Vol 20. No. 6.

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Whole No. 231.

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UNION AND S.W.A. NOTES

Following on the information given in our March issue, here are notes supplied by the Post Office authorities in respect of printings of postage stamps, etc., carried out during the period 8th January to 17th April, 1944.

(a) War Postage Stamps

1d.—Job No. 1776. A total of 190,000 sheets of 360 stamps each delivered subsequently to 26.8.43 on an order for 250,000. Cylinder 40 as before.

1d.—Job No. 1777. A total of 152,500 sheets of 360 stamps each delivered subsequently to 21.10.43 on an order for 250,000. Cylinder 6,922 as before.

2d.—Job No. 6192/8646. 1,200,000 sheets of 240 stamps ordered but none yet delivered.

3d.—Job No. 8762. 2,000 sheets x 360 delivered subsequently to 13.4.44 on an order for 75,000. Cylinder 7014 as before.

6d.—Job No. 6198/8047. 54,270 sheets x 240 delivered subsequently to 9.2.44 on an order for 50,000. Cylinder 6916 as before.

1s.—Job No. 6199/8648. 81,600 sheets x 240 delivered subsequently to 2.3.44 on an order for 80,000. Cylinder 46 as before.

1s. 3d.—Job No. 8649. 20,000 sheets x 240 delivered subsequently to 21.3.44 on an order for 15,000. Cylinder 37 as before.

(b) Union Postage Stamps

2s. 6d.—Job No. 8650. 16,800 sheets x 60 delivered on 14.3.44 on an order for 15,000. Cylinders 27 and 7017 as before.

5s.—Job No. 8651. 5,000 sheets x 60 delivered on 14.3.44 on an order for 4,000. Cylinders 41 and 6929 as before.

(c) Roll Stamps

3d.—Job No. 3034. A total of 1,077 rolls x 500 stamps and 1,559 rolls x 1,000 delivered between 14.9.43 and 18.1.44. Cylinder 6911 as before.

1d.—Job No. 9038. 4,822 rolls x 500 delivered between 2.9.43 and 14.12.43. Cylinder 16, new.

Job No. 6193. 500 rolls x 500 and 840 rolls x 100 delivered on 7.3.44. Cylinder 16 as before.

(d) Postage Due Stamps

1d.—Job No. 10,013. 14,100 sheets x 60 delivered on 28.3.44. Cylinder 50 as before.

2d.—Job No. 8656. 60,600 sheets x 60 delivered on 28.3.44. Cylinder 7,021 as before.

(e) Official Stamps

2d.—Job No. 10,034. 1,000 sheets x 120 of Union postage stamps supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted "Official—Offisicël" on flat bed machine from old forme. Delivered on 14.3.44.

(f) Active Service Letter Cards

3d.—Job No. 3032. A final delivery on this order, totalling 4,414,800 cards. Cylinder 59 as before.

Job No. 14. A further order has been placed for 5,000,000. It is reported that a new cylinder, No. 80, is in use, but no deliveries have yet been received.

(g) Pictorial Inland Postcards

1d.—Job No. 3,036. 1,257,680 postcards have up-to-date been delivered on this order. Cylinders 86 and 87 as before.

(h) Overprinted S.W.A.

Job No. 33,037. Sheets supplied by P.M.G. and overprinted on flat bed machine from old forme, 25.1.44: 1d., 3,000 sheets x 360; 2d., 5,000 sheets x 240; 6d., 1,500 sheets x 240.

A correction has to be made to the information given in our March issue in connection with Job No. 32,238, 1s. overprinted S.W.A. in small letters. The overprinting was done with a completely new forme with 240 slugs.

VARIETIES.

Mr. R. E. J. Currell writes: I find (1) that although the Natal Society's catalogue says the shuttered window variety of the 3d. "Groote Schuur" stamp was *not* corrected, I have a copy where the fault *has* been corrected.

(2) The same catalogue says that in the "broken yoke-skey" variety of the 5s. stamp the missing top of the skey is to be found in the left-hand value tablet (adhering to the top of the 5 according to Gilbert.—Ed.). In my copy the broken piece is *above* the value tablet.

(3) I have a copy of the S.W.A. 1½d. Official with the foot of an L broken off, so that it looks like a figure "1".

(4) I also have an S.W.A. 2d. official with the S.W.A. misplaced to the right so that the S is under the I of "Offisieel" instead of under the F. Why doesn't Gibbons mention this? It appears to me to be a better variety than, say, an overprinted C being called an O, or, as above, a broken L being called a 1.

Dr. E. Mosely submits specimens of two minor varieties of the bantam 1d. One, he terms the "Corporal Nurse" as there is a mark on the right sleeve very suggestive of a corporal's stripes; the other, not quite so apt, he states has been called the "bleeding heart"—there is a small red mark on the chest, but anatomically it is on the high side for the heart. Both flaws are constant and each occurs twice in a sheet.

Mr. H. W. James, of Cradock, reports that he recently acquired a coil of 1d. stamps which did not show the recurrent flaws reported last month, but it had another peculiarity, in that the perforations were almost missing all down the right-hand side. A ½d. coil showed two small flaws recurring every 22 stamps; No. 1 showing a green dot to the left of the springbok's head and No. 4 a green stripe running through the right ear and horns, also a small green dot to the left of the nose.

Mr. A. Lichtenstein writes in connection with "adjustment of the comb perforator" and Mr. Roberts' statement "this occurs on bantams with bisecting roulettes, but not, of course, on trisected roulettes." Why "of course?" It does occur on the trisects, as well as on any Pretoria roto productions, including even such items as Postage Dues, Savings Bank stamps, etc.

He also notes a constant flaw in the 3d. + 3d. Voortrekker Fund stamp of 1938 which does not seem to have been reported before. This is a white dot in the left centre of the large arch of the monument, looking almost like a bright light or lamp. This occurs on stamp 3 of row 6 and is present also, of course, on the S.W.A. overprints.

AIR MAILS.

It was officially announced that an air-mail service for letters and postcards to Great

Britain and Ireland was re-started on 23rd May. Rates 1s. 3d. per ½ oz. for letters and 7½d. for postcards.

Normally the mail will go all the way by air, but it is possible that sometimes it will have to be transferred to surface routes in the last stages of the journey.

A service from Britain cannot be arranged yet.

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S LIBERTY CAVALCADE LABELS.

In their very successful drive for funds at the Cavalcade the Society fairly spread itself in the way of philatelic mementoes. They had single "stamps" on sale for some time before the Cavalcade at 1d. each, with lettering and design in blue on an orange-yellow background. The top right has the wording "The Cape Town Philatelic Society 1944" and the bottom right "1d." In the bottom left is the emblem of the cavalcade, an inverted horse-shoe through which is jumping a winged Pegasus with the rider carrying a torch whose rays radiate over the stamp.

At the Cavalcade itself they had miniature sheets with from 1d. stamps and inscribed margins, on sale at their exhibit. These proved very popular and, at 6d. or sometimes 1s. per sheet, the issue was completely sold out.

Mr. A. H. Sydow was responsible for the designing of the sheets, along with Mr. J. Goodman, the designer of the Belgian Congo Monument stamps of 1941. There was a plate 1 and a plate 2, the colours of both being blue and brown, but plate 2 was blue where plate 1 was brown, and vice versa. The motif in each stamp was the same as in the single "stamps," although varying in details of arrangement.

Plate 1 was printed from line-block and the first lot were run off without the plate number. To meet the demand stereos were made from the line-block and used simultaneously for printing plate 2.

Mr. Sydow notes that he had the pleasant experience of doing some of the printing and perforating personally.

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HARMER'S AUCTIONS.

Judging from prices realised at some recent sales, New York would appear to be the place at present in which to buy and London in which to sell. Here are some items with two prices, firstly, the catalogue or estimated cash value, and, secondly, the figure realised:— — *New York*

Cape 1d. Woodblock, 125 dollars, 86 dollars.

Cape 5s. C.A., 200 dollars, 51 dollars.

Cape ½d. on 3d. C.A., variety "Enny," 200 dollars, 20.50 dollars.

Vryburg, set of 4, 77 dollars, 36 dollars.

A batch of Transvaal-Cape combination covers, estimated values, 20 to 75 dollars each, fetched 15 to 50 dollars.

Natal K.E. £1, 50 dollars, 22 dollars.

London

B.E.A. on India 5 r., double opt., £35, £29.

B.E.A. 50 r. 1897, £35, £35.

Natal £1 10s., £50, £36.

Rhodesia £1 error of colour, block of 4, £180, £175.

St. Helena 15s. used, £25, £26.

Zululand Postal Fiscal 1s. imperf., £25, £24.

"NATAL STAMPS"

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to buy for cash. Highest prices paid for fine copies of all early embossed stamps, and full face engraved Queens in any amount, mint or used. Also later high values, errors, varieties and numeral cancellations Nos. 3 to 84.



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455 West Street,

DURBAN

CORSICA.

This island has the honour of issuing, early in this year, under the auspices of the National Committee of Liberation, the first stamp of liberated France. It is a 1 fr. 50 stamp with the head of "Marianne" (France) taking the place of the former stamp of that denomination with the portrait of Petain. Further values are probably on issue by now.

E. BLUM

P.O. BOX 1669

CAPE TOWN

recommends his services to Dealers and Collectors alike for Selling and Buying stamps from all countries. Price List now ready and can be sent to applicants free on demand. Collections and Accumulations bought for spot cash. Highest prices paid. Established in South Africa since 1930. First class references.

M.E.F. "COMBINATION COVERS."

Mr. T. A. Harper, of Port Elizabeth, writes: "Apparently any combinations of stamps are accepted at Army Post Offices provided they make up the full required rate of postage. In addition to those chronicled in your January and April numbers, I have the following combinations made up to cover air mail rates":—

South Africa, New Zealand, Great Britain and Egypt.

South Africa, New Zealand, Great Britain, Australia and Egypt.

South Africa, Great Britain, New Zealand, India and 50 c. Italy.

South Africa, Great Britain and Italian Libya.

It might be mentioned here incidentally, that we have recently been shown a cover sent from a South African soldier serving in the Western Desert in 1916 which was a "combination cover" of the same type, the stamps on the covers being mixed South African, British and Egyptian. The post mark was "Field Post Office/S.A.1."

WANTED TO BUY

All types of African stamps, mint and used, especially Empire and Foreign Colonies. Prompt settlement by cash, mint current Australian stamps at face, or used ditto at wholesale rates, as desired. Fair prices please.

S. G. Walton. (Member A.P.T.A.),
Canley Vale, N.S.W., Australia.

A.M.G.O.T. OVERPRINTS.

From the reopening of the Naples post office on 10th December, 1943, there were put in use Italian stamps (20, 35 and 50c) overprinted "Governo Militaire Alleato"; their life, however, was very short as they became obsolete as from 19th January. They were used only on civilian correspondence within the Naples area.

The American printed regular A.M.G.O.T. stamps are still, apparently, only in use in Sicily, not on the occupied mainland of Italy.

Blue Mafeking Stamps With Watermark

A DISCOVERY.

By DR. K. FREUND.

The description given generally in catalogues and literature for the paper of the blue Mafeking Siege stamps (S.G. 17-23) is: "Plain laid paper," "unwatermarked." That this description is not quite exact, shall be explained below. Before describing the actual newly discovered watermark, a few explanatory remarks are necessary with regard to the class of paper used for the "blue" stamps, which is not at all "plain laid."

I. LAID PAPER BATONNE.

The "laid paper" on which the "blue" stamps were printed, shows the usual watermarked lines "horizontal" at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from each other (the knowledge of this measurement is important for the discovery of photo-lithographed forgeries on different paper).

Altogether overlooked until now has been the fact, that *vertical lines* are crossing the "horizontally laid" lines at an average distance of 25 mm. from each other, thus:



The distance of these vertical lines is sometimes slightly more, sometimes slightly less than 25 mm.

As can be seen, the majority of stamps must fall on such a vertical line, and indeed most stamps show it quite pronounced at the back, "at left," "centre," or "at right."

The technical term for this class of paper with parallel lines some distance apart is "*Batonné*." Catalogues should specify it as that, in order to be exact and to point out the frequent (watermarked) vertical line.

II. THE ORIGINAL PAPER SHEETS.

From the fact that the paper is "laid batonné," conclusions can be drawn as to its source and as to the original size of the paper sheets.

In this regard, no definite information, official or otherwise, has been given yet. The opinion of B. W. H. POOLE (S.A. Provisional War Stamps, 1901, p. 36) and of the late Major W. J. HARRINGTON ("S.A. Philatelist," July, 1938, p. 100, and February, 1941, p. 21), that the paper was "specially manufactured in Mafeking," is without foundation as there were no paper mills in the whole of Southern Africa at that time. The

late siege postmaster and a siege printer's assistant, with both of whom I correspond, had no recollection of particulars about the original paper sheets.

Now, the statement that the paper is "laid batonné" gives us the likely solution. Mr. A. Lichtenstein, to whom I am indebted for valuable assistance in the study of the 1d. "Bicycle" stamp, has rightly pointed out to me that such paper is generally used only for legal documents or for better class stationery, the vertical lines serving as guidelines when writing. There must have been stocks of such legal document sheets in the besieged town. The authorities took these sheets over and used them as the printing paper for the stamps, after treating and "sensitizing" the paper for the photographic ferro-prussiate process.

The fact that this class of document paper has invariably a papermaker's watermark indicating the class or type of paper concerned, gave me the idea of examining the blue Mafeking stamps for traces of such a watermark.

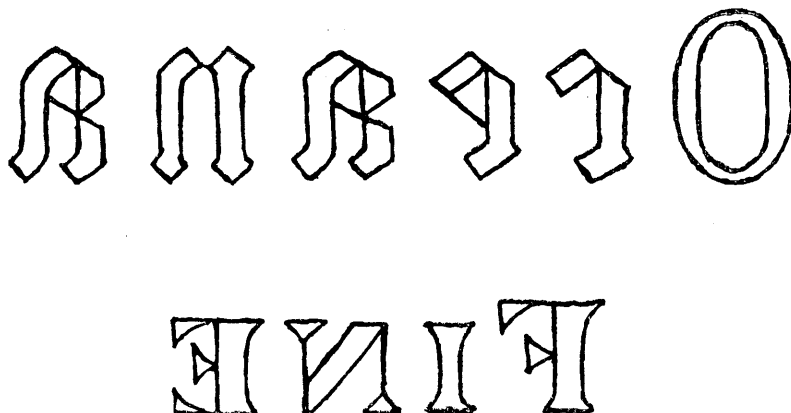
III. THE WATERMARK "OCEANA FINE."

By scrutinising the backs of blue Mafeking stamps, one can indeed find, in a few instances, traces or even parts of watermarked letters. In rare cases, complete letters appear watermarked on a stamp.

A papermaker's watermark is in general of large design, covering a space equal to a number of stamps. Owing to the lack of information and to the scarcity of bigger blocks, there was some difficulty in finding out and reconstructing the complete original watermark.

I was fortunate enough to succeed in reconstructing with single stamps, in "jig-saw puzzle" style, the complete watermark, which, seen from the back of stamps, looks as follows:

The top word "OCEANA" is in old English Outline, the letters being $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high, except for the "O" which is 23 mm. high; the overall length is $4\frac{1}{16}$ in. (10.3 cm.). The bottom word "FINE" is in Roman Capital Outline, the "F" being 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. and the other letters being 11 mm. high; the overall length is $2\frac{1}{4}$ ins. (5.6 cm.).



The class of paper concerned was usually put on the market in sheets of double foolscap size, with the watermark appearing once in every foolscap part. Thus, only some of the stamp sheets, consisting of 12 stamps (3 rows of 4), fell on a watermarked portion of the paper.

The position of the watermark is naturally varying with every sheet on which it does appear. In the majority of cases, it seems either to have started somewhere in the bottom row only, or to have finished just in the top row of stamps.

Comparing the original foolscap size with the size of the stamp sheets, and according to my experience, I would say that about 8 per cent. of the blue Mafeking stamps will show parts of the watermarked letters. Complete letters on a stamp, as already mentioned, are very rare.

So far I have seen the watermark normal and inverted, but never reversed.

As the watermark is only an occasional one, the blue Mafeking issues are correctly described in catalogues as principally having "no watermark." But it is of great importance to know that a watermark actually exists and frequently appears in the form of parts of certain letters as described.

For, in contrast to "printer's imprints," which have become lately such desirable and collectable items, but which appear mostly on sheet margins only, our watermark appears in the stamps, being, so to say, a substantial part of them. And what is still more important, those small parts of watermarked letters, when discovered on a stamp, are an excellent "certificate" for its genuineness.

The new FALKLANDS DEPENDENCIES issues

The current stamps of Falkland Islands, ½d. to 1s. (8 values), have been overprinted for *each* of the following places:

GRAHAM LAND, SOUTH GEORGIA, SOUTH ORKNEYS, SOUTH SHETLANDS
(see May *S.A. Philatelist*, page 54).

We can supply the four complete mint sets (32 stamps in all) for 17s. the lot, registered post free. Blocks of four for 67s. Country cheques to include 6d. bank charge; postal orders should not be crossed.

Our stock of current mint British Empire sets is the largest and our prices the lowest in Africa. Send list of countries in which you are interested, stating whether short sets to 1s. or complete sets are wanted, and we will fill in our prices and return list. Blocks of four can also be supplied.

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ETHIOPIA.

From 4th-12th November there were put on sale a limited number of the current stamps overprinted with the word "Obelisk" in English and Amharic, the occasion being the unveiling of a statue of liberty by the Emperor.

It is stated that stamps of a new design are under consideration. These will probably be of the size of British stamps and will include dollar values and an air mail series.

S. RHODESIA.

The leading British catalogues only give one perforation (14) for the first issue of this country. The Check List published by the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia in 1932 gives some varieties, but Mr. W. G. Nodder ("Stamp Collecting," 18th March) finds there are a good many more, particularly if quarter-perfs. are taken into consideration. This article should be consulted for details.

Review

The Handstruck Letter Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope from 1792 to 1853, and the Postmarks from 1853 to 1910; by A. A. Jurgens. Printed by the Cape Times, Ltd., Cape Town, and published by subscription.

The fame of Mr. Jurgens' work preceded it. Philatelists, whether specially interested in Cape stamps or not, knew that a work of vital importance was in the making as an outcome of long years of patient study and research. It may be said without fear of contradiction that the result more than justifies one's anticipations. This is a book that must take high rank among those which have been called into being by the romantic history of the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope.

Among its several forewords, the commendation of General Smuts, like that of Mr. Lenton, the out-going P.M.G. of the Union, provides pleasant testimony from a non-philatelist. A great deal more to our purpose as philatelists is the "Introduction," by Dr. L. B. Goldschmidt, F.R.P.S., who remarks that in this study of letter-stamps of the pre-Rowland Hill era "one finds oneself in a field where the adhesive label that we now call a 'stamp' has been preceded by other marks, more verily stamps, as they were made by 'stamping' a sign on the mis-sive with an implement designed for that purpose."

There is food for thought in this for all those collectors — and probably they still comprise a large majority of the philatelic community — who contend that "the adhesive stamp's the thing" and they will have none other. It was because of this perhaps rather narrow view that a stamp is not a stamp unless it is a gummed label that we threw overboard as collectable objects all stamped stationery, abandoning these things in common with all, or nearly all, local issues. Only when a handstruck stamp is known to have fetched some spectacular figure — e.g., the first issue of Bermuda — only when a local has some special background of history, as in the case of the "Lady McLeod" of Trinidad, is it suffered to retain its catalogue status.

Yet every true specialist of this or that country or colony feels in his bones that he must collect or attempt to collect everything, frank or postmark, adhesive stamp or non-adhesive, that has played its part in the transmission of mail matter from place to place. And such philatelists are growing rapidly in numbers. We have evidence of it in the success attending the Robson Lowe "postal history" auction sales in London with their indication of a keen pursuit of postal objects that ante-date the era of the adhesive label.

Mr. Jurgens goes back to the very beginning of postal communications at the Cape by describing and picturing the stones

erected by the early navigators that served as the primitive posting boxes of the period. Passing to the first actual stamping of letters at the Cape in 1792, it is noted that there had been handstruck stamps on letters from the Dutch East India Company three years before that time. These carried a species of monogram of the letters "V.O.C.," an abbreviation of "De Vereenigde Nederlandsche Geocroyeerde Oost-Indische Compagnie." From here onwards there is a sequential story of the postal history of the Cape during the first British occupation, the Batavian Republic, and the second British occupation, with particular attention to such milestones of postal development as the first dated letter-stamp, the first official letter-stamps or "franks," the issues (unofficial) of postmasters' private stamps and the cachets of forwarding agents. Throughout these chapters the illustrating is of a more lavish character than any similar work has attempted, and a vast deal of matter, both in letterpress and pictures, now sees the light of day for the first time.

And so the story is told in Mr. Jurgens' Part I down to the time when the first adhesive stamps, the ever famous Triangulars, made their appearance on the scene.

Part II (1853-1910) covers the period with which the average philatelist is mainly concerned. Apart from historical interest, this section of the work, although it deals primarily with postmarks as distinct from stamps, is the more valuable. It reveals, more strikingly than any philatelic work the writer has seen, how important can be the interplay between the stamp and the cancellation it carries. Here, as in Part I, there is a vast deal of new matter, the product of much delving into archives and official records — so often, as Jurgens more than once laments, woefully incomplete. Among its illustrations — thanks to a recent relaxation of regulations, permitting reproductions of postage stamps in colour, so long as they be obsolete issues — we are given illustrations of the sheets of the historic "woodblock" in as nearly as possible the red of the penny and the pale blue of the fourpence value.

Mr. Jurgens has been fortunate in his helpers and collaborators. He gives generous acknowledgment to all. Particularly he gives thanks to Dr. Harvey Pirie for advice on the practical side of book-production, and to Dr. Goldschmidt, of Cape Town, and to Dr. P. J. Venter, of the Cape Archives Department, "without whose assistance the work might never have reached finality." Yet when all is said and done, it is the patient research extending over many years and the indomitable enthusiasm animating its author that have triumphed over all difficulties, and hearty congratulations will be extended to Mr. A. A. Jurgens for a very notable work.

P.C.B.

COLLECTORS' WANTS AND OFFERS

(Twopence per word per insertion with minimum of 2/- per insertion)

Seychelles and Sierra Leone fine used copies wanted. Particularly Edward and George. High prices willingly paid.

William Redford, Box 7012, Johannesburg.

Collections Wanted to Buy.—Old and Modern Collections, Single Rarities and Errors, Duplicates and Office Mixtures.

Prompt cash on acceptance of offer: E. M. Lacy (Globe Postage Stamp Co.), 117 Longmarket Street, Cape Town.

Australia, send 50 different South African Stamps and receive 50 different Australian in return.

C.A. Brown, Box 12, Lidcombe, N.S.W., Australia.

Basutoland: Wanted covers, or stamps postmarked in Basutoland before 1910.

Harding, Box 108, Ladybrand.

Wanted: Capes, Transvaals, Free State, Natal, Protectorate, and Rhodesian stamps.

Write: A. Neseemann, Box 36, Graaff Reinet.

Liberia: Wanted collection, sets or single stamps.

Angus Bennett, Box 733, Cape Town.

Transvaal, Griqualand West, O.F.S. covers and rarities wanted by A. E. Basden, Box 238, Pretoria.

For Service, promptness and satisfaction.

Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni. Phone 54-1692.

All South African Stamps wanted, Wholesale quantities.

S. Curtis & Co., Ashhurst, New Zealand.

Mr. E. Tamsen, Box 13, Nylstroom, offers Blocks of South African Colonies and Union, also full range of Entires.

Wanted: Gibbons catalogues whole world edition or 2 parts 1939, ditto 1941. Gibbons Stamp Monthly's years 1942 and 1943—24 numbers. State price to A. R. Sheard, Box 497, Lourenco Marques.

Wanted: French Equatorial Africa Free French overprints 4c olive (red) ditto (black), 30c green (red), 30c blue (red), 50c chocolate (red), 1f blue-green (red), 1.75 blue (black), 10f violet (black), 3.75 air, 10/2.50 air. Loxley Chamings, 97 Church Street, Klerksdorp.

A FREE FRENCH CAMEROON ERROR.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., report having come into the possession of sixty copies of the 50c green and carmine Free French issue of 1940 with the overprint "Cameroun Francais, 27.8.40" inverted. This is part of a sheet of seventy-five and of the remaining fifteen, twelve were sold in cheap packets as normals. The sixty are being offered at £12 each so long as the supply lasts. There should be twelve lucky purchasers of packets.

MOZAMBIQUE.

Supplies of the large 1938 stamps appear to be running short, for letters are now coming through with the small "Lusiad" stamps of 1933, especially from Beira, where, of course, these stamps were not formerly valid for use as it was in the Mozambique Company's domain.

RECENT PRINTINGS OF AFRICAN COLONIALS.

"Stamp Collecting" reports that the Crown Agents have now released "recent printings" (no longer called "reprints") of Nyasaland and other African colonies. Here are the details:

Nyasaland

Original printings 1938, creamy paper and gum, perf. 12½ (except 5s. p. 14).

New printings, March, 1944, white paper and gum, perf. 12½ x 12½ (except 1s., which remains 12½, and 5s. p. 14).

1d., 1½d. and 2d. are in the December, 1942, colours.

3d. is a slightly brighter blue.

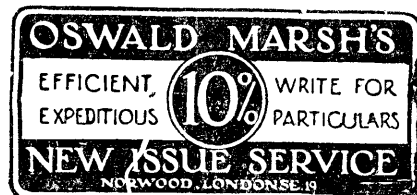
4d. and 6d., colours as before.

9d. a deeper shade.

1s. orange, instead of reddish orange.

5s. (a De La Rue product, others being Waterloo and Sons) changed from green and red on yellow to deep green and carmine on thin paler yellow paper.

(To be continued).



Notes on the Union and S.W.A. Large War Issues

By A. LICHTENSTEIN

August 1st, 1941, saw the first value of the "large" war issue being put into circulation. It was the 3d., in the familiar "Women's contribution to the War Effort" design, printed in blue. This stamp was followed by the other denominations of this series in the order and on the dates following, viz.:

4d. Chestnut (Coastal Defence Artillery), August 28th, 1941.

6d. Orange (Steel Welder at work), September 3rd.

2d. Violet (Seaward Defence Force), September 15th.

1d. Carmine (Nursing and Medical Services), October 3rd.

1s. Dark brown (Tank Corps), October 27th.

3d. Bright green (Infantry), November 19th.

1½d. Bottle-green (Air Force), January 12th, 1942.

Out of this total of eight denominations, two (i.e., the 2d. and 1s.) were bilingual stamps, the other six being arranged alternately in English and Afrikaans on each sheet; and with the sole exception of the 6d. value, all unilingual stamps start with an Afrikaans stamp first on the sheet. The watermark is "multiple Springbok's head" upright on the ½d., 1d., 1½d., 3d. and 1s. values and sideways (with horns pointing to the right) on the 2d., 4d. and 6d. The perforation is 14 all round for the 2d., 4d. and 6d., and 14½ x 14½ for the other five values. I have not heard of any values existing with inverted watermark, nor of any "joined sheets," though the latter are likely to exist. A "hardy annual" cropping up every now and then in the overseas philatelic press is the "smaller" stamp variety, sometimes offered by enterprising dealers as a "rare" variety. This "smaller" stamp is common to all Union rotary printed stamps (it also occurs on the recent Matabeleland Commemorative of S. Rhodesia) in one row of practically every sheet; the only exception being those few sheets on which the perforating machine registers exactly at the starting and finishing points. Usually there appears to be a minute shrinkage of the paper—about ¼ to 1mm. over the length of a sheet—resulting in the perforations gradually getting out of register with the stamp design. To correct this misalignment, the perforating mechanism is adjusted to give proper centering, and as the perforating is done while the stamp sheets are still in roll form (prior to being cut up into sheets), this adjustment is found in different positions on different values and printings.

I have found the "smaller" stamps in the:

marginal stamps; 1d. in row 10, and on the "blank" marginal stamps; 1½d. in rows 9, and 10, and on the "blank" marginal stamps; 2d. in row 10 (vertical); 3d. in row 9; 4d. and 6d. in row 11 (vertical); 1s. in row 13. They can probably be found in other rows of sheets from printings other than those which I have examined. It should be borne in mind that these "smaller" stamps exist on all other Union stamps printed by roto-gravure since 1932, and they have been reported from time to time in these columns, e.g., on page 123 of the November, 1942, issue.

To revert to our "large" war issue, according to official figures published in the "S.A. Philatelist," the following numbers have been printed and issued (there are no remainders!), and it may be appropriate at this stage to attempt an analysis and tabulation of these figures. Details of printings are published quarterly only, and the allocation of printings to the different colours of the ½d. and 4d. values has been made on this basis, which is the only guide we have. The colours, or rather colour changes, were made deliberately with express purpose of eliminating certain yellow or orange pigments used in the preparation of the ink; they are not mere shade variations which are liable to occur with printings running into hundreds of thousands of sheets, and they are therefore eligible to catalogue rank.

Let us take each denomination in their order of value:

½d.: First printing (Oct.-Dec., 1941), bright yellow green, 112,000 sheets; second printing (Jan.-March, 1942), deep blue green, 121,500 sheets; third printing (April-June, 1942), pale greenish blue, 111,400 sheets.

1d.: Four printings, totalling 312,200 sheets. No material difference in colour, except that later printings are more rose than carmine, and paler.

1½d.: Three printings, totalling 351,500 sheets, the later printings here, too, being paler.

2d.: One printing only, of 48,500 sheets.

3d.: Two printings, totalling 116,300 sheets; no shades worth mentioning.

4d.: First printing July-Sept., 1941, bright chestnut, 45,250 sheets; second printing April-June, 1942, chocolate, 17,400 sheets.

6d.: One printing of 63,500 sheets.

1s.: One printing of 78,300 sheets.

To arrive at the exact totals of "numbers issued," it is necessary to deduct from the foregoing figures the sheets overprinted for S.W.A. which are as follows, viz.:

½d. bright green (1,400), blue-green (1,000), pale greenish blue (5,000).

1d. (shades), 7,250 sheets.

- 1½d. (shades), 8,150 sheets.
 2d., 2,650 sheets.
 3d., 2,420 sheets.
 4d., chestnut (1,420), chocolate (1,000).
 6d., 2,450 sheets.
 1s., 2,010 sheets.

As the unit for philatelic purposes is a pair of stamps for all values excepting the 2d. and 1s., we now arrive at the following illuminating tabulation for the Union large war stamps, viz.:

- ½d., bright green, 110,600 sheets of 120 pairs.
 ½d., blue green, 120,500 sheets of 120 pairs.
 ¾d., pale blue, 106,400 sheets of 120 pairs.
 1d. red (shades), 304,950 sheets of 120 pairs.
 1½d. bottle-green, 342,950 sheets of 120 pairs.
 2d., violet, 44,850 sheets of 120 singles.
 3d., blue, 113,880 sheets of 60 pairs.
 4d., chestnut, 43,830 sheets of 60 pairs.
 4d., chocolate, 16,400 sheets of 60 pairs.
 6d., orange, 61,050 sheets of 60 pairs.
 1s., deep brown, 76,290 sheets of 120 singles.

It will be seen that the "star turn" of this issue is the 4d. chocolate (i.e., the second colour), and also it will be surprising to many to note the relatively small printing of the 2d. value.

While all denominations (both Union and S.W.A.) are issued primarily for regular postal duty, it is worth noting that the 3d. and 1s. values were used very extensively for other purposes, which tend to reduce philatelic holdings to a considerable extent. I am referring to the 3d. being used in large quantities for petrol licences, and the 1s. for telegrams. Both usages have to be considered when one tries to assess the relative scarcity of individual denominations. It is therefore not unlikely that the 3d. and 1s. will eclipse the 4d. chocolate in actual degree of rarity in time to come.

In my opening paragraph, I gave the dates of issue of the various values, and I am now appending the "closing dates," with a "period of currency" table. For all practical purposes, the date of issue of the "Bantams" can be taken as the closing date of the preceding large types, although undoubtedly stocks of individual values were obtainable at various P.O.'s after the dates following. They are:

- ¾d. (all colours), issued Nov., 1941, superseded Oct., 1942: 11 months.
 1d., issued Oct., 1941, superseded Jan., 1943: 15 months.
 1½d., issued Jan., 1942, superseded Aug., 1942: 7 months.
 2d., issued Sept., 1941, superseded March, 1943: 18 months.
 3d., issued Aug., 1941, superseded Oct., 1942: 14 months.
 4d. (both colours), issued Aug., 1941, superseded Oct., 1942: 14 months.
 6d., issued Sept., 1941, superseded Oct., 1942: 13 months.

1s., issued Oct. 1941, superseded Nov., 1942: 13 months.

Before concluding, I would recommend my readers to study carefully the ridiculously small figures of the S.W.A. printings. I have not the slightest doubt that the time is not far off when dealers and collectors alike will wake up to the facts of the situation, and lament missed opportunities which they had, at the present low price levels.

Acknowledgement: All the figures quoted in the foregoing article have been taken from the quarterly report of printings, as released by the P.O. Publicity Department, and published in the S.A. Philatelist of December, 1941, March, June, August, November, 1942, and subsequent dates in the case of the Bantams.

	s.	d.
RUSSIA: Teheran Conference. set of 2 values. 30 Kop. & 3 Rub, mint, per set	6	0
FREE FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA: 1 fres. green, black overprint, mint or used	@	40 0
FREE FRENCH CAMEROONS: Oeuvres de Guerre. mint, set of 3, per set	126	0
FREE FRENCH LEVANT, set of 9 mint, per set	12	6
Wanted to buy collections of all countries. C.W.O. nett, post free.		

R. OSBORNE

14 Old Arcade, 100 Market Street.
 P.O. Box 6710. JOHANNESBURG.

TIERRA DEL FUEGO.

Recent articles in two numbers of *Stamps* deal with the local issued in 1891 by "King" Popper to frank letters from Tierra del Fuego to the nearest ports in Chile or Argentina. They are translated from articles published in the official organ of the Argentine postal administration.

It seems fairly clear that the postal service these stamps franked was a useful one in places where there was no official service, although apparently the issuing of the stamps was "agin' the law," and hence their short life.

It seems equally clear that these stamps should be listed under Argentina and not under Chile (where Gibbons, and most catalogues, put them). Although most letters with these stamps were sent to Chilean territory and had Chilean stamps added for further postage, the concession granted to Julio Popper came from the Argentine Government and lay in Argentine territory.

V V V V

AUSTRALIA—14 x 14½ Perf.

The 4d., 6d., 9d. and 1s. have now appeared in this new perforation. The 5½d. surcharge has been stated as also having been met, but this has since been contradicted.

LOW PRICES— GOOD VALUES

	s.	d.
8 Basutoland current mint	3	0
8 Basutoland current used	3	0
8 Bechuanaland current mint	3	0
8 Bechuanaland current used	3	0
8 Northern Rhodesia current mint	3	1
9 Nyasaland current mint	4	0
9 Southern Rhodesia current mint	5	4
11 Southern Rhodesia current mint (includes 2d. and 3d.)	5	10
16 South-West Africa pictorials mint ½d. to 1s.	6	3
20 S.W.A. Bantam current mint	7	0
2 S.W.A. current 1s. 3d. Air mint pair	3	0
2 S.A. current 1s. 3d. Air used singles	1	0
8 Swaziland current mint	3	0
8 Swaziland current used	3	0
9 Transjordan 1m to 50m current mint	3	1

Current S.A. supplied at face value plus 12½ per cent. (2s. 6d. per £).

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N. P. GREENHAM

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AUSTRALIANS.

	s.	d.
12 King's Head, etc. 1930/32. 1d. to 2s. used @	2	6
3 Kangaroo 1934. 10s., £1, £2. "Specimen" @	15	0
5 Airmail "2 Hemispheres" 2d. to 1s. 6d. complete @	4	6
4 Sydney Bridge 2d. to 3d., fine used . . @	2	6
3 Victoria Centenary, complete set, fine used @	3	6
3 McArthur do do @	7	6
2 Anzac (Gallipoli) do do @	3	6
3 1941 War Provisionals do do @	3	6
3 South Australia do do @	2	6
3 New South Wales do do @	2	6
4 Imperial Forces do do @	6	6
3 1941 War Provisionals do do @	3	6
22 1937/42 ½d. to 5s. do do @	6	6
1 1938. 10s. "Specimen" @	5	6
11 1937/42. ½d. to 3½d. all mint @	3	6

C.W.O. Post Free.

A. LICHTENSTEIN

P.O. Box 576,
BLOEMFONTEIN, O.F.S.



EGYPT.

Lieut. J. P. Shingler has forwarded the following cutting from the "Egyptian Mail" of 28th April, together with specimens of the commemoration stamp. This is of 10 mill. value, in purple, with a large head and shoulders portrait of the late King Fuad:—

"Egypt commemorates to-day the anniversary of the death of King Fuad, father of King Faruk.

"Eight years ago to-day King Ahmed Fuad died at Kubbah Palace at the age of 68. King Faruk, who was then studying in England, came back to Egypt to become the second King of Egypt at the age of 16.

"H.M. the King will visit his father's tomb at the El-Rifai Mosque this morning. Prayers will be recited this afternoon at the Mosque.

"King Fuad commemoration stamps will be issued to-day, and will be valid for one month. The Postal administration intended issuing 850,000 stamps, but will issue more since collectors have already ordered 650,000."

Information given Mr. Shingler at the Philatelic Bureau of the G.P.O. differed slightly from this. According to the Bureau the issue was of 800,000 only, and the stamps were on sale only for the one day, although valid for one month.

He adds that the Postal Authorities are very sticky about giving out information. No authentic statement has yet been made about the numbers of the Princess Ferial overprints of November last, so it seems unlikely that it will be available soon for the King Fuad memorials. Sales behind the scene of sheets and sheets to speculators appear to be much more important than sales at P.O. counters to the public.

V V V V

U.S.S.R. "TEHERAN" STAMPS.

Mr. Osborne, of Johannesburg, has shown us specimens of the two



U.S.S.R. stamps (30k. and 3r. values) issued in commemoration of the Teheran Conference. The stamps are in slate black with the flags in their appropriate colours. The dedication (free translation) reads "Long live the Anglo-Soviet-American Allied Victory—Stalin."

V V V V

ESSAYS AND PROOFS.

Collectors in the U.S.A. specially interested in Essays and Proofs have gotten together, founded an Essay-Proof Society, and issued No. 1, Vol. 1 of a quarterly magazine "The Essay-Proof Journal" which is to serve as a vehicle for publication of articles dealing with this branch of philately. Clarence W. Brazer is the Editor and S. G. Rich the Business Manager of the journal. It is a very scholarly production and should appeal to specialists in this field.

WANTED

FORMOSA—All 1888 and 1895 issues.

HONGKONG—S.G. 18 - 31 - 96, F1, F2
(or F5) F3 (or F6).

JAPAN—S.G. 80, 449, 452, 460, 461.

LABUAN—S.G. 11, 37, 38, 77, 78, 80, 96,
209, 140, 141, 142.

MONGOLIA—All 1925 - 1926 - 1927 - 1931
issues.

DUTCH INDIES—S.G. 210a, 211a, 211c,
211b, 225, 237, 241, 195, 214a, 251, 253,
254, 347a.

NORTH BORNEO—S.G. 2 - 8 - 9 - 54, - 65,
85, 108, 140, 143, 182, 183, D5, D7, D8,
D11, D15, D44, D49.

TRANSJORDANIA—S.G. 10, 14, 16, 17, 18,
19, D33, D34, D37.

PERIA—S.G. 57, 207, 226, 392, 411, 412,
413, 426, 447, 461, 463, 464, 550, 620, 622,
623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 632,
633, 655, 656, 661, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667,
668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 682, 683, 684,
685, 686, 687, 712a, 714, 714a, 714b, 721,
727, 756, 760, 761, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767,
783, 784, 791, 804, 806, 807, 808, 810, 020,
029, F1, F5.

INDIAN STATES—Many normal issues re-
quired of all Indian Native States up to
1933 issues.

FRENCH COLONIES—A few hundred
normal issues to 1933 required.

PORTUGUESE COLONIES—Many space-
fillers required.

ITALIAN COLONIES—Many space-fillers
required.

ROUMANIA—S.G. 444, 446, 447, 555a, 611,
656, 625a, 673, 674, 705, 710, 700, 701, 702,
703, 731, 732I, 785, 760, 763, 765, 766, 767,
768, 787, 790, C84, C85, C86, C87, C88, C89,
D6, 025, 09, 010, D194, D197.

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Society News

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG
President, F. J. H. Lang; Hon. Secretary, L.
Buchen, Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings, 2nd*
Tuesdays, Public Library, Johannesburg, 7.45 p.m.

April.—In the absence of the President, our Vice-
President, Mr. William Redford, took the chair.

Two new members were elected.

Notes of the month were read by Mr. I. Isaacs.

Mr. L. Buchen conducted the usual monthly auction
of members' contributions, and war funds benefited to
the extent of £4 13s. 9d.

Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie read a paper on the local
stamps of Wolmaransstad, and in his remarks brought
out much new information, a great deal of which he
fortunately was able to secure from the gentleman in
whose house these stamps were actually produced. Dr.
Pirie's paper has been published in the columns of this
magazine.

In commenting on Mr. W. Oppenheim's exhibit of
modern Austrian stamps, Mr. L. Buchen pointed out
that the stamps exhibited spot-lighted the lively history
of Austria during the past generation. Mr. Oppenheim
made a few introductory remarks concerning his in-
teresting exhibit in which he pointed out that many of
the sets of stamps which are now very valuable he
obtained as a lad at face value. He particularly re-
marked about the 10s. Dolfus stamp, a full sheet of
which he requested his mother to purchase for him,
but, alas, before she could do so all of the remaining
stocks of this issue were burnt by the invading Ger-
man troops.

Mr. J. Robertson called our attention to four new
sets of stamps which were to be on sale on April 12th
for use in four of the islands which are classed as
dependencies of the Falkland Islands, but which are,
in fact, several hundred miles away from the main
group. Possibly there may be some bona fide justi-
fication for the issuance of these four new sets, but
in view of the meagre population of these island out-
posts and the indifferent communications existing be-
tween them and the civilised world, it would seem
that the main purpose of these four sets will be to
increase the number of pages in stamp albums.

May.—One new member was elected.

Notes of the month, which included several interest-
ing items from overseas journals, especially the Aus-
tralian Stamp Monthly, were read by Mr. F. E. Ing-
ham.

Auction of new issue and items contributed by
members realised £4 10s. for our War Funds.

There were four Tyro exhibits tabled by Messrs.
H. Schwartz, A. Gladstone, W. G. Davis and D. W.
Sutcliffe. In expressing the thanks of the mem-
bers to the four exhibitors, Mr. Oppenheim expressed
the opinion that the variety and quality of material
exhibited by these four Tyro's was one of the best
we have ever had on any Tyro evening.

Both Mr. H. Schwartz and Mr. D. W. Sutcliffe ex-
hibited stamps of Rhodesia, the latter collection being
more extensive in both mint and used conditions.
However, Mr. Schwartz's exhibit was especially good
considering the fact that he has been collecting these
stamps during the past two years only. Mr. A. Glad-
stone's exhibit consisted of stamps of the U.S.A. and
U.S.S.R., all modern issues mounted on nubian sheets.

Mr. W. G. Davis's exhibit of the stamps of India
and Indians as used abroad was an unusually good
exhibit, and in the opinion of Mr. Oppenheim, de-
served first place among the four collections shown.

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O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; Hon. Secretary,
Mr. R. G. Lyon, Box 702, Bloemfontein; *Meetings,*
3rd Fridays each month, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloem-
fontein. 7.30 p.m.

While all meetings lately have been kept success-
fully informal as far as possible, part of the April
meeting had to be taken up by formal business which
had to be attended to. Amongst other points and
questions settled, it was decided for various reasons,
to start future meetings at 7.30 p.m.

Discussions about philatelic problems took place, and
the question, put forward by a "raw beginner,"
"What is collectable in philately?" was suitably

answered by advanced collectors to the effect that it was one of the fascinations of our hobby to have no rules or limitations and that everybody could collect according to his taste and liking.

The evening's display was provided by Mr. T. Sacks whose collection of Lithuania was a good representation of this country's stamps.

The following syllabus was drawn up for the next few months: May, Mr. H. L. Kaplan (Revenue stamps); June, Flight-Lieut. G. W. Horton (Egyptians) and Mr. A. Scheffer (Holland); July, Dr. K. Freund (25 pages of Mafeking blocks); August, Mr. M. Liss (Free French stamps) and Mr. W. S. Robertson (Basutoland, especially pre-stamp period).

Three new members were enrolled.

+

K.F.

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, K. Alexander; *Hon. Secretary*, S. Kaganson, telephone 5-3092, c/ Sandler Bros., Salt River; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

April 27th.—Mr. Alexander in the chair. Mr. O. Hansen displayed his fine collection of stamps of Denmark. His collection was most representative and contained many rarities. Both early and later issues were strongly represented. An interesting item shown was the 2 ore on 5 ore provisional issued in 1919 and used in Torshavn, Faroe Islands. The whole collection was beautifully mounted and wonderfully written up, Mr. Hansen being a pastmaster in the art of penmanship.

Thursday, 11th May. Mr. K. Alexander in the chair. There was an excellent attendance at our meeting this evening, over 50 members and visitors being present; possibly the change of venue from Medical House may have accounted for the large attendance; or was it Mr. Cock's exhibit which he described as a "Philatelic Medley" which drew the crowd, or merely idle curiosity? Anyway, it was pleasing to see the big audience. The exhibit by Mr. Cock one might almost describe as a "Novelty Display," as he showed a number of sheets with quite unusual items rarely seen at philatelic exhibitions; e.g. stamps in reverse showing various watermarks; also the 2d. Blue British Ivory Head stamps with advertisements, etc., on back, overprints of various countries, off-sets, etc. Then there were sheets of stamps depicting art maps, cathedrals, sport, etc. The stamps of Great Britain overprinted M.E.F. showing both square and round stops, the latter Mr. Cock considered particularly scarce. There were many more interesting stamps shown, and the whole exhibit was quite a remarkable effort. The writing up, or rather, hand-printing, giving details of each sheet of stamps was outstanding. Messrs. Russouw and Ashmead commented on the collection and Mr. Alexander moved a hearty vote of thanks to the exhibitor in most eulogistic terms.

It is pleasing to record that the Society's effort in connection with the "Liberty Cavalcade" resulted in a cheque for the sum of £465 being handed over to the fund after paying incidental expenses so that our aim set for £500 was virtually realised, a grand bit of work of all concerned, and particularly to our very energetic secretary and treasurer.

+

W.A.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. A. Watson; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. F. Fowler, P.O. Box 168, *Meetings*, Colosseum Building, 2nd Fridays, 7.45 p.m.

In spite of the cold and inclement weather, there was a good attendance of both members and visitors at the May meeting. Among the latter we were very pleased to welcome once again our old friend, Mr. A. E. Basden, ex-president of the Pretoria Philatelic Society. He will be a decided acquisition for the period of his stay here.

The usual business matters having been dealt with, various interesting philatelic items were passed round, including pre-stamp English covers, "Tin-can" Mail outfits, etc., following which Mr. Ritter gave a very fine display of Liechtenstein and Australia, the former in particular being most complete and uncommon. Most of the elusive varieties of the Kangaroo and K.G. V issues of Australia were also noticeable.

pence," the re-entry on the 1½d. Centenary of Western Australia, etc.

Following the tea interval, Mr. Courlander exhibited his collection of the rectangular issues of the Cape of Good Hope, practically complete, mint and used. Outstanding items were half a 6d. used with a 1d. single on a piece to make up the 4d. rate; a vertical pair of the "3" on 3d. mint, showing both types of "3"; the 1d. on 2d. with double surcharge; the errors in the early surcharges, including that mystery stamp the 3d. on 4d., but surcharged on the 4d. with the outer line. The last item also had the error "PENC.B."

T.A.H.

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PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. Ferguson; *Hon. Secretary*, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

May 1.—Mr. Ferguson in the chair.

Mr. Hawke reviewed some recent rises in prices of stamps.

Dr. Broom gave a talk on Transvaal varieties. He pointed out that owing to forgeries, reprints and different papers used, Transvaal stamps had been unpopular for a long time, but with the recently published work by Curle and Basden most of the difficulties had been removed. The book described over 60 Transvaals rarer than P.O. Mauritius. If one starts to plate the various issues, the number of varieties becomes much greater. Dr. Broom tabled a fine lot of early Transvaals, including about two dozen types of which he believes there are less than 20 examples in existence and also four or five stamps which are fairly certain to be unique.

May 15.—Mr. Ferguson in the chair.

Mr. Hawke read an extract on the 5s. Commemorative of Australia.

Mr. Oppenheim gave a very instructive talk on some of the cheaper stamps with a financial future. Some stamps, on account of demand or because a smaller number had been issued, not only became valuable, but the sets in which they appeared became more difficult of completion and therefore more valuable also. Mr. Oppenheim went carefully through nearly the whole catalogue of British colonies in this way and showed that there were lots of stamps that would pay to look after.

Dr. Broughton had a nice exhibit of specimen stamps and colour trials.

H.A.W.

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NYASALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. Stevens; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. Anson; *Meetings*, 2nd or 3rd Mondays, Tobacco Auction Rooms, Limbe, 5 p.m.

March 13th.—This was the annual general meeting and was mainly concerned with reports of the Society's financial position and activities and election of office bearers for the ensuing twelvemonth.

April 17th.—The *President* showed sheets of the current 4d. stamp, one of the first printing, one of a later printing with whiter gum and paper. Two new members were elected. Books of stamps for sale were circulated, but attention was drawn to the difficulty of getting selections at the present time.

C.S.

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PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, C. W. Sheffield, P.O. Box 88; *Meetings*, Room 5, City Hall, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

May 18th was our 32nd annual general meeting, with 35 members present.

Reviewing the year's work, it was mentioned that the membership was now 79. War efforts through stamps had raised £400 since outbreak, £168 going to local funds, the rest to British funds through the Lord Mayor of London. There were 11 members on active service and one returned through ill-health. Exchange packets had resulted in sales for the year to an amount of £197. First Tuesdays were "auction and social nights," third Tuesdays for more formal business and exhibits.

Mr. Sheffield had now completed 20 years as *Hon. Secretary*, and a cheque was presented to him as a token of thanks for his services.

After election of office bearers, which was mainly a case of re-election, the meeting terminated.

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South African Railways



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Proprietors and Publishers :

THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Price 6d. REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. Price 6d.

Vol 20. No. 7.

JULY, 1944.

Whole No. 232.

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Subscription: Five Shillings per annum, post free to any part of the World.

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UNION NOTES

Our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Jurgens on his having been elected a Fellow of "The Royal." This is no mere elevation through lapse of time and seniority, but real promotion for merit and good work.

Strictly speaking this, of course, is not a "Union" Note. Albert's spiritual home is in Cape Colony; it is only by force of circumstances beyond his control that physically he has to reside in the Union.

Postal Stationery.

It rather looks as if soon we wouldn't have any. All that could be produced in response to a recent request at the Johannesburg Post Office was small-sized registered envelopes and pictorial postcards.

Mtubatuba Postmarks.

Mr. T. F. Fick, of Bremersdorp, records some interesting quick changes in postmarks at Mtubatuba in 1939. On 25.8.39 there was a double circle mark with name at top and a heavy black bar between circles at the bottom; on 17.9.39 a similar double circle but a blank in place of the heavy bar, and; finally, on 25.9.39 an oval rubber stamp with Post Office—Poskantoor at top, Mtubatuba at bottom date across the centre.

SPANISH "GOYA" REPRINTS.

"Stamps" warns collectors that the private party who now owns the plates of these stamps is making reprints with a lovely selection of errors—imperfs., wrong colours, printed on both sides, etc., etc.

LIVE AND LEARN.

A writer in "Stamps" states that a mother pelican and her hungry brood decorate a new 50c postal tax stamp from Mozambique. This colony, he goes on to say, is conscious of its wild life and proud of its great Kruger National Park. Curiously enough, we are also proud of it in the Union!

O.V.S. POSTALLY USED FISCALS.

In the April issue, Mr. C. Jos. Oberholzer writes, "Regarding the 'Geregistreeerd' boxed cancellations, I cannot understand any collector maintaining that this is a postal cancellation used on registered envelopes, etc. It is nothing of the sort. It is a cancellation used in the Deeds Office in those days. . . ."

A correspondent draws attention to the fact that a boxed "Geregistreeerd" mark does occur on the envelopes of postally registered letters from the O.V.S. of the eighties and nineties. It is a mark which is indistinguishable from the marks found cancelling fiscal stamps on deeds, although it is not, indeed, cancelling stamps, fiscal or postal, but is taking the place of the registered labels of our time.

This occurrence, of course, does not invalidate Mr. Oberholzer's general conclusion that fiscal stamps so cancelled were fiscally used. It might have been possible, however, that the mark was at times used in error actually to cancel stamps on letters, but perhaps, it would be better to wait and see if any such use can actually be proved by specimens.

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REVIEWS

BUYING AND SELLING STAMPS.

The latest overseas mail brought us from two of our regular advertisers the annual reports of their activities for 1942-43. These were respectively Mr. H. R. Harmer, of Bond Street, London (in association with H. R. Harmer, Inc., of New York), and Messrs. Robson Lowe, Ltd., London. It is obvious from reading their reports that stamp sales and auctions are being carried out under many difficulties (stoppage of importation, shortage of staff, shortage of paper, damage by enemy action, etc.), and yet their turnover increases. And as for prices realised—it looks as if all the world, and his wife as well, were investing in stamps!

Messrs. Robson Lowe, Ltd., have ordinary, specialised and Postal History Auction Sales at 50, Pall Mall, London, also sales at Bournemouth every six weeks. Subsidiaries are The Regent Stamp Company, Exchange Clubs, Empire Catalogue and the monthly "Philatelist." Mr. Robson Lowe himself has published recently under the auspices of the Postal History Society a finely illustrated volume entitled "Masterpieces of Engraving," the proceeds from the sale of this go to the Red Cross and St. John Fund.

Some sales during the period under review are: Great Britain, block of six 1d. black on cover, £150; £1 brown lilac of 1867-80, mint, £50; 1935 2½d. Prussian blue, £32. Capes, many, including a Woodblock 4d. vermilion error, good-looking but repaired, £150.

We regret to learn that subsequent to the time covered by this report enemy action has again afflicted Robson Lowe, Ltd. Bombs wrecked their Regent Street offices; now they have "copped" it again in Pall Mall. Fortunately none of the staff were injured and the precautions taken to safeguard the stamps were adequate. There is sufficient of the vaults left to carry on business, although the auctions have had to be transferred to Oddenino's Hotel. Hitler evidently does not like him but, like London, he can take it and carry on.

Mr. H. R. Harmer has moved his London office across the street to 39-42, New Bond Street, where they will carry on their auctions and sales by private treaty as before. Amongst their sales recorded in the resumé the following might be mentioned as of special South African interest:—

Basutoland, officials, 2d. and 6d., vertical pairs of each used on piece, £160;
 Bechuanaland 5s. (S.G. 54), £15 5s.;
 Cape triangulars, several fine items at well over full catalogue prices;
 Lagos 10s. (S.G. 29), £60;
 Nyasaland, K.E. 2d. and 4d. mult. C.A., £440 (a rise from £230 in 1934, when these were last sold).
 St. Helena, 15s. broken flag variety, £38.

Sierra Leone, 1d. 193-41, pair imperf. between £87-10.

It is noted that in their American business shortage of material is now being felt; prices there are hardening and may in future approximate to those obtaining in London.

STANLEY GIBBONS' Postage Stamp Catalogue, 49th ed., Part I, 1944. Price 10s. 6d. nett, postage extra.

This edition has not involved resetting of type and replacement of illustrations, as was the case with the 1942 edition. But, owing to shortage of staff and other difficulties all new stamps issued since that edition are placed by themselves in a supplement.

The very many price alterations, however, have been effected in the lists themselves. But, as the changes were closed to go to press in November, many are probably out-of-date already owing to the rapidly rising market.

Most British stamps are up, the lowest priced 1d. black being now 20s., and the £1 green K.G. V has the spectacular rise to £15 mint.

The first 10r of Aden figures at £6 mint, whereas at recent auctions it has actually fetched £10.

Almost all colonial stamps of K.G. V are up, the various commemoration sets being more in accordance with recent market movements. Star items are the Falkland Is. £1 at £30, the 15s. St. Helena at £40, and the Malta MCA 10s. at £42.

LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS, Priced Catalogue,

Part 4, compiled by E. F. Hurt and L. N. & M. Williams. Price 5s.

Previous parts of this catalogue have been noticed as they appeared. The present one includes the issues lying alphabetically from Ribon (Colombia) to Trondhjem (Norway). It was expected that four parts would finish the catalogue, but a fifth will be needed.

The Tati Concessions Co. is the only South African item coming into this part, but the general interest of it comes well up to the standard of its predecessors and, as usual, all items are very well illustrated.

Several items which appear in most "ordinary" catalogues are to be found here, e.g., Samoa Express, Suez Canal, Thurn & Taxis, Tierra del Fuego and Trinidad (Lady McLeod).

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LABUAN—S.G. 11, 37, 38, 77, 78, 80, 96, 209, 140, 141, 142.

MONGOLIA—All 1925 - 1926 - 1927 - 1931 issues.

DUTCH INDIES—S.G. 210a, 211a, 211c, 211b, 225, 237, 241, 195, 214a, 251, 253, 254, 347a.

NORTH BORNEO—S.G. 2 - 8 - 9 - 54, - 65, 85, 108, 140, 143, 182, 183, D5, D7, D8, D11, D15, D44, D49.

TRANSJORDANIA—S.G. 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, D33, D34, D37.

PERSIA—S.G. 57, 207, 226, 392, 411, 412, 413, 426, 447, 461, 463, 464, 550, 620, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 632, 633, 655, 656, 661, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 712a, 714, 714a, 714b, 721, 727, 756, 760, 761, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 783, 784, 791, 804, 806, 807, 808, 810, 020, 029, F1, F5.

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HANDSTRUCK LETTER STAMPS OR STAMPLESS COVERS

I have been hauled over the coals by Mr. Stephen G. Rich, of Verona, New Jersey, U.S.A., for daring to call the marks on our pre-stamp covers Handstruck Letter Stamps.

Shortly after this I received an American publication known as "STAMP REVIEW" or "DON HOUSEWORTH'S INTERNATIONAL STAMP REVIEW," Vol. 23, No. 9, October, 1943. This publication is a monthly magazine for the stamp and cover collector.

On page 5 of this journal, I was pulled to pieces by a writer by name of Jed Jones, and this is what Mr. Jed Jones had to say:

"Another of the confusing oddities of wording in connection with the older covers is calling the town or rate marks 'Letter Stamps.' It's not a bit better than the comic 'Handstruck Stamps' that one Bob Lowe tried to wish on to us and almost got away with it. It has this much more in its favour: that was the term officially used for these marks in their day. But it's still a case of outworn or vanished usage, like calling 5 cents a 'half dime' as it was actually inscribed on our first coins of that value. A. A. Jurgens, a real stamp scholar, who not only 'ought to' know better, but does know better, commits this in the title of his book on Cape of Good Hope now in press in Cape Town. I prescribe Jurgens' Lotion for his feelings when he reads this!"

The sequel to this was rather funny: It so happened that the above-mentioned magazine was sent to me by Mr. Rich himself, and in the covering letter Mr. Rich tells me that I am quite wrong in calling these old postal markings Letter Stamps just because they were at the time of usage known as such, and as a comparison Mr. Rich says, "We would not call a motor car a horseless carriage as they did in the nineties," and in reply I simply "let off steam" and told Mr. Rich what I thought of Mr. Jed Jones: it was a pretty candid opinion!

Two days after my reply to Mr. Rich had been posted, I received another letter from him (which had evidently come by the same mail) and in this letter he says: "You will be interested in the Jed Jones Column on page 5, especially the first paragraph. I might explain that I have written the Jed Jones Column for this paper for more than five years. You also need to know that the 'Jurgens' Lotion' reference is, as you might not guess, more than a pun on your name. Jurgens' Lotion is a well-known skin cream

extensively used in this country . . . so the idea is to emphasise that Jed doesn't want you to feel irritated at the remarks."

I need make no further reference to the Jed Jones remarks, except to say that the Bob Lowe referred to there is meant for Mr. Robson Lowe who, I believe, is really responsible for the increased amount of interest and more serious study of these pre-stamp covers in Great Britain to-day.

If there is anything that has been wrongly named it is our present day adhesive postage stamp. Let us consult the dictionary and see what the word "stamp" really means.

In Webster's Dictionary although many meanings of the word are given, such as "That which stamps. Any instrument for making impressions, or imprints, on other bodies." "The mark, impression, design, or the like, made by stamping or imprinting; especially such a mark or impression used to give a distinctive value or force to something."

Although the same dictionary says further: "A stamp or printed device or slip of paper, issued by the Government at a fixed price, and required by law to be affixed to, or stamped on, certain papers or things, as evidence that the Government dues are paid; as a postage stamp, revenue stamp, etc."

Notwithstanding this, however, with very few exceptions, such as the issue of the New Republic in 1886-87, all our postage stamps have been printed, **not stamped**. These New Republic issues could easily therefore be called "Handstruck Adhesive Stamps."

The comparison between a motor car and a handstruck stamp is, in my opinion, quite wrong, firstly, because the former is to-day known throughout the length and breadth of the world so that it would be quite unnecessary to refer to it as a horseless carriage.

In the case of the latter, however, how many people would know what you were referring to if you merely used the word "Letter Stamp"? In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, it would be thought that you were referring to our ordinary present day adhesive stamps and that by adding the word "Letter" you were referring to a postage stamp.

To go further, if we to accept the opinion of our American cousins in this respect, how are we going to differentiate between a letter stamped by hand with a device intended for the purpose of denoting that postage had been paid, and an ordinary official letter entitled to be conveyed through the post free of postage if we are going to call them "Stampless Covers"?

As I have explained, all adhesive postage labels used for the prepayment of postage are to-day known as "Stamps" so that all official letters (which do not require these adhesive stamps) would or should come under the same category as "Stampless Covers."

Prior to the 6th of May, 1840, when Great Britain brought into use the adhesive postal label, letters which had to be conveyed through the Post Office were hand-stamped with a certain device which at that time served the same purpose as does the adhesive postage label which is to-day called a stamp.

In the Post Office at the Cape of Good Hope from the year 1792, when the first hand-stamping of letters to indicate payment of postage, viz., the V.O.C. handstamp of 6 Stuivers, was brought into use, it was referred to as "Brief Zegel" (Letter Stamp), but never "Post Zegel" (Postage Stamp). During the whole of the British occupation from 1795 to 1803 and again from 1806 to 1853, when adhesive postage stamps were introduced, these postal markings were never referred to by any other name but "Letter Stamps."

Why then should we be told that we are wrong when we adhere to the old and original name by which these markings were known?

The addition of the word "Handstruck" (I presume by Mr. Robson Lowe) is as correct as it will ever be. To the uninitiated the mere words "LETTER STAMP" could easily mean our present adhesive stamp, and by adding the word "Handstruck" and calling them "THE HANDSTRUCK LETTER STAMPS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE" we are making it clear to all that we refer to those postal markings used for stamping letters during the pre-adhesive period.

Where we might possibly be more correct would be if we refer to postal markings of the adhesive stamp period as follows:

- (a) Those devices issued solely for defacing of stamps as Defacing Stamps.
- (b) Those issued to express a date or time of receipt or despatch of the letter as "Date Stamps" and not postmarks.

A. A. JURGENS.

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DE GAULLE ISSUES OF FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA

By A. LICHTENSTEIN

Before setting out on a survey of the "Free French" issues of Equatorial Africa, a brief sketch of the historical events leading up to their issue may not be out of place. These were:

On June 25th, 1940, hostilities in France ended with the surrender to Hitler's forces. Shortly afterwards, General de Gaulle issued his famous manifesto to all Frenchmen, repudiating the armistice, and calling for support for the "Free French Movement" under his leadership. The Cameroons were the first colony to respond to this appeal, and on August 27th, 1940, General de Gaulle landed at Duala with a military force, and formally proclaimed the "Free" French Empire. The next colony to join De Gaulle was the neighbouring territory of Equatorial Africa—the General's entry into its capital, Brazzaville, has been commemorated by a special set of stamps, sold only on souvenir postcards (Nos. 77-80 on my check list).

The new administration immediately set about to overprint the then current issues in token of adherence to the Free French Movement, either with the word "LIBRE" or with the legend "Afrique Francaise Libre." It is curious that these two different overprints should have been chosen, seeing the word "LIBRE" alone could have been applied to all the various stamps. Only one conclusion can be drawn from the legend "Afrique Francaise Libre," and that is that these stamps were intended for use not merely in Equatorial (or "Central") Africa, but in any or all the Free French African colonies. I have been unable to trace any information on this point from among the many articles that have appeared in the philatelic press — notably in "Stamp Collecting," to which I owe special acknowledgement for many valuable data and details.

No doubt, with an eye on the propaganda value of stamps, rather than on the financial aspect, the Free French Committee sent a supply of the overprinted stamps to London, for sale to dealers, while another supply of somewhat different though similar composition went to New York. In each case, several thousand sets were involved, with the result that certain stamps, although plentiful, e.g., in London, were practically unobtainable either in New York or in the colony itself. Others, plentiful in the colony, were unknown in London or New York, and so on. This anomalous position has led in some cases to inflated prices being paid, while in others there is no doubt

that certain stamps are under-valued. A case in point is the 1 fr. green "LIBRE" (SG 75/75a, Scott 107/108). Gibbons quote no price for the RED o/pt, but taking it at "pro rata" the set price (set of 39 for 40s.) it works out at 1s. per stamp, whereas Scott lists it at 10s. Conversely, the BLACK o/pt in the 1 fr. is priced by Gibbons at £10; Scott asks a modest dollar (5s.) for it. This bewildering contrast in catalogue quotations is based on still more confusing and contradictory press statements about "numbers issued," each of them claiming some kind of authority as their origin. It is the purpose of this article to attempt to bring some semblance of order into the confusion, which has been made "worse confounded" by the quite inadequate listings of our leading cataloguers. In the 1942 Foreign Supplement, Gibbons list as No. 79 the fr. 1, 75 **bright and pale blue**, and they again list the same stamp two years later in the recently issued 1944 supplement — evidence (one might think) that this stamp exists. However, I know not of a single living soul who has seen or heard of this stamp; it is not listed by Scotts; instead, every set or collection I have handled contains the fr. 1, 75 **brown and yellow**, which in turn is unknown to Gibbons. As I have no status to say that Gibbons (with their vast organisation and resources) are persisting in listing a stamp which does not exist, I feel in duty bound to include this item in the check list below—solely on the strength of Gibbons' continued listing of same.

(To be continued.)

+ ITALY.

Ordinary Italian stamps are being used in the parts of Italy freed from German occupation, but supplies of the 50c (Romulus and Remus suckled by a wolf) seem to have run out. A local printing of this, a rather crudely produced pale violet stamp, has been made in Naples. At the bottom of the stamp there is the imprint "Richter-Napoli."

+ NEUTRAL STAMP MARKETS.

According to the *Philatelic Trader*, stamps are abundant and cheap in both Switzerland and Sweden. Only German and occupied countries war issues, however, are available; only odd used copies of Allied stamps getting in. The extreme flooding of war issues reaches its peak in Croatia with more than 200 issues since 1941.

COLLECTORS' WANTS AND OFFERS

(Twopence per word per insertion with minimum of 2/- per insertion)

Wanted: 2 or 3, F.G. Warwick albums, with or without interleaving, best prices paid. Urgent.
S. Kaganson, 440 Albert Road, Salt River, C.P.

For Sale: Natal Stamps. 10/-, 30/-, £10. Postally used. £1 and £5 Fiscally used.

J. H. Bell, Howick.

Collections Wanted to Buy.—Old and Modern Collections, Single Rarities and Errors, Duplicates and Office Mixtures.

Prompt cash on acceptance of offer:
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117 Longmarket Street, Cape Town.

Mr. E. Tamsen, Box 13, Nylstroom, offers Blocks of South African Colonies and Union, also full range of Entires.

Basutoland: Wanted covers, or stamps postmarked in Basutoland before 1910.

Harding, Box 108, Ladybrand.

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Transvaal, Grigalund West, O.F.S. covers and rarities wanted by
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FREE FRENCH: Cameroons, Equatorial Africa, etc.	
Cameroon, set 31, normal provisional,	
2c to 20Fr.	£17 10 0
set 29, normal provisional, 2c to 5Fr	£32 10 0
Cameroon, Spitfires set 4 on cover	39 0 0
Spitfires set 2 De Gaulle Lon: 35£	
Stanley Gibbons last list sold out	32 10 0
Cameroon, Oeuvres de Guerre, set 3 Lon	
10£	6 0 0
Cameroon, Ambulance "Ja Quintainie"	
2. Lon £10	5 0 0
Cameroon, Varieties closed 4, "Comma."	
Most other var.	
Free French Equatorial Africa, A collection	
82 varieties	65 0 0
collection 37 varieties	37 10 0
Free French Equatorial Africa, 4c Moyen	
Congo Black, overprint Red	3 0 0
4c Moyen Congo Red, overprint Red	3 10 0
Free French Equatorial Africa, 75c	
London price £10	6 0 0
Free French Equatorial Africa, 30c Blue	
Red 80/-, ditto Black overprint	2 10 0
Free French Equatorial Africa, Double	
overprints, 40, 50=45 Double each M	
Double overprints, 55c 90/-, 60½=	
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Congo £5, 35c double 80/- Double	
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Visit Gen. de Gaulle used, Mint	
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La Resistance (14) Mint sets complete	
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Frs 150	9 10 0

All the above are quoted subject to sales. Prices are Net. Of the double and inverted overprints and other errors and varieties only a few left, in some cases singles only. Early application is recommended. These interesting and attractive stamps have gone up and are still rising. (See Stamp Collecting April 8) and can be recommended as an investment. Also stamps of all countries.

Wanted to buy Free French Africans, British Africans, also Coins, Commemorative medals, etc.

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DURBAN

PIETERSBURG: CINDERELLA OF PHILATELY.

In the latest issue of "The Philatelic Journal of Britain" the Rev. H. J. A. McKee discusses the status of the Pietersburg issue of stamps. He states the conflicting views of such writers as Yardley, Tamsen, Curle and Basden, etc. It really depends on whether you accept the *de jure* position of the Transvaal in relation to the Pretoria conventions of 1881 and 1884, or the *de facto* position as it existed in 1901. You will accordingly either regard the issue as an irregular local one or as the last official issue of the Boer Government.

The tendency to-day is undoubtedly in favour of the latter view, but Mr. McKee thinks the stamps would find greater favour with collectors generally if the issue were catalogued without the somewhat terrifying lists of errors and varieties.

[We regret to see in later received news that Mr. McKee died on 14th March.—Ed.]

BRAZIL.

Dr. Mario de Sanctis reports the following issues:—

(1) On 18th December (this letter took five months to arrive—some mails from the U.S.A. have also taken as long) a 40c stamp, sienna coloured, perf. 14, commemorating the centenary of the birth of the painter Pedro Americo. The stamp features a portrait of the artist.

(2) On 4th January 3,000,000 surtaxed "Pro Juventude" 400r and 200r, which were issued in 1939 and were out of circulation, have been taken from stock and overprinted for ordinary correspondence. The original stamps were olive-green and showed the profile head of a child looking up at the Southern Cross. The overprinting is in 5 values, 600,000 of each with the device AEREO and a value. The values 20 cts, 60 cts and Cr. 1.20 are in carmine; 40 cts and 1.00 Cr. in black.

(3) On 9th February, there was put in circulation a stamp commemorating the "Cerco da Lapa," which was a brilliant event in the history of the Brazilian army. The stamp is of Cr. 1.20 value, red, a gives a view of a military camp.

E. BLUM

P.O. BOX 1669

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DISTINGUISHED DEALER-PHILATELISTS PASS.

British journals report the death of Charles Nissen, distinguished authority on the stamps of Great Britain. He has been for fifty years a collector and dealer; he first gained renown by his discovery of the Stock Exchange forgery of the ls. green in 1898. He was the publisher of "The British Philatelist" and author of a number of works on British philately. For his services to philatelic research he was elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1923.

American papers report the death of Eugene Klein, well known dealer and auctioneer in Philadelphia. He was prominent in philatelic society circles, having been President of the American Philatelic Society and of the American Philatelic Congress. His hobby was the private stamp issues of steamship lines and, quite recently, there was reviewed in our columns his book on United States Waterway Packetmarks.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY

4d. on 6d. of 1902.

In the "Collectors' Club Philatelist" of January is a short note on this stamp by S. G. Rich. He has not been able to find any evidence that some material of setting A was used for this overprinting, as claimed by de Reuter-skjold in "Africa, Part 3." Nor does he support the view that there is both a carmine and a vermilion overprint; the two colours intergrade and are only thick or thin inking varieties.

U.S.A.

Owing to an increase of air post rates a new 8c airmail stamp was issued on 21st March. It is reported that two additions are to made to the flag series of over-run countries, viz., Corea and Philippines.

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A. J. BOOYSEN

P.O. Box II.

SANNIESHOF.

SOCIETY NEWS

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

President, A. L. Bevis; Hon. Sec., G. Milner, Palmer, P.O. Box 588, Durban; Meetings, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street (in the rooms of the Durban Camera Club, top floor), 7.30 p.m.

At our May and June meetings, the Society has been very busy revising its Constitution. The whole of the May meeting was devoted to consideration of this important matter and we successfully concluded the adoption of the new Constitution at our June meeting.

At the June meeting, Mr. Lyle gave a demonstration of removing surplus paper from chalk surfaced and fugitive ink stamps. The demonstration was entirely successful and was carried out as follows:

Two pieces of fairly heavy window glass approximately 12 x 15 inches were used. A clean piece of blotting paper was dampened and the stamp to be removed was placed face upwards on the blotting paper which was then inserted between the two pieces of glass. This is then left about 5 to 10 minutes, according to the degree of gum, and it will be found that a chalk surface stamp is in a perfect condition and that a fugitive ink stamp is removed without the colour running at all.

After a little bit of experimenting, Mr. Lyle explained that any stamp collector could remove stamps without any risk.

Mr. Lyle also showed on the Durban Camera Club's epidiascope a number of facsimiles of stamp rarities and gave a short talk on each stamp. We are very pleased that Mr. Lyle has given us something different and we hope that in future we shall be able to offer members some evenings of a slightly different nature from the ordinary routine exhibits.

G.M.P.

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, W. D. Vallance; Hon. Secretary, S. Kaganson, No. 16 Military Road, Tamboers Kloof, Cape Town; Meetings, 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 25th May.—Mr. Alexander in the chair. Over 50 members and visitors present at this, the 33rd annual general meeting of the Society. After the minutes of last annual meeting and the financial statement had been confirmed, the election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with: Mr. W. D. Vallance, president; Mr. L. Simenhoff, vice-president; Mr. Kaganson and W. Cameron were re-elected hon. secretary and hon. treasurer respectively. The following members were elected to serve on the Committee: Mr. K. Alexander, Mr. C. Cock, Mr. G. Sirrett, Mr. W. L. Ashmead and Mr. M. Rothkugel. Mr. Croxford took over the position of hon. librarian, Mr. Bennett hon. exchange superintendent, and Mr. Cock, Press representative. Several new members were enrolled during the evening.

On June 8th, with the president in the chair and well over 50 members and visitors present, Mr. L. Simenhoff tabled a very representative collection of Capes. The display was divided into four sections: pre-postal covers, postage stamps, postal marks and cancellations and postal stationery.

It is impossible to refer to all the fine items exhibited, but one outstanding item was an entire with a sixpenny Lilac Triangular with the roller mark cancellation, which was used only at Grahamstown. Used on this particular stamp, it is a scarce item.

In the stamp section, a representative collection of Triangulars was shown, and outstanding were two very fine copies of the "wood-blocks" of 1861—superb copies such as collectors dream of. The rectangular issues were also well represented, there being some very fine used blocks.

Pages could be written on the postmarks used from the cork and manuscript cancellations right up to the inter-Provincial period. An interesting item was a manuscript post-mark used at Britsville siding, near De Aar, in 1910.

The display was accompanied by a running talk by Mr. Simenhoff, dealing with the romance of the posts of the Cape from the earliest times. Reference was also made to some of the big collectors and collections of the Cape, with special reference to Mr. A. A. Jur-

gens, whose collection of pre-postal issues is outstanding and whose research work in this direction has just been recognised by the Royal Philatelic Society—an honour well deserved.

Mr. Valance, Mr. Alexander and Commander Enoch expressed their appreciation of the excellent exhibit—"Philately in its truest meaning."

After the business of the evening had been transacted, the usual auction took place, a number of items being for Red Cross funds.

+

B.L.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, F. J. H. Lang; Hon. Secretary, L. Buchen, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; Meetings, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Public Library, Johannesburg, 7.45 p.m.

Our annual general meeting was held on June 13th; election of office-bearers resulted largely in a re-election of those who served in 1943-44, the only notable change being Dr. A. Kaplan as vice-president in place of Mr. W. Redford, who pleaded being too busy to accept high office.

The reports of the hon. treasurer and hon. secretary, exchange superintendent as well as the president's annual address, were of a special interest because each report showed a marked advance in the well-being of the Society, and an ever increasing interest in the hobby in this area. These reports brought out that the Society had had a most successful year; that 60 members received 19 packets, with a total value of £790, and that approximately 65 per cent. of the value of the stamps offered had been purchased; the membership is steadily growing, but the monthly attendance remains approximately the same as the previous year, due to the exigencies arising out of the war; new members were elected at practically every meeting throughout the year; an exceptionally high standard of material had been included in the numerous exhibits shown throughout the year; war funds had considerably benefited by monthly auctions and contributions by members, but as there would continue to be heavy demands on these funds, members were requested to redouble their interest in and support of these funds; an appeal for more new exhibitors was made so that those attending the meeting would continue to have an ever-widening variety of material to see and study.

Mr. Lang announced that the committee had awarded the "Cup of Merit" to Mr. William Redford for his outstanding service to the Society and to philately in general during the past year. This cup was presented as a floating trophy to the Society, by Mr. Lang, and the cup is to be known as the "Lang Cup of Merit."

Mr. Lang also announced that the committee had decided to hold a second monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month. This meeting is to be informal in character, when no business will be transacted or reports read. It will be devoted entirely to exhibitions, exchanges and discussions of philatelic topics of interest. It remains to the members to make this second meeting the success which is hoped for it. Two new members were elected, namely, Major N. Welsford and Captain C. D. Priest.

Dr. J. Harvey Pirie displayed the first exhibit of the evening, being a most remarkable collection of the stamps of Swaziland divided into eight groups and covering the complete philatelic history of that country right up to date. Several uncatalogued varieties were included in this collection which does not lack more than two or three items to make it complete.

Mr. I. Isaacs came forward with a very interesting display of Flown Covers and Crash Covers.

H.E.B.

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O.F.S. AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. G. Lyon, Box 702, Bloemfontein; Meetings, 3rd Fridays each month, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloemfontein, 7.30 p.m.

The June meeting started off with a small auction sale. Reports were received from Mr. J. Lewis, the exchange superintendent, who presented some good figures concerning recently circulated exchange packets; also from Dr. K. Freund, the publicity officer, who had given another lecture at the Eunice Girls' High School.

By request, Flight-Lieut. G. W. Horton gave a repeat show of his fine collection of Egypt, which is

remarkable for its completeness, for many outstanding items and for the brilliant condition throughout.

The second exhibit was given by Mr. M. Liss, who presented something out of the ordinary, viz., a collection of Free State revenue stamps, which was an eye-opener for all present. There were numerous pages of these "seëls" starting with early pen drawings which were followed by stamps embossed on little square pieces of coloured paper. Most of the copies were on pieces of original documents. A large section dealt with the "V.R.I." overprinted issues, which were of the greatest interest for the specialists and students of Free State stamps, as they are a valuable source of information and enlightenment on the postage stamps of that period. All the various V.R.I. printings and most of the varieties and errors, known on Free State postage stamps, are represented on these revenue stamps, too. There were the "mixed stop" settings, the thick "V's", the wider spaced "V-R", inverted overprints, and even the errors "double surcharge, both inverted" and a strip containing a "triple overprint." All these errors, appearing on revenue stamps on pieces of original documents, give definite proof that the O.F.S. varieties, which have often been regarded with some suspicion, have a clean record.

Another problem, which had troubled some collectors of Free State stamps, was explained with some of these revenue stamps: The cancellation "Geregistreerd" was thought by some collectors to be a "Registered Post" cancellation, making the revenue stamp "postally used," but in Mr. Liss's collection it was proved by copies affixed on deed documents that the cancellation "Geregistreerd" meant nothing else but "Registered at the Deed's Office."

Several advanced collectors commented on the two outstanding displays.

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EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. A. Watson; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. F. Fowler, P.O. Box 168. *Meetings*, Colosseum Building, 2nd Fridays, 7.45 p.m.

The meeting on June 9th was again well attended, there being 26 members and 10 visitors present. The president congratulated Mr. C. Hampson, the ex-president of the Society, and Mrs. Hampson on having attained their golden wedding anniversary; Mr. Hampson made a suitable reply.

Various philatelic items of interest were passed round, and a very fine attendance register having been anonymously donated to the Society, this was opened with the signatures of all present.

Mr. Clay reported that the meeting of juniors had been a great success and had resulted in the formation of the East London Junior Stamp Club, which will be given all possible support by the senior Society. One new member was elected.

Mr. Watson gave a short resumé of some of the price differences in the new 1944 edition of S.G. British Empire Catalogue.

At the conclusion of the business, Mr. A. E. Basden gave an extremely interesting and instructive talk on the postal history of the South African Republic (Transvaal), from its earliest days till Union. Owing to the limited time, he was not able to deal exhaustively with the subject, but mentioned several facts previously unknown to many of those present. After the tea interval, Mr. Basden supplemented his talk with a magnificent display of a portion of his collection of the Transvaal issues, chiefly earlier, but including also many of the later varieties and Boer War local issues. From such a wealth of material, it is difficult to pick individual items, but all the early issues were there by the dozen in every known shade and practically all were immaculate copies. There were also the errors of the "V.R. Transvaal" overprints, such as inverted, double, small "T," etc.; tête-bêche varieties in blocks and strips; bisets on originals or pieces; early covers showing Transvaal stamps used in conjunction with those of the Cape, O.F.S. or Natal; a cover bearing the Nylstroom local; the Rustenburg and Wolmaransstad overprints complete, etc. Some part-sheets of Viljoen's 1870 printings were also noted, which are believed to be a portion of those which, so the story goes, were blown out of the window of his house, where the printing operation was in progress. From their appearance, it would seem that the story was probably true.

T.A.H.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. Ferguson; *Hon. Secretary*, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

June 2.—Mr. Hawke in the chair. Mr. Hawke read an extract on stamp collecting after the war.

Mr. Ravenscroft gave a very interesting paper on making a collection of stamps depicting animal life. He discussed the types of stamps that should be included in such a collection and those that should be omitted. His talk showed that there was an enormous array of stamps to study and choose from. He pointed out that most groups of animals were represented on stamps, and starting with the lowest group he systematically went through the whole animal kingdom, naming the different countries issuing them. In this way he included insects, fishes, birds, reptiles and mammals. Dr. Broom and the chairman thanked Mr. Ravenscroft for his interesting paper.

June 19.—Mr. Hawke in the chair. Mrs. Dyer presented some stamps in aid of the Red Cross and these subsequently brought in £2 7s.

Colonel Horne, in giving a talk on the stamps of Egypt, gave a vivid and interesting story of their first appearance. He first dealt with the inter-postals which, although issued by private enterprise, were supported by the Government and certainly did postal service. The first stamps issued by the Egyptian Government were in 1866 and Colonel Horne described the design, paper, watermark, etc. He also described the next few issues, passing on to the stamps of the Suez Canal and Sudan. Many humorous incidents in connection with the issue of stamps in Egypt were related. Colonel Horne was thanked by acclamation for his talk. He then tabled an exhibit of his fine collection of Egypt, Suez Canal and Sudan.

H.A.W.

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EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. Gutsche; *Hon. Sec.*, E. N. Rigg, 103 Kemston Avenue, Benoni; *Meetings*, 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Hotel Regent, Benoni.

At our May meeting, we had an official visit by members of the Jewish Guild Society who provided the exhibits for the evening, which were as follows:

Mr. Buchen read a short paper on the stamps of Bosnia.

Mr. Gladstone exhibited stamps of Germany, excluding the inflation issues after World War I.

Dr. Kaplan exhibited Holland early issues, 1849 to 1866-67; also Egyptian commemoratives.

Mr. van Wyk thanked the exhibitors for their very fine demonstrations.

June Meeting.—News of the month was given by Mr. Shepherd, who also read a short article on the engraving of the plates from which stamps are printed.

The exhibits for the evening were provided by Dr. Kaplan, who came over with his collections of Australia and New Zealand; both of these exhibits were in mint condition and included the high values. Some of the stamps were in blocks of four and they were of a very high standard.

E.N.R.

ANTARCTIC STAMPS.

This overprint series for the Falkland Island Dependencies has been so popular that orders placed with the Crown Agents have not been fulfilled in entirety. The Colonial Office has emphatically denied that the stamps were issued for revenue raising, so the implication remains that they are intended as counter propaganda to the Argentine's claims in these regions. A subsidiary reason may be the presence there of a British scientific expedition under the command of Lt.-Commander Marr, who started his Antarctic voyaging with Sir Ernest Shackleton as a sea-scout.

Incidentally it may be reported that the 1944 Argentine mail (with Argentine stamps and postmarks dated 19th February) has arrived back from the South Orkneys. Also covers from the British Expedition from Graham Land, dated 12th February, and from the S. Orkneys 21st February.

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South African Railways





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Vol 20. No. 8.

AUGUST, 1944.

Whole No. 233.

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ROCKET POSTS

Rockets are very much in the air at present, although the stay of many of them is fortunately being cut short.

Messrs. Francis J. Field, Ltd., of Sutton Coldfield, England, have chosen an appropriate time to bring out a priced check list (post free, 7d.) of the Rocket Posts of Great Britain. There were three actual flights at different places in 1934 and various provisional stamps and labels as well as flown covers are listed. They explain that the numbers given are those of numbers printed, but actually only a proportion of these still exists, as an important stock was destroyed in a blitz three years ago.

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U.S.A.

"Communications" are the subject of the latest series of commemoratives in the U.S.A. Thanks to Mr. C. A. Harris, we have just received a day of issue cover (10th May, 1944) with the first of the series, a 3c purple stamp commemorating the 75th anniversary of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad.

Others are or will be featuring the centenary of the telegraph and the first steamship to cross the Atlantic (in 1819).

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POLAND

The Polish Ministry in London states that four stamps of the Polish issue of 1941 are to be overprinted "Monte Cassino, 18/5/44," in honour of the victory of the Polish troops there. The four values are the 45, 55 and 80 gr and the Zl 1.20 and the issue was due to appear on 27th June.

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FRANCE

The provisional Government in Algiers is getting ready for the reoccupation of metropolitan France by preparing stamps which will be of the design of the "Marianne" stamp which we have already reported as having been issued in Corsica.

WOLMARANSSTAD STAMPS

Referring to the article on these stamps published in our May issue, a correspondent writes that there is an article in "Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal," Vol. 12, 1901-02, by Emil Tamsen, on the war stamps of the Transvaal. In this Mr. Tamsen states that he knows nothing personally of the Wolmaransstad issue, but the editor interpolates an extract from "The Australian Philatelist" by a Lieut. Cox, who had apparently been in contact with Wolmaransstad at or about the time of issue of the stamps. Lieut. Cox states that he knew Mr. Leask personally, and he states categorically that the total value of the stamps overprinted was £5 2s. 6d., although Mr. Leask could give him no idea of how many of each value were overprinted.

Lieut. Cox states that he had seen and could personally vouch for there having been nine values surcharged. (The list he gives differs from that long accepted in that it does not include the 1s. denomination of the 1896-97 issue, but includes the 2d. listre of 1894-95. A statement which raises some doubt as to his reliability, however, is that he says the overprint is in violet (except on the 2d., which is in carmine). Poole made the same mistaken statement.

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ZANZIBAR

Four denominations, 10c, 20c, 50c and 1s., are to be issued towards the end of the year, commemorating the bi-centenary of the reigning dynasty. The common design will show an ocean-going dhow superimposed on a map of East Africa and Arabia, showing the positions of Zanzibar and Muscat.

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ST. HELENA AND ASCENSION

Complete sets of new printings for these two colonies have recently been released; there are a number of changes in shades. "Stamp Collecting" of 3rd June contains a check list and notes on the shades of the 1922-27 series of St. Helena.

DE GAULLE ISSUES OF FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA

By A. LICHTENSTEIN

(Continued from page 80 of July issue)

In the overprinting of the A.E.F. stamps, three different types or "founts" were employed, viz.: (a) fancy Roman capitals for the A.F.L. overprint on the Native types and the Middle Congo stamp; (b) block capitals for the "LIBRE" o/p on head types (Stamp No. 33 on each sheet of 50 having the "L" in a smaller fount of type); and (c) small antique type for the Airmails, and for later printings of the Native types.

For the "dates of issue" and "quantities issued" now following, I have been largely guided by statistics from Mr. H. L. Rivers, as published in "Stamp Collecting," and from notes supplied by Mr. C. O. Plumbridge, and others, to whom my acknowledgements are due. From all the available information, it is clear that there were two main printings—the first in October, 1940, with a supplementary printing in December, and the second in May, 1941, with a supplement in October, 1941. The former comprised: 9 values in the Native design plus one 4c Middle Congo, overprinted "Afrique Francaise-Libre" in two lines in fancy Roman capitals, 30c to 20 frs. Head types plus one 4c Bridge with "LIBRE" in block capitals, and lastly 5 Airmail values o/ptd A.F.L. in two lines in small antique type. The spacing between the lines of the "antique" o/p varies from 1½ to 2½mm., the wider o/p being the scarcer, less

than 20 per cent. of the stamps bearing the wider o/p.

The second main printing (May/October, 1941) gave us the low values with the small "antique" o/p in two settings, as well as the Head types with black o/p where it had been red in the first printing. (There are now also 3 additional Airmail values, with the small antique o/pt.

Errors: Various stamps have been reported with double and/or inverted overprint; these will be found listed as sub-numbers with their respective normals. **Varieties:** Constant plate varieties have been grouped at the end of each issue or group of issues. **Spacings** of the "antique" o/p: in the Airmail values different spacings between the lines of o/p are found on the same pane, the commonest being the narrow (1½mm.) spacing. Wider spacings on these stamps therefore have the status of varieties of the normal, and are treated as such. On the Native types, however, the position is quite different: the larger part of the printing was made in the narrow setting throughout, while a few hundred sheets only received the wider (2½mm.) spacing. As entire panes exist with either spacing, the two types have been separated and listed as distinct and different issues. This brings us now to the following:

CHECK-LIST,

No.	Value	Type	O/pt.	Issued	Quantity
	(1) O/pt. 'AFRIQUE FRANCAISE LIBRE' in fancy Capitals.				
1	1c.	Native Kraal	Red	October, 1940	40,000
2	2c.	do.	R	do.	40,000
3	3c.	do.	R	do.	40,000
3a	Error: double o/pt.				
4	4c.	Moyen Congo	R	do.	10,000
5	5c.	Native Kraal	R	do.	40,000
6	10c.	Native logging	Black	do.	40,000
7	15c.	do.	R	do.	40,000
8	20c.	do.	R	do.	40,000
9	25c.	do.	Bk.	do.	40,000
10	35c.	do.	R	do.	40,000

Varieties: 10c. and 25c.: "I" of LIBRE completely missing (No. 6 stamp).

All other values: Hyphen between AFRIQUE-FRANCAISE (No. 14)

Vertical space bar between AFRIQUE|FRANCAISE (No. 9).

AFRIQUE FRANCAISE underlined (No. 34).

All ten values: smaller "A" of Afrique (No. 1 on sheet).

10c. only: native with bright ornament on upper right arm (No. 26).

(II) O/pt. Afr. Fr. L. in small antique type, 1½ mm. between lines:

11	1c.	Natives	Bk.	May, 1941	26,000
12	2c.	do.	Bk.	do.	26,000

13	3c.	do.	Bk.	do.	26,000
14	5c.	do.	Bk.	do.	26,000
15	10c.	do.	Bk.	do.	26,000
16	15c.	do.	Bk.	do.	21,000
17	20c.	do.	Bk.	do.	21,000
18	25c.	do.	Bk.	do.	26,000
19	35c.	do.	Bk.	do.	21,000

19a Error: double o/pt.

(III) as before, but wider spacing between lines (2½ mm.):

20	1c.	Natives	Bk.	May, 1941	4,000
21	2c.	do.	Bk.	do.	4,000
22	3c.	do.	Bk.	do.	4,000
23	5c.	do.	Bk.	do.	4,000
24	10c.	do.	Bk.	do.	4,000
25	15c.	do.	Bk.	do.	4,000
26	20c.	do.	Bk.	do.	4,000
27	25c.	do.	Bk.	do.	4,000
28	35c.	do.	Bk.	do.	4,000

Minor varieties of Nos. 11—28: broken letters.

(IV) overprinted "LIBRE" in block capitals:

29	4c.	M.C. Bridge	Bk.	December, 1940	17,000
29a	Error: double o/pt.				
30	30c.	Brazza (blue)	Red	October, 1940	5,000
30a	Error: double o/pt.				
31	30c.	Brazza (blue)	Bk.	May, 1941	20,000
32	30c.	Brazza (green)	Bk.	do.	20,000
33	30c.	do.	R	October, 1940	40,000
34	40c.	do.	Bk.	do.	40,000
35	45c.	do.	R	do.	40,000
36	45c.	do.	Bk.	May, 1941	25,000
37	50c.	do.	R	October, 1940	40,000
38	50c.	do.	Bk.	May, 1941	25,000
39	55c.	do.	R	October, 1940	40,000
40	55c.	do.	Bk.	May, 1941	20,000
41	60c.	do.	Bk.	October, 1940	40,000
42	65c.	Gentil	Bk.	do.	40,000
43	70c.	do.	Bk.	do.	40,000
44	75c.	do.	Bk.	do.	4,000
45	75c./50c.	Brazza	Bk.	December, 1940	100,000
45a	Error: double o/pt.				
46	80c.	Gentil	Bk.	October, 1940	40,000
46a	Error: double o/pt.				
47	90c.	Gentil	Bk.	do.	40,000
47a	Error: double o/pt.				
47b	Error: double o/pt., one inverted.				
48	1.—fr.	Brazza (red)	Bk.	do.	40,000
49	1.—fr.	Gentil (green)	Bk.	do.	35,000
50	1.—fr.	do.	R	do.	5,000
51	1.—/65c.	Gentil	R	do.	100,000
51a	Error: double o/pt.				
52	1.40fr.	Crampel	Bk.	do.	40,000
53	1.50fr.	do.	Bk.	do.	40,000
53a	Error: double o/pt.				
54	1.60fr.	Crampel	Bk.	do.	40,000
55	1.75fr.	Gentil (?)	? (Gibbons)	?	?
56	1.75fr.	Crampel	Bk.	October, 1940	40,000
57	2.15fr.	Liotard	Bk.	do.	40,000
58	2.25fr.	do.	R	do.	40,000
58a	Error: double o/pt.				
59	2.25fr.	Liotard	Bk.	May, 1941	20,000
59a	Error: double o/pt.				
60	2.50fr.	Liotard	Bk.	October, 1940	40,000
61	3frs.	do.	R	do.	40,000
62	3frs.	do.	Bk.	May, 1941	25,000
62a	Error: double o/pt.				
63	5frs.	Liotard	R	October, 1940	40,000
64	5frs.	do.	Bk.	May, 1941	10,000

65	10frs.	do.	R	October, 1940	35,000
66	10frs.	do.	Bk.	October, 1941	4,000
66a	Error: double o/pt.				
67	20frs.	Liotard	R	October, 1941	35,000
68	20frs.	do.	Bk.	May, 1941	25,000

Variety: all values: smaller "L" of LIBRE on No. 33.

(To be continued)

NORTHERN RHODESIA RECENT PRINTINGS

The following notes are taken from a recent notice in "Stamp Collecting."

Originals issued in 1938 had creamy paper and gum and were perf. 12½; in 1941 they appeared perf. 12½ x 12½. There were no further printings of the 1½d. carmine red and 2d. yellow brown, but the colours were changed.

(The first further printing occurred in 1942, the 2d. in April, the other pence values and the 1s. and 2s. 6d. in June. This printing had white paper and gum and perf. 12½ x 12½ for the pence values, thin white paper, perf. 12½ for the 1s. and 2s. 6d.)

A printing of all values, ½d. to 20s., was released in May, 1944, with thin white paper and gum, perf. 12½ x 12½ for the pence values, 12½ x 12½ for the shilling values.

Following are the shade changes for these three sets:

- ½d.: Green, deeper green, paler green.
- 1d.: Deep brown, brown, deep brown.
- 1d.: Greyish brown, pale yellow brown, pale chestnut.
- 1½d.: Yellow brown, carmine red, carmine red.
- 2d.: Carmine red, carmine red, carmine red.
- 2d.: Dull carmine red, carmine red, carmine red.
- 3d.: Ultramarine, cobalt, deep ultramarine.
- 4d.: Violet, slightly deeper violet, pale violet.
- 6d.: Grey, slightly lighter grey, grey.
- 1s.: Black and yellow-brown, black and yellow-brown, deeper black and yellow-brown.
- 2s. 6d.: Green and black, bluish green and black, green and black.
- 3s.: Blue and violet, blue and violet.
- 5s.: Violet and slate grey, mauve and slate grey.
- 10s.: Black and green, greyish black and green.
- 20s.: Rose purple and carmine red, purple and scarlet.

Exchange invited by advanced collector wanting mint Union issues, including pairs, blocks, interesting items; also used recent issues. Give any current Empire complete mint sets or any Irish issues or cash if preferred.

W. NIXON,
48 Gilford Road, Dublin, Eire.

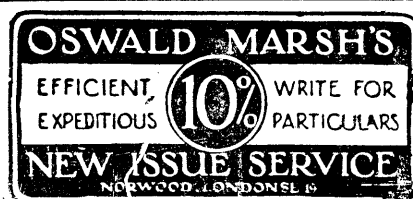
BLUE MAFEKINGS WATERMARKED

Dr. E. Mosely writes:

"Dr. Freund's discovery of the watermark in the paper on which the 'Blue Mafekings' are printed is extremely interesting and valuable. I think philatelists are greatly indebted to him for the painstaking labour which has enabled him to give us such a result. The discovery is comparable with that of the watermarks of the 1890 and 1891-94 Rhodesian issues.

"There is one point on which I think Dr. Freund has slipped, that is describing the paper as "laid paper batonné"; it is just the usual "laid paper." The illustration in Dr. Freund's article corresponds exactly in appearance and measurements of both horizontal and vertical lines with the specimen sheet of laid paper, page 97 in Sefi's "Introduction to Advanced Philately." Batonné paper, which I can remember using seventy years ago for writing home letters, has single bars about 2mm. wide and 9-10mm. apart (these measurements are from the sample, page 101 of Sefi's book); the lines are very perceptible from either side of the sheet; there are no vertical lines.

"This misdescription of the paper in no way detracts from Dr. Freund's discovery, which is original and valuable."



E. BLUM

P.O. BOX 1669

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JOHANNESBURG**

RECENT PRINTINGS OF AFRICAN COLONIALS

(Continued from May issue.)

Basutoland

Originals (1938) perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, with creamy gum; Jan., 1944, on thin white paper, with white gum; perf. slightly changed in some values.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. green, now bluish-green, p. $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

According to "Gibbons" Stamps monthly, this is from Plate 2. None of the other denominations have any plate number.

1d. scarlet, now bright scarlet, p. $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. light blue, now cobalt, p. $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

2d. bright purple, now a deeper shade.

3d. bright blue, now perf. $12\frac{3}{4}$.

4d. grey, now slate grey.

6d. orange-yellow, came of a deeper shade (white paper and gum) in June, 1942, now slightly deeper still.

1s. red-orange, had a new printing also in June, 1942, now brighter.

2s. 6d. sepia, now a lighter shade.

5s. violet, now a deep violet, p. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$.

10s. olive green, now deep olive green, p. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$.

Bechuanaland

Originals (1938) perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, with creamy gum; Jan., 1944, as for Basutoland.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. green, a printing in April, 1943, light green, now again green.

1d. scarlet, now paler shade, p. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. light blue, a printing in April, 1943, light ultramarine, now ultramarine.

2d. brown, now a lighter shade, p. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$.

3d. ultramarine, now a deeper shade, p. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$.

4d. orange, now a paler shade.

6d. purple, now magenta, p. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$.

1s. black and olive green, a printing in June, 1942, greyish black and olive green, now deep black and olive green.

2s. 6d. black and scarlet, colours and perf. unchanged.

5s. black and ultramarine, colour and perf. unchanged.

10s. black and brown, colour as before, but p. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$.

Kenya

Statements about these stamps continue to be rather confusing, if not actually contradictory. We give the following notes as taken respectively from Gibbons' Stamp Monthly (G.S.M.) and Stamp Collecting (S.C). Perforations are all comb, if not otherwise stated. Under plate numbers the frame plate is given first, then the centre plate.

1c (131) p. $13\frac{1}{4}$, frame plate?, centre plate 1A (G.S.M.).

1c (131a) $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, frame plate 2, centre plate no number (G.S.M.).

1c (131a) $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, plates 2 and 4A; also 2 and 4B (G.S.M.).

5c, $13 \times 11\frac{3}{4}$, plates 3 and 1B. Plates 5, 2A and 2B (S.C. and G.S.M.).

10c, $13\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$, plates 3 and 4B. Plates 4, 5, 5A, 5B (S.C. and G.S.M.).

15c, $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$, thin white paper (S.C.).

20c, $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, plates 3 and 4B. Plates 5, 4A, 4B (S.C. and G.S.M.).

30c, $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, centre a deeper black. Plates 3 and 3 (G.S.M. and S.C.).

50c, plates 1, 2A and 2B (S.C. and G.S.M.).

1s., plates 1, 5A and 5B (S.C. and G.S.M.).

2s., $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, plates 1 and 3B (G.S.M.).

3s., $13\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$, plates 1 and 3B. Plates 1, 5A and 5B (S.C. and G.S.M.).

5s., formally $14\frac{1}{4}$ line, plates 1 and 1; now $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Plates 1 and 2 (G.S.M.).

10s., $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, plates 1 and 4A (G.S.M.).

£1, still $14\frac{1}{4}$, colour much as before but in the head plate the former white space at the base of the neck is now filled in by lines of shading. (S.C.)

Mr. W. Tunstall states that, it is rumoured that the 2s. has been seen in "imperf. between condition, but he is unable to confirm the accuracy of this.

Nigeria

The 1s. and 2s. values have appeared on thin white paper with white gum. The 1s. is a paler shade, and the 2s. a milky blue rather than light blue.

The $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. plates are now 2, 2A, 3 and 3A (G.S.M.).

Sierra Leone.

The issue of 1938-41 originally showed creamy paper, and gum was uniformly perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

In September, 1942, there appeared new printings of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 2s. and 5s. with white paper and gum, perf. still $12\frac{1}{2}$ except in the case of the 5s., which was $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. The shades were mostly paler.

In April of this year there appeared new printings of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 3d., 4d., 5d. and 1s., with white paper and gum. Perforation of these all $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, except in the case of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., which remains $12\frac{1}{2}$ all round. Shades again mostly somewhat different.

—"Stamp Collecting."

Zanzibar

"Gibbons Stamp Monthly" reports that the 5c, 15c, 20c, 30c, 40c, 50c, 1s. and 2s. have been supplied on the thinnish very white paper, and the 25c on thinnish yellow paper. All line perf. as before but in a slightly finer gauge, 14.1 as against 13.9 in the cent values, and 14.2 as against 14.1 in the shilling values. All from same plates as before, numbered "1" except the 2s., which has no number. Shades show little change, except the 1s., which is in a yellower shade of green, and the 2s. in a more reddish shade of purple.

+

SWAZILAND

The 5s. and 10s. are stated to have appeared in May of different shades from those which came out early in 1943. The 5s. is described as grey in place of slate grey and the 10s. as being a lighter shade of purple.

Special Stamp After-Stocktaking Offers

BASUTOLAND K.G. VI, S.G. 18-28, complete used set, ½d.—10/-, at 28/9.
BECHUANALAND K.G. VI, S.G. 118-128, complete used set, ½d.—10/-, at 32/6.
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CEYLON K.G. VI, 2c—1r (10 stamps) used, at 4/9 set.
EGYPT 1939, S.G. 310 and 311, 50p and £E1, used, at 25/- the pair.
KENYA K.G. VI, 5c—10/- (11 stamps) used, at 16/6 set.
N. RHODESIA K.G. VI, S.G. 25-32, including obsolete 1½d. and 2d., ½d.—1/-, used, at 3/9 set.

NYASALAND K.G. V 1934-5, complete mint set, S.G. 114-122, ½d.—1/-, cat 24/2, at 16/9.
NYASALAND K.G. VI, S.G. 130-8 (9 stamps), ½d.—1/-, used, at 4/9 set.
SIERRA LEONE K.G. VI, current ½d.—1/-, used, at 4/3 set.
SOUTH AFRICA S.G. 49, 2/6 used joined pair, at 2/6.
 64, 5/- used joined pair, at 7/6.
 64a, 10/- used joined pair, at 15/-.
S. RHODESIA K.G. VI, S.G. 40-52, ½d.—5/-, complete used set, at 17/9.
 1940 Golden Jubilee, complete set, mint at 4/6; used at 5/6.
S.W.A. 1931 S.G. 74-84, ½d.—10/-, superb used joined pairs, at 55/- set.

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15 CAMEROONS, mixed values, mint and used, at 22/6.
14 INDIAN SETTLEMENTS, complete mint definite set, at 19/6.

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S.G. 540, 2/- used at 2/6; 1941 S.G. 624/5 mint provisionals at 10d. the pair; 1940 S.G. 618, 7d. scarce centenary value, mint or used, at 15/6. 1944 New Issues as S.G. Nos. quoted only wmk.

multiple (i.e., new wmk.) All mint: F180 at 3/9; F203 at 5/3; F181 at 6/-; F182 at 7/6; F204 at 8/3; F183 at 9/-; F184 at 10/6; F186 at 12/-; F188 at 15/-.

MANCHURIA—Temporary Japanese Occupation—Complete mint sets :

1940, 2nd Visit of Emperor Kangeh to Japan, S.G. 114-5, at 2/-.
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 1941, National Conscription, S.G. 122-3, at 3/6.

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Special 200th Anniversary Behring Straits, set of 4 different, at 4/6.
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JACK'S RADIO BAZAAR
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The First $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Rotogravure Coil Stamps of the Union of South Africa

By A. HILTON SYDOW, A.S.A.A., C.A. (S.A.).

(Continued from page 75 of July issue)

The Master Negative was placed in a step and repeat camera, and actinic light was passed through the Master Negative 4-set on to a specific area on the surface of a large sensitised diapositive plate by exposure of the said area. The diapositive plate thus received four images, namely, A1, E1, E2 and A2 in two horizontal rows of two each. This procedure was repeated 59 times until the diapositive plate received 240 images in 20 horizontal rows of 12 each, made up of 60 sub-types A1, 60 sub-types E1, 60 sub-types E2, and 60 sub-types A2, in alternate positions throughout. The 240-set diapositive plate was then printed in contact with a sheet of carbon tissue sensitised to light after immersion in potassium bichromate and on which a screen had previously been printed. The printed carbon tissue was then "squeegeed" or transferred on to the copper cylinder in a developing trough which contained warm water. The warm water loosened the paper backing of the tissue and left the carbon resist with its gelatine binding on to the cylinder. The cylinder at this stage contained 240 images, namely, horizontal rows Nos. 1 to 20, each of 12 units. Subsequently two additional horizontal rows of 12 each were transferred on to the cylinder from a 24-set strip of carbon tissue, namely, rows 21 and 22, and thus received 264 images all told, made up of 66 of each of the sub-types A1, E1, E2 and A2, but with sub-types E2 and A2 in juxtapositions anent horizontal rows 20 and 21. When the cylinder was cooled off and dried, all exposed parts

were painted out with acid-resisting varnish, the perforation gutters included, and the cylinder was then etched intaglio. Thus it will be noted that as a consequence of an error made in transferring two additional rows of frame images that the well-known "SUID-SUID" and "SOUTH-SOUTH" varieties came into being. The vignette cylinder was prepared in similar manner to that described afore for the frame cylinder.

The images on the 24-set carbon tissue sheet utilised for transference of horizontal rows Nos. 21 and 22 on to the copper frame cylinder was printed from the diapositive horizontal rows Nos. 16 and 17. For example, the following diapositive blemishes appear on:

Row 17 No. 1 and Row 22 No. 1 small green spot in vertical lines above squared ornament in top left-hand corner;

Row 17 No. 10 and Row 22 No. 10. Tiny white spot in green line under second "E" of "Revenue";

Row 17 No. 12 and Row 22 No. 12. Tiny white spot under "V" of "Revenue."

Also the images on the 24-set carbon tissue sheet used for transference of horizontal rows Nos. 21 and 22 on to the copper vignette cylinder was printed from the diapositive horizontal rows Nos. 16 and 17. For example the diapositive blemishes appear on:

Row 17 No. 1 and Row 22 No. 1. Tiny black spot between horns.

Row 17 No. 3 and Row 22 No. 3. Larger black spot between horns.

The reconstruction sheet, 264-set, shows the following characteristics:

(A) FRAME DIAPOSITIVÉ.

4/10 Spot right scroll.

5/8 Flaw, left corner.

12/7 Line through left scroll.

(B) VIGNETTE DIAPOSITIVÉ.

4/2 Spot left of nose.

4/3 Spot right of right ear.

4/4 Spot below left ear.

7/2 Spot between right horn and ear.

7/4 Spot right of left horn.

6/6 Spot right of left horn.

5/11 Spot right of left horn.

(C) FRAME CYLINDER.

1/2 Horizontal line in margin above FR.

2/2 Missing horizontal line top left corner.

2/4 White patch, top right corner.

3/1 White patch bottom right corner and under O.

4/1 White patch, top left squared ornament.

5/4 Line touching bottom bar.

15/2 Spot in margin, bottom right corner.

19/3 Spot under right bar.

11/8 Spot near top of right horn.

12/9 Flaw left of left eye.

17/3 Spot between horns.

17/1 Tiny spot between horns.

16/5 Spot in lines of shading right of head,

3/10 Spot right of left eye. (midway.)

12/12 Spot right of blaise.

11/2 Line below O of South.

12/4 Line in margin below first S of Posseel.

13/3 Green line buck's forehead.

14/1 White vertical line below right bar.

17/1 Top of value tablet broken.

19/5 Indentation top left bar.

20/8 Spot in first A of Afrika.

20/9 Two green spots in right margin.

6/6	White patch left of tablet.	20/12	Flaw above second A of Afrika.
6/9	Black patch above first E of Revenue.	21/6	Flaw in top bar above first A of Afrika.
10/1	Spot right of right ear.		
(D) VIGNETTE CYLINDER.			
1/3	Black vertical line top of top right corner.	7/6	Spot below buck's mouth.
1/10	Vertical black line under buck's mouth.	10/5	Spot left of nose.
1/11	Stroke right of right ear.	11/8	Black spot in T of Postage.
1/12	Spots between horns and right of right ear.	16/5	Spot right of top of right ear.
2/10	Spot right of right ear	17/3	Curved line on back.
2/12	Spot close to second A of Afrika.	17/9	Thin line through left ear and horn.
3/2	Two spots left of nose.	21/9	Spot left of buck's nose.
7/1	Large spot above D of Suid.		White in lines of shading.
		21/10	RETOUCHED Lines of shading.
		22/12	Thin line curved contiguous to buck's nose.

The additional horizontal rows Nos. 21 and 22 are vertically out of alignment in relation to the horizontal rows Nos. 1 to 20, and the horizontal perforation gutters between horizontal rows Nos. 20 and 21, and Nos. 22 and

1, are wider than those between the other rows.

Thus it will be noted that three types of flaws are to be found on these stamps, namely, Master Negative ones, Diapositive ones, and Cylinder ones.

(Continued from page 96)

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, W. D. Vallance; *Hon. Secretary*, S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973, Cape Town; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

June 22nd.—Despite the cold weather, over 40 members and visitors were present at this meeting to view the very fine exhibit of the "Gilbert and Ellice Islands" by Mr. C. Gelberg.

One may wonder how an evening's display could be made of the few stamps of this Colony, and this was really an eye-opener as to what can be done.

A few pages neatly written up gave the geography and postal history of the islands and then followed a fine item in a first day cover of the first provisional stamp (overprinted on the Fiji Islands) in 1911.

The complete stamp issue of the Colony in mint condition and the same again in used condition mostly on piece was then shown, outstanding being the £1 issue of 1924.

The Coronation issue was particularly interesting in that it showed the cancellations of the various islands, Ocean Island, Tirawa, etc.

Mr. Gelberg, on being called upon to speak on the stamps, stated that although the collection was his, he had not been responsible for collecting it, and called on Mr. Mummery, formerly of Pretoria, who had made the collection, to speak for himself.

Mr. Mummery referred to the aim of all collectors—completion—and in this small stamp issuing country, it was possible to attain that aim as there were no varieties calling for a big outlay. His most difficult job had been in getting the used copies on piece, but

thanks to a personal contact on one of the islands this had been accomplished.

The usual auction took place, including some items for Red Cross funds.

July 13th.—The weather was anything but kind when Mr. K. Alexander displayed a portion of his "charities," but no less than 40 members and visitors braved the elements to witness this fine exhibit.

It is almost impossible to single out any special item in a display of these attractive stamps, beauty of design and colouring being prevalent throughout them all, and as the exhibitor explained in his little chat on the stamps, many are the beautiful stories attached to some of the issues.

Mr. Alexander can always be relied upon for a little diversion, and this time we also had the pleasure of seeing a small exhibit of his many medals and tokens, and these created quite a lot of interest to all.

During the business portion of the meeting, Mr. Vallance welcomed six new members to the Society, and the meeting concluded with the usual auction.

B.L.C.

NETHERLANDS

Following the example of other exiled Governments, that of the Netherlands is reported as being about to issue a series of nine stamps (1½ to 30 cents) for use on ships of the Navy and Mercantile Marine now based in Britain, and ultimately for use in Holland itself when liberated.

Collectors of REALLY FINE BRITISH COLONIALS should get into touch with me AT ONCE

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BARBADOS: ½d. gr., P.14. Rare, Cat. 10s.	3/0
½d. 5s., Complete all perfs.	20/0
1939 Cent. ½d., 1d., 1½d.	2/6
BURMA: 1938, 3½s.	10/0
BURMA SERVICE: Complete	170/0
BR. GUIANA: \$1	3/0
BR. HONDURAS: 1c.—1\$	20/0
\$2, 20s.; \$5	45/0
BR. SOLOMON IS.: 1938, Complete to 5s.	70/0
4½d., Obs.	8/0
CAYMAN IS.: 1938, Complete	60/0
1938 10s., 40s.; 1943 10s.	17/6
CEYLON: Rs. 2, 2s. 6d.; Rs. 5	3/6
CYPRUS: 45p., 8s. 6d.; 90p., 18s.; £1	35/0
DOMINICA: to 1s., 5s.: Complete	17/6
EGYPT: 1944, 10m. New King Fuad	1/3
50p. current, 3s. 6d.; £1	19/0
FALKLAND IS.: Complete 15V.	70/0
FIJI: 1942 complete 13V	35/0
GIBRALTAR: £1	35/0
GRENADE: 1941, 2s.	10/0
1938, 5s.	9/0
1943, 10s. toned paper	30/0
Current 10s., P.14	30/0
HONG KONG: Cent. 15c., 2s. 6d.; \$1	10/0
INDIA: 1a., Tete-Beche Pair	3/0
JAMAICA: 2s., 2s. 3d.; 5s.	8/0
LEEWARD IS.: 1938 10s., 17s. 6d.; 1942 £1	40/0
MALTA: 1943 ½d.—10s.	43/0
MAURITIUS: 1938 complete 70s.; 1943 complete	56/0
NEWFOUNDLAND: 7c. Air Obs. 1s. 9d.; 30c.	3/6
SIERRA LEONE: 10s., 17s. 6d.; £1	35/0
SEYCHELLES: Current complete	40/0
ST. KITTS: Current complete	20/0
ST. HELENA: Current complete	37/6
ST. LUCIA: Current complete	37/6
ST. VINCENT: to 1s., 5s.; Complete	54/0
TRINIDAD: Complete (inc. old cols.)	30/0
VIRGIN IS.: to 1s., 5s.; Complete	17/6

INVESTMENT OFFERS, MINT SHEETS:

GAMBIA: 1½d. Obs. 60 copies	15/0
GIBRALTAR: 2d. Wmk. sideways, 60, (in issue about three months)	20/0
NEWFOUNDLAND: 1938, 7c. Queen Mary P. 13½. Obs. 100 copies	60/0
NEWFOUNDLAND: Set P. 13½ 5c. to 48c., 10v. Obs. Set	20/0

POSTAGE AND INSURANCE 5% EXTRA
Mint K.G.VI current short or complete sets can be supplied at 15% over face including all costs.

URGENTLY WANTED:

Stamps of South Africa and African Colonies, used, all issues; also collections up to £5,000 required. Send offers immediately, stating prices required to save time. (Please use Air Mail Service). Cash sent by AIRGRAPH IMMEDIATELY GOODS ARE RECEIVED. Amounts over £50 sent by cable at my expense. Before sending stamps please send offers, as all stamps must be imported under special permits.

L. A. GURNEY,

Gloucester House, 19, Charing Cross Road, LONDON, W.C.2.

“Covers the World”



● **BRITISH EMPIRE**

BECHUANALAND S.G. 53.	
broken P	£7 0 0
Regent No. 89	10 0 0
BR. SOMALILAND 1938	£8 0 0
†GREAT BRITAIN p.a. £1	£1 10 0
†S.G. 177a	£10 10 0
JUBILEE compl.	£35 0 0
†NATAL S.G. 171 vertical pair pmk 17 July, 1911	£25 0 0
†NATAL S.G. 5. Full margins, finely embossed	£25 0 0
NIGERIA £1 G.V. used	£5 0 0
RHODESIA S.G. 12	£10 0 0
RHODESIA 166a	£6 0 0
S.W.A. †13 hor. pr.	£8 0 0
†26 block	£7 10 0
†27 vert. pr.	£17 10 0
2 “Afrika” over “South-West” block	£40 0 0

†SOUTH AFRICA	
26.10.18 p.c. “Make Your Sixpence Fly” Blue Wing on Red Cross	£4 10 0
1925 Air mint	£1 15 9
used	£2 0 0
cover	£2 5 0
†S.G. 107 Block	£15 0 0

†Indicates used, otherwise mint.

Offers subject to being unsold and subject to price changes. E. & O.E. Postage Extra.

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OLD AND MODERN COLLECTIONS, SINGLE RARITIES AND ERRORS, DUPLICATES & OFFICE MIXTURES. Cash on acceptance of Offer.

E. M. LACY

Bankers: Barclays. Telegrams: Globephil. Telephone: 2-4657.

(Globe Postage Stamp Company)

117, Longmarket Street, Capetown.

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EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

(For Reference Numbers vide my Check List)

- 10 o/ptd in Capitals, 1c-35c cpl. (Nos.
1-10) price 42/6
9 do. do. without the 4c (No. 4) 7/6
9 o/p small type, 1c-35c cpl. (Nos.
11-19) 21/-
8 do. wider spacing, 1c-25c (Nos.
20-27) 45/-
1 LIBRE o/p on 4c, in black (No. 29) 25/-
17 do. on Head types, in black 30c-
frs. 2.50 55/-
10 do. in red, 45c-frs 20... .. 50/-
2 surcharges (Nos. 45 and 51) 2/6
5 Airmail overprints, frs. 2.50-50 ... 30/-
4 De Gaulle Commemoratives (Nos.
77/80) 50/-
4 do. on postcards, as issued ... 55/-
1 Brazza Monument Fund (No. 81) 3/6
14 "Phoenix" type, 5c-20 frs. cpl
(Nos. 82-95) 10/6
4 Airmail, 50c-10 frs. (Nos. 96-99) ... 5/6

Special Offer : The above collection of
85, all different, for only £8 10s. nett.
Other values not quoted are in stock.

Varieties of the first issue A.E.F. (Nos.
1-10) :

- Small first "A" set of 9 values ... 15/-
Bar between "E/F", set of 6 values 12/6
Hyphen between "E-F", set of 7 values 15/-
"IQUE" and "CAISE" underlined,
set of 9 values 15/-
10c (No. 6) "Native with bangle" pair
w/Normal 7/6
10c (No. 6) error "L BRE" (I omitted)
in pair 25/-
25c (No. 9) do. do. do. ... 25/-

FREE FRENCH INDIA.

- Cross of Lorraine o/pt, 15 values, mint 7/6
do. do. raised full stop after
LIBRE, 6 vals.... .. 9/6
do. do. LIBRE tilted upwards,
5 values 10/6
Free Jugoslavia 1944, portraits, 6 vals.
cpl. mint 5/-
Free Poland 1942, 8 vals. cpl. mint ... 9/6
do. 1944, do. do. ... 6/6

All offers, postfree, nett c.w.o.

A. LICHTENSTEIN

P.O. Box 576,
BLOEMFONTEIN, O.F.S.



COLLECTORS' WANTS AND OFFERS

(Twopence per word per insertion
with minimum of 2/- per insertion)

Wanted: 2 or 3, F.G. Warwick albums,
with or without interleaving, best
prices paid. Urgent.
S. Kaganson, 440 Albert Road, Salt
River, C.P.

Collections Wanted to Buy.—Old and
Modern Collections, Single Rarities
and Errors, Duplicates and Office
Mixtures.

Prompt cash on acceptance of offer:
E. M. Lacy (Globe Postage Stamp Co.),
117 Longmarket Street, Cape Town.

Mr. E. Tamsen, Box 13, Nylstroom,
offers Blocks of South African Col-
onies and Union, also full range of
Entires.

Transvaal, Griqualand West, O.F.S.
covers and rarities wanted by
A. E. Basden, Box 238, Pretoria.

Basutoland: Wanted covers, or stamps
postmarked in Basutoland before
1910.
Harding, Box 108, Ladybrand.

All South African Stamps wanted,
Wholesale quantities.
S. Curtis & Co., Ashhurst, New
Zealand.

Seychelles and Sierra Leone fine used
copies wanted. Particularly Edward
and George. High prices willingly
paid.
William Redford, Box 7012, Johannes-
burg.

For Service, promptness and satisfac-
tion.
Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni.
Phone 54-1692.

Wanted: Transvaal, Natal, Cape, O.F.S.,
Bechuanaland, Gambia, St. Helena,
Egypt, France. Picked copies, rari-
ties and varieties, also 9,000 items
for world collection up to 1933 issues.
E. Hunt, Box 2437, Johannesburg.

O.F.S.

Specialists in this country should see an
article on the "1d." on 5s. of 1881 by H. R.
Holmes in the "Philatelic Journal of Great
Britain," April-June number. It deals with
the four types as found in the three different
settings.

SOCIETY NEWS

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. A. Watson; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. F. Fowler, P.O. Box 168. *Meetings*, Colosseum Building, 2nd Fridays, 7.45 p.m.

At the July meeting there were 18 members present and seven visitors. One new member was elected.

Various new issues received by the secretary during the month and other items of philatelic interest were passed round for inspection.

On the recommendation of the committee, it was resolved to hold auction sales after the displays at all meetings, provided that suitable material was forthcoming from the members.

At the conclusion of the business, Mr. Makin exhibited his very fine collection of the first printings of the King George VI issues for the various Colonies, etc. These made an exceedingly interesting and picturesque show, owing to the rich colouring. All the specimens were mint and, in addition to the £1 values, the collection included all the scarce and elusive varieties of these issues, while the mounting and arrangement was consistently good throughout.

The tea interval followed, after which Mr. C. H. Thornton gave a short talk on the Ionian Islands, accompanying it with a few sheets showing the three values mint, several pre-stamp covers used in the Islands, and a page of Greek stamps bearing various Ionian postmarks.

Following this, after mentioning that he had been influenced by the fact that it was French Bastille Day, the same member tabled his very fine collection of France and Colonies early and middle issues, the display commencing with a wealth of colour trials and proofs, which are seldom seen. The collection includes many fine copies of the early issues, among them being the scarce 1 Franc of both the Republic and the Empire. Also to be noted were the fine tête-bêche pairs and strips, several on the original covers; the 40c. with the wide figure "4"; balloon post covers used from Paris during the siege of 1870; a fine copy of the rare 4c. grey French Colonies (G.21) and many other scarce varieties too numerous to mention.

T.A.H.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. Ferguson; *Hon. Secretary*, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

July 3.—Mr. Ferguson in the chair. Mr. Hawke read an extract on Antarctica.

Short Papers: Dr. Broughton described and showed some unusual specimen stamps, the overprint being on stamps sent out by the Postal Convention, but of which the subsequent issue was either withdrawn or destroyed. Mr. Beyers gave a historical review of the struggle between the Turks and Bulgarians for the Skipta Pass, scenes of which are depicted on the 1934 issue of Bulgaria. Mr. Konya gave a short talk on some of his experiences during his stay in China and read some cuttings from Chinese papers, most of which were very amusing. Mr. de Boom related a personal incident regarding a sale of stamps while on a visit to Holland in 1904. One dealer offered him a certain sum for some stamps, which he eventually accepted, only to find that within about 24 hours the same stamps were resold for about five times the amount.

July 17.—Mr. Ferguson in the chair.

Mr. Oppenheim gave an interesting talk on French stamps as exemplified by his own collection. Starting at 1917, he described many issues in detail. He pointed out that France was the first country to issue commemorative stamps and had kept up the good work in great profusion. The most important incidents in French history had been depicted as well as portraits

of her great men. He gave advice on some of the items that were becoming scarce and therefore worth while looking out for. He thought that there would be a great demand for French stamps after the war. Mr. Oppenheim was thanked for his talk, the speakers being Messrs. Rudd, Hawke and Beyers.

H.A.W.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, F. J. H. Lang; *Hon. Secretary*, L. Buchen, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Public Library, Johannesburg, 7.45 p.m.

There was a fair attendance at our July 11th meeting, when Mr. F. J. H. Lang was in the chair.

In the absence of our hon. auctioneer (who, we are glad to hear, is rapidly recovering), Mr. L. Buchen conducted the auction of new issues and members' contributions, and as a result of his efforts £3 10s. was realised for our war fund.

Notes of the month were read by Mr. F. E. Ingham, which brought to our attention the fact that quantities of forgeries are being printed in Germany, and that in recent London auctions prices as high as, and even higher than catalogue figures, were being realised.

The exhibit of the evening comprised the charity and commemorative issues of Belgium, tabled by Mr. L. Buchen. In commenting on this exhibit, Mr. Gladstone pointed out that the exhibit included all of the charity and commemorative issues of Belgium from about 1910 onwards, and further, that all sets but one were complete. Mr. Buchen pointed out that his exhibit was still incomplete in that he had not yet had time to write it up. When he has done this, therefore, it will represent a really attractive commemorative exhibit, as the stamps themselves are fine examples of modern engraving and printing processes and are very artistic in design. This particular exhibit is mounted up on loose sheets which are housed in specially made boxes, instead of album covers, which goes to prove that, notwithstanding the present shortage of albums and suitable album leaves, we can still make up attractive collections.

Our president expressed the hope that our first exchange evening, to be held on July 25th and at subsequent fourth Tuesdays of every month, will prove a success. Certainly, if all members who have interesting questions or ideas in relation to our hobby or stamps for exchange and conversely want-lists, will bring them to these meetings, they should prove highly interesting all round.

This fourth Tuesday meeting will start at 8 p.m. and will include no regular business, so that maximum time can be devoted to the study of our hobby and the pursuit of interesting items or information.

H.E.B.

NYASALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. Stevens; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. Anson; *Meetings*, 2nd or 3rd Mondays, Tobacco Auction Rooms, Limbe, 5 p.m.

May 8th.—The amended constitution and rules, having been circulated to members, were adopted.

Approval books belonging to members were circulated.

Mr. Milne exhibited a specimen (not in quite perfect condition unfortunately) of the rarely seen Pacific Steam Navigation Company stamp used as a provisional in Peru (S.G. No. 2). Mr. Booth demonstrated the two sizes of the S. Rhodesian 2d. Matabeleland commemorative, this variation being common to all recent printings done in Pretoria. He also showed the K.G.V 1913-22 issue of Nyasaland in various shades for classification.

June 12th.—After formal business various "notes of the month" were read by Mr. Milne dealing with minor varieties in recent Rhodesians, etc., and issues by emigre Governments in England. In connection with the latter item he showed covers with the second Polish issue.

Exchanges occupied the remainder of the meeting.

(Concluded on page 93)

C.S.

A Question

THAT ONLY *YOU* CAN ANSWER

There isn't enough train accommodation for everybody, especially during holiday periods. That means that hundreds of men, women and children will have to spend their holiday at home this year.

Some of them may *need* to get away, for health reasons. Some may deserve a spell, after working all the year at high pressure on essential war work. If they fail to get accommodation, they can't go.

Do you or your family *need* to leave home this winter? Do you believe, honestly, that you have been working so hard in the national interest that you *must* get away? Or, on thinking it over, do you feel that you ought to give up your place in the queue and so allow someone else, more genuinely entitled to it, to travel in your stead?

SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS



Published by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. Sole Wholesale Distributors: Central News Agency, Ltd., Johannesburg. Printed by Magazine Press (Proprietary) Limited, 2a Harrison Street, Johannesburg



U/C. 161

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

Proprietors and Publishers :

THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Price 6d. REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. Price 6d.

Vol 20. No. 9.

SEPTEMBER, 1944.

Whole No. 234.

PUBLICATIONS

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K. B. Hove, Sussex, 17th June.

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This very grateful tribute to the quality of the service provided by Harmer's Bond Street Stamp Auctions is but one of the many hundreds of compliments that we receive each season.

The success of Harmer's Bond Street Stamp Auctions is the fruit of more than 50 years' consistent effort to provide a perfect service and complete satisfaction for Vendor and for Buyer.

Every feature of every sale at Harmer's of Bond Street is handled by experts—men whose wide experience enables them to reveal those little extra points of a stamp that enable the distant Buyer to bid confidently and in complete security, and ensure for the Vendor a fair price for his stamps.

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The SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

Proprietors and Publishers :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Honorary Editor: Dr. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE, P.O. Box 7012, Johannesburg.
Honorary Business Manager: WILLIAM REDFORD, Broadcast House, Commissioner Street, Johannesburg.

Subscription: Five Shillings per annum, post free to any part of the World.

Vol 20. No. 9.

SEPTEMBER, 1944.

Whole No. 234.

UNION AND S.W.A. NOTES

Recent Printings:

Following on the information given in our June number, here are notes supplied by the Post Office authorities in respect of printings of postage stamps, etc., carried out during the quarter ended 18th July, 1944:

(a) War Postage Stamps:

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.—Job No. 1776. Now completed with a total delivery, finished on 2.5.44, of 258,500 sheets of 360. Cylinder 40 as before.

1d.—Job No. 1777. Finished with a total delivery of 248,200 sheets of 360, last delivery on 13.6.44. Cylinder 6,922 as before.

Job No. 52. On an order for 200,000 sheets of 360, 12,500 were delivered on 13.7.44. Cylinder 6,936 new.

2d.—Job No. 6192/8646. On the order for 1,200,000 sheets of 240, 364,000 sheets have been delivered subsequent to 18.4.44. Cylinder 6,931 as before.

3d.—Job No. 8762. 73,860 sheets of 360 have been delivered on this order; last delivery 6.6.44. Cylinder 7,014 as before.

(b) Roll Stamps:

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.—Job No. 16. Order for 1,000 rolls x 1,012 stamps. No intimation of any deliveries so far.

1d.—Job No. 6193. Order finished, final delivery 16.5.44. Total 1,080 rolls x 500 stamps and 2,697 rolls x 1,000 stamps. Cylinder 16 as before.

Job No. 10014. An order for 5,000 rolls x 506 stamps. No intimation of any deliveries so far.

(c) Official Stamps:

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.—An order for 300 sheets x 240. Stamps supplied from P.M.G.'s stock and overprinted on a flat-bed machine with "Offisiëel-Official" from a new forme. 600 sheets x 120 delivered on 6.6.44.

(d) Active Service Letter Cards:

3d.—Job No. 3032. Completed by a final delivery on 9.5.44. Total delivery 5,316,000 cards. Cylinder No. 59 as before.

Job No. 14. "Air Mail Letter Cards." Another order for 5,000,000. Since 11.5.44, 1,978,200 cards have been delivered. Cylinder No. 80 new.

(e) Pictorial Inland Postcards:

1d.—Job No. 3036. 2,190,992 cards have now been delivered on this order, which was for 2,000,000 and first delivery was made on 7.12.43. Cylinders 86 and 87 as before.

(f) South West Africa:

(1) Job No. 30663. 2,000 sheets x 60 of 1s. S.W.A. stamps supplied by P.M.G. from stocks (1,000 sheets x 120) and overprinted "Revenue-Inkomste" on a flat-bed machine from an old forme, 30.5.44.

(2) Job No. 31204. 1,000 sheets x 240 of Union War Postage 1s. stamps supplied by P.M.G. from stocks and overprinted "S.W.A." on a flat-bed machine from an old forme, 11.7.44.

Special points to be noted from this information:

The 1d. Bantam is now being printed from a new cylinder.

Penny sheets now on sale have the marginal imprints in purple. Will specialists please see if these are from the new cylinder.

Roll stamps appear to be being ordered in rolls of 1,012 and 506 instead of 1,000 and 500, as formerly.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. official overprint is from a new forme.

The "Active Service Letter Cards" are now called "Air Mail Letter Cards." Those with English stamps have serial numbers; those with Afrikaans stamps have not.

Durban Cavalcade:

The special Post Office at the Cavalcade held in Durban early in July raising money for the Governor-General's National War Fund had a double circle postmark with "Thanksgiving" above and "Cavalcade" below. Thanks to "Gwen Reed" for a specimen. S.W.A. Bantam $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

A statement has appeared in overseas press on the authority of "a Johannesburg correspondent" that this stamp has been issued with a small overprint (the size of that on the other stamps). This is quite wrong: it

has not. It will be noted that there is no record of it in the Government printings and the Director of Posts in S.W.A. has confirmed that there has been no such issue.

Shades: The 1d. rose Union is now on a creamy paper, not a pure white one.

The 2d. has for a couple of months or so been of a quite pale mauve shade instead of the former fairly deep purple.

The 1d. S.W.A. overprint is now appearing on the rose shade stamps.

Air Mail Developments

The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs announces that Great Britain is inaugurating a civilian air-letter service to all countries participating in the Empire air-mail scheme in Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the Fiji Islands and the western Pacific territories, with effect from August 24.

A flat postage rate of 6d. will be charged and the letters will be carried by air throughout. The postage rate from the United Kingdom for airgraphs for civilian addressees will be reduced from 8d. to 3d. simultaneously with the introduction of the new service.

(Thanks to Francis J. Field, Ltd., of Sutton Coldfield, for "first day" covers, which were delivered here on 6th September.—Ed.)

The Union post office will introduce a similar service in the near future. Air-letter forms similar to the existing letter cards in use for the forces will be issued at a cost of 6d. each, which will include postage. Civilian airgraphs will simultaneously be reduced from 8d. to 3d.

The new service will be additional to the existing air-mail letter service at 1s. 3d. per half oz. Full particulars will be published as soon as the necessary preliminaries are completed.

It is also announced that the airmail postage rates to all countries in the Western Hemisphere now served via West Africa have been reduced to 3s. 6d. per half ounce for letters and 1s. 9d. each for postcards.

An alternative to the United States, Canada and Newfoundland service, via Great Britain, is now also available at 2s. 6d. per half ounce for letters and 1s. 3d. each for postcards. It is expected that the service via West Africa will be more expeditious than that via the United Kingdom.

Correspondence for these countries should be clearly inscribed on the covers "By Air Mail via West Africa," or "Via United Kingdom," as desired.

Air mail correspondence for neutral countries in Europe may be posted now. The rates of postage are: Letters 1s. 6d. per half ounce and postcards 9d. each.

Use of "Official" Stamps:

A correspondent has written stating that a postal official in a large centre has refused to accept for registration private correspondence franked with "Official" stamps.

This is due to ignorance of regulations on the part of the postal official, as it has been clearly laid down that anyone may buy "Official" stamps (although only at the head office in Pretoria) and use them on personal correspondence.

V V V V

REMOVING CHALK SURFACED AND FUGITIVE INK STAMPS FROM PAPER

By PRESTON BEVAN.

It is well known that stamps printed in fugitive inks or on chalk surfaced paper are very easily ruined in removing them from covers or pieces of paper on which they have been stuck.

I have experimented with various ways of removing them and can now recommend the following method as being both safe and easy. The method was demonstrated for me by Mr. Lyle at a meeting of the Philatelic Society of Natal, and a brief account is given in the "Society News" column of the July issue of this magazine.

To make the method clear I would like to state that the glass I supplied for the demonstration was two panes of 21 oz., size 10 in. x 12 in., and the correct procedure as follows:—

- (1) Lay one pane of glass flat on the table.
- (2) Cover glass with a lightly dampened piece of blotting paper.
- (3) Place stamp with its piece of adhering paper face up.
- (4) Lay second pane of glass on top.

The time taken to remove the stamp naturally depends on the type of paper to which the stamp is stuck and also the dampness of the blotting paper. A little experimenting is necessary at first for if the stamp is left too long one will find that the gum has worked its way around and on to the face of the stamp.

As the moisture penetrates only from the back of the paper it is quite possible to remove a Mint stamp (which has inadvertently become stuck) with about 75 per cent. of its gum still adhering to it and no damage or blemish done to it, but for ordinary collection purposes the gum can be moved with the usual damp piece of cotton wool.

I have used this method for a considerable time and as was proved at the demonstration it is superior to any other generally known method.

Incidentally, I have removed, dried and rough sorted 2,500 stamps in three evenings occupying a total of nine hours using six panes of glass, the stamps only requiring a few minutes to dry.

The panes of glass, when not in use, should be stored with a couple of sheets of paper between them. If kept face to face touching each other a chemical action is liable to take place and the surface of the glass ruined for further use.

GIANT STAMP SALE IN BERMUDA

What is believed will be the largest sale of stamps ever held is expected to come off soon in Bermuda. It consists of stamps seized under the censorship there. Details awaited.

"Covers the World"



● RUSSIA

1944 Stratosphere Heroes (2)...	6	9
†1944 Militant Friendship (2)...	3	6
†1944 Turgenev Anniversary (2)	1	3

● BRITISH EMPIRE

BECHUANALAND S.G. 53.		
broken P	£7	0 0
Regent No. 89	10	0 0
BRITISH GUIANA CENT. ... £2 0 0		
BR. SOMALILAND 1938 ... £8 0 0		
†GREAT BRITAIN P.U.C. £1 ... £2 0 0		
JUBILEE compl. £35 0 0		
†NATAL S.G. 171 vertical pair		
pmk 17 July, 1911	£25	0 0
†NATAL S.G. 5. Full margins,		
finely embossed	£25	0 0
NIGERIA £1 G.V. used ... £5 0 0		
RHODESIA S.G. 12 £10 0 0		
RHODESIA 166a £6 0 0		
S.W.A. †13 hor. pr. £8 0 0		
†26 block	£7	10 0
†27 vert. pr.	£17	10 0
2 "Afrika" over		
"South-West" block	£40	0 0
†SOUTH AFRICA		
26.10.18 p.c. "Make Your		
Sixpence Fly" Blue Wing on		
Red Cross	£4	10 0
1925 Air mint	£1	15 9
used	£2	0 0
cover	£2	5 0
†S.G. 107 Block	£15	0 0

Postage Extra.

†Indicates used, otherwise mint.

Offers subject to being unsold and subject to price changes. E. & O.E.

WE WANT TO BUY—

OLD AND MODERN COLLECTIONS,
SINGLE RARITIES AND ERRORS,
DUPLICATES & OFFICE MIXTURES.
Cash on acceptance of Offer.

E. M. LACY

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Barclays. Telephone: 2-4657.

(Globe Postage Stamp Company)

117, Longmarket Street, Capetown.

COLLECTORS' WANTS AND OFFERS

(Twopence per word per insertion
with minimum of 2/- per insertion)

Seychelles and Sierra Leone fine used copies wanted. Particularly Edward and George. High prices willingly paid.

William Redford, Box 7012, Johannesburg.

Transvaal, Griqualand West, O.F.S. covers and rarities wanted by A. E. Basden, Box 238, Pretoria.

Collections Wanted to Buy.—Old and Modern Collections, Single Rarities and Errors, Duplicates and Office Mixtures.

Prompt cash on acceptance of offer: E. M. Lacy (Globe Postage Stamp Co.), 117 Longmarket Street, Cape Town.

Wanted: Transvaal, Natal, Cape, O.F.S., Bechuanaland, Gambia, St. Helena, Egypt, France. Picked copies, rarities and varieties, also 9,000 items for world collection up to 1933 issues. E. Hunt, Box 2437, Johannesburg.

For Service, promptness and satisfaction.

Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni. Phone 54-1692.

Mr. E. Tamsen, Box 13, Nylstroom, offers Blocks of South African Colonies and Union, also full range of Entires.

Basutoland: Wanted covers, or stamps postmarked in Basutoland before 1910.

Harding, Box 108, Ladybrand.

N.Z. 1944 Health Set on cover for fifty assorted S.A. in good condition.

S. Curtis & Co., Ashhurst, New Zealand.

Stamps of Switzerland, all early issues wanted for cash, high prices paid for "Rayons" and Cantonals.

Reply: Thiele, 455 West Street, Durban.

Wanted: Stamps of whole world from residents British Empire only. By catalogue or stamp for stamp. Does not send first.

Mr. W. J. Mills, Flat One, 160 Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge, N.S.W., Australia.

Liberia: Wanted collection, sets or single stamps.

Angus Bennett, Box 733, Cape Town.

Wanted: Burma used 18, 21, Service 10 to 27, Mint 17 to 33, Service 15 to 27.

Rivers, Box 46, Cape Town.

DE GAULLE ISSUES OF FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA

By A. LICHTENSTEIN

(Continued from page 88 of August issue)

(V) Airmail types o/pt as (II) or (III):

69	1.50fr.	Aeroplane	Bk.	May, 1941	3,700
70	2.50frs.	do.	Bk.	October, 1940	38,000
71	3.75frs.	do.	Bk.	May, 1941	3,800
72	4.50frs.	do.	Bk.	October, 1940	37,000
73	6.50frs.	do.	Bk.	do.	35,000
74	8.50frs.	do.	Bk.	do.	35,000
75	10.—/2.50frs.	do.	Bk.	October, 1941	10,000
76	50.—/10.75frs.	do.	R	October, 1940	10,000

Varieties: narrow, wide, or intermediate spacing between lines.

Thick or thin "f." Wider space between "e" and "F." I have also seen the 50.—frs. with o/p. in aniline ink.

(VI) Commemorating Gen. de Gaulle's arrival at Brazzaville. O/pt. "LIBRE 24-10-40" in two lines, in black:

77	80c.	Gentil	Bk.	August, 1941 ?	40,000 ?
77a	Error: "2" of 24 omitted				
78	1.—fr.	Brazza (red)	Bk.	do.	35,000 ?
79	1.—fr.	Gentil (green)	Bk.	do.	35,000 ?
80	1.50fr.	Crampel	Bk.	do.	50,000 ?

Note: I gravely doubt the accuracy of these figures for Nos. 77—80. They are probably considerably less.

Varieties: numerous type varieties exist in the Date o/pt., corresponding with those found in the contemporary Cameroons overprints. This suggests that both were done by the same printers.

Nos. 77 to 80 were only sold to the public already affixed to souvenir postcards, with a surcharge of 10.—frs. each, the proceeds going to Gen. De Gaulle's fighting funds.

Since this check list was submitted for publication a note has appeared in *Stamp Collecting* of May 6 stating that it was officially announced from Brazzaville on 25.8.43 that the number of these stamps overprinted was as follows: 80c, 60,000; 1fr. (both colours), 70,000; and 1fr. 50, 70,000. And yet the issue of the normal unoverprinted 80c has been officially stated to have been only 40,000. There is still some clearing up to be done here; neither arithmetic nor algebra will make these statements tally.

(VII) Brazza Monument Fund issue:

81	1.—fr.+2.—fr	brown and red	October, 1941 ?
(VIII) Definitive issue, October, 1941, "Phoenix rising from the flames":			
82	5c.	olive-brown	83 10c. dark blue
84	25c.	emerald	85 30c. orange
86	40c.	greenish slate	87 80c. red-brown
88	1fr.	magenta	89 1.50fr. bright red
90	2frs.	grey	91 2.50frs. ultramarine
92	4frs.	dull violet	93 5frs. yellow-bistre
94	10frs.	sepia brown	95 20frs. deep green

(IX) Definitive Airmail issue, February, 1942, "Aeroplane":

96	1fr.	vermillion	97 1.50fr. scarlet
98	5frs.	brown-red	99 10frs. black
100	25frs.	ultramarine	101 50frs. dark green
102	100frs.	plum	

(X) Red Cross issue, 1943. O/pt. "Afrique Combattante Francaise" in 3 lines, large Red Cross, and surcharged value, all in red:

103	2.25+50frs.	blue (Liotard)	Quantity 17,500
104	10.+100frs.	violet & blue (Liotard)	do. 8,350
105	10.75+200frs.	violet & green (airmail)	do. 5,350

(XI) 1943 War Fund issue. O/pt. "Liberation" and surcharge in red. Quantities issued:
10,000 sets:

106	80c.+10frs.	on De Gaulle Commemorative No. 77	
107	1.50+15frs.	do.	80
108	5c.+10frs.	on Phoenix type No. 82	
109	10c.+10frs.	do.	83
110	25c.+10frs.	do.	84
111	30c.+10frs.	do.	85
112	40c.+10frs.	do.	86
113	1+10frs.	do.	88
114	2+20frs.	do.	90
115	2.50+25frs.	do.	91

Note: Nos. 106/107 and 116/117 without the surcharge had previously been issued only on the De Gaulle souvenir postcards.

(XII) Second War Fund issue 1943, o/ptd. "Resistance" and surcharge in red. Quantities:
10,000 sets:

116	80c.+10frs.	on De Gaulle Commemorative No. 77	
117	1.50+15frs.	do.	80
		On "Phoenix" stamps Nos. 82 to 95:	
118	5c.+10frs.	119	10c. & 10frs.
120	25c.+10frs.	121	30c. & 10frs.
122	40c.+10frs.	123	1 & 10frs.
124	2+20frs.	125	2.50 & 25frs.
126	4+40frs.	127	5 & 50frs.
128	10+100frs.	129	20 & 200frs.

No doubt, several of my listings require correction, and any constructive criticism is welcomed. All kinds of rumours are being circulated, and exploited by unscrupulous speculators. It is therefore in the best interests of philately that anyone possessing facts (i.e. information of an official character) should come forward and make them available to the body philatelic, generally.

WEEKLY STAMP AUCTION SALES

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THURSDAY**
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CATALOGUES ON REQUEST

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Lots of stamps always on hand for sale by private treaty

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JOHANNESBURG

The Index Letters Used in the Date Stamps of the Cape Colony

By A. A. JURGENS

Recently I have been engaged, along with Dr. Harvey Pirie, on a study of Vryburg postmarks, genuine and faked. The point was raised by the latter whether or not "index letters" were indicative of usage of that date stamp by one particular individual. My answer was that "index letters" were time controls and that any one Post Office clerk might use several index letters during his spell of duty, or, on the other hand, the same index letter might be in use over the duty period of more than one clerk. It depended on how long a period the index letter represented at the office in question.

Index letters were first introduced with the circular date stamp of 1864 (see Type

30, p. 62, in my "Handstruck Letter Stamps and Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope.")

Some further light has now been thrown upon the use of these index numbers by the unearthing of an official list showing the actual time they represented.

I had previously come to the conclusion, in so far as the General Post Office, Cape Town, was concerned, that the omission of this control or index letter was due to the negligence of the Post Office official, but this list now makes it clear that such is not the case and that where a blank occurs this was done for a specific purpose, as can be seen from the list given here:

CAPE TOWN	PORT ELIZABETH	KIMBERLEY
Blank denotes 6 a.m. to 6.30 a.m.	Opening to 8 a.m.	6 a.m. to 7 a.m.
A. 6.30 a.m. to 7 a.m.	8 a.m. to 9 a.m.	7 a.m. to 7.30 a.m.
B. 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.	9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	7.30 a.m. to 7.45 a.m.
C. 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	7.45 a.m. to 8.15 a.m.
D. 10 a.m. to 10.45 a.m.	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	8.15 a.m. to 10 a.m.
E. 10.45 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.	3 p.m. to 4 p.m.	10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
F. 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
G. 12.30 p.m. to 1.15 p.m.	5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
H. 1.15 p.m. to 2 p.m.	5.30 p.m. close.	1 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.
I. 2 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.	— — — —	1.30 p.m. to 2.45 p.m.
K. 2.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.	— — — —	2.45 p.m. to 3.15 p.m.
L. 3 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	— — — —	3.15 p.m. to 5 p.m.
M. 3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	— — — —	5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
N. 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	— — — —	6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
O. 5.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.	— — — —	8 p.m. close.
P. 6 p.m. close.	— — — —	

The periods range from half an hour to (in the smaller offices) five or six hours.

This list, it will be noticed, mentions only three Post Offices, viz., Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Kimberley, and it is dated 1894. Although only these three offices are mentioned, it must not be concluded that other smaller offices had been left out owing to the small number of mails passing through daily. An example of this can be found in the case of Mowbray in 1894, which was at that time only a small place compared with Port Elizabeth, yet in 1894 the index letter "L" has been found on the "Hope" seated type of stamps used at Mowbray, while at Port Elizabeth the list stops at "H".

These index letters were used in all types of date stamps up to about 1900, when we begin to find the time expressed as a.m. or p.m., but only on certain types of date

stamps. In 1903-1904 index letters were again reverted to, in certain types, for example see Fig. 163 of the above-mentioned publication. In this case, either an index letter or a numeral was used.

I have not as yet been able to ascertain whether the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on represented the same time periods as did the index letters A, B, C, D and so on.

Date stamps brought into use from 1900 onwards now began to show, in addition to the time expressed as a.m. or p.m., a numeral either at the top or bottom of the design, and such numerals were intended as a check in case of error or any other reason so that the name of the clerk on duty at the time could be traced.

MONTHLY PHILATELIC BULLETIN

Each month The Windsor Stamp Co. publish THE WINDSOR MONTHLY PHILATELIC BULLETIN, an attractive 12 page illustrated list.

Contents include many offers of interesting stamps, including sections for Empire and Foreign; New Issues; Stamps for Investment; High values; Specimens; Accessories; Special offers and a Monthly Outstanding Bargain.

No, we are not telling you any more as we wish you to obtain and judge the M.P.B. for yourself, and, of course, as a subscriber have the exclusive offers each month of stamps in short supply at reasonable prices.

Subscription 2s. 6d. for one year's supply of 12 issues, which please remit by British Postal Order. Specimen copy 3d.

THE WINDSOR STAMP COMPANY
UCKFIELD - SUSSEX - ENGLAND

NEW ZEALAND

A "TENPENANCE" provisional has been made by overprinting the 1½d. Centennial war stamp withdrawn from sale. It was due to be issued on May 1.

Offers for September

- 9. Holland 1944 War Issue 1½—30c mint @ 4/6
- 1. New Zealand 10d. on 1½d. Centennial mint @ 1/3
- 5. Tonga, 1943 Jubilee Complete mint @ 3/6
- 3. U.S.A. 1944 Transcontinental, Transatlantic and Telegraph Commemos, mint @ 1/6
- 12. U.S.A. 1943 Overrun Nations cpl. mint @ 12/6
- 13. U.S.A. 1943 Overrun Nations plus China, used @ 8/6
- 35. U.S.A. 1940/41. Famous Americans, cpl. used @ 7/6

STAMP ALBUMS:

Can offer useful substitutes—details on request

A. LICHTENSTEIN

P.O. Box 576,
 BLOEMFONTEIN, O.F.S.



FREE FRENCH: Cameroons, Equatorial Africa, etc.

Cameroun, set 31, normal provisional, 2c to 2Fr.	£32 10 0
set 29, normal provisional, 2c to 5Fr	£17 10 0
Cameroun, Spitfires set 4 on cover . .	39 0 0
Spitfires set 2 De Gaulle Lon: 35£	
Stanley Gibbons last list sold out . .	32 10 0
Cameroun, Oeuvres de Guerre, set 3 Lon 10£	6 0 0
Cameroun, Ambulance "la Quintainie" 2. Lon £10	5 0 0
Cameroun, Varieties closed 4, "Comma." Most other var.	
Free French Equatorial Africa, A collection 82 varieties	65 0 0
collection 37 varieties	37 10 0
Free French Equatorial Africa, 4c Moyen Congo, Black overprint	3 0 0
4c Moyen Congo overprint Red	3 10 0
Free French Equatorial Africa, 75c London price £10	6 0 0
Free French Equatorial Africa, 30c Blue Red 80/-, ditto Black overprint . .	2 10 0
Free French Equatorial Africa, Double overprints, 40, 50=45 Double each M Double overprints, 55c 90/-, 60½=70½ and 75/50 each	4 10 0
French Equatorial Africa, 4c Black Moyen Congo £5, 35c double 80/- Double overprints 35c double one inverted 110/-, ditto 90c	6 10 0
10 Frs Double Black overprint, very scarce	22 10 0
French Equatorial Africa, Air 1.50 100/-, 3.75 110/-	
Free French Equatorial Africa, Visit Gen. de Gaulle 4 with date cards, used Visit Gen. de Gaulle used, Mint London £10	8 10 0
La Resistance (14) Mint sets complete X 510 Frs.	15 10 0
Liberation (10) Mint sets Charity X Frs 150	9 10 0

All the above are quoted subject to sales. Prices are Net. Of the double and inverted overprints and other errors and varieties only a few left, in some cases singles only. Early application is recommended. These interesting and attractive stamps have gone up and are still rising. (See Stamp Collecting April 8) and can be recommended as an investment. Also stamps of all countries.

Wanted to buy Free French Africans, British Africans, also Coins, Commemorative medals, etc.
 A. HAYNE, 87 Beach Road, MOUILLE POINT, CAPE TOWN. Phone 4-3866. Established Johannesburg, 1903. P.O. Box 2165.

NETHERLANDS

The set foreshadowed in our last issue has been released by the Netherlands Government in London. Four are designs illustrative of Holland's contribution to the Allied war effort, the other five have a portrait of Queen Wilhelmina flanked by the escutcheon of the House of Nassau.

E. BLUM

P.O. BOX 1669 CAPE TOWN

recommends his services to Dealers and Collectors alike for Selling and Buying stamps from all countries. Price List now ready and can be sent to applicants free on demand. Collections and Accumulations bought for spot cash. Highest prices paid. Established in South Africa since 1930. First class references.

BLUE MAFEKINGS ON LAID PAPER BATONNÉ

Dr. K. Freund writes:

"I have to thank Dr. Mosely for the flattering comment and also for his constructive criticism of my article in the June number of this magazine dealing with the watermarked paper of the "Blue Mafekings."

In reply, I would like to state at the outset: The examples mentioned by him for the types of paper in question are quite correct, but so is my definition of "laid paper batonné." In order to prove that both of us are right, let me define first the two types separately:

"Laid" paper is paper which shows parallel lines *close together*, caused by the *wire pattern of the rotating "dandy roll"* of the paper machine during the manufacturing process.

"Batonné" paper shows lines, *some distance apart*, created by the *extra insertion of special thin metal pieces or wires (French "bâtons")*. It makes no difference in this regard, in what thickness and in what direction (horizontal or vertical) these wires have been inserted. Once these extra "bâtons" have been inserted, the paper becomes "batonné."

There are several variations and combinations possible. There is, first of all, "plain laid" paper showing just the narrow lines (caused by the dandy roll) and *no other additional lines* (vertically or otherwise).

Then there is a "laid" paper which is also "batonné," as it shows *additional lines further apart* (caused by inserted "bâtons" to create guide lines). The additional batonné lines may be either crossing the laid lines at right angles or parallel with the laid lines, in which case they will be more perceptible by being thicker, etc.

The writing paper described by Dr. Mosely represents either the last mentioned type or is a so-called "wove" paper batonné, in any case it is correctly described briefly as "batonné."

The specimen sheet in Sefi's "Introduction to Advanced Philately" is certainly "laid paper" according to the foregoing, although no stress has been laid that it is incidentally also in particular "batonné" (as mentioned, there is laid paper in existence without vertically crossing lines).

Now, turning to the paper of the blue Mafekings, it is first of all "laid," because it shows the close parallel lines. (I would like to mention here that, while these laid lines are in general horizontal, there was a first (trial) printing of the 1d. Bicycle blue in a smaller size showing the *laid* lines vertical).

The paper of the blue Mafekings is in addition "batonné," as it shows (vertically crossing) lines *further apart*.

By calling the paper of the blue Mafekings just "plain laid," as has hitherto been done, many a collector would be at a loss what to make of the perceptible vertical line he suddenly notices at the back of a Mafeking Blue. I think I was, therefore, justified in calling the paper distinctly "laid paper batonné."

SALE OR EXCHANGE OF STAMPS

We have been asked to repeat what the regulations are governing the sale or exchange of stamps between the Union and other countries. Briefly, they are as follows:

So far as the Union is concerned, this is freely permitted with any country in the British Empire sterling area (i.e., Canada excepted). It is necessary, however, to know what are the regulations of the other countries—these may or may not permit freedom of sale or exchange.

With countries outside the British sterling area all transactions have to be on a cash basis with the necessary financial forms (obtainable from banks) filled in. Even this formality does not guarantee delivery—censors may still hold up, if they think there is any reason for so doing.

Some exceptions have been allowed, e.g., in the case of persons who were known to have been exchanging in pre-war times, but these cannot be relied upon.

A NEW PERFORATION GAUGE

The "Instanta" perforation gauge, invented by Mr. C. P. Rang, is being marketed by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., price 3s. 6d. (postage to South Africa 4½d.). This is a transparent rectangular piece of celluloid, but instead of the familiar rows of dots, it has a series of conveying lines running from bottom to top and crossed at intervals by horizontal lines which give the readings.

We need not describe the method of use here, as full instructions are supplied; all that need be said is that it is certainly more accurate than the old style gauge. You can be contented with making your readings to halves or you may read to tenths.

It is not at first quite as easy as the old style, but with a little bit of practice soon becomes simple and accurate. The gauge can be used equally well for stamps in the album, loose, on cover or in sheets.

EIRE

Two commemoratives (½d. green and 1s. red brown) were issued on June 30 in honour of the tercentenary of the death of Michael O'Clery, chief of the four Franciscan masters.

MINT FREE FRENCH PROVISIONALS AT BARGAIN PRICES — REMAINDERS OF JULY OFFER:

	Each
1. Reunion, 48 values, @	£2 10 0
2. Somaliland, 58 values @	£3 15 0
3. Indian Settlements, 25 values @	£1 10 0
4. Indian Settlements, 26 values @	£2 0 0
5. Levant, Permanent, 9 values @	10 0
6. ,, Miniatures, Perf. & Imp. @	10 0

Subject to being unsold.

A. J. BOOYSEN

P.O. Box 11. SANNIESHOF, TVL.

Special Stamp After-Stocktaking Offers

BASUTOLAND K.G. VI, S.G. 18-28, complete used set, ½d.—10/-, at 28/9.
BECHUANALAND K.G. VI, S.G. 118-128, complete used set, ½d.—10/-, at 32/6.
BRITISH SOMALILAND K.G. VI 1938, S.G. 103, 3 rupee mint cat 75/- at 20/-.
CEYLON K.G. VI, 2c—1r (10 stamps) used, at 4/9 set.
EGYPT 1939, S.G. 310 and 311, 50p and £E1, used, at 25/- the pair.
KENYA K.G. VI, 5c—10/- (11 stamps) used, at 16/6 set.
N. RHODESIA K.G. VI, S.G. 25-32, including obsolete 1½d. and 2d., ½d.—1/-, used, at 3/9 set.

NYASALAND K.G. V 1934-5, complete mint set, S.G. 114-122, ½d.—1/-, cat 24/2, at 16/9.
NYASALAND K.G. VI, S.G. 130-8 (9 stamps), ½d.—1/-, used, at 4/9 set.
SIERRA LEONE K.G. VI, current ½d.—1/-, used, at 4/3 set.
SOUTH AFRICA S.G. 49, 2/6 used joined pair, at 2/6.
 64, 5/- used joined pair, at 7/6.
 64a, 10/- used joined pair, at 15/-.
S. RHODESIA K.G. VI, S.G. 40-52, ½d.—5/-, complete used set, at 17/9.
 1940 Golden Jubilee, complete set, mint at 4/6; used at 5/6.
S.W.A. 1931 S.G. 74-84, ½d.—10/-, superb used joined pairs, at 55/- set.

FREE FRENCH SPECIAL OFFERS :

AMBULANCE LACQUINTINIE, mint set, London price £10, our price 75/-.
RESISTANCE-LIBERATION, complete mint sets total 24 stamps, at £13/10.
 25 **EQUATORIAL AFRICA,** mixed

values, mint and used, at 25/-.
 15 **CAMEROONS,** mixed values, mint and used, at 22/6.
 14 **INDIAN SETTLEMENTS,** complete mint definite set, at 19/6.

NEW ZEALAND OFFERS :

S.G. 540, 2/- used at 2/6; 1941 S.G. 624/5 mint provisionals at 10d. the pair; 1940 S.G. 618, 7d. scarce centenary value, mint or used, at 15/6. 1944 New Issues as S.G. Nos. quoted only wmk.

multiple (i.e., new wmk.) All mint: F180 at 3/9; F203 at 5/3; F181 at 6/-; F182 at 7/6; F204 at 8/3; F183 at 9/-; F184 at 10/6; F186 at 12/-; F188 at 15/-.

MANCHURIA—Temporary Japanese Occupation—Complete mint sets :

1940, 2nd Visit of Emperor Kangteh to Japan, S.G. 114-5, at 2/-.
 1940, 1st National Census, S.G. 118-9, at 3/-.

1940, 2,600th Anniversary of Founding of Japan, S.G. 122-3, at 3/6.
 1941, National Conscription, S.G. 122-3, at 3/6.

OR the Four Sets at 10/6.

SOVIET RUSSIA :

Special 200th Anniversary Behring Straits, set of 4 different, at 4/6.
 25th Anniversary of the Revolution,

set of 8 different, at 6/6.
 5 Assorted sets of latest War Issues, 16 different stamps, at 12/6.

All offers are subject to being unsold and alteration without notice.

1,000 EDINA STAMP HINGES in packet at 1/8 including postage.

Please Include Postage, Registration and Exchange on Cheques.

Special Offers in British Africans, Colonials, Silver Jubilees, and Coronation Sets.

Please send in your Want-List of your requirements, stating Catalogue Nos.

Approvals sent to Approved Clients. References Essential.

Wanted to buy : Collections and Accumulations of Stamps. We pay highest prices per return post.

JACK'S RADIO BAZAAR

64-66 MAIN ROAD, MOWBRAY, CAPE.

Australia

THE DIES OF THE 4d. K.G. V*
A NEW DISCOVERY

By. D. R. BURCHELL, Scotland

A second die in the 4d. value K.G. V has recently been reported by Mr. W. H. Holbeach.

The distinctive feature of this second die is a small triangular protuberance about a third of the way from the top of the right leg of the second "A" of "AUSTRALIA."

Mr. Holbeach first discovered this die among some die proofs which came into his possession. On two of them he noted the excrescence on the "A". He naturally came to the conclusion that two master dies were used, and a search was instituted. This resulted in the discovery of copies in the violet and blue printings from the original Cooke plates—Harrison made new plates in August, 1923, which he employed for the later blue, and which he, Mullett and Ash used for the olive printings.

Although it has not yet been isolated, it would appear almost certain that Die 2 exists in the orange and lemon printings as the Cooke electros used for the 4d. value were derived from the two original plates.

The 4d. K.G. V Cooke printings were made from electros prepared from two plates, an upper and a lower, each of 120 impressions, in two side-by-side panes of 60, separated by a gutter and composed of ten rows of 6. As was customary with Cooke printings, a coloured marginal line surrounded each pane. The upper plate may be distinguished from the lower by the fact that the marginal line is cut away below stamp No. 59 to accommodate the control monogram. This is indisputable evidence of an upper plate.

When a search was being made for the position of Die 2, the only available sheets

*Based on an article in the
"Australian Stamp Monthly"

were all from the lower plate and, as it was not found, recourse was made to the overprinted issue of the North West Pacific Islands. Here the searchers had better luck. Die 2 was found on the upper plate to be stamp No. 22 on the pane, but as all the margins are removed before overprinting, it was not possible to establish which pane, the right or the left.

The explanation of the inclusion of this Die 2 is not definitely known, but it seems reasonable to assume that it was inserted, by accident, in place of a damaged impression.

There is no reason to suppose that Die 2 occurs in the Harrison plates which were in use from 1923 until the introduction of the 4d. Koala in January, 1938.

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PHILIPPINE REPRINTS

We learn from the American Philatelic Press that for nearly two years the Philippine Philatelic Agency in Washington has been selling to collectors most of the issues of the six or seven pre-war years, which are actually reprints, although this was not disclosed. Their sale will probably now be stopped, but the harm has been done to the unfortunate purchasers.



DEATH OF MR. C. WHITFIELD KING

We regret to see announced the death of Mr. C. Whitfield King after a long illness which had caused partial blindness. He was the second of that name at the head of the well-known Ipswich firm of stamp dealers and will be succeeded by his son James, who is at present a P.O.W. in Germany.

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SOCIETY NEWS

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. Ferguson; *Hon. Secretary*, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

August 8: Mr. Ferguson in the chair. Mr. Hawke read an extract on the calculation of the value of postal covers.

Mr. Beyers read a paper on the 1936 issue of the stamps of St. Lucia. He first outlined the interests of King George V whose portrait appears as an inset on the stamps. There were twelve different denominations in the issue and each one depicted some event or landmark connected with the history of St. Lucia. The chairman thanked Mr. Beyers for his paper.

August 21: Mr. Hawke in the chair. Colonel Horne suggested that an occasional evening should be devoted to discussions on philatelic difficulties when questions could be asked by members.

Mr. Bottomley read a paper on pre-cancelled stamps, dealing chiefly with the U.S.A. He described what they were and how the need for them had arisen. He outlined the different printings and said that this sideline in philately had assumed large proportions in America. He gave an interesting account of the happenings to letters after they had been dropped through the slots of the collecting boxes. Mr. Bottomley tabled an exhibit of pre-cancelled stamps of America and also a nice collection of U.S. Commemoratives.

H.A.W.

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ORANGE FREE STATE AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. R. G. Lyon, Box 702, Bloemfontein; *Meetings*, 3rd Fridays each month, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloemfontein, 7.30 p.m.

The main feature at the July meeting was a display by Dr. K. Freund consisting of "Mafeking Stamps in Blocks." Besides a number of blocks of four of various denominations (and besides a set of blocks with the major errors shown at a previous display), the following deserve special enumeration:

A block of eight, a block of eleven, and a block of twelve of S.G.2, showing all types of setting; a block of twelve of S.G.3 on registered cover addressed to England with various intermediate cancellations; a block of six of S.G.4 (of which only 840 stamps were issued); S.G.6: a block of eight, another one of sixteen, and a magnificent one of twenty-nine, also part of a sheet showing in two rows the overprint slanting and causing the "overlapping variety"; a block of seven of S.G.13, and a block of five of S.G.14; small Baden-Powell stamp: right half of a sheet, a sheet without the last vertical row, and a complete sheet minus two stamps; large Baden-Powell stamp: a block of six (and a neighbouring strip of three) showing the "cracked plate" variety.

Dr. Freund included in the display also two pages showing two reconstructions of the watermark "Oceana Fine," about which an article has appeared in the May number of this paper. Considerable attention was paid also to three reconstructed plates of the 1d. blue (bicycle) stamp, the fruit of some research work Dr. Freund did together with Mr. A. Lichtenstein. Each of the (reconstructed) plates consists of 12 types, making 36 types altogether, distinguishable by certain minute flaws. The importance of these findings lies in the fact that every 1d. blue bicycle stamp in existence must represent one of these 36 types, in order to be passed as genuine. An article about this subject will follow in due course. Two new members were enrolled at the meeting.

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PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, C. W. Sheffield, P.O. Box 88; *Meetings*, Room 5, City Hall, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

On June 20, the president, Mr. G. K. Forbes, and Mr. T. H. Nicholson being away, Mr. E. C. Wick took the chair.

There was a large attendance at the first meeting of the year, and four new members were proposed.

Mr. Malcolm was responsible for the evening, and displayed 142 pages, mostly of British Africa. These were neatly mounted, and portrayed, members all enjoyed scrutinising the display, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Malcolm.

The 4th of July was an auction night, when a large number of mint stamps were put up for sale. The largest sum of money ever to pass over the table at one meeting was raised when the grand total of £47 10s. was realised, and everyone was satisfied with their purchases.

The 18th July was the general meeting, attended by 23 members. Mr. Forbes being away, Mr. T. H. Nicholson took the chair.

New issues from Stanley Gibbons were drawn for. Four new members were elected and four others proposed.

Mr. Harmer showed 155 pages of his general collection. Amongst these were some very old English envelopes. He had been to a lot of trouble in mounting these stamps, and the results justified the time taken.

August 15: Twenty-four members and two visitors met in the City Basement.

Mr. Forbes being away, Mr. T. H. Nicholson took the chair.

Four new members were welcomed into the society and two names were proposed.

Mr. Sheffield said he had posted a cheque for £1 14s. for the sale of tickets for the Norwegian war effort.

A letter was read from Lt. Ashman tendering his resignation, owing to being moved to parts unknown. We wish him Godspeed.

Two new issues were on sale from New Zealand, mint 1s., overprint 10d. and 6d., express delivery.

Captain Graham was responsible for the evening, and displayed 71 pages of war issues for the period from a 1919 Air Force from Newfoundland, and a set from Mafia.

I.E.C.

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EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. A. Watson; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. F. Fowler, P.O. Box 168, East London. *Meetings*, Colosseum Building, 2nd Fridays, 7.45 p.m.

There was another good attendance at the August meeting on Friday, the 11th, twenty members and five visitors being present. Two new members were elected.

A number of new and interesting items were passed round for inspection, including the 10d. on 13d. Centennial New Zealand, just received on first day cover.

The president reported trouble over the despatching of exchange selection to the Belgian Congo, but said that, after interviewing several officials and filling in forms, he had ultimately succeeded in getting his stamps away.

After the formal business, Mr. T. A. Harper showed his fine collection of Natal, which included over 200 of the full-face Queens. Among others, the following might be noted:

6d. G.36 Postage 12½mm., with "S" of the 5th type; double and inverted overprints of types 18 G.29, including the uncatalogued one "without bar," and 21; all varieties of the "Halfpenny on 6d.," shown in several pairs used and unused, also in a block of four (two with and two without bar); the varieties of the "Half" on 1d., G.30, including the double surcharge, broken "E" for "L," etc.

The Edwardians were in mint shades to the 30s. value and used to the £5. Officials in blocks of four, N.G.R. perforations and Telegraphs terminated the display.

After the tea interval, Mr. A. E. Basden gave another of his interesting and informative talks, this time on Brazil, and accompanied it with a portion of his very fine collection of that country's stamps. The exhibit was small, but included many fine copies of the classic first issue (Bullseyes) in all three values, followed by the "sloping numerals" and a selected

number of sheets of the later issues up to and including the more recent commemoratives. In addition, Mr. Basden laid on the table several sheets from his collection of Greece, including both Paris and Athens printings of the first type and a nice selection of the later Hermes design, while to conclude the exhibit there were a few entires bearing Stellanland and New Republic stamps postally used.

The president expressed the appreciation of all present at the very fine displays given by the two exhibiting members.

Before the meeting ended, a number of lots handed in by various members were offered by auction, nearly all of them finding ready purchasers.

T.A.H.

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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, F. J. H. Lang; *Hon. Secretary*, L. Buchen, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Public Library, Johannesburg, 7.45 p.m.

July 25th: This was the first of our fourth Tuesday informal exchange meetings. Although there was only a fair attendance, it is expected that as a result of a very pleasant evening enjoyed by all present, this fourth Tuesday meeting will become increasingly popular.

Mr. F. E. Ingham gave us the highlight of the evening in a most informative and interesting paper entitled "Timber and Stamps." Among the many interesting facts brought out in this paper were the following: that three thousand trees are required to make the seven billion stamps issued by the British G.P.O. Many references were made to tree designs on the stamps of several countries, including oaks, palms, pine, cedars, mahogany, etc. Other types of designs included logging operations, logging camps, paper mills, the working of paper, tapping and planting trees.

Several items were auctioned and as a result our war funds benefitted to the extent of £8 10s.

Albums with empty spaces to be filled, and stock books were in evidence and it was apparent that members were taking this opportunity to fill empty spaces and dispose of unwanted duplicates.

August 8th: This was our regular monthly meeting and our guests of the evening were the Jewish Guild. After the usual business was speedily disposed of, Mr. E. C. Sprighton, in his capacity as president of the Jewish Guild, took the chair. Five exhibits were tabled. Mr. Sprighton: a few selected sheets of Switzerland beautifully set out on pages which he himself had printed, showing the Child Welfare issues and stamps bearing the coats of arms of the various Swiss cantons. Mr. Gladstone: modern U.S.A. Commemorative issues mounted on nubian sheets. These included imperf. pairs of the Parks issues as well as the Graf Zeppelin Commemorative issue. Mr. Buchen: a very commendable and neatly mounted mint straight-forward collection of the Union of South Africa and South-West Africa. This exhibit was especially creditable considering the fact that this collection has only been a very short while in the making. Mr. Isaacs: another extensive lot of U.S.A. Flight Covers many of which had never even been seen before by regular U.S.A. collectors. Dr. Kaplan: several pages of mint sets of the British Empire in alphabetical order from A to Z, including stamps of Egypt with altered control numbers in the sheet margin.

Several very good items were donated by members to be auctioned for war funds and as a result the handsome figure of £14 14s. was realised.

H.E.B.

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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

President, A. L. Bevis; *Hon. Sec.*, G. Milner, Palmer, P.O. Box 588, Durban; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street (in the rooms of the Durban Camera Club, top floor), 7.30 p.m.

At our July meeting we had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Walter Hesse's lantern lecture entitled "Stamps Which Tell a Story." Mr. Hesse is a member of the Cape Town Philatelic Society and it was through the foresight of our president that we obtained the loan of this interesting lecture. Full details of the display were given in the Cape Town notes in the December, 1943, number of the "S.A. Philatelist." All members

present expressed very keen appreciation of the show and script which was read.

The usual auction followed at which many items fetched very good prices.

Once again we appeal to members to send in sales packet booklets. These are urgently needed and we can assure everyone that good sales will eventuate.

G.M.P.

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EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. Gutsche; *Hon. Sec.*, E. N. Rigg, 103 Kemston Avenue, Benoni; *Meetings*, 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Hotel Regent, Benoni.

A very pleasant evening was spent at our August meeting, although the attendance was not up to full strength.

After formal business had been concluded, Mr. Fine exhibited the remaining portion of the late Mr. Cohen's collection; this collection was mostly of countries in Europe and great credit is due to Mr. Fine for the amount of work he had taken in mounting the stamps.

Mr. Rigg exhibited several pages of the following countries: Aden, Swaziland, Basutoland, North Borneo, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, and Cayman Islands.

Members are reminded that the annual general meeting takes place next month on Tuesday, 19th September, and all philatelists in the district are cordially invited.

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CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, W. D. Vallance; *Hon. Secretary*, S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973, Cape Town; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

July 27th: With Dr. L. B. Goldschmidt down to display the stamps of the Belgian Congo and also to show a cine film of the Colony, the result was a record attendance of members and visitors.

The meeting opened with a display of the stamps of the Congo, right up from the early issues, many of the sets being in both mint and used condition.

Interspersed were many interesting covers.

Dr. Goldschmidt gave a little chat on the stamps and then gave a very interesting talk on the history of the Congo, its people and resources. The talk was then amplified by an outstanding film of the Congo, taken by the exhibitor. Many portions of the film were in natural colour and we were given some idea of the wonderful mineral and industrial resources. This was a great ending to a very fine evening.

As the hour was late, no business or auction took place, but Mr. Vallance intimated that they were making a special appeal for Red Cross Funds. The society had already collected no less than £850 for various war funds and it was now the intention to exceed the £1,000 mark. It is proposed to hold a public auction in the near future, and gifts of stamps for this will be appreciated by the committee.

Dr. Goldschmidt, an executive member of the Red Cross, eulogised its work and commended the appeal to the members.

Thursday, 10th August: Large attendances are the order of the day, and there was another to see the display given by Mr. S. Kaganson of "Stamps of the Empire, 1937-1944."

The colourful stamps of the George VI issues, in mint condition, made a very fine and picturesque display complete with the exception of only one stamp, the 5 rupee of Burma, which the exhibitor had been unable to obtain, either here or overseas. Many of the commemorative issues were in blocks. Mr. Kaganson gave his reasons for making a collection of this description, saying how difficult it was for the younger collectors and newcomers to philately to get together a fair collection of some of the earlier classics, which even when within the limits of the purse, are so difficult to obtain. In the complete George VI issue there were, as far as the exhibitor knew, only three major varieties.

At the conclusion of the business of the meeting, the usual auction took place, various items, including a 1944 Gibbons Catalogue, being put up for Red Cross funds, and over £6 was realised.

B.L.C.

A Question

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Vol. 20. No. 10.

OCTOBER, 1944.

Whole No. 235.

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OCTOBER, 1944.

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UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

1d. Rotogravure without Watermark.

We have recently been shown what corresponds closely in appearance with the early printings of the first 1d. rotogravure (S.G. 43), but on unwatermarked paper. There is this difference, however, that the shade is a pink rather than the familiar carmine or red of this issue. This is the first we have heard or seen of this error; can any reader throw light on where it has been hiding all these years and how or where it was found?

S. RHODESIAN VARIETIES.

Mr. H. S. Conway has submitted some minor varieties, of rather the "fly-spot" type, in the 2d. Matabeleland Commemorative.

(1) A white spot above the M. There is also a white streak above the 8 of 1893, but this is merely the result of slightly faulty registration of the head and frame plates.

(2) Minute white dots across the horse's back behind the saddle roll.

(3) White dot, near shoulder, underneath the bandolier.

He also submits one, already well known (stamp 60 of sheet), with a white line under the saddle roll.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that an advertisement in the *Australian Stamp Monthly* offers this variety at 7s.; the same price is asked for the other well-known constant variety on No. 45, with a broken D in the right-hand valve tablet. Also 3s. for a "narrow" stamp.

BELGIAN CONGO.

We are informed that there will be a limited issue of Red Cross stamps for the Congo, and a similar set for Ruanda-Urundi, towards the end of the year. The values will be 50c.+50fr., 1fr. 25+100fr., 1fr. 75+100fr., and 3fr. 50+100fr.

JAMAICA.

Jamaica is shortly to have a set of stamps commemorative of its new constitution. It is said there will be seven values ranging from 1½d. to 10s.

GIBBONS' SIMPLIFIED STAMP CATALOGUE.

The 1944, 12th edition, has just arrived. What with paper rationing and staff difficulties how the editor manages to get it out at all we can hardly imagine. Issues which have appeared since the last edition are placed together in an addendum at the end of the volume, but price alterations, of which there are stated to be many thousands, have been made right through the body of the volume, which now runs to 1,190 pages, listing over 65,250 stamps and with thousands of illustrations. Readers can count on the prices given as being the very latest available, but it should be remembered that in this catalogue few "varieties" are given and the prices quoted are always that for the cheapest variety listed in the "big Gibbons." Watermark and Perforation varieties, for instance, are ignored. War-time stamps of enemy or enemy-occupied countries are not given, as dealing in them is illegal. An excellent production for the simple-life collector. The price is 12s. 6d., plus 1s. postage.

BERMUDA'S GIANT STAMP SALE.

Last month we reported a sale of stamps seized as Prize as going to be held in Bermuda. The *Philatelic Trader* says it has now been learned from the Attorney-General there, that it will not be held "at any rate for some time to come." The *Trader* hopes the sale will be transferred to London, as being the best market, and as giving more people a chance to bid.

ABYSSINIA.

Gibbon's Stamp Monthly announces a complete new set of stamps on order from Waterlow & Sons, are expected to be on sale about the end of the year. These will be 8 ordinary postage, 2c—3 dollars; 8 Air Stamps, 8c—10 dollars; and 4 Dues, 8—50c.

DEATH OF MR. G. F. RAPKIN.

We regret to hear of the death of Mr. G. F. Rapkin, senior partner in the firm of that name, well known to philatelists as manufacturers of albums and other accessories. The business will be carried on by the remaining partner, Mr. Frank G. Rapkin.

**THE UNION LARGE 1½ d. GOLD
MINE STAMPS LACKING SHADING
ON THE DUMP**

By H. E. BOWEN.

The large 1½ d. "Gold Mine" stamp appeared without warning on 12th November, 1936. It was known the day before that stocks had been distributed to various post offices, but even then the local officials did not know definitely when the stamps were to be released for sale.

Sheets were supplied to the JIPEX P.O., which was then in full swing, and these new 1½ d. stamps were put on sale there on 12th November. According to "The South African Philatelist," Vol. 12, 1936, p. 181, "on a number of sheets seen at JIPEX on the day of issue many of the stamps had the shading on the mine dump almost or entirely lacking, but this has not been noted on sheets seen since then."

So far as I am aware this statement still holds good; at any rate, I have not heard of or seen any references to sheets with this defect having been encountered other than those at JIPEX.

Mr. W. Redford, who, along with a postal official, was in charge of the JIPEX P.O., informs me that only a few of the sheets supplied there showed this peculiarity. In the bustle which prevailed no definite check on them was made, but his impression is that probably not more than about twenty-five sheets were so affected.

I have kept one of these sheets intact, and it has been represented to me that it would be of interest to put the peculiarities of it on record. I have, therefore, made the accompanying plan of this sheet, indicating by numbers the degree of shading which is to be seen on the mine dump between the headgear and the large chimney on the left. Normally this shading occurs in two patches; the smaller one, next the chimney, is triangular in shape with the apex downwards, the larger one, next the headgear has two apices pointing downwards.

On the plan, 0 indicates that the shading is completely absent, while 4 indicates that it is fully present as regards both area and depth of shading—these are readily estimated. The other gradings—1, 2 and 3—are admittedly somewhat arbitrary, and everyone might not agree with them in detail, but they serve to indicate the amount of shading present. 1 may be taken as meaning just a trace, 2 a little, and 3 a fair amount, but either not quite complete as regards size or as regards depth of shading.

It will be seen that there are 12 stamps with no shading, 30 with only a trace, 40 with a

little, 28 with a fair amount, and 10 in which the shading is complete. It is interesting to note that in the stamps with defective shading or with none at all the stamps otherwise are no paler than those with full shading.

The plan brings out that the deficiencies are most apparent about the centre of the sheet, but I must leave it to others more familiar with printing processes to discuss how this has occurred.

4	4	4	3	4	4
2	2	2	3	4	4
4	0	1	2	2	3
1	2	1	0	1	3
3	0	2	1	3	3
3	2	2	2	3	3
3	2	2	2	2	3
3	1	1	1	2	3
3	0	1	0	2	2
2	1	1	0	1	3
2	1	1	0	2	2
1	1	0	0	1	2
1	2	0	0	2	3
1	3	0	1	2	2
1	2	3	1	2	3
2	2	2	1	2	3
2	3	2	1	2	3
4	3	2	2	3	4
2	1	1	1	3	3
1	1	1	2	2	3

It may be noted that the sheet is numbered 3425 on the right-hand margin of the sheet opposite rows 6 and 17. Stamp No. 1 is in English, and as they come thereafter alternately in Afrikaans and English it is simple to make out from the plan whether deficiencies are on English or on Afrikaans stamps.

The sheet shows the well-known constant flaws, such as the broken chimney on No. 66, the bent right-hand frame line on No. 74, and the small white spot on the left of the headgear on No. 96.

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9 Nyasaland Geo. V 1934, ½d.-1s. cpl.	15 0
32 Falklands Dependencies, 2nd ptg., cpl.	22 6
3 Egypt 1936 Treaty cpl.	3 6
3 Egypt 1937 Capitulations cpl.	3 0
1 Egypt 1944 Fuad Memorial cpl.	1 0
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JOHANNESBURG

NOTES ANENT THE UNION 1d. ELECTROTYPED STAMPS, ESPECIALLY THE TWO DIES OF THE SHIP VIGNETTE

By A. HILTON SYDOW, A.S.A.A., C.A. (S.A.).

In my paper entitled "Two Dies of the Ship Vignette of the Electrotyped 1d. Stamps of the Union of South Africa," which was printed on pages 56 and 57 of the *South African Philatelist* for May, 1944, I stated, inter alia, that—

"No major differences will be discerned, however, as far as the ships themselves are concerned. It would appear that an entirely new vignette die was not engraved but that Die B was obtained from Die A, the original master vignette die, etc."

My adumbration afore and to the extent that only one master vignette die was engraved, and which I had designated Die A, subsequently was proved correct, for it found verification in a letter which I received recently from Mr. S. G. Clifford, who is a Director of Waterlow & Sons, Limited. I have to thank Mr. Clifford, who in that letter very kindly informed me, in reply to my prior enquiry anent the original master ship vignette die, as follows:—

"I can say definitely, however, that there was only one original die. This is confirmed by our records, and I have also been in touch with the engraver of the die, Mr. J. A. C. Harrison, who has now retired from work, but is still alive and well."

The records quoted by Mr. Clifford are the ones presently housed in the archives of Waterlow & Sons, Limited. They yielded no information in respect of the derivation of the alleged Die B from the pristine Die A. Such omission of reference to any secondary state of the master vignette die may be due to the fact that the 1d. denominated stamps were not printed at the Finsbury ateliers of Waterlow & Sons, Limited. These stamps which depicted the ship of Van Riebeeck actually were printed in Watford at a factory which formerly was owned by Waterlow Brothers & Layton, Limited. The stamps were printed during the latter part of 1925. The Watford factory was acquired by Waterlow & Sons, Limited, in 1924, simultaneously with its amalgamation with Waterlow Brothers & Layton, Limited. At the time of my enquiry the Watford factory was no longer occupied by Waterlow & Sons, Limited, and obviously no information as regards Die B was obtainable from the ateliers which produced these stamps.

From a perusal of Mr. Clifford's reply to me it is evident that the printers experienced certain difficulties in connection with the printings in black ink from the en cernage electrotyped vignette plate or plates. Inter alia, he stated that—

"The black printing was found difficult, and there were occasions when a *single stamp*

was found to be faulty after electrotyping, was cut out of the *block* and replaced."

The words *italicized* by me in the foregoing paragraph, namely, "single stamp" and "block," should be interpreted respectively as "single cliché or single electro" and "plate." In other words, an unknown number of units were cut out of the plate (or plates) and were replaced by an equivalent number of single clichés or single electros.

With cognisance of the facts elicited from the printers I have examined sedulously numbers of pairs and blocks and a 240-set sheet of the 1d. denominated stamps, with Die A vignettes, printed by Waterlow & Sons, Limited, but thus far I have not located any stamps which may be classified as stamps whose vignettes were printed from SUBSTITUTED CLICHES OR ELECTROS; unless the vignette plate (or plates), which produced the ship designs on the stamps examined by me, either did not contain substitutes, or contained such clichés or electros which were inserted in the apertures of removed faulty ones with such degrees of precision as to defy detection thereof by ocular examination of the stamps through ordinary magnifiers. Hitherto I have referred to single clichés or electros inserted in the vignette plate or plates in London. In South Africa a delinquent cliché was removed from Vignette Plate 2, that is, the plate which was distinguished by two nicks in the outer jubilee line below stamp No. 240 on a sheet. In this instance, however, a cliché was cut from a disused plate and inserted or welded in the aperture of the removed cliché. Simenhoff catalogue this example of a substituted cliché as "Twisted head-plate"—Row 16 No. 9.

E. BLUM

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SOME SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MARKS—1939/44

The listing and classifying of war markings on covers will give philatelists interested in this phase of philately occupation for years to come. They include such things as Navy, Army and Airforce postal cancellations, censor's marks and seals and lots of other miscellaneous markings which will be considered of interest. Official information and records of some of these will not be available till after hostilities cease and it is probably still not advisable to publicize details one happens to know about some of them, especially as regards locations.

There appears to be no possible harm, however, in putting on record the following mixed bag of South African markings, whilst they are still more or less fresh in one's mind. The list makes no pretence at being complete and is merely put forward as a contribution of things seen personally in the hope that it may serve to elicit further contributions and, perhaps, to stimulate an interest in this particular field among others who have not so far bothered about it.

(1) In 1939 letters en route to enemy countries at the outbreak of war or addressed to such countries or to occupied territory after the outbreak, might come back to the sender months later with one or other of the following:—

(a) A buff label inside with a bilingual notice, of which the English version read "U.C. 12. Union of South Africa, Department of Posts and Telegraphs. Returned to sender owing to the suspension of communications with enemy countries." Envelope closed with a Censor's seal U.C. 8.

(b) A 2-operational rubber stamp in purple: the first reading "No Service," and the second, between bars, "Undeliverable—Return to address shown on cover. Onbestelbaar—Stuur terug na adres om omslag."

(2) 1940 letters addressed to such countries as Norway, Holland, Belgium, France, Channel Islands and Italy came back with such markings as the following:—

(a) Rubber stamp, in two lines, "Mail Service/Suspended," in violet or purple. Several varieties (different sizes and styles of type), probably indicative of use at different places.

(b) Rubber stamp, one line, in violet "Mail Services Suspended."

(c) Rubber stamp, two lines in a rectangular box divided by a horizontal line into two compartments "No Service/Return to Sender." (On a cover to Jersey—may perhaps be an English mark.) In violet.

(d) Rubber stamp, in two lines, "Mail Service Suspended/Posdiens Gestaak." Also used in 1942 on covers to Far East destinations. In violet or purple.

(e) Perhaps British markings. On a cover addressed to a British soldier in June, 1940. Rubber stamps in violet.

- (a) Circle with "Army Post Office" across centre, vertical lines above and below.
- (b) Rectangle with two compartments "Undelivered for reasons stated" top one, and "Return to sender" low.
- (c) 2-line marks "Addressee/Reported Prisoner of War," and "Addressee/Reported Missing."

(3) 1941, on a cover to China. Perhaps not a South African mark as the cover has, in addition to a Union Censor's seal, one which does not belong to the Union. The mark is a double lined rectangular with two compartments and the wording "Service Suspended/Returned to Sender." In purple.

(4) Censor's Seals. Most, but not all, of such covers as are described above, have been opened and closed again by a Censor's seal. These are all similar; originally they were marked U.C. 8, later they were of two sizes, approximately 11 x 4.3 cm. and 9 x 3.8 cm., and marked U.C. 8 Large (Groot) and U.C. 8 Small (Klein) respectively. They are of white paper and have on them, printed in red, "Union of South Africa/Opened by/Censor. Unie van Suid Afrika/Deur Sensor Oopge-maak."

At first there was no "tie" of these seals to the covers; later they were tied by a rubber stamp showing the Union Coat of Arms above a letter. The letters appear to be indicative of the place of censoring, and details as to these may be available at some later date.

(5) (a) On a cover posted in the Union to a soldier in the Union, two marks, violet rubber stamps (a) "Return to sender/Unable to trace." (b) No regiment shown." Query? A civil P.O., or an Army P.O. mark.

(b) On a cover from the Union to a soldier in the E.A.F. Possibly an East African not a South African mark. Rubber stamp in violet, 5 lines, "Undelivered owing to—Insufficient/Incorrect address—No, Rank Initials Name and full particulars of Unit must be written—c/o A.P.S."

(6) Some letters, etc., have arrived from overseas with (a) a purple rubber stamp endorsement "Damaged/By Sea Water," or (b) in red and in much smaller type than (a), "Damaged by Seawater/Beskadig deur Seewater." Presumably the ship carrying these suffered through enemy action at sea, but without the mails being entirely lost.

(7) For some time paper saving has been encouraged by the use of the same envelope twice or oftener either by leaving space for additional addresses or by pasting paper over the original address. This is not permitted, however, on envelopes going outside the Union. If it is tried, the letter comes back with the endorsement in a rectangular box "Contrary to Regulations/In Stryd met die Regulasies." If the sender's name and address are not available on the outside of the envelope, it will have been opened and re-sealed by the Censor.

Curiously enough we have seen several twice used envelopes which have arrived here from both Britain and the U.S.A. without any post office or censor marks at either end.

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

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pmk 17 July, 1911 ... £25 0 0

S.W.A. †S.G. 13 hor. pr. ... £8 0 0

†S.G. 26 block ... £7 10 0

†S.G. 27 vert. pr. ... £17 10 0

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"South-West" block... £40 0 0

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S.G. 31 " " ... £100 0 0

S.G. 2 double o/p ... £12 0 0

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S.G. 26 " " £5 0 6

S.G. 39 " " £8 0 0

S.G. 35 " " £6 0 0

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Basutoland: Wanted covers, or stamps
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Harding, Box 108, Ladybrand.

N.Z. 1944 Health Set on cover for fifty
assorted S.A. in good condition.

S. Curtis & Co., Ashhurst, New Zea-
land.

Liberia: Wanted collection, sets or
single stamps.

Angus Bennett, Box 733, Cape Town.

Wanted: S.A. Military Postmarks in
S.W.A. Stanley Gibbons 18a. and
46a. Postage Due D.2.a.—D.8.B and
C.

F. Mattei, 24 Hoofd Street, Braamfon-
tein, Johannesburg.

NORWEGIAN WAR FUNDS.

We have been asked to state that in the re-
cent raffle of an envelope with a set of the
Norwegian War Stamps and autographed by
King Haakon, Prince Olaf, General Smuts and
Mr. Churchill, the "draw" was performed by
the Mayor of Johannesburg and the winner
of the envelope was Mr. M. ...

Postal Markings of the Nyasaland Field Force 1916/1918

By J. L. OATES.

[As a result of my article on the markings of the G.E.A. Campaign, 1914/1918, in the February issue of the *South African Philatelist*, the following additional notes have been supplied by Mr. J. L. Oates of Cape Town, who served in that area for some time. The notes should be read in conjunction with the article mentioned; the type numbers (6-9) used for the Nyasaland cancellations in that article have been retained here.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that Mr. E. Jagger, who supplied a good deal of the information in my article, writes from Teheran that he has just received the *S.A. Philatelist* containing the article. He states that the mark illustrated as No. 16 was definitely used in Egypt; it was listed as occurring on mail from East Africa, but as of uncertain origin and not necessarily actually used in East Africa.—J. H. Harvey Pirie, Ed., *S.A. Ph.*]

(1) The Forces which used these stamps were under General Northey's Command (Nyasaland Field Force, or N.F.F. for short). It is believed that the stamps were over-printed N.F. because of a shortage of Fs in the Government printing department at Zomba where the over-printing was done.

The Force was made up of South African, Nyasaland and Rhodesian European troops, a battalion of Cape Coloured troops from the Union and Native regiments, such as the King's African Rifles, the Rhodesian Native Regiment and the North Rhodesian Police.

(2) The first cancelling stamps used ("squared circles"—Types 6 and 7 in previous article) were obtained from the Nyasaland civil postal authorities and altered to the wordings recorded under those headings. Types 8 and 9 were specially made for the Field Force's postal service.

(3) The same number, e.g., No. 1, may be found on more than one type of mark. This does not mean that there were two "No. 1" offices but that No. 1 office had issued to it at different times two (or more) different cancellers, and the use of an earlier one was not necessarily always discontinued when a later one was received.

(4) It is difficult to say how many offices using the cancelling stamps were in operation at any one time as the Army Post Offices changed continually with the movements of the troops. It is known, however, that the Base Army Post Office was first at Zomba, and towards the end of the war was established at Limbe near Blantyre.* In addition to these two places, A.P.O.s were at one time or other established at Fort Johnston, Mtengula,

*Zomba A.P.O. was not closed.

Mbamba Bay, Manda (previously Wiedhaven), Old Langenberg and Mwaya—all on the Lake. Headquarters, which used dated stamp No. 1 for most of the time, was at New Langenberg (now Tikuyu) during the early stages of the campaign, but subsequently moved to other places.

A.P.O.s were also established at Rungwe, Njombe, Tandala, Lupembe, Malangali and Songea. Early in 1916, before the Forces crossed the Border into (what was then) G.E.A., it is believed these date stamps were used at the A.P.O.s at Fife and Fort Hill in Northern Rhodesia and Northern Nyasaland respectively.

[I have a 1d. NF cancelled by a rubber stamp "RUNGWE" in block capitals 3.5 m.m. high. It may be a postmark, but there is no actual proof that it is.—Ed.]

(5) It would be very difficult to specify at this stage which numbers were used at each point, as the Force was mobile on account of the guerrilla warfare adopted by the enemy.

Coming to the various types of markings already recorded and illustrated, the following additional information is culled from used N.F. stamps in my possession:—

(6) Type 6. ("squared circle" with Nyasaland at the top, followed below by F.F. and a number. F.F. 5 can be added to the Nos. 2 and 3 already recorded. Its date of use is sometime in 1916.



(6)

(7) The story of the use of the F.F. 2 mark on Portuguese Nyassa stamps at Mtengula is not quite correct as recorded (*loc. cit.*); actually, the use of N.F. stamps at Mtengula was objected to by the Portuguese authorities, and the procedure agreed upon was that any member of the Forces requiring stamps for the purpose of registering letters or sending parcels through the A.P.O. had to purchase Portuguese Nyassa stamps at the civil post office as and when required. Letters franked with these stamps were then handled by the F.F. 2 post office just as if they had been franked with N.F. stamps. There was no bulk over-printing or cancelling of the Portuguese Nyassa stamps with the F.F. 2 canceller. In the circumstances narrated I doubt very much whether the figure given of 207 of each of the twelve denominations can be relied on. This would mean practically that everyone buying

any of these stamps bought them in complete sets. Whilst I agree that it is quite likely that a good many were bought in complete sets for use as philatelically interesting, it is very improbable that all were so purchased, and equally improbable that there is any way of knowing just how many of any particular denomination were used.

(8) *Type 7* ("squared circle," but with "F.P.O. No. . . ." at the top instead of "Nyasaland.") August 13, 1916, can be noted as an earlier date of usage than previously given. No addition made to the record of Nos. 1 and 6 as using this type. For registration purposes No. 1, at all events, had pink labels perforated above and below, but not at the sides (probably printed, therefore, in strips one label wide). These labels show a large "R" followed by "N.F.F. 1"/"NYASALAND," and "No." with room for filling in the number in M/S, ink or pencil.

There may be another of the "squared circle" type, but its recognition at present depends on a single indistinct specimen. The lettering at the top appears to be "F.P.O." only; below this in three lines across the centre comes "10/27 OC/17," then there is something short, very indistinct, but suggestive of "B.C.A."

(9) *Type 8* (Double circle mark, with F.P.O. at top and number at bottom, flanked on either side by heavy black chords). No addition to Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 already recorded, but dates of usage considerably extended. No. 1, 28 Sep. '16 to 26 Dec. '18. No. 2 previously recorded in violet. It should be noted that this usage, on 22 Sep. '16 was not on an N.F. stamp but on an ordinary 4s. stamp. According to S.G. this stamp (No. 95) was only issued in 1918, so there appears to be something queer about this and the record had better be ignored meantime. Usage of No. 3 can be put earlier—to 5 Oct. '16, and that of No. 4 to 16 Dec. '16.



(8)



(9)

(10) *Type 9*. (Double circle mark, with "FIELD POST OFFICE" at top and a plain number below. No addition to the numbers 5, 7, 8 and 9 already recorded. Dates: No. 7, May and Aug. '17; No. 8, 28 June '17 to 25 June '18. Registrations at this office are entirely in M/S, blue pencil, no special labels. No. 9 dates are Apr. '17 to Dec. '18. For registration this office had a rubber stamp "A.P.O. ZOMBA," which has been seen in black and in green, the registration number being written below in indelible pencil.

(11) It should be stated that dates of usage given are merely the earliest and latest seen; they are not to be taken as indicating the full period the particular office was in operation.

Other points of interest are (a) that N.F. and ordinary Nyasaland stamps can occasion-

stamps can be found cancelled in a civil P.O. such as that of Zomba. (c) that after about May or June '18 the stock of N.F. stamps was running low, at any rate in the main office (No. 9, Type 9 at Zomba) and ordinary unoverprinted Nyasaland stamps were used. On the other hand, specimens of N.F. stamps are to be found used in that office as late as Dec. '18. There was no restriction as to whether the N.F. or ordinary stamps were used, and as the outlying A.P.O.'s were closed down so would the A.P.O.'s nearer the Base A.P.O.'s be replenished.

(12) There is an interesting little story told in connection with the six copies of the 3d. stamps with the double overprint, inasmuch as they were obtained from the individual in charge of the A.P.O. in the Mbamba Bay or Songea area for a couple of bottles of whisky; as there was, naturally, always a shortage of this commodity beyond the Lakes the temptation was too great for this presumably non-philatelist!

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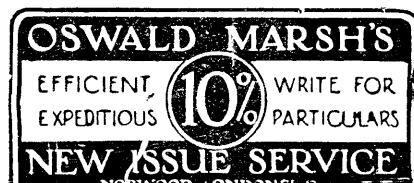
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FALKLAND DEPENDENCIES.

The demand for these having exhausted the first printing, a second printing was released by the Crown Agents about mid-August. According to *Stamp Collecting*, the overprints throughout are of a duller red than those which appeared in the first (April) printing.



The Editor,
South African Philatelist,
 BLUE MAFEKINGS ON LAID PAPER
 BATONNE.

Sir,—I regret to find myself still in disagreement with Dr. Freund as to the correct designation of the paper on which these stamps are printed.

Melville, in his book "Postage Stamps in the Making," Chapter IV, Technical and Philatelic Terms associated with Paper, defines laid paper as follows:—"When the wire forming the base of the mould (in hand-made paper) or covering the dandyroll (in machine-made paper) is composed of parallel lines set close together, the resultant paper is termed "laid" in contradistinction to wove (q.v.). *In all cases of laid papers there are tying wires crossing the ordinary waterlines to keep the lines level, and these show more prominently than the laid lines.*" (The italics are mine.)

Sefi defines it thus: "Laid paper is made upon a wire cloth composed of close parallel lines running down the longest way of the mould and crossed at much wider intervals by cross wires to keep them in place. The resultant paper reproduces very clearly these lines." (Italics again mine.)

It is clear that Dr. Freund's definition is inaccurate and unacceptable, and I doubt if ever a "plain laid" paper showing only the close parallel lines and no additional lines either vertical or otherwise, such as is mentioned in paragraph 5 of Dr. Freund's letter was ever or could be made.

Sefi writes about batonné paper: "Another variety met with, particularly in older issues, is a batonné paper which is watermarked with straight parallel lines intended as a guide for writing." Melville says "Batonné; a term adapted from the French and applied by philatelists to paper resembling the commonly used foreign notepaper."

If Dr. Freund has the facility for examining stamps of the 1871 issue of Fiji or the Poonch issues of 1884-87 he will see what is meant by the term "batonné." If he is unable to examine any of these I shall be glad to lend him my copy of Sefi, which contains samples of laid, wove and batonné papers.

The occurrence in the first (trial) printing of the laid lines vertical instead of horizontal is explained by the paper having been put into the printing frame sideways, that is at right angles to the usual way. A similar occurrence is the sideways watermark in some of the Cape triangulars.

I am able to make a small addition to Dr. Freund's discovery of the watermark. I have ascertained that "OCEANA FINE" watermark is one of the registered marks on paper made by John Dickinson & Co., who registered the mark in 1886 and were probably using it even earlier. I enclose a specimen of their paper (described by themselves as "cream laid") with this watermark, you will see the laid lines, both horizontal and vertical, agree with those in Dr. Freund's article and drawing. [This is so.—Ed.]

Yours faithfully,
 EDWARD MOSELY.

BOOKLET PANES.

A Booklet Pane Society has been organised in America, the acting secretary being Mr. Sidney S. Jalkut, 271, Madison Ave., New York, 16, N.Y., U.S.A. Stamps issued in booklet form are far from having been fully studied or listed, and one of the Society's first efforts is to compile a World List of them. We have received a first list from them; it is pointed out that it is far from complete and they would welcome any information, and, particularly, specimens for inspection.

In Africa the list records Egypt, 1; Kenya, 2; Nigeria, 2; S. Nigeria, 1; Union of S. Africa, 7; Algeria, 1; Cameroons, 4; Congo, 17; French Morocco, 1; French Guinea, 2; French Sudan, 1; German S.W.A., 3; Ivory Coast, 2; Madagascar, 6; Mauritania, 4; Senegal, 3; Tunisia, 2; Upper Senegal and Niger, 1; and Upper Volta, 1.

The listing in the Union only goes back to 1933 and, in a personal communication, Mr. Jalkut states he is most anxious to get booklets of the King's Head series; also anything up to six copies of the 3d. and 6d. razor blade booklets; 2s. 6d. booklets, both green and blue covers containing only ½d. and 1d. stamps; similar booklets with 1½d. stamps and the early large booklets with ½d. and 1d. stamps, wide margins, both with and without advertisements.

.....

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SOME BRITISH COLONIAL CHANGES

.....

Mauritius: The 2c, 10c, 12c and 1r are appearing in approximately the same shades but the design appears to be impressed into the paper in a way that is unusual in surface printed stamps.

Gambia: The 1½d. and the 2d. have changed over colours; the former now being grey and ultramarine and the latter lake and scarlet.

Gibraltar: The 2d. is now carmine in place of grey.

Turks and Caicos: 6d. sepia instead of purple and 1s. olive green in place of brown orange.

—Robertson Stamp Co.

ICELAND

There was due to be issued on June 17, coincident with the proclamation of its complete independence from Denmark, a set of six stamps with a portrait of Sigurdsson, who obtained Iceland's first constitution in 1871.

EARLY EUROPE

By K. CAMERON.

(Notes given with an exhibit before the Cape Town Philatelic Society.)

This exhibit is made because our Hon. Secretary thinks I have a wonderful collection of European stamps. I haven't, as a matter of fact, but some time ago I bought an old stuck-down collection fairly cheaply, and what you see on the table is largely the outcome. Of course, I have no intention of collecting every country, but I decided that whatever I was going to do with the stamps—whether I would keep them or sell them—I had to sort them out, and here is the result, plus a few oddments which I have accumulated from time to time. In order to keep it within reasonable limits, I have confined it to the first forty years of stamps—up to the '70's only.

It is a very mixed lot—good, bad and indifferent—but with one or two exceptions most of the European countries which issued stamps during the early years are represented. Portugal, Luxemburg and Finland are missing—perhaps one or two others.

There are reprints and even a couple of damaged and repaired stamps—I can imagine the highbrow's horror!—but they do give an idea of what some of the older stamps look like. The trouble with these early issues is that it is very difficult (and very expensive) to get perfect copies. I saw the other day that a "Hawaiian Missionary" repaired fetched about £800. So what about it? Where are you going to draw the line? If a repaired Hawaiian Missionary is acceptable, why not a Cape Triangular, or even some much less famous stamp? Anyhow this subject is too controversial for to-night, but it is one worthy of consideration. All I will say is that I like a good-looking stamp—repaired or otherwise—and to blazes with those who only think of the selling value!

Much the same can be said about reprints in which the early issues are prolific.

Of course there are a few good stamps here and there—Great Britain, for example. The Mulready is a sort of family heirloom, it was addressed to my grandfather in 1840, but unfortunately it is not a first-day cover.

The trouble with showing any sort of collection is that there is always someone who has more and better stamps, and I know there are members present who could improve on many of the countries of which I have shown a selection. But if we waited for perfection we would have very, very few exhibits, and whilst the angels fear to tread, I have rushed in. Apologies.

(Concluded from page 120).

NYASALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. Stevens; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. Anson; *Meetings*, 2nd or 3rd Mondays, Tobacco Auction Rooms, Limbe, 5 p.m.

At the meeting on 10th July there were 14 members present.

Mr. Milne read notes about the Falkland Islands Dependencies stamps.

Mr. Booth referred to the increased market price of the Southern Rhodesia 1½d. K.G.V. (S.G. 16c) and its scarcity. Mr. Duff accounted for this by the fact that this stamp (perf. 12) was issued in booklet form, and large numbers therefore did not come readily on the market.

C.S.

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, W. D. Vallance; *Hon. Secretary*, S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973, Cape Town; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

24th August: Mr. Simenhoff in the chair. The exhibit of the evening, "Early Europe," was given by Mr. K. Cameron, and his accompanying notes are published elsewhere in this issue. Commander Enoch—a specialist in the stamps of France—when examining the display, made the interesting discovery of a retouch on the 15c bistre of the 1870 issue; to the best of his knowledge this had not previously been noted in that particular denomination.

Four new members admitted. The evening closed with the usual auction.

Thursday, 14th September: Mr. W. L. Ashmead, F.R.P.S.L., exhibited the stamps of Iceland. This exhibit, which won the award in the Foreign Section at the Pretoria Exhibition in 1931, is undoubtedly the finest collection of the stamps of Iceland in this country, and Cdr. Enoch, speaking on the exhibit, went so far as to place it in the world class. Only the mint portion of the collection was shown, but Mr. Ashmead stated that he also had the same in used condition. The issues from 1873 depicting the early stamps of Denmark were practically complete, and the overprints of 1897 were well to the fore. The inverted and double overprint here was particularly interesting. Commemoratives were well represented, outstanding among these being the 1930 Parliamentary Millenary.

Other items of interest were the 1931 Zeppelin air stamps and the Balbo Transatlantic Mass Flight overprints of 1932.

After the usual business of the meeting had been concluded, the auction took place, many items being offered for Navy League and Red Cross Funds.

B.L.C.

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SOCIETY NEWS

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. A. Watson; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. F. Fowler, P.O. Box 168, East London. *Meetings*, Colosseum Building, 2nd Fridays, 7.45 p.m.

At the September meeting there were 21 members and 4 visitors present.

After the usual business, a number of items of philatelic interest were passed round, and the president then commented on the approaching departure to Durban of Mr. A. E. Basden.

Mr. J. F. Paviour then favoured the meeting with another of his most interesting papers. This one dealt with the West Indian Islands, both historically and philatelically.

To supplement his paper, Mr. Paviour displayed a portion of his fine collection of the West Indian Colonies, a group which has always been one of the most popular with collectors. There was a good selection of the earlier, followed by practically all the more recent issues, complete and unused.

Mr. Fowler, deputising for Mr. Meyer, who was unavoidably absent, laid out the latter's collection of Holland. This was very fine and complete, while the writing up of the various issues was particularly noticeable. In the more recent issues, there was included a splendid lot of the interrupted perforation varieties, which are very elusive.

The president expressed the thanks and appreciation of the meeting to the exhibiting members, after which the usual auction was held, most of the lots offered being disposed of.

+

T.A.H.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

President, A. L. Bevis; *Hon. Sec.*, G. Milner Palmer, P.O. Box 588, Durban; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street (in the rooms of the Durban Camera Club, top floor), 7.30 p.m.

At our September meeting we had a record attendance of 56 members and visitors.

The secretary read a few notes of general interest, and also referred to Mr. C. P. Rang's new Perforation Gauge and several new issues.

A competition arranged by Mr. Lyle, which took the form of questions in regard to South African stamps, then took place, and it was astonishing to learn how many little details about the stamps in every day use are generally overlooked. Mr. Lyle presented two prizes, one for the winner, Mr. R. Stanley Gush, and the other a booby prize. This competition is an innovation as far as our Society is concerned, and it was decided to have another competition at the next meeting.

The exhibit was the Society's Forgery collection which has not been shown for some time. Mr. Percy C. Bishop gave a talk on Stamp Forgers and Fakers and their methods. He went right back to the first Forgers and Fakers, and his most interesting talk was listened to by the large audience most intently.

The auction followed, and this was excellently supported, good prices being obtained.

+

G.M.P.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Lt. J. A. B. van Wyk; *Hon. Secretary-Treasurer*, E. N. Rigg, 103 Kemston Avenue, Benoni; *Meetings*, 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Hotel Regent, Benoni.

At our annual general meeting the following were elected to serve in office: *President*, Lt. J. A. B. van Wyk; *vice-president*, Mrs. G. Wood; *secretary-treasurer*, E. N. Rigg; *Federation delegate*, Mr. Shepherd; *committee*, Messrs. Gutsche, Gillmore, Suklje, Bode, Miss Gillmore.

The competition arranged by Mrs. Wood was finally won by Lt. van Wyk after a tie with Miss Gillmore. In this competition a very small portion of the stamp was exposed and the country had to be named. Miss Gillmore and Lt. van Wyk tied three times before the final.

Exhibits of the Evening

Mr. Legator exhibited his collections from the following countries: Somaliland, Ceylon, Cayman Islands, Cyprus, Dominica, Gambia, Gibraltar, Grenada, Northern Rhodesia, St. Vincent, Turks and Caicos Islands. Mr. Rigg exhibited his collection of Sarawak. Both these exhibits were mostly in mint condition.

+

E.N.R.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, F. J. H. Lang; *Hon. Secretary*, L. Buchen, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Public Library, Johannesburg, 7.45 p.m.

22nd August: Mr. Schubart tabled a very interesting exhibit of the official issues of Australia, and read an instructive paper on this subject. He pointed out that although the stamps are not catalogued and although some of the more recent numbers are not so highly priced, the older items are, in many cases, elusive, to the extent of being unprocurable or obtainable only after considerable search.

Stamps were auctioned and as a result our war funds benefited to the extent of approximately £7.

12th September: This was our regular monthly meeting, when Mr. Lang was in the chair. One new member was elected. Notes of the month were read by Mr. F. E. Ingham.

Mr. Lang announced that our society had decided to hold a stamp exhibition at the "Speed the Victory Fair" to be held at the Zoo Lake grounds from November 25 to December 2. All members having suitable material for display at this exhibit were requested to assist the committee by contributing such material. Also, as it is intended to sell stamps at this exhibition, to increase our war funds, members were especially requested to get busy right away to get material ready for sale at this exhibition. The society hopes to raise at least £1,000 through admission fees and sales at our exhibit, and if all members, both resident and country, will co-operate, this commendable objective will be achieved.

The exhibit of the evening comprised a very fine collection of stamps of the Belgian Congo, tabled by Mr. W. M. Glover. The stamps in this exhibit were accompanied by interesting photographs of life in this territory. But, probably the most outstanding feature of the whole exhibit was the detailed way in which the stamps were written up, including notes on the designs as well as the quantities printed of most of the values exhibited. The collection covered the period from 1886 up to the present, among which were the Deluxe Miniature Sheet Blocks. Mr. L. Buchen expressed the thanks of the society to Mr. Glover for his excellent exhibit.

War funds benefited from auctions and raffles to an amount of £15.

The Pretoria Society visits us on 10th October and we expect a bumper house.

+

H.E.B.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. Ferguson; *Hon. Secretary*, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

4th September: Mr. Ferguson in the chair. Mr. Hawke reviewed a new publication—Stamps of the British Empire.

Mr. Konya read a short story by a Czechoslovakian author—nicely translated into English—on a philatelic episode. The author, as a boy, had a treasured collection of stamps. This was apparently stolen from him by a boy friend and this changed the whole trend of his life, making him morose, unpopular and self-centred. The discovery of the collection in his later life came too late to make any alteration in his life, although it did make him return to the ranks of philately.

18th September: Mr. Ferguson in the chair. Dr. Broom gave a very instructive talk on Transvaal stamps. With the aid of the two original dies of the Transvaal stamps, loaned from the Museum, he demonstrated how the plating of the stamps could be obtained. He showed several sheets of the stamps with the plating arrangement more or less complete. He also pointed out how painstaking research had brought to light many more permanent varieties than had ever been recorded, and he stressed the great rarity of many of them in comparison with the rarity of many other philatelic items. Dr. Broom's talk and exhibit were very much appreciated.

H.A.W.

(Continued on page 119)

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UNION NOTES.

Air Mail Developments.

As foreshadowed in our September issue, a civilian air-letter service was introduced as from Monday, 2nd October to the United Kingdom, Eire, Empire countries in Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Western Pacific. As that day was a public holiday and the air-letter cards not available for purchase, the effective start of the service may be put at 3rd October.

The service is by air throughout and special light weight forms have been printed, obtainable at all post offices at 6d. each. These air-letter cards or forms are similar in size and shape to the "Active Service" 3d. cards for the Forces (this service continues undisturbed); they are printed in blue and there are two stamps, each of 3d. denomination, one in English and one in Afrikaans, of the "War Effort" design. This keeps to blue as the colour for the 3d. value. Most cards show a serial number, printed vertically, on the inside, but it does not appear to be present in all specimens.

Concurrently with the introduction of this service the fee for civilian airgraph messages has been reduced from 8d. to 3d.

Special Christmas and New Year Greetings Airgraphs are on sale at 3d. each. They must be handed in by the end of this month. They are attractive forms with Springboks, V's and holly leaves in the border, "Christmas and New Year Greetings from South Africa" at the top, then a space for writing, and the bottom right corner has the following "God bless thy year, giving you Strength for the Strife, Peace for the Pathway, Wisdom for the Work, Friends for the Fireside, Love to the Last."

1d. Bantams with Purple Marginal Imprints.

As noted also in September the bantam 1d. appeared with the marginal imprint in purple, the colour of the 2d. stamp. The general impression held by collectors was that this had been done to make the advertising of Loan Certificates more effective, through the colour contrast.

Since then the 4d. has been seen with a purple marginal imprint.

On enquiry being made to the Government Printer, he has been good enough to state that the reason for the change was due to war conditions and that he had to resort to using the colour he had most of in stock to finish the particular order in hand. He adds, however, that as soon as con-

ditions become normal more contrasting colours will be used regularly.

Another change noted in the marginal imprints of the 2d. denomination is that at top and bottom the Afrikaans advt. is now opposite the Afrikaans stamp and the English one opposite the English stamp; formerly the English advt. came opposite the Afrikaans stamp and vice versa. Similar changes may be expected in the 1d., 3d. and 6d. denominations; the others are as the 2d. now is—it all depended on whether the sheet started with an Afrikaans or an English stamp.

It has been reported from Cape Town that a sheet of the 1d. denomination has been found without rouletting.

New ½d. "Officials"

The "Officials" overprinted from a new forme, which were chronicled in our September issue, are now obtainable. The words are rather shorter than before "Official" being 14 m.m. long and "Offisieël" 15. They are 10 m.m. apart. They can easily be recognised without measurements, however, as "Official" is on the left reading upwards and Offisieël" on the right reading downwards and its second "E" for the first time in these overprints, correctly receives the two little dots over it.

S.W.A.

It is reported from Windhoek that a sheet of the 1/- Bantams with the small letters overprint has the overprint inverted. Three quarters of the sheet had been used up for postage before the error was spotted.

A BOUQUET.

A corporal in the S.A. Armoured Brigade in Italy writes: "The receipt and reading of your paper is something I would not like to miss. When opportunity offers I do quite a lot of collecting and exchanging with the local people. There have been vast issues of European stamps in the last four years and if I can help you with information I shall be pleased to do so." We hope to get some philatelic news from him in future.

"MONTE CASSINO" OVERPRINT VARIETY.

Stamp Collecting reports a variety in the 55 gr. Polish sea-post stamp of 1941 overprinted. "Monte Cassino/18.v.1944." The stop after 18 is missing and it occurs only on the last stamp in the third row of the sheet. The variety has not been found in the two other denominations overprinted from the same setting, the 45 gr. and the 80 gr.

IN AND OUT OF VRYBURG

By J. H. HARVEY PIRIE
and
A. A. JURGENS

Vryburg stamps and postmarks of 1899–1900 have already figured in the *South African Philatelist* in articles by S. G. Rich and one of us (A.A.J.) (see Vol. 18, 1942, pp. 76, 88 and 127, and Vol. 19, 1943, pp. 31, 34 and 38), whilst the former writer has more recently summarised his views in a chapter of his book "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War" with the title which we have borrowed for this article.

In a comment on the articles in the *South African Philatelist*, one of us (J.H.H.P.) stated that what was now wanted was to get together as much Vryburg material as possible, study it carefully, try to sift the wheat from the chaff and so arrive at some sort of finality as to the genuine and the fakes, as regards both stamps and postmarks.

The present writers have in the meantime been able to accumulate or to see a fair amount of additional material and they have gotten together and studied it. We do not claim that we have yet necessarily reached finality, but, on the material available, we have come to certain conclusions, all of which are not in keeping with what we and others have hitherto accepted. In the circumstances we have thought it as well to give the results of our study publicly, as being at any rate another step onwards towards the whole truth.

1. Date of Occupation by the Boer Forces and of the issue of the Z.A.R. Overprints.

The date of occupation is stated in Rich's book to have been on or about 24th November, 1899, more than a month after Kimberley and Mafeking became besieged. At first sight this would appear to be a reasonable assumption, based on the facts (a) that the earliest known cancelled Z.A.R. overprints are dated 24th November, and (b) on information given in the well-known Z.A.R. Extraordinary Postal Circular No. 80 issued at Pretoria on 29th November, 1899. Translations of this circular have been published in several philatelic papers, of which we need only mention here the "Transactions of the Pretoria Philatelic Society" for 1931, p. 37. The point in this circular that immediately concerns us is the statement that a postal service had been established between Vryburg and Schweizer Renoke since 25th November, 1899.

Looking for confirmation of the assumption that the occupation took place "on or about 24th November" we turned to the British Official History of the War. This does not give the actual date, but it states that the Cape Police who had been drafted before the outbreak of war to re-inforce places on the line between Kimberley and Mafeking were all withdrawn to Kimberley to strengthen the garrison there by 22nd October. There was, therefore, no force which could have opposed occupation.

after that date. This portion of the Official History also gives the interesting piece of information that the portion of Cape Colony lying along the western border of the Transvaal was annexed to the Z.A.R. by official proclamation. (It may be remembered that a similar thing occurred to the portion of Cape Colony lying just south of the Orange River; this was officially annexed by the Orange Free State.) Presumably such annexation gave the overprinted Vryburg stamps a more official status than they might otherwise have had. Possibly annexation also exempted local inhabitants wishing to join the Boer forces from being technically regarded by the British as rebels; the Official History states that many of them were conscripted by the Boers and that, if they did not join up willingly, they were carted off to some other area.

We put the date of the occupation of Vryburg as 25th October, 1899. Our reason for so doing is the information given us by Dr. T. S. Leask, of Wolmaransstad, with whom we have recently been in communication over the local issue in that town of June, 1900. The firm he was connected with had a branch store in Vryburg and he has sent us an envelope sent from Vryburg to Wolmaransstad on 25th October, with the statement that it was posted on the day of the occupation of Vryburg by the Boers.

This cover is franked with a mixture of Cape and Transvaal stamps. The postmark is the one with a square dot at the bottom and traces of lines on either side of the dot (see Fig. 2) supposed to be remnants of the letters BB chipped out by the Boers. This mark is dealt with later on. The date on the postmark is 25 OCT 99 and the cover is back-stamped Wolmaransstad 30 OCT 99.

The presence of Transvaal stamps on this cover indicates that at any rate some stamps were taken in by the occupying force. In the *South African Philatelist* of August, 1942, one of us (A.A.J.) stated that they had stamps, but preferred to use the overprinted Cape ones. A shortage may have occurred, however, between 25th October and 24th November. In other invaded areas there does not seem to have been the same shortage, even in the very early days of the invasion. The Z.A.R. Postal Circular mentioned previously states that Cape Colony stamps had been overprinted "because of the lack of our postage stamps" and goes on to say "stamps of this state are already sent thither and the use of the temporary postage stamps must be stopped."

We have not been able to glean any information as to the actual date of issue of the Cape stamps overprinted Z.A.R., nor do we know anything further as to postal arrangements between Vryburg and the outside during the period 25th October–25th November, 1899.

The generally accepted dates of usage for these Z.A.R. overprints are only from 24th November to 29th November (both inclusive). If these are the real limits and if 24th November be regarded as the day of issue, then it occurs to us as distinctly curious that there was time for the news of the issue to have reached Pretoria so that the circular stopping their use should be in print on 29th November, and also that their use should have stopped so exactly on that very date. Of course, there may have been telegraphic communication available and the matter may have been considered as of sufficient importance to have had the necessary information sent both ways by wire.

There was actually some usage of the overprinted stamps after 29th November; Rich, for example, reports a $\frac{1}{2}$ d., apparently genuine in every respect, used at Vryburg on 16th December, 1899. This can be accounted for.

In an article in *Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, March, 1902, p. 189, E. Tamsen has an article in which he states that when the P.M.G. stopped the use of the issue he ordered the remainders to be sent to Pretoria, where they were sold to a collector at face value.

Commenting on this article in the May issue of the same Journal, A. Sonn states, from a reply given by the P.M.G. to an enquiry made by the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, that the remainders were not all sold—Mr. Van Alphen, the P.M.G., surprised some of his philatelic friends by sending them some of the stamps as a present. Mr. Sonn states further that the P.M.G. gave the ruling that, although he had stopped the sale of the stamps at Vryburg, they must be regarded as a definite Transvaal issue as the money paid for them had gone into the Transvaal Post Office, and the stamps were still valid for use anywhere in the Transvaal. Some were actually used in Johannesburg as well as in Vryburg after the date of their sale in the latter place having been stopped.

2. *The Stamps which were Overprinted.*

Rich is of opinion that the genuine Vryburgs are all definitely pale tints or shades (especially so as regards the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) and that any overprint on a dark shade should be looked at askance straight away. The overprint and/or the postmark will probably give a final decision. One of us (A.A.J.) is in doubt as to the correctness of all the genuine stamps being of pale shades, but we do not feel that we have yet seen sufficient material to give a definite opinion.

3. *The Quantities Overprinted.*

The official Postal Circular No. 80 previously referred to puts the quantities as $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d., 2,400 each; 2d., 1,440 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 480. This cannot be definitely controverted, but doubts have been expressed as to the correctness of the figure for the 2d. on 6d. Rich, at the present day, says it seems to be the most difficult of the group to find; Tamsen, in his article mentioned above, puts the figure for the 2d. as 480 or (?) 1,440, while A. Sonn in his comment also puts it at 480.

4. *The Overprints.*

(a) *Genuine.*

We had hoped to be able to study large mint blocks (amounting practically to complete panes of each value) of these stamps which recently came to light in Cape Town. They are now in the possession of a well-known collector and we have been promised an opportunity to see them. Unfortunately, he is at present seriously ill and this study must wait a bit. From these blocks we hope it will be possible to put on record the characteristics of the genuine overprints with certainty, also to place the position of such known varieties as the italic Z, the wide spacings and the I for 1.

(b) *Forged.*

Rich gives the following features as characteristic of the counterfeits:—

"On all counterfeits thus far seen or pictured, the top bar of the Z is so long that it overlaps visibly to the left of the left end of the lower bar of the same letter.

On the $\frac{1}{2}$ d.: noticeably narrow 2 in $\frac{1}{2}$ with ball tip of 2 not extending to left of end of foot of the

figure; left-hand vertical stroke of N shows a noticeable slant.

On the 1d.: Final E of PENCE is oversized or raised; heavy part of tail of R is not curved on either edge. (In genuine, one side is curved and the other angled, or both curved, in copies in the author's collection).

On the 2d. on 6d.: Numeral 2 has definitely visible slanting serif at right end of foot. (In genuine, it is vertical and usually very faint.)

On the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.: 2 of $\frac{1}{2}$, same features as on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; first E of PENCE is smaller than other letters. A second forgery has distorted letters with a slight slant and the letter R with a short, fat tail; E's almost square with very conspicuous serifs."

We have been able to study two lots of forgeries, each lot consisting of a set of the four denominations. One of these lots came from the forgery collection of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, the other belonged to Mr. H. Courlander, of East London.

In both lots the overprint on the 2d. on 6d. agreed with the description given by Rich; one of them was on a stamp of light shade, the other on a dark shade. On the other denominations the overprints, although agreeing closely between themselves, differed from those described by Rich. Here follow their characteristics:—

On the $\frac{1}{2}$ d.: The upper bar of the Z is noticeably shorter than the lower bar and the serif is slightly slanting, reminiscent of the italic Z variety although not so strikingly slanting as in it. The 2 of $\frac{1}{2}$ is definitely larger than in the genuine.

On the 1d.: On one specimen all figures and letters are rather thicker and heavier than in the genuine, on the other only the figure 1 is noticeably heavy. More distinct differences, seen in both, are that the top bar of the Z is shorter, the space between the two ends of the C is wider, and the top half of the R projects more to the right and encloses a bigger area than in the genuine.

On the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.: The ball tip of the large 2 does not extend to the left of the end of the figure; the 2 of $\frac{1}{2}$ is smaller than in the genuine and, most obviously, the $\frac{1}{2}$ is "on the line" with 2 and PENCE whereas in the genuine it is "below the line." The top bar of the Z overlaps the bottom bar to the left, but only just by a trifle, not as markedly as on the 2d. One of the stamps is a pale shade, one a dark.

It seems, therefore, as if, except in the case of the 2d. on 6d., there were at least two (and, in the case of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., perhaps three) different types of forged overprints.

5. *Genuine VRYBURG Postmarks.*

From our own examinations and from published descriptions we are satisfied that all Z.A.R. overprinted stamps genuinely cancelled in Vryburg show one and the same type of postmark (see Figs. 1-4). This mark is the one figured by Rich in his illustrations 2-1, 2-2 and 2-4. It is a $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

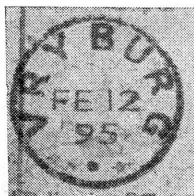


Fig. 1

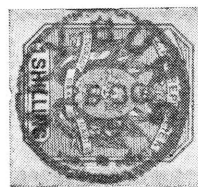


Fig. 2

single circle with VRYBURG running round the top and the date in two lines in the centre, e.g., 28 NO/99. At the bottom is a large square dot and level with it on either side there may be what look like definite dashes; these dashes, however, may be fragmentary on one or other side or on both sides, or may be lacking entirely on one or other side or on both sides. How much of them shows up would appear to depend on how heavily the cancelling was done and on whether the pressure was evenly applied or not.

About this postmark there has grown up what we now regard as a myth, viz., that the dashes, or fragments thereof, represent the remains of the bottom bars of the letters B B (standing for British Bechuanaland) chipped out by the Boers on their occupation of Vryburg and annexation of the surrounding territory.

(to be continued).

E. BLUM

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BRAZIL—Y.M.C.A. COMMEMORATIVE.

On 7th June a stamp was put into circulation to commemorate the centenary of the Young Men's Christian Association (Associacao Crista de Mocós). On the upper part of the stamp, inscribed on a white square, there is the emblem of the Young Men's Christian Association in colours: blue, red and yellow. The legends are all in white. On the top of the stamp we can read: "BRASIL-CORREIO"; on the emblem—in a circle—"AFRICA - AMERICA - EUROPA - ASIA - OCEANIA." On the triangle "ALMA-CORPORMENTE" (Soul-Body-Mind). Under the emblem, in four lines, "1844—1944" "CENTENARIO DA

ASSOCIACAO CRISTA DE MOCOS" and on the base of the stamp, the value "Ctvs 40."

Stamp lithographed at the Mint on gummed paper with guarantee fibre (wool) "Pirai," automatic jagged. Quantity: 1,000,000, in sheet of 70.

DE GAULLE.

THE PROVISIONAL ISSUES OF FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

The information given by Mr. A. Lichtenstein in the July-September issues of the *South African Philatelist* prompts me to make the following notes, based on my own collection.

The study of these interesting overprints is more complicated than would appear at first sight, as a number of important data are still lacking as to the dates of issues, their quantities, relative variety of some of black versus red overprints; the spacings on the low values; inverted, double overprints; broken or missing letters, etc., and it may be some time before these points are cleared up.

All that can be said at the moment is that exact information is wanting in a number of cases and that what is now known is not yet a hundred per cent. accurate. Careful examination of these overprints may bring to light further new and interesting finds.

There are some stamps that have not been listed by Mr. Lichtenstein and might be added to his very good list:

There is a stamp No. 42 of his list, with a small + 35c. in red.

Also there exist 100 double overprints on the 75c. No. 44 of his list. I have a used copy (post-marked 24th October, 1940, at Brazzaville).

Likewise, there is an inverted overprint on the 65c. (No. 42) not listed. I have a used copy in my collection.

It is also a pity that so little is known of the concurrent overprints on the stamps of the Cameroons, which seem to have quite a number of errors; perhaps someone could give some information about these. They are in some cases very rare owing to loss by enemy action and by other causes.

Most of the stamps of both French Equatorial Africa and of the Cameroons are scarce and difficult to get, and are for the most part expensive items. They seem to have an interesting future before them because the quantities printed are for the most part quite small.

T. H. TREVES BARBER.

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Wanted low priced South African material up to 10,000 each. Offers to: "Stamps," Box 1102, Salisbury.

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"Stamps," Box 1102, Salisbury.

Ascension & St. Helena. Private Collector wants all issues except George VI. J. A. May, Box 78, Cape Town.

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F. Stein, P.O. Hlatkulu, Swaziland.

EIRE.

A new 2½d. stamp was issued on 29th August, bearing a portrait of Bro. Edmund Ignatius Rice, born in 1762, founder and first Superior General of the Community of the Irish Christian Brothers, who devoted themselves to the education of youth. Their work later spread beyond Ireland, including a college opened in Kimberley in 1897.

The stamp is to remain on sale till February, 1945.

KENYA PERFORATIONS.

"Mr. J. V. Jensen (Nakuru) reports the following hitherto unrecorded perforations of the 5s. value:—1938, 13½ x 13; 1944, 13 x 13½. In the former, only the 1c. and 30c. are listed; and in the latter, only the 50c. and 1s. That the 5s. should exist in both is quite possible, but in view of the hunt for these things it is surprising that one should have escaped detection since 1938. Can anyone confirm these 5s. varieties?"

—The Philatelic Magazine.

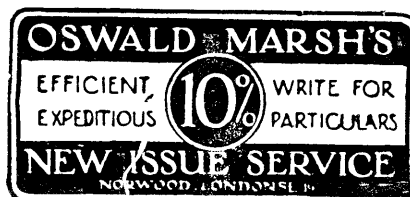
NORTHERN RHODESIA.

A "TICK BIRD" VARIETY.

A correspondent from Livingstone has produced a new stamp for "zoological" collectors, even if it be in the form of a minor printing flaw. This flaw is a constant one on all sheets of the 1½d. on sale there at present, and occurs on the first stamp of the seventh row.

It takes the form of a small mark on the rump of the baby elephant, which might very well pass for a tick-bird seated there on its lawful occasions.

STUDY YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS



FALKLAND DEPENDENCIES

These are in the limelight with the recent issue for them of overprinted Falkland Island stamps. In the latest number of "The Stamp Lover," B. S. H. Grant, a well-known specialist in Falkland Islands, gives a list of items which should go to the formation of a specialised Dependencies section. Here it is; many of them, it may be said, are very hard to get:

(a) Q.V. or K.E. stamps with a little underprint "South Georgia" below each stamp, or occasionally on the stamps. On all values from the 1891 to 1912 issues.

(b) The ordinary South Georgia circular date stamp in use from 1910 on all Falkland issues.

(c) German South Polar Expedition covers or cards bearing Falkland Island stamps in 1911-12. Their fairly extensive use resulted in—

(d) Circular South Georgia cancellation and rubber hand-stamped "1d." or "2½d." "Paid South Georgia" and initials "E.B.B." in lieu of stamps, the supply having run out. October, 1911, to January, 1912.

(e) The 2½d. blue Georgian stamp bisected diagonally in March, 1923, and each half used as 1d. bearing South Georgia postmark. Authorised by acting magistrate, although not by postmaster, Port Stanley.

(f) 1d. scarlet on thick paper with watermark reversed, used only in South Georgia August, 1923.

(g) The war stamps of 1918-21 used in South Georgia; varieties of type as for Falklands proper.

(h) February, 1928. Provisional 2½d. on 2d. purple used solely in South Georgia.

(i) South Shetlands. ½d. and 1d. stamps vertically hand-stamped "Port Foster." Rare but legitimately authorised for use for a few months in the season 1912-13. Liable to be forged and other values with this overprint are probably souvenirs made at Port Stanley.

(j) Deception Island, South Shetlands. Large oval rubber cancellation with date in centre.

(k) 1924-31 ordinary circular South Shetlands date stamp. Discontinued owing to restricted whaling operations.

(l) 1932. South Georgia postmark with year shown simply as "2" owing to delay in arrival of the new date stamp.

(To these, we think, should be added the Argentine stamps and special postmarks used in the South Orkneys in 1904 and again in 1942-44. Whatever views we may hold as to their legitimacy, they were actually used. An excellent illustration of a 1944 cover is given in the June 30 number of the "Philatelic Magazine."—Ed.)

ITALIAN EAST AFRICA
UNISSUED AIRMAIL STAMPS

Mr. L. Cahen, of Marlow, has submitted a corner block of four stamps which he received from a friend in South Africa. The block shown to us is imperforate, ungummed and printed in deep green, but it is understood that impressions exist also in red, and with rouletting between the stamps. The design shows an airplane in flight over a map of East Africa, and is reminiscent of the Madagascar airmail type of 1935-38.

Our correspondent writes: "They were actually the last stamps to be printed by the Italians in Addis Ababa and apparently they were never issued."

"Colonel Kruger, who is head of the Government Printing Works in South Africa, was sent to Addis Ababa as soon as it was taken, and he there took over the Italian printing works and reorganised them for the new government.

"He found these stamps at the works and my friend in South Africa has sent them on to me. My friend received them straight from Colonel Kruger."

No face value appears on the stamps, but the inscriptions are as follows: (At top) "Buono Posta Aerea (Good for Airmail Postage); (at foot) "Lettere Dirette in A.O.I. Aprile 1941—XIX" (Letters addressed in Italian East Africa April 1941 the 19th year of Fascism). The inscription at the foot of the red stamps is slightly different.

—The Stamp Lover.

WHAT IS THE EARLIEST HANDSTAMPED
POSTAL MARKING?

Under this title Dr. Carroll Chase has an interesting article in the July issue of *The American Philatelist*. Alternatively it might have said "Who first invented stamps?"; these marks were originally called "stamps," although that word has now gradually come to have, generally speaking, a different significance.

Claims have been put forward for Britain, Holland and France. Dr. Chase's notes are unfortunately all in France and not (at the time of writing) available, but he is pretty sure that the French claim considerably ante-dates the others.

The first British marks are those of the Dockwra private penny post introduced in 1680. His recollection of the Dutch claims is that they are of almost the same date. The French claims go back to approximately 1611. They were marks with a crown and/or a fleur-de-lys and also with, in manuscript or as part of the stamp, some such wording as "Franche" or "Port Paye," meaning "Post Paid."

These markings are believed to have been issued by the authorities of either the Provinces or the "Généralités," which were larger divisions of the French Kingdom set up to deal mainly with financial matters.

MONTHLY PHILATELIC BULLETIN

Each month The Windsor Stamp Co. publish THE WINDSOR MONTHLY PHILATELIC BULLETIN, an attractive 12 page illustrated list.

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JOHANNESBURG.

THE "ALBERT MEMORIAL" STAMPS OF THE BELGIAN CONGO.

By A. HILTON SYDOW, A.S.A.A., C.A. (S.A.).

The monocoloured stamps of the Belgian Congo which were issued during February, 1941, were of uniform design and each depicted the monument to the late King Albert of the Belgians, erected at Leopoldville-Kinshasa, in 1938. The issue consisted of eleven denominations in two types listed as A and B hereunder. Type A showed the French inscription of the country's name above the vignette and the Flemish one below, whilst Type B showed the reverse :—

	Denomination.	Type.	Top Inscription.	Bottom Inscription.
1	10c. Grey	A	Congo Belge	Belgisch Congo
2	15c. Brown	B	Belgisch Congo	Congo Belge
3	25c. Light Blue	A	Congo Belge	Belgisch Congo
4	50c. Lilac	B	Belgisch Congo	Congo Belge
5	75c. Rose	A	Congo Belge	Belgisch Congo
6	1·25 fr. Grey-black	B	Belgisch Congo	Congo Belge
7	1·75 fr. Orange	A	Congo Belge	Belgisch Congo
8	2·50 fr. Ruby Red	A	Congo Belge	Belgisch Congo
9	2·75 fr. Blue	B	Belgisch Congo	Congo Belge
10	5·00 fr. Olive-green	A	Congo Belge	Belgisch Congo
11	10·00 fr. Red	B	Belgisch Congo	Congo Belge

These stamps were printed on unwatermarked paper by the S.A. Litho Co., Ltd., by the photo zinc offset process from plates made by McManus Bros., and perforated to the gauge of 11 by 11 by Casey & Behr (Prop.), Ltd. Thus, they represent the work of three Cape Town concerns, and are the first postage stamps produced in South Africa for a foreign country. It is believed that, initially, the Union Government Printer was requested to produce these stamps, but declined the request owing to pressure of other urgent work. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 units each, and in ten horizontal rows of ten. The quantities printed of each denomination are given in the *South African Philatelist* of March, 1941, by Dr. G. Lefebvre.

The master-drawing of the design depicted on the stamps, without names and undenominated, was drawn by Mr. J. Goodman, the artist of the S.A. Litho Co., Ltd. This master-drawing, which measured approximately 5½ in. by 4 in., was handed to Mr. Louw, of McManus Bros., under whose supervision a temporary zinc plate was made which contained eleven images, one for each of the denominations stated afore, and subsequently eleven zinc plates were made, one plate for each denomination with images 100-set.

From the large master-design, undenominated and without inscriptions, two large photographic negatives were obtained, from which latter two prints were made, say, print A and print B. Drawings were made of the inscriptions "Congo Belge" and "Belgisch Congo." To print A the inscription "Congo Belge" was affixed adhesively above the vignette, and the inscription "Belgisch Congo" similarly below the vignette. A large negative was obtained from print A with inscriptions attached. The said inscriptions were then stripped from print A and the "Belgisch Congo" one affixed to print B above the vignette, and the "Congo Belge" one similarly below the vignette. Another large negative was obtained from print B

with inscriptions attached. From these large negatives, containing the said inscriptions, two large prints were made, one from inscribed print A and one from inscribed print B. These two prints thus obtained were undenominated. Drawings were then made of the various figures of value, namely, 10c., 15c., 25c., 50c., 75c., 1·25fr., 1·75fr., 2·50fr., 2·75fr., 5·00 fr., and 10·00 fr. To inscribed print A was affixed the 10c. value in the blank space of the value tablet. From this adhesively denominated

print a negative was obtained with the image in reduced size corresponding to that of an issued stamp. The 10c. value was stripped from the inscribed print A, and the 25c. value affixed in the value tablet space. Similarly, a small negative was obtained for this value. This procedure was repeated for the 75c., 1·75 fr., 2·50 fr., and 5·00 fr. denominations. To inscribed print B was affixed the 15c. value in the blank space of the value tablet. Similarly, from this adhesively denominated print a negative was obtained with a reduced size image. The 15c. value was stripped from the inscribed print B, and in its place the 50c. value was affixed. This procedure was repeated for the 1·25 fr., 2·75 fr. and 10·00fr. Thus, eleven negatives were obtained with reduced inscribed and denominated images corresponding to the size of an issued stamp; six of Type A and five of Type B.

From the eleven negatives with images in reduced size, a small sensitised zinc plate was prepared which received positive images of the said eleven different denominations. This temporary plate was forwarded to Mr. Henry Kline, of the S.A. Litho Co., Ltd., who subjected it to further chemical treatment prior to using it for printing a series of colour trials. As a guide to Mr. Kline for the purpose of selecting and matching various colours, he was given a quantity of mixed foreign postage stamps. From this temporary plate Mr. Kline printed a quantity of small sheets of stamps in various colours on a small hand-proving offset machine, and from these trial sheets the requisite colours and inks were finally selected. The inks selected were made by the well-known British concerns, Lorilleux & Bolton, Ltd., Coates Bros. & Co., Ltd., and an American firm, Sinclair & Valentine.

From the same eleven negatives with images in reduced size, eleven individual sensitised zinc plates were prepared, namely, one plate for each of the denominations by direct photography by means

of a "step and repeat" camera. On each plate the reduced image was "stepped" up one by one until it received 100 of such in ten horizontal rows of ten with the requisite spacing for the horizontal and vertical perforation gutters. The plates were forwarded by McManus Bros. to the S.A. Litho Co., Ltd., where they were further chemically treated by Mr. Kline, and subsequently the stamps were printed from them on an offset machine by Mr. J. Walker.

All colour trials and printers' waste, etc., were taken away from the printing works by the representatives of the Belgian Congo authorities.

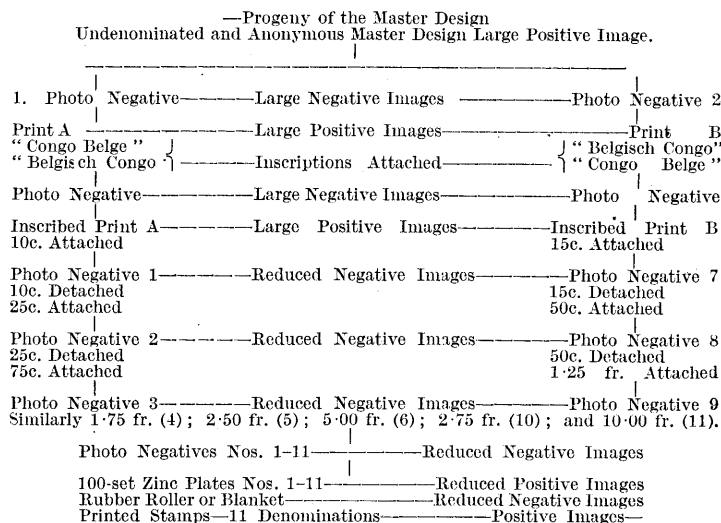
On all Type A stamps the letters "J G" will be found to the right just above the final "O" of Congo in the bottom inscription, and on Type B stamps to the right just above the final "E" of Belge in the bottom inscription. These letters

represent the initials of Mr. J. Goodman, the artist and designer.

Thus far no major varieties have been found anent these stamps, but of all those examined of the 1.75 fr. denomination each shows a coloured blob near the final "E" of Belge in the top inscription.

The offset printing process is a planographic one. These stamps were not printed directly from the zinc plates. The positive images were imparted to the paper by the rubber roller or blanket which bore negative images previously yielded to it from the corresponding positive images on the zinc plate. The paper sustained very slight pressure from the roller, and in this class of printing it is known as "kiss pressure."

On each sheet coloured crosses in the margins indicated the points of division of a sheet into quarter sheets.



POSTAL TAX STAMPS.

Mr. A. A. Dewey, in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* draws attention to a peculiar group of stamps termed Postal Tax Stamps. Their peculiar nature is not made clear in the English catalogues, where they are lumped with the normal postage stamps. Scott does group them; Yvert and Tellier mostly follow the English plan, but not consistently.

It is arguable whether they should be termed postage stamps at all, in many cases anyhow, because their purpose is not to prepay postal charges but to raise money for some object entirely outside post office revenue. Their use, along with ordinary postage stamps, is in many cases compulsory for certain days or periods, but nevertheless they are not performing any postal duty. There are other cases, of course, where stamps do combine both postage and tax purposes.

Spain, Portugal, Latin America countries and South Eastern European countries have been most prolific in the issue of these postal tax stamps, but the British Colonial War Tax stamps of World War I might be brought into the group.

The paper gives a list of the countries issuing such stamps, the objects benefitting from their sale

and the numbers of different stamps issued up to date.

BELGIAN CONGO.

Mr. C. O. Plumbridge has a useful paper in the 16th September number of *Stamp Collecting* giving the numbers printed of the war-time issues of this country.

An extract dated 10th September from the Administrative Bulletin reached us on 23rd October. This gives details of the surcharged Red Cross stamps whose appearance was foreshadowed in our last issue. As stated, there are to be four values (50c. + 50 fr., 1.25 fr. + 100 fr., 1.75 fr. + 100 fr. and 3.50 fr. + 100 fr.) for the Congo and the same four for Ruanda-Vrundi. The issue is limited to 10,000 of each of the eight stamps and they will only be sold in complete sets of eight. Orders for the sets closed on 31st October. If the issue was over-subscribed, orders for over 25 sets were to be rationed. The stamps were to be supplied either mint or used as desired (in other words—cancelled to order).

Whilst sympathizing, of course, with a desire to raise funds for the Red Cross, we strongly dislike this combination of charity with postal functions.

K. Geo. VI superb used unless stated

BAHAMAS LANDFALL complete	90	0
CANADA WAR, 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c red, 5c, 8c, 10c, 13c, 14c, 20c, 50c, & \$1, 13v. complete	7	4
6c Air obs.—1/6; 7c current	1	0
16c Express obs.—12/-; 17c Express	10	0
CYPRUS complete 16v.	75	0
GAMBIA ½d. to 1/-, 9v. incl. 2d. obs. 6/-; Complete	45	0
GIBRALTAR, ½d. to 1/-—3/6; 2/-—7/6; 5/-—8/6 10/-—17/6; £1	35	0
GRENADA, 1921-31 5/-—12/6; Block of 4	50	0
1926-29 2/6—10/-; Block of 4	40	0
1938 ½d. to 1/-—7/-; 5/-—9/-; Block of 4	36	0
1938 10/- P11½ x 13½, 1st printing 55/-; Block of 4	220	0
1938 10/- P11½ x 13½, 2nd printing 50/-; Block of 4	200	0
1941 ½d. to 1/-—10/-; 2/-—10/-; Block of 4	40	0
1943 10/-, P.14 toned paper	30	0
1943 10/-, large frame 30/-; Block of 4	120	0
1944 10/-, P.14, current	17	6
MALTA, 1938 ½d. to 1/-—6/-; Complete	45	0
1943 ½d. to 3d.—1/8; Complete	42	0
M.E.F. 1d. to 1/-—6/5; Complete	15	0
MONTSERRAT ½d. to 1/-—5/-; Complete	17	6
N.Z. HEALTH, 1941, Pair	1	8
1942	9	
1943	9	
1944	9	
ST. KITTS, 1943, ½d. to 1/-—5/-; Complete	20	0
ST. HELENA, Complete	37	6
ST. LUCIA, 1938 complete	4	0
ST. LUCIA, 1938 complete	40	0
ST. VINCENT ½d. to 1/-—5/-; Complete	54	0
TRINIDAD, 1c to 24c—2/6; Complete	30	0
TURKEY, 1938 ½d. to 1/-—8/-; Complete	42	0
1938 6d. obs.—3/6; 1/- obs.	4	0
VIRGIN Is. ½d. to 1/-—5/-; Complete	17	6
MINT Investment Offers: BAHAMAS LANDFALL, ½d. to 8d.—5/6; ½d. to 1/-	8	0
½d. to 3/-—20/-; Complete	80	0
BAHRAIN, 1940 3p to 12 as.	8	0
1940 3p to 15 r. complete	100	0
BR. SOLOMONS ½d. to 5/- (No. 4½d.) 12/6; 10/- GAMBIA 1½d. obs. sheet 60 copies	15	0
GIBRALTAR 2d. Wmk. Sideways only in issue 3 month, 60 copies	30	0
GRENADA, 1938 10/-, P11½ x 13½, rare	60	0
1943 10/- toned paper, P.14	each	20
1944 10/- P.14 current	12	0
KUWAIT, 1939 3p. to 12 as. 8v. (4 as. and 6 as. were printed but never used)	20	0
1939 3p to 15R. complete	170	0
NEWFOUNDLAND 1938 7c. Q. Mary P.13½ obs. sheet 100	60	0
GRENFELL 5c complete sheet 100	35	0
5c to 48c. 10v. P.13½ obs.	set	12
NIGERIA, 1d. red obs. complete sheet 130	15	0
2d. black obs. complete sheet 120	30	0
2½d. orange complete sheet 120	30	0
TURKEY, 6d. obs.	Doz.	36
1/- obs.	Doz.	40

URGENTLY WANTED

As per last advertisement—August number.

LLOYD A. GURNEY,
Gloucester House, 19, Charing Cross Road,
LONDON, W.C.2.

The Editor,
South African Philatelist,

ROTOGRAVURE UNWATERMARKED.

Sir,—I was very interested in your remarks in the October number of the *Philatelist* regarding the Union 1d. Rotogravure, without watermark.

You state that this is the first time that you have heard or seen of this error. May I be permitted to correct you.

If you will refer to the November, 1938, issue of the *Philatelist*, you will see on page 167 a letter from Mr. G. N. Gilbert, regarding the stamps under review. I sent the stamps (a pair) to Mr. Gilbert for expert advice, but as he had never heard of them before, he wrote a letter to you, asking for information from other "Union" collectors, but none was forthcoming. Thus we are still "in the dark."

I may mention that I obtained these stamps from a fellow collector, who received them in a parcel of stamps which he received from England.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. LEVY.

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50 German States (Thurn and Taxis, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, etc.)	7	6
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WINDSOR MONTHLY PHILATELIC BULLETIN.

The Windsor Stamp Co., of The Lantern House, Uckersfield, Sussex, England, who have recently been advertising in our columns, have sent us specimen copies of their *Monthly Philatelic Bulletin*. This is sent out for 2s. 6d. per annum, or single copies at 3d. We need only say that there is a big range of stamps and philatelic accessories offered and that a collector who did not find something in these bulletins to his taste would be very, very hard to please.

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● **RUSSIA**

1944 Stratosphere Heroes (2)...	6	9
†1944 Militant Friendship (2)...	3	6
†1944 Turgenyev Anniversary (2) or the three Sets ... For	1	3
	10	6

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BECHUANALAND		
S.G. 53 broken P ...	£7	0 0
Regent No. 89...	10	0 0
BRITISH GUIANA CENT. ... £2 0 0		
BR. SOMALILAND 1938 ... £8 0 0		
† GREAT BRITAIN P.U.C. £1 ... £2 0 0		
JUBILEE compl. ... £35 0 0		
† NATAL S.G. 171 vertical pair pmk 17 July, 1911 ... £25 0 0		
S.W.A. †S.G. 13 hor. pr. ... £8 0 0		
†S.G. 26 block ... £7 10 0		
†S.G. 27 vert. pr. ... £17 10 0		
S.G. 2 "Afrika" over "South-West" block... £40 0 0		
S.G. 1 ditto pair ... £15 0 0		
S.G. 31 " " ... £100 0 0		
S.G. 2 double o/p ... £12 0 0		
S.G. 12 Control Block... £40 0 0		
S.G. 26 " " ... £5 0 6		
S.G. 39 " " ... £8 0 0		
S.G. 35 " " ... £6 0 0		

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used ...	£2	5 0
cover ...	£2	10 0

Postage Extra.

†Indicates used, otherwise mint.

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SOCIETY NEWS**PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.**

President, Mr. G. K. Forbes; Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. W. Sheffield, P.O. Box 88. Meetings, Room 5, City Hall, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

Everyone enjoyed themselves at the meeting held on the 19th September, which was presided over by T. H. Nicholson, the Vice-President. Three new members were elected and two were proposed.

Most of the evening was given over to Mr. Macmillan's display of first day air-flights. This is the only collection of its kind in Port Elizabeth, and some rare and wonderful envelopes were shown.

He displayed a specimen of the first air-mail flight from Italy in May, 1917. Another envelope shown was dropped from a balloon to prisoners of war, behind the German lines, in the last war. Then there was the first Pigeon Post with the tiny letter and cover. Another cover was from the first seaplane flight from Naples to Palermo. One interesting specimen was from the *City of Delhi* which was bogged at Broken Hill, and food had to be dropped to the crew; the aeroplane arrived at Croeyden eight days late.

There were 40 pages of sets, 2, 3 and 4 in a set, and 150 single envelopes of first and special flights.

Mr. Macmillan won third prize at the Pretoria Congress held in 1934, and we all hope to have the pleasure of seeing this fine collection again in the near future.

7th October was an auction night.

Most of the packets were mint sets of British possessions. They were quickly sold and good prices were obtained. One feature worth mentioning was the 2s. Bermuda stamp, mint, printed on blue mottled paper which was keenly bid for.

On 17th October, there was a good attendance. Three new members were welcomed, making the membership over 100.

The display was in the hands of Mr. Hannabill who showed 124 pages of his general collection, both mint and used, besides numerous envelopes.

The sets of Free French airmails and Russian airmails were keenly scrutinized and commented on. He also had some fine sets of Ascension, Cayman and Cocos Islands.

L.E.C.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. Ferguson; Hon. Secretary, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514. Meetings, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

3rd October: Mr. Hawke read an extract on the Fournier facsimiles.

Mr. Ferguson read an exhaustive paper on the Vatican City and its stamps. He described the many stages in the establishment of an independent State within the precincts of Rome. It is the smallest independent State in the world, with a very small population. He gave an account of the administration of the State—both civil and military. The buildings and treasures to be found there are beyond value. Although stamps have only been issued during the last few years, they are very representative and of great interest.

Prof. Wager tabled an exhibit of Switzerland.

16th October: This was a discussions evening and many members brought forward points in philately for elucidation, such as the embossed grills on the back of early U.S.A. stamps, chalk-surfaced papers, perforations, identifications, etc. These were discussed and more or less suitably answered. Dr. Broom described and showed a new and rare variety in the old Transvaal stamps.

Mr. Wright tabled an extensive collection of British colonials.

H.A.W.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

President, F. J. H. Lang; Hon. Secretary, L. Buchen, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg. Meetings, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Public Library, Johannesburg, 7.45 p.m.

26th September: This was our usual informal meeting, but we all enjoyed the superb exhibit, which Mr. William Redford tabled of the stamps of the Orange Free State. It comprises a wealth of material, including many of the very rare overprinted items. Needless to say, as the case of all of the many collections exhibited by Mr. Redford, only fine copies were included.

10th October: Members of the Pretoria Society paid us an official visit on this occasion and provided the exhibits. After briefly concluding our official business, Mr. Lang turned over the chair to Mr. Ferguson, president of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, who announced that five of their members had brought exhibits and other interesting philatelic information.

These were as follows:—

Mr. Ferguson: A most interesting paper and exhibit of the stamps of the Vatican City.

Mr. Wright: An alphabetical British colonial collection showing early and late, as well as specimen sets, of many British territories.

Col. Horne: Sudan, very beautifully laid out on large ledger sheets, both in mint and used condition.

Dr. Broughton: A collection of most interesting proofs.

Dr. Broom gave a most interesting discussion, documented with original printing plates of the stamps of the Transvaal, with some new information on these stamps not previously published, as well as correction of errors made in former published information.

In addition, as a result of much labour, he brought us platings of early issues overprinted "V.R. Transvaal."

Mr. Lang expressed thanks to Col. Horne and Mr. Wright for their exhibits. Mr. L. Buchen voiced a few words of appreciation to Mr. Ferguson for his most excellent and instructive paper and exhibit on the stamps of the Vatican, and Mr. W. Redford appropriately thanked Drs. Broom and Broughton for their specialised exhibits of stamps.

On 14th November the usual hospital night is to be held, when members are specially asked to contribute any material which can be auctioned. If members have no stamps or philatelic material available cash will be acceptable, as the purpose is to raise as much money as possible for the hospital.

There will be no 4th Tuesday meeting in November, as the Society is sponsoring a philatelic exhibition at the "Speed the Victory Fair," being held on the Zoo Lake grounds from 25th November to 2nd December, inclusive. Mr. Lang again made an appeal to members to come forward to volunteer their assistance at the philatelic exhibit at the fair, as we shall need at least three members present on four-hourly shifts from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day of the fair. Members were also asked to help to sell the proceeds of our stamp exhibit, by furnishing lots of stamps, either on sheets or in envelopes, which can be offered at any price which the contributors feel is reasonable.

H.E.B.

NATAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, A. L. Bevis; Hon. Secretary, G. Milner Palmer, Box 588, Durban. Meetings, 1st and 3rd Wednesday, at London Assurance House, 319, Smith Street (in the rooms of the Durban Camera Club, top floor), 7.30 p.m.

4th October: Three new members were elected, one being Mr. A. E. Basden, formerly of Pretoria, now resident in Durban.

Notes.—Mr. J. Lyle read some notes on French stamps from *Stamp Collecting*, 26th August.

Competition.—A competition arranged by the Secretary then took place, this was on the lines of the wireless "Scatter-brain Competition" answers either being true or false. It was felt that the effort was most successful both from the results and also the question point of view. There was a slight difference of opinion in regard to whether the oxen on the S.A. 5s. pictorial were inspanned or not, but it was soon settled. Mr. F. J. H. Kotze was the winner with all questions correct.

Mr. Percy C. Bishop promised to stage the next competition at our December meeting.

Display.—Mr. C. D. Kettle exhibited his collection of O.F.S.; it is a long time since we have seen a collection of O.F.S., and all present showed their appreciation by the careful inspection they made.

Auction.—The usual auction finished the meeting.

G.M.P.

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, W. D. Vallance; Hon. Secretary, S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973. Meetings, 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand St., 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 28th September, "Jurgens Collection": That the "Jurgens Collection" of the triangular stamps of the Cape was superior to the "Riesco Collection" was the considered opinion of Cdr. Enoch, F.R.P.S.L., who had viewed both collections. This statement was included in the remarks made by Cdr. Enoch in passing a vote of thanks to Mr. A. A. Jurgens for his very fine exhibit.

As was expected, there was an excellent attendance of members and visitors, and the items displayed attracted more than passing interest.

To single out any special items in this exhibit is very difficult, as the condition of all the stamps was perfect.

Most collectors know how difficult it is to obtain even perfect single copies of these stamps, but here we were shown outstanding copies in pairs and blocks and on cover and all with perfect margins.

Deserving special attention was a mint block of four "Slate Lilac" sixpennys on "Blued Paper," perhaps a unique item. The "Bisect Covers" also drew a great deal of interest.

Mr. Vallance, on calling on Mr. Jurgens to speak, paid tribute to one of South Africa's outstanding philatelists.

In reminiscent vein, Mr. Jurgens told many amusing stories of his philatelic rambles and *inter alia*, drew sharp contrast between the research work of stamp collecting in the early days as compared with the easy methods followed by present day collectors who look for "short cut" results. Finally,

he urged members to regard stamp collecting as a "hobby" and refrain from treating it as a business.

The usual auction took place, including items for Red Cross funds, for which cause this Society is making a special appeal, and is holding a public auction shortly, the date of which will be given later in this *Magazine*.

Thursday, 12th October: "Travel and Transport in the Stamp Album" was the title of the exhibit, written up and arranged by Mr. F. P. Rousseau. These sideline collections draw a great deal of interest these days and this particular display superbly mounted and written up was no exception. Here we were shown, through the medium of stamps, the development of transport from the earliest time and mode to the more modern means of travel. Highways, railroads, waterways and airways were each treated in separate sections and the developments in each depicted. The writing up was beautifully executed in block roundhand.

Mr. Rousseau said that the display was an exhibition of pictures rather than of stamps and was designed principally to interest the new collector. It was an illustration as to how common stamps can be collected and arranged to suit one's own ideas.

Two new members were elected and the usual auction took place, many items being for war funds.

B.L.C.

NYASALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. C. Stevens; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Anson. Meetings, 2nd Mondays, Tobacco Auction Rooms, Limbe, at 5 p.m.

14th August: Present 14 members and visitors.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Morton from Maritzburg, Natal, and asked Mr. Morton if he would talk to our members for a few minutes. Mr. Morton replied and stated their Society was formed in April last. A "New Issue" service was carried on by their Secretary taking orders and writing direct to the Postmaster of the country of the new issue. Their members were chiefly interested in British and Empire issues. Items of interest were brought or read at each meeting and a member gave a display and a few minutes talk. They had some 40 members.

The Canadian war issue was passed round by Mr. Booth. The club collection was tabled and proved of particular interest to our visitors.

11th September: Present 12 members.

A letter from S./Sgt. L. F. Cumming was read, asking for stamps of Nyasaland. Mr. Booth stated he would pass some Nyasaland stamps to the Secretary to enable him to send some to Sgt. Cummings.

Once again, through lack of any exchange packets from Johannesburg, the members had to fall back on members' exchange books which were tabled by Mr. Stevens and Mr. Farquhar.

Refreshments were served and the meeting terminated at 18.45 hours.

C.S.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, A. Watson; Hon. Secretary, S. F. Fowler, Box 168, East London. Meetings, Colosseum Building, second Fridays, at 7.15 p.m.

Despite the inclement weather, there was a good attendance of members and visitors at the October meeting, and among the latter we welcomed Mr. Wood, our local postmaster, and Sergt. Whitworth, R.A.F.

Some very interesting covers and new issues were passed round for inspection, including propaganda and other issues of Italy, some of which were found by one of our men in a ruined house near Monte Cassino.

Mr. C. Wilson displayed his collection of Russia. The attractive stamps of this country were shown from the first St. Petersburg local to the recent issues, the latter recording the cultural and industrial development during the last twenty years.

After the usual refreshments, the President tabled a number of sheets of scarce and elusive South African stamps, including New Republic, Stellaland, the early Union airmail cards, and many others. At the conclusion of the displays, a vote of thanks to the exhibitors was moved by the Vice-President, Mr. T. A. Harper, and carried with acclamation.

The auction which concluded the meeting was very successful, most of the lots submitted being sold, some of them being on behalf of the Red Cross and Navy Week funds.

T.A.H.

SWAZILAND.

According to *Stamp Collecting* the Crown agent have just released a new printing of the 2d. and 6d. values with perforation $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. The 2d is a deeper brown than the January, 1943, first appearance in this perforation and the 6d. is described as deep rosy mauve in place of bright purple.

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South African Railways



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Proprietors and Publishers:

THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Whole No. 237.

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Whole No. 237.

UNION AND S.W.A. NOTES

2d. Roll Stamps of 1931.

Mr. Sydow's paper elsewhere in this issue brings out a feature of this stamp which so far appears to be peculiar to it alone amongst the rotogravure printings. Certain identical flaws appear on both the English and Afrikaans varieties; his paper explains how this came about.

S.W.A. 1s. with Inverted Overprint.

Rumour for once is not a lying jade. Last month we mentioned that a report had come from Windhoek that a sheet of the current Bantam 1s. with small S.W.A. overprint must have had this inverted, about a quarter of the sheet being obtained, the other three-quarters having been sold over the counter.

A correspondent in Port Elizabeth (Mr. Harmer—lucky name in philately!) confirms the report. About 26th October he received some stamps which he had ordered from the Post Office at Windhoek, and among them was a block of four of the 1s. with inverted overprint.

"Speed the Victory Fair," Johannesburg.

This Fair, running from 25.11.44 to 2.12.44, to raise funds for the Governor-General's National War Fund and other patriotic funds, is not so prolific in commemorative postmarks as was Liberty Cavalcade at Cape Town in March with three of them.

Although the civil post office had a temporary office in the grounds, it did not at first provide any special canceller, using merely an ordinary double circle mark from the head office in town, with "Johannesburg" above and "33" below.

For the last two days, however, they did provide a special "emergency type" cancellation, a single circle mark with VICTORY FAIR at top, JOHNBG below and the date in two lines across, thus 2 XII / 1944.

The Union Defence Force, however, which put up its usual very fine display, had a large post office in full operation, with museum pieces which included some captured enemy mail bags and cancellers, both Italian and German. The office canceller was of the standard A.P.O.—U—M.P.K. type, the numbers being 50 A. (The Cape Town one was No. f0).

The Philatelic Society of Johannesburg staged a large exhibit with selections from nearly every country in the world, Africa being rather more fully represented than other parts. Many "side-lines" were also featured. They followed Cape Town's example by having a miniature sheet of four labels, printed in dark blue and orange. The central design is a mine headgear with "Philatelic Society of Johannesburg" round it in an oval. In the top corners are "3d." and at the bottom "1944—Speed the Victory Fair." The top and bottom margins have the Society's name and the date respectively; on the left and right "Speed the Victory Fair—Verhaas die Oorwinning Kermis." The sheets were sold at 1s. each, and contributed very substantially to the takings.

Old Transvaal Stamps.

Scarcely a Union Note, perhaps, but it may be stated here that next month we hope to publish the first of several papers by Dr. R. Brown, F.R.S., on Z.A.R. stamps.

Dr. Broom has a world-wide reputation as a palaeontologist having published innumerable papers on the Mesozoic Reptiles of the Karroo beds; more recently, since joining the staff of the Transvaal Museum, his interests have been more in the line of man's "missing links."

He has been a casual stamp collector for over 70 years, but we believe this is the first occasion he has indulged in philatelic research. The opportunity of studying the old Z.A.R. plates in the Museum gave him the necessary stimulus, and we can look forward to quite a few additions (and alterations) to our knowledge of these stamps. Yardley, Curle and Basden have not written the last word about them.

The Editor,
South African Philatelist,

POTCHEFSTROOM ENVELOPES.

Sir,—I have been waiting for this subject to get thoroughly aired—and also for time to write—before butting in. It seems that a cover I have may throw some light on this subject, and is particularly apt in view of your editorial remarks at the conclusion of Mr. Jurgens' letter in your issue of May, 1944.

A good many years ago I obtained, in one batch, several Transvaal unstamped (i.e., without adhesives) envelopes all with handstamps of Potchefstroom.

The two envelopes I still possess are both stamped with the large Potchefstroom dater with the M.S. 6d., in place of the day and month. One of these, a blue envelope, is unused and dated 1871, but the other is used and this latter I wish to describe.

The used copy is a smallish, oblong (what used to be called "damen" format) white envelope. It has the M.S. "6d." large dater of Potchefstroom in N.E. corner and, also on the front, the small Potchefstroom date stamp of "NO. 22, 1871." It is addressed to "Fred Jeppe Esq., Pretoria." At the back is the receiving date stamp of Pretoria, dated "NO. 23, 1871." There is no other marking whatever.

Personally I should have preferred that this was addressed to anyone but Jeppe as it raises certain questions as to whether Jeppe (i) was in Pretoria at the time or (ii) had addressed it to himself.

But this cover is of interest, not only from the date, which is three months later than the cover mentioned by Mr. Sharpe, which he says is back-stamped, but also because, so far, it appears to be the only one of these prepaid provisional envelopes which bears both the date stamp of dispatch and arrival.

This seems, however, in conjunction with Mr. Sharpe's cover, to have definitely crossed your "bridge," Mr. Editor. It may not have arrived on the other side with a perfectly clean record—that is a matter of point of view—but at least it shows that these envelopes were used and did pass the postal authorities at both ends without additional charge. My own personal view is that these envelopes were intended to be a form of postal stationery, at first, perhaps, for the convenience of the public who might well have had, not only some difficulty in obtaining envelopes in outlying districts, but also found it more convenient to have a small stock on hand, already prepaid, rather than having to visit the post office on each occasion to prepay their letters. Such envelopes could safely be handed to anyone to post and there was no need even to entrust money to a chance messenger. That, having been once created, they continued in use for so long is not extraordinary as, so long as they were a convenience and in demand, why should they be dropped? Doubtless both Jeppe as postmaster at Potchefstroom or his successor had very wide powers, and so long as the Treasury obtained the money for postage did it really matter in what form it was obtained?

My cover, of course, has nothing to show that it was on "official service" or that postage was not necessary. But in order to make sure of this point I attach a tracing of the actual address. If this turns out—and I hope someone can verify the writing from records of Jeppe's own "fist" at the

period—to have been written by someone other than Jeppe then its authentic and regular usage seems established, since it then become a letter from Potchefstroom to Pretoria, written from one member of the public to another.

Apologising for a somewhat lengthy discourse on one small item.

Sincerely

E. F. HURT.

Mr. Hurt's letter and tracing were submitted to Mr. A. E. Basden as the most likely person to have a specimen of Jeppe's signature and as the most knowledgeable person on Transvaal philately. His answer is given below:—

"I return Hurt's letter. I have only one letter of Jeppe's—addressed from the General Post Office, Pretoria, 24th April, 1872, to a correspondent in Durban on stamp exchanging; and while there are resemblances between his signature and the specimen sent by Hurt, I am of opinion the writing is by a third party—or should I say second? The writing is sufficiently similar to suggest it was probably written by a brother, taught in the same school. But there are such divergencies as to make me arrive at the opinion that the address on Hurt's cover was not written by Fred Jeppe.

I think Hurt's is a very good letter, and that his reasoning is sound. I know of no valid reason for doubting these envelopes; especially as we know Jeppe was a keen stamp collector, and was undoubtedly well acquainted with U.S.A. stamps and procedure.

I think it is a mistake to condemn out of hand anything that cannot be proved beyond doubt. To me, the issue of such envelopes should be expected rather than questioned; bearing in mind the conditions in Transvaal at the time and their similarity to U.S.A. postal stationery of the sixties."

E. BLUM

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THE 2d. ROTOGRAVURE COIL STAMPS OF 1931 OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

By A. HILTON SYDOW, A.S.A.A., C.A. (S.A.).

The 2d. denominated coil stamps which were printed by the roto gravure or rotary photogravure process at the Government Printing Works at Pretoria were issued primarily during November, 1931, in coil form of a single strip of 500 units in vertical arrangement.

These stamps were bicoloured and were printed from two copper cylinders, one for the frame designs and the other from the vignette designs of the Union Buildings at Pretoria. Each cylinder comprised 132 images in intaglio on its periphery in twenty-two horizontal rows of six units each.

I own a reconstructed 132-set sheet of these stamps, made up of six vertical strips of twenty-two units each, which represents a combined printing from:—

1. One complete revolution of the coil frame cylinder.
2. One complete revolution of the coil vignette cylinder.

The following is a plan which represents the positions of the English and Afrikaans inscribed stamps on the said reconstructed sheet, together with an ancillary plan which represents the vignette positions.

Nos.		FRAMES.					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Row 1	...	E	A	E	A	E	A
Row 2	...	A	E	A	E	A	E
Row 3	...	E	A	E	A	E	A
Row 4	...	A	E	A	E	A	E
Row 5-18	...						
Row 19	...	E	A	E	A	E	A
Row 20	...	A	E	A	E	A	E
Row 21	...	E	A	E	A	E	A
Row 22	...	A	E	A	E	A	E

Nos.		VIGNETTES.					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Row 1	...	V	V	V	V	V	V
Row 4	...	V	V	V	V	V	V
Row 3	...	V	V	V	V	V	V
Row 4	...	V	V	V	V	V	V
Row 5-18	...						
Row 19	...	V	V	V	V	V	V
Row 20	...	V	V	V	V	V	V
Row 21	...	V	V	V	V	V	V
Row 22	...	V	V	V	V	V	V

A carbon tissue sheet which comprised 120 frame images of 20 horizontal rows of six each was printed from the original 120-set diapositive frame plate initially prepared for use on the ordinary 120 contained sheet issues. The said printed tissue then was "squeegeed" on to a copper cylinder and imparted 120 frame images of 20 horizontal rows of six each, i.e., Rows Nos. 1 to 20, after development. An exposed area was left on the periphery of the cylinder between horizontal Rows Nos. 20 and 1. Subsequently a second carbon tissue sheet which comprised 12 frame images of two horizontal rows of six was printed from the original 120-set diapositive plate, and the printed tissue therefrom was "squeegeed" on to the copper cylinder in the exposed area between Rows Nos. 20 and 1 and after development imparted 12 frame images, namely, horizontal Rows Nos. 21 and 22. The said frame cylinder thus received a total of 132 images. From certain characteristics cited further on it will be observed that the two additional horizontal Rows Nos. 21 and 22 imparted to the

copper cylinder by the said 12-set carbon tissue sheet were derived by the latter from HORIZONTAL ROWS NOS. 3 AND 4 OF THE ORIGINAL DIAPOSITIVÉ FRAME PLATE.

The images on the 132-set vignette copper cylinder were "squeegeed" thereon from printed tissue obtained from 120-set and 12-set carbon tissue sheets printed from the original 120-set diapositive vignette plate in a manner similar to that described for the frame cylinder afore. From certain characteristics quoted further on it will be observed that the two additional horizontal Rows Nos. 21 and 22 imparted to the copper cylinder by the 12-set vignette carbon tissue sheet were derived by the latter from HORIZONTAL ROWS NOS. 2 AND 3 OF THE ORIGINAL DIAPOSITIVÉ VIGNETTE PLATE.

The following is a plan which represents the positions of certain characteristics of the diapositive frame and vignette plates shown on a reconstructed sheet of coil stamps on certain horizontal rows:—

Nos.		(a) FRAMES.					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Row 19	(19) ...	Ea	Ab	Ec	Ad	Ee	Af
Row 20	(20) ...	Ag	Eh	Ai	Ej	Ek	El
Row 3	(21) ...	El	Am	En	Ao	Ep	A
Row 4	(22) ...	A	Eq	Ar	E	As	Et
Row 1	(1) ...	Ek	A	E	A	E	A
Row 2	(2) ...	A	E	A	E	A	E
Row 3	(3) ...	El	Am	En	Ao	Ep	A
Row 4	(4) ...	A	Eq	Ar	E	As	Et

Nos.		(b) VIGNETTES.					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Row 19	(19) ...	V	V	V	V	V	V
Row 20	(20) ...	V	V	V	V	V	V
Row 2	(21) ...	V	V	V	V	V	Vb
Row 3	(22) ...	V	Vc	Vd	V	V	V
Row 1	(1) ...	V	V	Va	V	V	V
Row 2	(2) ...	V	V	V	V	V	Vb
Row 3	(3) ...	V	Vc	Vd	V	V	V
Row 4	(4) ...	V	V	V	V	V	V

In the foregoing, "D" represents the diapositive and "C" the cylinder horizontal rows.

plate blemishes and their positions on the reconstructed sheet with small letters indicating their positions on the frame plan above :—

(a) The following is a list of the diapositive frame

- (a) 19/1 Dot over "F" of "Afrika" and dot in frameline, top right.
- (b) 19/2 Dot between "11" of "Suid."
- (c) 19/3 Final "A" of "Afrika" split.
- (d) 19/4 Dot over "U" of "Suid" and dot between "E" and "L" of "Posseel."
- (e) 19/5 Large dot above right scroll to right of postage.
- (f) 19/6 Dot outside of right frameline.
- (g) 20/1 Dot in ball of "2" of "2d."
- (h) 20/3 Dot in frameline above the right tower.
- (i) 20/4 Dot over "OU" of "South" above frameline.
- (j) 20/5 Dot over "S" of "Suid." Dot after "O" of "Posseel."
- (k) 1/1 Dot in "U" of "South" and in "H" of "South."
- (l) 3/1 and 21/1 Small dot in left bottom corner within frameline.
- (m) 3/2 and 21/2 Dot after final "L" of "Posseel." Dot in "K" of "Afrika."
- (n) 3/3 and 21/3 Dot in frameline above "CA" of "Africa."
- (o) 3/4 and 21/4 Small dot in outer frameline above "E."
- (p) 3/5 and 21/5 Small dots, outside frameline, over "H" and "R."
- (q) 4/2 and 22/2 Dot in frameline left of scroll.
- (r) 4/4 and 22/4 Dot in "U" of "South."
- (s) 4/5 and 22/5 Small dots, outside frame, one over "S," one in "U."
- (t) 4/6 and 22/6 Dot in frameline at bottom right.

(b) The following is a list of the diapositive vignette plate blemishes and their positions on the

reconstructed sheet, with small letters referencing their positions on the vignette plan above :—

- (a) 1/3 Dot left of centre chimney (English inscribed stamp).
- (b) 2/6 Faint dot in clouds right of left tower (English inc. stamp).
- (c) 3/2 Dot in sky to right of left tower and dot in sky to left of left tower. (Afrikaans inscribed stamp.)
- (d) 3/3 Small flag on spire of right tower (English inscribed stamp).
- (e) 21/6 Faint dot in clouds right of left tower (Afrikaans inc. stamp).
- (b) 22/2 Dot in sky to right of left tower and dot in sky to left of left tower (English inscribed stamp.)
- (d) 22/3 Small flag on spire of right tower (Afrikaans inscribed stamp).

		(a) and (b) COMBINED FRAMES AND VIGNETTES PLAN.											
Nos.		"D"		"C"		"D"		"C"		"D"		"C"	
		1	2	3	4	5	6						
Row 19	(19)	19	(19)	EV	AV	EV	AV	EV	AV	EV	AV		
Row 20	(20)	20	(20)	AV	EV	AV	EV	AV	EV	AV	EV	First Revolutions of Cylinders.	
Row 3	(21)	2	(21)	EV	AV	EV	AV	EV	AV	EV	AVb		
Row 4	(22)	3	(22)	AV	EVc	AVd	EV	AV	EV	AV	EV		
Row 1	(1)	1	(1)	EV	AV	EVa	AV	EV	AV	EV	AV		
Row 2	(2)	2	(2)	AV	EV	AV	BV	AV	EVb	AV	EVb	Second Revolutions of Cylinders.	
Row 3	(3)	3	(3)	EV	AVc	EVd	AV	EV	AV	EV	AV		
Row 4	(4)	4	(4)	AV	EV	AV	EV	EV	AV	EV	AV		

The data given in the foregoing plan have been compiled from reconstructed vertical strips of eight units each housed in my Union collection with horizontal Rows Nos. 21 and 22, the two additional rows, contiguous to horizontal Rows Nos. 1 and 2. Thus, it will be discerned that the 2d. rotogravure coil stamps of 1931 furnished Union philately with something new by way of variety, namely, that

certain diapositive characteristics, already particularized in this monograph, appear on certain ENGLISH INSCRIBED STAMPS in the positions indicated afore as EVb, EVc and EVd, and that these identical diapositive characteristics appear also on certain AFRIKAANS INSCRIBED STAMPS in the positions indicated afore as AVb, AVc and AVd. Semper aliquid novi Africam affere.

FRANCE

Full information is not yet available as to what stamps are being used in liberated France, but apparently it is a mixture of hand-overs from the Vichy regime and new issues, some printed in France or Algiers, some in Washington and some in London. It is fairly clear that there is to be no AMGOT issue—this in fact never seems to have got much beyond Sicily; Italian stamps or Italian with a "Governo Militare Alleato" overprint being used on the liberated mainland.

U.S.S.R.

Mekeel's Weekly reports two more commemoratives with the flag of the U.S.S.R. flanked with the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes. These are in a central oval and in the surrounding border are the shadowing flags of many nations. These stamps, value 60k. and 3r., were apparently issued on 14th June, for they bear that date and an inscription meaning "The Day of the United Nations."

U.S.A.

Two more "Overrun Countries" commemoratives have been announced: a 3c purple in honour of the Philippine resistance to Japan, and a 5c in honour of Korea.

The latter, due to have appeared on 2nd November, shows the flag of formerly independent Korea in natural colours, with a border of the same design and colour as the European series.

The former, to have been issued on 27th September, is not of the common flag design, but has a reproduction on Corregidor and the connecting islands on which were other forts.

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C. J. Dekema, Box 145, Germiston.

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E. J. Brierley, "Maritzani," Morkel Street, Somerset West, C.P., where collection can be seen.



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JOHANNESBURG

IN AND OUT OF VRYBURG

By J. H. HARVEY PIRIE
and

A. A. JURGENS

(Continued from page 124 of November issue)

This story has long been current in South Africa and has been fairly generally accepted, by ourselves included, but, we fear, in a completely uncritical spirit and without any attempt being made to verify the origin or truth of the story.

A date stamp of this type, with a dot and two dashes, is not known from anywhere else in Cape Colony of this period and, at first sight, the hitherto accepted story might well seem to account for it. Nevertheless our study of it and of Vryburg postmarks of the preceding ten years has convinced us that the story is a myth. Our reasons for saying so are as follows:—

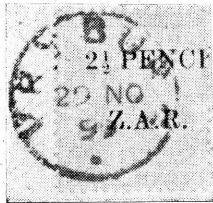


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

(a) Vryburg date stamps with B B at the bottom were in use for at any rate the period 1893 to 1895. We have a number of them cancelling British Bechuanaland stamps or on covers to or from Vryburg during these years. Such date stamps may have remained in the Vryburg Post office after it came under Cape Colony administration (we know, in fact, that one, of a slightly different pattern, did so remain—see section 7 of this article), but it was not one of them which was mutilated to cancel the Vryburg Z.A.R. stamps. These marks all had an index letter (A—D) but, as that was a removable feature, its presence or absence can be discounted as of no evidential value in this connection.

The important point is that the central stop at the bottom, the one after the first B, is, in every mark of this type which we have seen, small and round and considerably higher up than the bottom bars of the B's (see Fig. 5). It does not appear to us possible, therefore, that chipping off of the upper parts of the B's could have left dashes level with the central dot as is seen in Figs. 1, 2 and 4.

(b) What is, perhaps, even more convincing evidence is the fact that there was in use at Vryburg for, at any rate, the period 1892 to 1895 a date stamp without the letters B B at the bottom, but with a central dot and "side dashes"—making a mark absolutely indistinguishable from that found on the Vryburg Z.A.R. stamps. We have several specimens of this cancelling British Bechuanaland stamps or

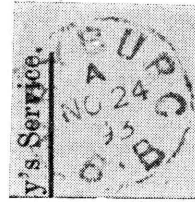


Fig. 5.

on covers to or from Vryburg. A specimen from an official letter of 1895 is illustrated in Fig. 1; this shows traces of the side dashes. We take it that this date stamp remained lying around in the Vryburg Post Office, was found in November, 1899, and was the one used during the Boer occupation of the town. There was also at least one Vryburg B B date stamp and one Vryburg C.G.H. date stamp, as is mentioned in Section 7 of this article, but, Vryburg having been officially annexed, it is fairly obvious why the date stamp with no territorial letters on it was preferred.

The other illustrations of this date stamp are: Fig. 2, from the cover already mentioned as having been posted in Vryburg on the date of occupation, 25 OC 99; this has the most prominent side dashes which we have seen. Fig. 3, from a cover with a set of Vryburg Z.A.R. stamps addressed to the postmaster, Johannesburg; this has no side dashes visible. Fig. 4, on an O.V.S. stamp, with date 14 AP, 1900; this has traces of the side dashes, very much as in the 1895 mark (Fig. 1).

We conclude, on this evidence, that the mark always found on genuine Vryburg Z.A.R. stamps was one of a date stamp in use at Vryburg in earlier years and that it was not from a mutilated B.B. date stamp. We think it unlikely that the date stamp was meant to have these side dashes. British Bechuanaland had its cancellers made through the G.P.O. in Cape Town, which naturally placed the order with the same people as made the cancellers for the Cape Government and they followed the types of the Cape marks. Cape marks with a single dot at the bottom are common, but a type with dashes on either side of the dot is not known. Probably in making the Vryburg canceller, rough or slightly raised portions were left through carelessness and these sometimes left their imprint in the postmark.

The postmark of 14 AP 1900 (Fig. 4) raises a little point of interest. Look at the "1900." Rich calls this "condensed numerals" and states: "Such slugs were supplied to a number of Cape offices, to replace the 2-figure (99) year date in use for 1899. Its presence is therefore a sign of genuineness." We are not aware of this condensed 1900 slug from "a number of Cape offices," in fact, we only know it otherwise from the Mafeking C.G.H. date stamp in use during the siege; "00" was the usual combination supplied for use when 99 came to an end, although for a time 19 was used at various offices whose communications with Cape Town had been cut off by Boer activities. What we would like to know is "How did this 1900 slug get into Vryburg, seeing that it was in Boer occupation from 25th October, 1899, onwards?" Incidentally, also, how did the Mafeking one get in, seeing that Mafeking was cut off? One can hardly imagine the Cape postal authorities sending special runners

to smuggle them through, especially at Vryburg. 6. *Counterfeit VRYBURG cancellations.*

Rich describes and figures (Illustration 2-3) the postmark found on the stamps with forged overprints he has seen. This is a circle of correct size with a small round dot at the bottom; the letters are thinner and taller than in the genuine marks; there is an index letter D and the date is DC 17. This date is "phony" in two respects; DC was never the abbreviation used for December, it was DE and 17 Dec. was a very unlikely (although not an entirely impossible) date seeing that the sale of the stamps was stopped on 29th November. We have not seen any genuine Vryburg postmark with the characters of lettering as given by Rich.

The cancellations on the two sets of stamps with counterfeit overprints which we have seen are quite different from that described and figured by Rich; this is scarcely to be wondered at, as three of the four stamps are of quite a different brew from his. The postmarks on the two sets are identical in character, except for the dates. The mark is a circle of correct size (see Fig. 6) with a small round dot at the bottom (not shown in the illustration, but present on some of the other specimens); the circle is moderately thick, although not so thick as in the usual genuine postmark. The letters of the town name, although thinner than the genuine, as in Rich's case, are quite distinctly less tall than those of the genuine mark. All marks have the index letter D; the date in one set is NO 28 99, in the other it is DC 17 99 as in Rich's case. This peculiarity is suggestive of a common origin, although the overprints and marks are otherwise different.

We agree with Rich that DC in place of DE is strongly presumptive of "wrongness" about these cancellations, but even errors of this order are occasionally met with in perfectly genuine Cape cancellations. We put no stress on the fact that the month comes before the day. This reversal of order is commonly seen in Cape postmarks of the period and, in fact, Rich himself records one genuine Vryburg Z.A.R. 2½d. with the date as NO 28 99 in place of the more usual 28 NO 99. We have seen one set, which we regard as genuine in every respect, in which the date on three of the stamps is 28 NO 99, but on the fourth it is NO 28 99. This set belongs to Mr. A. E. Basden and it may be mentioned incidentally that it is certified a genuine by a Mr. Asheroft, but Mr. Basden is unaware who this individual is or was.



Fig. 6.

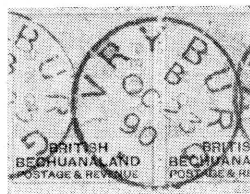


Fig. 7.

We have not found any genuine Vryburg postmarks agreeing in all particulars (date left out of consideration) with the marks on the forgeries we have described. There was a mark in use in 1890, however, of which the forged marks are a pretty good copy, but not an exact one. We illustrate this mark in Fig. 7, and on comparison with Fig. 6 it

will be seen that the letters of the counterfeit mark are not quite as tall as those of the genuine mark. Incidentally it may be mentioned here that this genuine mark (with index letter D) is to be found on copies of the British Bechuanaland stamp S.G. No. 29—One Half-Penny overprint on Three Pence—with the overprint inverted. These stamps are either forgeries or printers' waste, but this is another story which we will not go into now.

7. *British Reoccupation Stamps.*

On the British reoccupation by the Mafeking Relief Column on May 15th or 16th, 1900, some Transvaal stamps were found in the post office, and these were overprinted with a rubber handstamp "V.R. SPECIAL POST" in three lines. Gibbons list the ½d., 1d., 2d., and 2½d.; Poole gives only the ½d. and 1d. and puts the quantities as 100 of the ½d. and 60 of the 1d.

In *Gibbons' Monthly Journal* of April, 1902, a Mr. H. W. Hawkins reports as follows:—

"Special Posts" were sold in the ordinary way, the amounts realized being handed to the Cape Government. The exact numbers were ½d., 232 and 1d., 68. There must also have been a few 2d. and 2½d. for one of each has been seen. They were used mainly for franking letters dating from the arrival of the flying column for the relief of Mafeking up to the 29th May. Previous to these there were issued a few odd ½d. and 1d. current Capes pen and ink cancelled C.St.Q as the date stamp was missing. Afterwards the old B.B. one turned up and was temporarily employed."

We have only seen the ½d. and 1d., six copies in all, but amongst these the overprint occurs reading either upwards or downwards on each value. All show the date of cancellation as MY 16 19.

Whether this overprint has been counterfeited or not we cannot say. The specimens we have seen are all identical in character and the scarcity of the stamps seems to suggest that there are no fakes about.

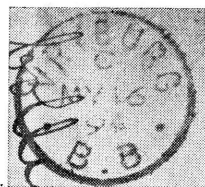


Fig. 8.

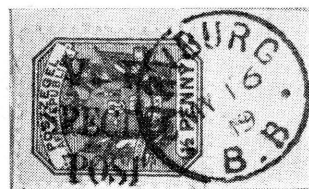


Fig. 9.

All those we have seen are cancelled and four of the six are "on piece" with the cancellation nicely placed (like Rich's illustration 2-5) at one or other end so as not to cover much of the stamp. One of the exceptions is a stamp not on piece, showing parts of two cancellations, but these are of the same type as the others. The other exception is on a cover addressed to an individual in Johannesburg who, we know, acted as a war correspondent for a Johannesburg newspaper. There is no back-stamping, however, which might be taken as proof that the cover actually went through the post.

What about the cancellations on these "Special Posts"? VRYBURG B B postmarks with two large dots between the ends of VRYBURG and B B seem to be scarce as we have only seen one specimen. This is on a postcard and has the date

MY 16 94. It has an index letter C, but, as a removable feature, this can be discounted. We illustrate, for comparison, this postmark (Fig. 8) and the cancellation on a "Special Post" (Fig. 9); it will be agreed, we think, that they are very similar and on the whole we are of opinion that they have been made by one and the same stamper. What little difference there may be in thickness of letters is probably explicable by difference in texture of the papers or firmness of application. We would have liked to have had more specimens for comparison, of both the marks as in use about 1894 and, even more particularly, of undoubtedly genuinely used "Special Posts." It may be that we are too suspicious, in not saying straight out that the two marks are identical, but so many funny things have happened in Vryburg that we are unwilling to accept anything emanating therefrom at sheer face value.

If this canceller was really available on 16th May for cancelling these stamps, why was it not available to Mr. St. Quentin for cancelling the Cape stamps? He used a VRYBURG C.G.H. canceller, but as no date slug could be found initialled the cancellations instead. There may be some simple explanation, but, failing it, our confidence in the character of these reoccupation pieces of MY 16 is not increased.

+

CARIMBOLOGY.

Our contemporary *Brasil Filatelico* runs a column entitled "Carimbologia." We wonder how many of our readers know to what branch of philately this refers. Answers gladly received, but no prizes offered for correct solutions.

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11 Basutoland ½d. to 10/- current used ..	26/0
11 Bechuanaland ½d. to 10/- current used	30/0
8 N. Rhodesia ½d. to 1/- current mint ..	3/3
9 Nyasaland ½d. to 1/- current mint ..	4/0
9 S. Rhodesia ½d. to 1/- current mint ..	5/4
16 S.W.A. pictorials ½d. to 1/- mint pairs	6/3
20 S.W.A. Bantam issue ½d. to 1/- current mint ..	7/0

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GRENADA 10/- 1943 Large frame at £1 10s. each.
GRENADA 10/- 1938 Toned Paper Rare (One) at £2 12s. 6d.

J. CHAMBERS

52 Parliament Street,

PORT ELIZABETH

NYASALAND

A new pictorial issue is in course of preparation, but date of availability is not yet announced. The designs will include the following:—

- ½d. and 9d. Canoe on Lake Nyasa.
- 1d. Member of King's African Rifles.
- 1½d. and 6d. Tea Estate, Mlanje Mountains.
- 2d., 1s. and 10s. Map and Coat of Arms.
- 3d. and 2s. Lake fishing village.
- 4d. and 2s. 6d. Tobacco Estate.
- 5s. and £1. Coat of Arms.

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REVIEWS

The Stamp Collector's Annual—1944. 32nd Edition. Published by "The Philatelic Magazine." Price 3s. nett, 3s. 3d. post free from 112 Strand, London W.C.2.

This work, although not as large as in pre-war years, provides the usual interesting mixed bill of fare. It opens with the 3rd edition of the "Savoy" specialised catalogue of the postage stamps of K.G. VI as known up to May, 1944 (but "Coronations excepted"); it is a good listing, prices are for unused only, being those ruling at the time of going to press. The general statement that "Postage Dues" and "Officials" are not listed as they are not available to the public is not quite accurate as regards Union "officials" and the inclusion of the Protectorates with S.W.A. as "Territories directly or indirectly under Union administration" sounds rather queer to us.

The next section is a compilation by the Editor of "Stamps perforated with letters and devices on official authority—commonly known as Perforated Officials." This is admitted to be a first effort to compile a catalogue of this group of stamps and not to be complete; it is hoped it will lead to more information being forthcoming so that a revised and more nearly complete catalogue may be made. There are certainly omissions in the railway perforated officials of Natal, O.R.C. and Transvaal.

Next comes a short guide to the collection of British Meter Postage Stamps, and lastly the 16th edition of "Who's Who in Philately"—a guide to the prominent private collectors in Great Britain and Ireland and their special interests.

A Highway Into Stamp Collecting. By Stephen G. Rich. Published by Chambers Publishing Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Price 50 cents.

Mr. Rich seems to be capable of unlimited philatelic work as a collector, writer of articles and philatelic columns, editing specialist journals, managing societies and conducting correspondence with Tom, Dick, Harry and Mary all over the world.

He has now broken out in a new field with a Handbook for Beginners, and it is a most excellent, readable and interesting little book. It should appeal especially to South Africans as, with his many old but still persisting interests here, a big proportion of the illustrations are of South African items.

He advises the beginner at first to collect everything and anything; later on to collect what he specially likes. He covers, of course, all the conventional field of beginners' books, how to handle stamps, how to recognise them, mount them, display them to best advantage, etc., etc. Perforations, watermarks, different kinds of printing, etc., are briefly but lucidly

dealt with. Special fields of collecting are rather more fully considered than in usual books of this type, and there are valuable hints on how to get (and not to get) stamps, the use of a catalogue and books.

He has deliberately not gone so deeply into things as some "first books" do, as his experience with juniors' clubs and the like is that they are too full and that the line he has taken is more interesting and stimulating. We endorse his choice and can highly recommend this booklet to prospective and young collectors.

ANOTHER BOUQUET

An American reader, writing about one of Mr. Sydow's recent articles, says: "May I state that the *South African Philatelist* has in its 12 pages each month as much material of real interest and worth as a number of the large American stamp weeklies do in a similar period. Only the *American Philatelist* and the *Collectors' Club Philatelist* surpass it in quantity, though not in quality."

SOCIETY NEWS

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, W. D. Vallance; Hon. Secretary, S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973. Cape Town; Meetings, 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, October 26.—A good attendance when Mr. W. G. Hesse gave his exhibit "Not in the Catalogue." This was an unusual display depicting chiefly the political history of Germany. Many interesting covers were shown, those of special interest being an "anti-waste" cover of 1870, and another showing the German P.O. Armistice Commission cancellation in 1919.

Two other interesting covers were the "Balloon Post" from Paris to Bordeaux, and a "catapult" cover from the German ship Bremen.

Mr. Hesse described the various sheets displayed.

Mr. Ashmead, commenting on the collection, said Mr. Hesse had the knack of picking out the quaint things in philately and making an interesting display from them.

The usual auction took place, many items being offered for Red Cross Funds.

Thursday, November 9.—"Variety" was the order of the day at this meeting when members displayed selections of their own choosing. Seven members took part.

A particularly fine exhibit by Mr. F. Mattei, of Johannesburg, was a collection of "Specimen" stamps comprising the complete series of the former German colonies, on unwatermarked paper.

Mr. Hansen displayed a series of stamps with particular bearing on the present war, such as the new Polish, Norwegian and Dutch war issues.

Mr. E. C. Solomon gave a display of "Chinese Locals and Shanghai." An interesting cover here was one salvaged from the flying-boat "Challenger." A few sheets of particular interest to collectors of the Belgian Congo were exhibited by Mr. Rivers as these showed some "freak" perfs. and imperfs. from that colony.

Mr. Klein exhibited a few sheets from a very fine collection of "British West African Colonies," including the "Wilberforce" set of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Kaganson gave us a few sheets of the latest issues, including the "Monte Cassino" set, the new Amgots and also a set issued by Vichy France.

The last exhibitor was Mr. Vallance, and among his sheets was the interesting issue by Spain of the "Submarine Postals." Another interesting item here was a forged postmark on a Falkland Islands Jubilee.

The meeting closed with the usual auction, no less than 33 items being offered for Red Cross Funds.

B.L.C.

THE ORANGE FREE STATE & BASUTOLAND SOCIETY.

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. R. G. Lyon. Box 702, Bloemfontein; *Meetings*, 3rd Fridays each month, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloemfontein, 7.30 p.m.

September.—The annual general meeting was held on the 15th and the evening was devoted entirely to business. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: *President*, Mr. C. A. Larsen; *vice-president*, Mr. J. Lewis; *secretary*, Mr. R. G. Lyon; *committee*, Messrs. J. B. Levy, M. Liss and Lt. Friedman.

October.—At our October meeting there were 14 members present.

After the stamp bourse and reading of correspondence, Mr. J. B. Levy showed his Newfoundlands. Amongst several desirable items were the 1911 coronations, One Dollar Air Post, No Comma, A Dornier D'ox flown cover, St. John to Heiderheim Germany, complete set of the 1933 airm and a flown cover—first day, franked with the 75 cent., St. Johns to St. Anthony.

The remainder of the evening was taken up with a successful auction of stamps and covers in aid of war funds.

The November meeting, though poorly attended, was most enjoyable in that, in deference to the expressed wishes of the president, all members brought a quantity of duplicates for exchange, for sale and sale by auction.

The highlight of the evening was the very fine display of "Free French" by Mr. M. Liss. Here was the enjoyable opportunity to see and learn something of stamps which have so suddenly jumped into the limelight as far as prices and valuations are concerned. The collection was complete as far as African possessions was concerned, but did not include French possessions elsewhere.

During the evening reference was made to a visit made by Mr. K. Alexander, of Cape Town, during which a small impromptu philatelic gathering was successfully arranged and much enjoyed by those present.

A "spotting" competition, arranged by the president, was held, and this provided an enjoyable finale, in which Mr. T. Sacks brilliantly scored full marks.

C.A.L.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

President, A. L. Bevis; *Hon. Sec.*, G. Milner, Palmer, P.O. Box 588, Durban; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street (in the rooms of the Durban Camera Club, top floor), 7.30 p.m.

Thirty-third annual general meeting held on 1st November, 1944.

The secretary reported that once again definite progress had been made, not only from the membership point of view but also from a financial aspect. Membership now stood at 170, a net increase of 21 members over last year.

The Sales Packet Superintendent reported that the total sales for the year were £232, giving a commission of £23 to the society. Mr. P. Bishop felt that some members were pricing their stamps a little on the high side.

The treasurer reported that subscriptions had been satisfactorily paid, and the society's finances were in a very good position.

Mr. Bevis informed the meeting that the Hurst Collection is gradually being arranged in the new cabinet of 40 frames, and this work should be completed within a year.

One of our Honorary Life Members, Mr. J. H. Chamberlain, had indicated his desire to hand over to the Historical Section of the Museum his collection of Natal Post Marks, which is nearly complete.

Officials elected for the ensuing year were as follows: *Patrons*, the Administrator for Natal and the Mayor of Durban; *president*, L. Bevis; *vice-presidents*, H. de Terrasson, W. Percy Williams, E. E. Gagel, J. Lyle, J. R. Simpson; *sec.-treasurer*, G. Milner Palmer; *sales packet superintendent*, Percy C. Bishop; *assistant sales packet superintendent*, K. W. Franklin; *auditor*, E. E. Gagel; *auctioneer*, J. Lyle; *hon. librarian*, F. Rooke; *committee*, W. Hall Jones, W. H. Winde, K. W. Franklin, R. D. Browne, C. D. Kettle.

G.M.P.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. A. Watson; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. F. Fowler, P.O. Box 168, East London. *Meetings*, Colosseum Building, 2nd Fridays, 7.45 p.m.

In the absence of the president, the chair at the November meeting was taken by the vice-president, Mr. T. A. Harper, 16 members and two visitors being present. One new member was elected.

At opening a few interesting items were passed round for the inspection of the members. The first of the evening's exhibits was in the hands of Mr. J. Hoal, and proved to be quite unusual. It consisted of stamps, irrespective of their countries of origin, grouped according to the main portion of their designs. Among the groups displayed were "Architecture," "Ships," "Bridges," "Natives," "Fruit," "Prominent People," etc. These combined to make an exceedingly attractive and interesting exhibit, the arrangement and mounting of which left little to be desired. A considerable number of scarce stamps had found their way into the various groups, and the whole display was a striking example of what can be accomplished in the byeways of philately.

After the refreshment interval, Mr. I. Lazarus tabled the new issues received during the last month. The usual auction followed, a good many lots being disposed of by Mr. Paviour, and the meeting came to an end with a hearty vote of thanks to the exhibiting members.

T.A.H.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President, Mr. Ferguson; *Hon. Secretary*, H. A. Wager, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

November 6.—Mr. Hawke read an article on the future of the stamp trade, and Mr. Oppenheim gave some additional comments.

Mr. Hawke gave an interesting description of how he stores his duplicate stamps. He demonstrated how to make shelved store sheets without much trouble, especially now that stock books were very scarce. He also showed how these sheets could be grouped together into a sort of filing system so that access to any country was easy. He pointed out that duplicates could be used for picking out better specimens for the main collection.

Mr. Dodd tabled a very fine collection of the Rhodesias, and Mr. Beyers, in thanking Mr. Dodd, paid tribute to the fine display.

November 20.—Mr. Hawke read an extract on the range of stamp collecting. Dr. Broom described some further discoveries he had made in his researches into Transvaal stamps.

Mr. Rudd read a humorous letter relating the impressions of a wife on watching her husband indulge in philately. Mr. Rudd then gave a talk on propaganda stamps. These had started in 1887 in Vienna at a philatelic exhibition and had been repeated in every country in the world where philatelic congresses and exhibitions had been held. They were mostly in the form of covers, but miniature sheets were also common. The cancellation of the stamps constituted a large part of the propaganda idea. Most of the stamps showed a very high standard of workmanship. Mr. Rudd showed a very extensive and beautifully mounted collection of these items.

Mr. Oppenheim, in thanking Mr. Rudd for his talk, pointed out that, although this was an unusual sideline of philately, Mr. Rudd had shown that it was well worth attention.

H.A.W.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, M. C. Sheffield, P.O. Box 88; *Meetings*, Room 8, City Hall Basement, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.

The first meeting of the month was an auction, and over 50 packets were put up for sale.

There was keen bidding for sets of overprinted Falkland Islands.

The meeting on November 21 was well attended, and a warm welcome was given to Lt. Martin, of the S.A.N.F. A letter was read from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons to the effect that any number could now obtain stamps if sent through the society, but must send a wanted list.

The display was in the hands of Mr. C. Sheffield, who tabled about 50 pages of Eire, both mint and used. These were all neatly mounted. One fine issue was the anniversary of the Royal Dublin Society, and great interest was taken over the St. Patrick Issue. Another fine set was of 18 Sept. 1933 Holy Year. Another worth commenting on was the set of July to November 1922 Overprinted of the English stamp in blue, black, carmine or red. These were in both blocks and singles. The 1932 to 1934 complete issue was in mint blocks.

L.E.C.

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