

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 96:2. 959

www.sapa.africa



1885 cover from Sidmouth to Newcastle re-directed to 'Moodies, Barberton' at 6d postage rate endorsed 'via Plymouth, Pr Tarter, Dec 18 1885', and carried by the Union Line. With pair 1d stamps paying the postage to the Transvaal cancelled Newcastle 18 1



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The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
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Awards:

- o Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- o Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
- o Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- o Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- o Federation Plaque 2004,
- o Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
- o Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
- o Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- o Large Vermeil IPhLA 2012.

REGULARS

- 40 Letter to the Editorial Board
- 40 Closing dates for future issues
- 43 Phun with Postmarks
- 45 The 'ABC' of Stamps
- 46 New Stamp Issues
- 70 Society news

FEATURES

- 41 Federation News
- 42 Exhibitions
- 44 Obituary: Eddie Bridges
- 44 Royal Mail: Visions of the Universe
- 44 The South African Collectors Society - by Nicholas Arrow,
- 47 New Postal Rates 2020 - by Robin Messenger
- 48 The Railway Stations from Heidelberg, Transvaal to Standerton: A Postal History Perspective - by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 52 ALGOAPEX 2020 - Patrons wanted
- 53 An Exciting New Find - by Nicholas Arrow
- 54 Exhibiting Outside The Box - by Members of the Sasolburg Philatelic Society
- 56 Flight SA201 - by David Wigston
- 60 Penny for your Thoughts - by Sean Burke
- 62 African Curios - by Chris Mobsby RDPSA
- 64 Gold Rush, Sea Mail and Postal Agreements - by Roger Porter RDPSA
- 67 The American Board Mission at Mt Selinda, Southern Rhodesia - by Sean Burke
- 68 Protea Definitive Series - by Dr Vic Sorour

ADVERTISERS

- 38 SAPDA
- 59 John & Mark Taylor
- 72 Spink

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

- Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
- Moirá Bleazard: bleazard@telkomsa.net
- Robin Messenger: messenger.robin@gmail.com
- Janice Botes *Production Editor*: janice@gdb.co.za
- David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
- Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL: molens@pixie.co.za

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

- Alex Visser : alex.visser@up.ac.za
- Michael Wigmore RDPSA: dcrocker@lando.co.za
- Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL: mobsbychris8@gmail.com
- Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA: kamffer@netactive.co.za

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER of the PFSA

- André du Plessis: andredupfs@gmail.com
- Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

- Janice Botes: janice@gdb.co.za
- Tel: +27 (0) 11 454 5940

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THE ULTIMATE IGNOMINY FOR A STAMP



Correspondence to THE SA PHILATELIST should be addressed to the Editorial Board. Material received is most welcome and will be reviewed. Articles, letters and items of interest may be published and stand the chance of being rewarded with a STAEDTLER writing gift.

Sponsored by



Have postmen no compassion?

Despite numerous complaints and cajoling, Royal Mail still hasn't taken away the writing instruments from their workforce. Is this form of obliteration of stamps a lost cause?

D.W.

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PLEASE NOTE:

Annual subscription & circulation; Within South Africa, the subscription rate for 2020, for Society Members and 'Direct' subscribers, is R250.00 for a printed copy of each issue and R70.00 for an electronic copy.

For SADC countries; the subscription is R700.00 per year.

For International; Overseas R1,000.00 per year. These prices all include postage via airmail.

The 2020 rates are available on the PFSA official website www.sapa.africa Enquiries regarding subscriptions and membership can be addressed to the COO, André du Plessis at andredupfs@gmail.co.za Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

Publication; *The South African Philatelist*. This journal is published by **The Philatelic Federation of South Africa**.

Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, PO Box 131600, Benoryn, 1504. South Africa or email: janice@gdb.co.za

Advertising:

Rates available from the Advertising Manager, Box 131600, Benoryn, 1504 or email The Production Editor: <janice@gdb.co.za>

A PUZZLING CACHET



The above miniature cover (95 x 70mm) was sent from Belfast, Ireland to South Africa on 22 July 1937. Franking is the 1937 Coronation commemorative with a King Edward VIII 1/2d definitive. The cancel is the GB 'Post Early' sunburst slogan of that year.

The definitive is also tied to the cover by a 23mm diameter cachet inscribed 'The Lost Crown' and the date 12-V-37, the date of the Coronation. This is not an official Post Office datestamp as it carries no office of origin, I am puzzled if this is just a belated private comment by an Edward and Wallis sympathiser or whether there is another story behind it. Does any reader have further knowledge of this cachet?

FROM THE GUYS AT THE BURTON ON TRENT PS

If anyone is coming to London 2020 - let us know and see if we can co-ordinate your visit with a meet up and a beer or several!

Dr D Gwynne Harries FRPSL
1, St Michael's Close
Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire LE65 1ES.
m: 07933 319427
t: 01530417307
e: gwynne1956@gmail.com



To avoid late delivery, please note; Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist*. ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

- **June** 2020 - Vol. 96 : 3. 960. **7th May**
- **Aug** 2020 - Vol. 96 : 4. 961. **7th July**
- **Oct** 2020 - Vol. 96 : 5. 962. **8th Sept**
- **Dec** 2020 - Vol. 96 : 2. 959. **10th Nov**



PFSA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHANGES

For information of PFSA members, the following changes are hereby announced:



MRS JILL REDMOND

The PFSA Secretary Mrs Jill Redmond RDPSA has retired per end of February 2020 after decades of distinguished service to Federation in many positions.

Jill became the Minute Secretary in 1983 for the then General Committee and after that for the PFSA Management Committee meetings.

Over the years, added responsibilities were arrangements for the PFSA Congress, Awards Committee Secretary and Membership Secretary. Jill acquired a well deserved reputation for the clarity and completeness of the Minutes she compiled of the Federation's meetings and the annual Congress.

As Chairman of the PFSA Management Committee, and on behalf of all members of the PFSA, I would like to thank Mrs Jill Redmond RDPSA for the many years of excellent service rendered to the PFSA and its members, and wish her a long and happy retirement with much continued participation in philately.

I also welcome André du Plessis in this new position to co-ordinate the many facets of organised philately in South Africa and appeal to all PFSA members to accord him their full support in his new appointment.



MR ANDRÉ DU PLESSIS

André du Plessis has been appointed as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the PFSA effective from 1 January 2020, reporting directly to the Chairman of the Management Committee.

His responsibilities comprise assistance to Organising Committees of Annual and Regional Exhibitions in terms of the Federation's Guidelines, Website and Membership administration, marketing and advertising SA Philately, record keeping of all PFSA meetings, assisting with Heritage and archiving of material, liaison with SAPDA, *The SA Philatelist* publication team and Federation Sub Committees, and submitting an Annual Report to the PFSA Congress.

Dr J.D.E. Cronjé RDPSA,
Chairman of the PFSA
Management Committee.



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Further to the Deed of Donation between the University of Pretoria and the Pretoria Philatelic Society, the University of Pretoria has undertaken to scan all the volumes of *The South African Philatelist*. Permission has been granted to scan and place the documents on the University's Institutional Repository, UPSpace, which is open to the public <https://repository.up.ac.za/>

We are excited about the benefits to society, and philatelists in particular, of having access to this wonderful resource in terms of the history and research of South African philately.





The Organising Committee has no choice but to cancel the international aspect of the exhibition due to the Coronavirus
SOUTH AFRICAN ENTRIES ACCEPTED FOR NEW ZEALAND NZ2020
by the President March 14, 2020

by Vernon Mitchell, South African Commissioner

The **NZ2020**, took place in Auckland, New Zealand in March. These were the exhibits accepted for this FIAP International exhibition. (The results will appear in the next edition of *The SA Philatelist*.) Dr Neil Cronjé was invited as a Juror.

The event was held at the Everslie Event Centre set in the grounds of the Ellerslie Race Course, Auckland, New Zealand from the 19-22 March 2020.

* Exhibitor: Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL
The British South African Company Rhodesia 1913
The George V Admiral Issue - the bicolour stamps and their usage
 8 Frames; **Class 3C: Traditional Philately, Rest of the World**

* Exhibitor: Ian Matheson RDPSA, FRPSL
Early Village Postal Services in British Honduras
 5 Frames; **Class 3C: Postal History, Rest of the World**

* Exhibitor: Ian Matheson RDPSA, FRPSL
Revenue Stamps of Cape of Good Hope 1864-1896.
 8 Frames; **Class 9: Revenue**

* Exhibitor: Howard Green RDPSA
South West African Revenues and Allied Tax Stamps.
 8 Frames; **Class 9: Revenue**

* Exhibitor: André du Plessis
Gold in the Transvaal 1871-1922.
 5 Frames; **Class 10: Open Philately**

* Exhibitor: Francois Friend
Succulents.
 5 Frames; **Class 10: Open Philately**

* Exhibitor: Chavah Barit
Swaziland 1961 Decimal Overprints.
 1 Frame; **Class 13A: One-Frame Exhibit / Traditional**

* Exhibitor: Avi Barit
Basutoland 1961 Decimal Overprints.
 1 Frame; **Class 13A: One-Frame Exhibit / Traditional**

* Exhibitor: Gila Orkin
Namibia: the overprints of the 2000s and their origins.
 1 Frame; **Class 13A: One-Frame Exhibit / Traditional**

* Exhibitor: Avi Barit
Great Britain Queen Elizabeth II 'Missing' Queen's Heads.
 1 Frame; **Class 13A: One-Frame Exhibit / Traditional**

SOUTH AFRICA AT LONDON 2020

London 2020 is fully subscribed and we are proud to confirm that both Hugh Amoore and Malcolm Suttill's exhibits have now been accepted. This means we have an excellent SA representation. It is also understood that a number of South Africans are planning to visit the show.

What is worth reminding readers is that the show is effectively in 'two halves' with the first half from 2 to 5 May inclusive being for Postal History, Revenue, Open Class, Picture Postcards, Postal Stationery, Modern and Youth. The second half from 6 to 9 May will show Traditional, Championship, Aero, Thematic and the rest of Youth. On his recent visit to London, Patrick can confirm that, as would be expected, the organisers are just that - very organised.

The London 2020 web site is worth visiting and is very informative - there is a special page devoted to CORONAVIRUS and input from Private Health England. This confirms that at this time, the show is planned to go ahead.

Contact Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL on + 27 83 2655649 or email on patf@fgprop.com. The organising committee for **Cape Town 2021** will be at the London 2020 exhibition & have various initiatives underway to promote the event. ☺

The Business Design Centre, Islington, North London. Well located on London Bus and Underground routes (Angel Underground Station is a three minute walk).



Neither the South African Commissioner, Vernon Mitchell nor Dr Neil Cronjé invited Juror will be able to leave for New Zealand due to quarantine restrictions



Website: www.capetown2021.org

INDONESIA 2020
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 Jakarta, 6 - 11 August 2020

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 It will be Specialized WSC Exhibition under the Patronage of FIP and the Auspices of FIAP, covering:

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Joof van der Merwe is the SA Commissioner
jnc1@vodamail.co.za

www.sapa.africa

Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



What does the SA Post Office do?

The SA Post Office does many things, but only some of the activities become known through markings on mail. David Allison recently sent me several items, and I visited my friendly local Branch Manager, Mr H.J. Fourie, for clarification.

Fig.1 shows a cachet applied to a standard size envelope, which was franked with a R4.20 meter mark. The cachet 'REVENUE PROTECTION DIFFERENCE IN POSTAGE PAID' was applied. On 1 April 2019 the postage increased from R4.20 to R4.55, but even so the Post Office normally gives several days grace before penalising the sender. In each of the mail centres there is a division that oversees revenue protection, normally applied to parcels. The deficiency is then claimed from the sender.



Fig.1: Revenue protection recouped underpayment.

What happened to our envelope? It is speculated that at the time of mailing there was some form of delay within the Post Office distribution. David made a note that the item was delivered in Tokai on 30 May 2019, which suggests that by the time the item was processed, the period of grace had passed. An interesting case of inefficiency being profitable.

The second item, shown in Fig.2, is a cachet from Port Shepstone with NCP NO 17. It was a Fastmail envelope sent from Matatiel in July 2018. The cachet is part of the quality control process where 'NCP' is an abbreviation for Non Conforming Products. This is applied when mail is underfranked, as the 'T' tax mark is no longer used, or when an item such as Fastmail is posted out of course (dropped into a red post box rather than handed in at the post office counter). Why did the Matatiel item receive this strike? With the date stamp there was no indication that it was posted out of course, and the cachet was probably applied as a control measure. Besides NO 17, NO 14 Durban (2013/20) and NO 18 Richards Bay (2018/9) have been recorded. During the aftermath of the strike in 2018, mail originating from the Johannesburg area and addressed to Pretoria, was seen with the Beaufort West cachet NO 24 (2016/8), probably indicating that part of the delay was as a result of re-routing.

Witspos has had a range of NCP date stamps (Fig.3) from numbers 01 to 04, whereas numbers 05 to 08 had the NCP excised and have been seen from 2017. There is no guarantee that these cachets have only been used for the purpose for which they were meant, as date stamps inscribed 'Telegraph' have been seen used to date stamp mail. Other numbers of this type

of cachet probably exist, and readers are encouraged to let me know so that we can build up the full set.

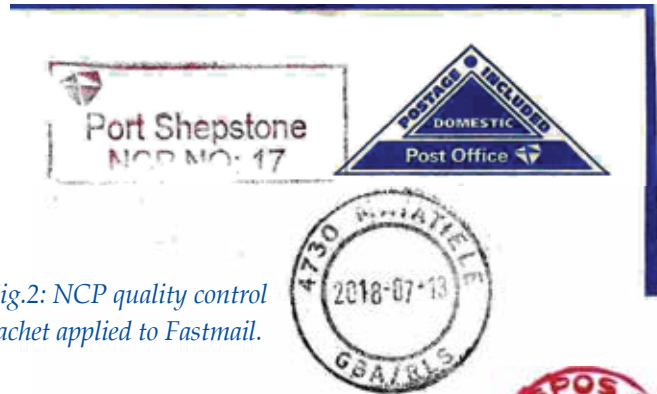


Fig.2: NCP quality control cachet applied to Fastmail.

Fig.3: Witspos NCP date stamp.



The third item was a cover that David mailed on Friday, 11 April 2006, shown in Fig.4. As he was visiting Clanwilliam the end of the following week he prepared the cover in the expectation of perhaps getting new postmarks. The letter was cancelled by a Capemail machine canceller on 11 April 2006. Surprise, surprise! At Capemail it appears as if the sorting section did not understand the Poste Restante address, affixed a yellow sticker indicating inadequate address and in manuscript indicated 'Return to Sender' (RTS) where it arrived on Monday, 14 April 2006. According to my Branch Manager the Poste Restante service, where a postal item is collected at the post office, is still available. This service is often used for parcels. Instead of using Poste Restante the item is addressed care of (c/o) the Branch Manager or Post Office name.

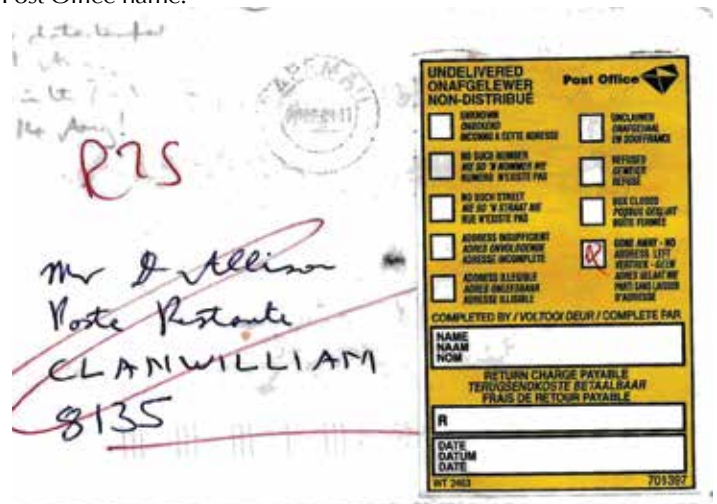


Fig.4: Undelivered Poste Restante cover.

In hierdie rubriek het ons na drie soorte diens gekyk wat deur die SA Poskantoor gelewer of nie gelewer word nie. Hierdie sluit in boeteheffing vir onder-gefrankeerde posstukke, waar 'n nuwe soort kasjet gebruik word. Dan is daar NCP wat dieselfde doel het as voorafgaande, maar hoofsaaklik vir Fastmail wat nie by die toonbank ingedien is nie gebruik word. Daar is skynbaar 'n hele reeks soortgelyke kasjette wat by sorteursentra gebruik word. Wie kan asseblief help om al die nommers te verklaar? Laastens is 'n koever wat aan POSTE RESTANTE, Clanwilliam geadresseer is as ONBEKEND na die afsender terug gestuur.

OBITUARY

EDDIE BRIDGES

19 May 1953 - 5 Feb 2020



Born in Cape Town, eldest of three boys, Eddie collected stamps from age 9. He was encouraged by Benji Joseph, a dealer in Johannesburg, and went on to become a lifelong philatelist and major expert on the Union of South Africa, especially loving his 1d ships.

He served his national service in South Africa and was a member of the South African rowing team. It was this fortitude he demonstrated again in his long battle with cancer where his courage and positivity shone through until treatments ran out. After gaining a degree in history and another in engineering, he worked for Krohne as an instrument engineer, ending up as global head of marketing. Whilst heading up a factory near Cambridge he became involved with the university and gained a PhD in history with a dissertation on the allied troop movements in Africa in WWII. He lived and worked in Germany before finally moving to the United States where he became a member of many philatelic groups including the Collectors' Club of New York. In 2015, he gave a presentation on the battles between the stamp printing companies and the South African authorities. He belonged to all the post-Union societies we can think of and won many awards including one from the American Postal Stationery Society. He was a member of the Royal, becoming a fellow, and being their American East Coast representative whilst he lived there. He was also presented with a South African Federation plaque for 'services rendered'.

However, it was the SACS that was his main love; he assumed the editorship of the *Springbok* in 2004 taking it into the modern era until his move to the US in 2012. He initiated publication of the popular 'display collection' booklets and was a great researcher, turning up some fascinating unpublished correspondence on the Darmstadt trials. Eddie was a great philatelist and a great friend who we mourn and sadly miss.

John Shaw Tony Howgrave-Graham

THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

by Nicholas Arrow, the South African Collectors Society

The SA Collectors Society in England will be holding its May convention at the Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden (near Birmingham) on 16 & 17 May 2020. A feature of these conventions is that the Society holds an auction, which will be on the afternoon of the 17th, starting at about 1.30pm - at least provided everyone has been herded in from the bar by then!

This next Auction will be very special, as the SACS has been entrusted with the sale of some magnificent material, primarily Union, SWA and Official material, which will be included in the Auction.

I suspect that many collectors in South Africa, or indeed those who subscribe to the *SAP*, would be very interested to see the Auction list, which will be substantially illustrated. It contains material which may be missing from some of even the best collections of South (or South West) Africa.

The Auction list is still being compiled, so what I would request that a note is inserted in the *SAP* about this auction, at least up to May 2020, inviting anyone who would be interested in the Auction Catalogue to get in touch with me at nicholasarrow@btinternet.com so that I can send them a copy of the Auction list when it is finalised.

COMMEMORATIVES

ROYAL MAIL MARKS 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY WITH A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS



For more than 50 years Royal Mail's Special Stamp programme has commemorated anniversaries and celebrated events relevant to UK heritage and life. Today, there are an estimated 2.5 million stamp collectors and gift givers in the UK and millions worldwide. HM The Queen approves all UK stamp designs before they are issued.

Visions of the Universe features eight illustrations of astronomical phenomena discovered or investigated by UK astronomers and astrophysicists.

Included in the set are: Cat's Eye Nebula; Geysers on Saturn's moon Enceladus; Pulsars; Black Holes; Jupiter's Auroras; gravitational lensing; Comet 67P; and Cygnus A Galaxy.

Britain has a long and rich tradition of astronomical investigation from the discovery of celestial objects, such as the planet Uranus by William Herschel in 1781, to pioneering observational techniques such as radio interferometry developed by Sir Martin Ryle in the mid-20th century. The artist Robert Ball has illustrated original images of each phenomena, bringing a dynamism and vibrancy to each stamp.

The Royal Astronomical Society was established in January 1820 when 14 'gentlemen astronomers' sat down to dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. It is now the UK's leading learned society for astronomy.

A full set of all eight stamps, available in a Presentation Pack, retails at £9.75.

The stamps, and a range of collectible products, can be pre-ordered now at www.royalmail.com/visionsoftheuniverse and by phone on 03457 641 641.

The stamps went on sale from 11 February 2020.

The ABC of stamps

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

MOURNING STAMPS AND COVERS

Royalty, statesmen, pop stars and the Pope all have one thing in common: mortality. Governments usually declare a period of official mourning after the death of a Head of State. To honour and commemorate the death of a prominent person, countries issue mourning stamps. These are usually printed in black, as black is strongly associated with mourning in the West (in Chinese culture it is white). The association of black with mourning, dates back to the Roman Empire when a toga of dark-coloured wool was worn.

The stamp could have a black border (Fig.1). Belgium issued this charity stamp for Queen Astrid who died in a car accident in the Alps on 29 August 1935. Eight stamps were issued, with the portrait in differing colours and a surcharge to benefit the Belgian National Anti-Tuberculosis charity.

Fig.1: Queen Astrid mourning stamp issued 1935

Britain issued a strip of five stamps for Princess Diana on 3 February 1998 following her death in 1997 (Fig.2). They were edged in purple rather than black. Before the advent of synthetic dyes, purple dye was expensive to produce; thus, its use was limited to the wealthy and powerful. Purple has been associated with royalty since ancient Roman times when Emperors wore purple to symbolise the god Jupiter.



Fig.2: The use of purple on a mourning stamp for Princess Diana.

Fig.3: At left, the original design from the definitive series;

At right, the revised mourning stamp.



A quicker method is to overprint existing stamps where the white border is redone with a black frame suitable



A new value was also added. The stamps were issued 15 April 1947.

Fig.4: Overprinted mourning stamp for George II of Greece.

Overprints and surcharges rarely add beauty to the underlying stamp, but they can definitely add interest to a collection:

especially when time is taken to find out the reason why the overprints were applied. Black and black borders are not always used, as in the case of the mourning stamp for Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated 30 January 1948 (Fig.5).

The issue also commemorated the first year of Indian independence. In the days before instant communication, death notices and condolences were mailed in black-bordered envelopes, known as 'mourning covers'. The use of mourning stationery was common during the Victorian era and lasted well into the early part of the 20th Century. Mourning covers can be easily recognised by the black edges (Fig.6).



Fig.6: Mourning Cover

It is suggested that the width of the black borders was determined by the relationship of the writer to the addressee or the importance of the deceased. On 25 September 2019 Belgium introduced a generic mourning stamp (Fig.7). It also marked the reintroduction of priority mail by adding a bar-code that ensures automatic sorting.

A fascinating, if somewhat macabre topic to collect.



Fig.7: Belgian generic mourning stamp

for mourning. King George II of Greece died on 1 April 1947. The Greek Post Office produced three mourning stamps in two weeks by overprinting a black border on stamps picturing the deceased king's portrait (Fig.4).



WIDOW'S WEEDS

The term 'Widow's weeds' refers to the heavy black clothing worn by widows, dictated by the etiquette of the Victorian era. The outfit included a black 'weeping veil' worn over the head and face when outdoors. Indoors, a 'widow's cap' was worn, as shown in Fig.8.



Fig.8: The 1893 Canadian 20c Queen Victoria stamp, also issued 50c in blue.

Queen Victoria, who reigned from 1837 to 1901, set the standard following the death of Prince Albert in 1861. She remained in mourning for the next 40 years until her death in 1901. Queen Victoria appeared in widow's weeds in many stamp designs, as illustrated in Fig.9. This issue even has the nickname 'widow's weeds'. The term derives from *wedh*, Old English for 'dress, or clothing'.



NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUES 2020 - Part I

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



The following four stamp issues were of the 2019 programme and were dispatched by the printers at the end of November 2019 but were delayed at SA Customs and only arrived at STD/Philatelic Services towards the end of February 2020. They became available to collectors on 26 February 2020. The First Day Covers are not yet available.

9 October 2019 - SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA)

Denominations: 4 x B4 Domestic rate (R11.15)

Designer: Rachel-Mari Ackermann

Printer: Cartor Security Print, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 36mm square

Sheetlet size: 112 x 122mm, comprising four different designs in two rows of two

Quantity: 30,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8685 (cyan), 8686 (magenta), 8687 (yellow) and 8688 (black)

Paper: 102gsm yellow-green phosphor coated

Gum: PVA moisture activated

Perforation: 13.25

Printing sheet size: 593 x 474mm comprising four rows of two sheetlets, printed together with, and to the right of, the Presidential Inauguration issue (see below)

First Day Cover: No. 8.124 of standard size (190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.122 – 'PRETORIA'



15 January 2020 - STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN SKIES

Denominations: 10 x Standard Postage (R4.55)

Designer: Anande Nöthling from images supplied by Auke Slotegraaf, a director of The Centre for Astronomical Heritage based in Somerset West

Printer: Cartor Security Print, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 48 x 30.5mm

Sheetlet size: 138 x 212.5mm, comprising the ten different designs in five rows of two

Quantity: 50,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8689 (cyan), 8690 (magenta), 8691 (yellow) and 8692 (black)

Paper: 247gsm self-adhesive stamp paper



Gum: Self-adhesive

Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 7mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: 2mm border around each stamp and in the design, the Stars and Constellations are highlighted in phosphor

Printing sheet size: 665 x 500mm, comprising two rows of four sheetlets'

First Day Covers: No. 8.128 and 8.129 of standard size (190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 of each will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.124 – 'RONDEBOSCH'

31 January 2020 - PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION 2019

Denomination: Standard Postage (R4.55)

Designer: Nolan Lister from a photograph supplied by the Presidency

Printer: Cartor Security Print, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 36mm square, incorporated in a miniature sheet of size 105 x 65mm

Quantity: 50,000 miniature sheets

Cylinder numbers: none

Paper: 102gsm yellow-green phosphor coated

Gum: PVA moisture activated

Perforation: 13.25

Printing sheet size: 593 x 474mm comprising four rows of

two miniature sheets, printed together with, and to the left of, the SASSA issue (see above)

First Day Cover: No. 8.125 of standard size (190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.123 – 'PRETORIA'



31 January 2020 – POETS OF WORD AND SOUND – *Commemorating: Willie Kgositsile (poet), Hugh Masekela (trumpeter) and Philip Tabane (guitarist)*

Denominations: 3 x Standard Postage (R4.55)

Designer: Thea Clemons based on photographic material supplied by: Victor Dlamini (for Willie Kgositsile), the Hugh Masekela Foundation and the Tabane Family

Printer: Cartor Security Print, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 29 x 38mm

Sheetlet size: 130 x 210mm, comprising the three different designs in one row

Quantity: 30,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8605 (cyan), 8606 (magenta), 8607 (yellow) and 8608 (black)

Paper: 247gsm self-adhesive stamp paper

Gum: Self-adhesive

Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 7mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: 3mm wide band in 'L' shape at left and bottom margins of each stamp

Printing sheet size: 521 x 665mm comprising five rows of three sheetlets

First Day Cover: No. 8.123 of standard size (190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.120 – 'SOWETO'



Acknowledgement: The above information was collated from Newsletter No. 399, of March 2020, of the RSA Stamp Study Group, produced by Jan de Jong.

SOUTH AFRICAN POSTAGE RATES - VALID FROM 1 APRIL 2020
by Robin Messenger - Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

Domestic	New Rate	Old Rate	Increase
Letter	R c	R c	%
Small DL	4.90	4.55	7.69
Medium B5	9.85	9.10	8.24
Large B4	12.05	11.15	8.07

Domestic Postcards: Same rates as letters.

Registered letters, with insurance option.

Compensation up to R100.00 at no additional fee. Insurance for higher amounts is available for an additional fee based on a sliding scale. The maximum insured value is R2,000.00 for which the fee is now R196.40 (previously R181.85, an increase of 8.00 %).

Small DL (4.90 + 29.45)	34.35	31.80	8.02
Medium B5 (9.85 + 29.45)	39.30	36.40	7.97
Large B4 (12.05 + 29.30)	41.35	38.30	7.96

International

Registration fee	46.55	43.10	8.00
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There is no insurance option for international letter post.

Aerograms	7.35	6.80	8.09
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Postcards

- <i>Airmail</i>	9.95	9.20	8.15
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Postcards

- <i>Surface</i>	6.05	5.60	8.04
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Airmail letters – Southern Africa

Small DL	8.95	8.30	7.83
Medium B5	32.50	30.10	7.97
Large B4	50.50	46.75	8.02
Small packets (per 100 g)	28.60	26.45	8.13

Airmail letters – Rest of the world

Small DL	11.60	10.70	8.41
Medium B5	39.30	36.40	7.97
Large B4	66.55	61.60	8.04
Small packets (per 100 g)	50.35	46.60	8.05

New rates taken from Government Gazette, No. 42980 (31 January 2020).

THE RAILWAY STATIONS FROM HEIDELBERG, TRANSVAAL TO STANDERTON: A POSTAL HISTORY PERSPECTIVE

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



“A post office, no matter how humble the status whether situated in the remotest region, cannot function without its date stamp, of one form or another. The apparently insignificant impressions made by this all-important instrument are essential to the services provided by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and to a lesser extent to the requirements of the community.” (Dr. T.B. Berry, *South African Postmarks: a synopsis of the routine hand struck cancellations, 1910-1966*).

Introduction

It is stated by Hagen and Naylor that the railways had a profound effect on the postal service in our country. Only in retrospect can one start to appreciate the all-encompassing impact of rail links and transport on the socio-economic development of South Africa. An impact that, even today, continues to be reflected in the items of postal history we collect. What is undeniable is that the railways heralded a dramatic new era in postal communication - the end of the mail carriage, whether it was an ox-cart or postal coach drawn by horses. A noteworthy example is the railway system between Heidelberg and Standerton which, from a philatelic point of view, provides us with an excellent case study.

The ‘Heimat’ approach: Historical, Social and Special Studies

The author was raised in the Balfour Transvaal area (located between Heidelberg and Standerton) and is familiar with the postal history of the area. It was a most interesting and satisfying venture, undertaken during the past 40 years, collecting the postmarks and cachets of the different post offices and postal agencies. An endeavour that produced a comprehensive collection that is reflective of this interesting region.

The collecting of postmarks of the area where one was born and raised can also be called a ‘Heimat’ collection. Heimat is a German word with no English equivalent that denotes the relationship of a human being towards a certain spatial social unit. The term forms a contrast to social alienation and usually carries positive connotations and memories. It is often expressed with terms such as ‘home’ or ‘homeland’.

This approach is aligned to a third category introduced by FIP as part of Postal History exhibits namely: Historical, Social and Special Studies exhibits which examine Postal History in the broader sense and the interaction of commerce and society with the postal system. In this class non-philatelic material can also be included where relevant to the subject of the exhibit. The non-philatelic material should be incorporated into the exhibit in a balanced and appropriate manner in such a way that it does not overwhelm the philatelic material.

Postmarks of the area that were the most difficult to find, were those used at postal agencies and railway station post offices. The reason for this is because these offices, primarily served remote areas and handled a low volume of mail. From a philatelic point of view railway philately is exceedingly wide because although ordinary postage stamps were used for railway letters the railways also produced a variety of ‘own’ or ‘own purpose’ stamps. The purpose of this article is to stimulate readers to start their own ‘heimat’ type collection and record their findings. There is nothing more satisfying than to discover postmarks and cachets of small postal agencies located in some of the remotest areas, especially during the ZAR, Transvaal Colony and Union of South Africa periods. The output of such an undertaking should be to publish a typology of the postmarks from the specific area of collecting.

Only a selection of items will be illustrated in this article to highlight the potential of this type of collecting field and to reveal the underlying romanticism involved therein.

Station Post Offices and the Railway Letter Post System

Hagen and Naylor indicated that there were two types of stationery post offices at railway stations: one was a postal agency and the other a conventional post office. At these railway postal agencies the duties of postmaster were carried out by the local stationmaster or his staff. To regulate procedures, formal agreements were concluded between railway authorities and the General Post Office (GPO). Date stamps instruments were supplied to agencies by the GPO.

The rail-letter system was also devised to assist rural communities which were without the services of a post office, and it was not long before it was evident that these communities did not have ready access to postage stamps.



Fig.1: Part of a map indicating the railway line between Heidelberg and Standerton.

All the illustrated items are from the collection of the author unless otherwise stated.

The building of the South-Eastern Railway line from Heidelberg to Standerton

The region south-east of Heidelberg, itself south-east of Johannesburg, lies on the direct route between the heart of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* (ZAR) and the main port of entry at Durban. Before the construction of railways, communications were by coach or ox-wagon and depended on staging posts for passengers and for resting horses and oxen.

The following stations were established south of Heidelberg in the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* on the South Eastern line during the construction phase of 1894 - 1896: Heidelberg, Vlakfontein (Balfour), Greylingstad, Val, Vlaklaagte (later called Holmdene) and Standerton (Fig.1). Before the railway line was fully operational the *Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaanshe Spoorweg-Maatskappij* (NZASM) found it necessary to establish a further two stations, viz Kromdraai (between Standerton and Platrand) and Kraal (between Heidelberg and Vlakfontein).



Fig.2: Postcard of the Heidelberg Station circa 1910

Heidelberg, Transvaal

The station buildings at Heidelberg and Standerton were the largest and most elaborate. Heidelberg and Standerton were already towns of some importance when they were reached by the railway and thus their station buildings were designed to be in keeping with their status and also as a demonstration of NZASM prestige. The Heidelberg station building was designed by the NZASM's architect and head of the drawing office V. van Lissa and built by the firm of D.J. Mertens and the Schuitemaker Brothers during the period September 1894 to May 1895. (Fig.2).



Fig.5: Balfour Railway Telegraph date stamp dated 9 August 1912 used on a postcard.



Fig.3: Postcard with a Kraal R.O. date stamp dated 7 April 1911.

Kraal Station Rail Office

On the alphabetical list of post offices and postal agencies of the ZAR dated 31 December 1898, Kraal is indicated as a postal agency with opening date 1 January 1898. This is confirmed by the 'Circulaire van het Postdepartement der Z.A. Republiek', No. 57, dated 15 June 1898 that stated that from 1 October 1897 C.L. Plate (NZASM) is appointed as Postal Agent at Kraal.

In the Transvaal Post Office Guide dated 1 July 1902 Kraal is indicated as a POA falling under Heidelberg (Fig.3). It was also at Kraal Station that the members of Heidelberg Commando laid up their arms after the Anglo-Boer War.



Fig.4: Example of an oval double ring Fortuna railway station canceller dated 20 March 1929.

Fortuna

During 1897 a branch line to the Fortuna coalmine came into use. The NZASM established the junction of this line between the stations Kraal and Vlakfontein, and a railway halt named Fortuna was provided. Fortuna Station was closed on 30 November 1964 (Fig.4).

Vlakfontein (Balfour, Transvaal)

In the *Transvaal Post Office Guide* dated 1 March 1904 two offices are indicated for Vlakfontein; namely a Money Order and Telegraph Office (MOTO) and a Railway Telegraph Office (RTO) both in the Heidelberg district. According to Putzel this Railway Telegraph Office opened in June 1896 and was renamed Balfour Railway Office on 1 June 1905. Drysdall indicated that the Telegraph Office was opened on 1 May 1896. Date stamps inscribed RTO (Railway Telegraph Office) and Railway Telegraphs (Fig.5) are known to have been used to cancel stamps on normal correspondence. During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) the British Army referred to Vlakfontein based on the name of the station.

Fig.6: N.Z.A.S.M railway ticket to travel between Vlakfontein and Greylingstad stations during the period of the ZAR. The railway ticket circa 1898, is relevant in that Sprucewell station was situated between Greylingstad and Vlakfontein stations and is of interesting as it is the first of that area that has been seen in 30 years of collecting.



Sprucewell Station

Sprucewell Station (Fig.7) was located between Vlakfontein (Balfour north) and Greylingstad (Fig. 6), and the post office based at the station served a small number of surrounding farmers. Mail was addressed via Balfour to Sprucewell and was carried by train from Balfour to the station as and when required. This was a typical case where the station master also performed all the postal duties. The author having grown up on a farm next to this railway station can vividly recall collecting mail addressed to his father from a cabinet with pigeon holes and our surname indicated by a label on one of the holes.



Fig.7: Sprucewell Station date stamp used on the back of a cover dated 9 November 1914.

Greylingstad Rail Office

In 1887, because of the gold diggings, the town of Greylingstad was established in a remote area. One of the problems concerning the location of the town was that the main route to Natal passed the town to the east. Furthermore the diggings didn't live up to the expectation, and when the railway line was built in 1894 and it passed the town four miles to the north of the old Greylingstad, it was the death knell for the town. Many dealers moved their premises to the Greylingstad Station area. A new town gradually developed around the station. During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) the British Forces occupied Greylingstad on 2 July 1900 and pitched camp (Figs.8 & 9).



Fig.8: Greylingstad Station converted into a blockhouse by British troops during the ABW by strengthening the outer walls with sandbags. (Source: Todd & Fordham, Private Tucker's Boer War Diary, p. 184).



Fig.9: Greylingstad R.O. datestamp used on 6 February 1939 on a Rail Letter Post label on the back of cover.

Teakworth

Teakworth Station was located between Greylingstad and Val. This postal agency opened on 1 October 1911 but closed on 1 October 1916. It later reopened on various dates and was permanently closed on 13 November 1961 (Fig.10).

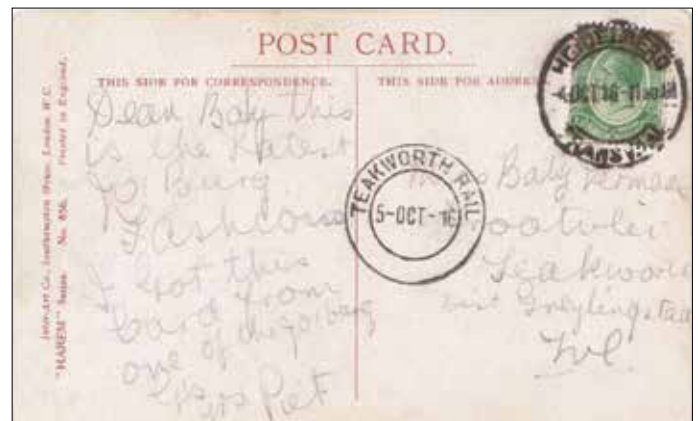


Fig.10: Teakworth Rail postmark dated 5 October 1916.

Val

Opened in 1896 when the railway line was built. It closed during the Anglo-Boer War and reopened in January 1901 (Fig.11).



Fig.11: B.A. Blits, an official of the NZASM at Val Station. Note the PWK Standerton transit mark and the 'VAL' hand stamp in blue with manuscript date '11/4/97'. (Collection: Gawie van der Walt, Potchefstroom).

Cedarmont

This RTO opened on 1 December 1903. The PTA moved to Cedarmont Station in 1913 (Fig.12).

Vlaklaagte (Holmdene)

This station was opened on 1 June 1896 as Vlaklaagte and was renamed Holmdene in 1906 (Fig.13). Vlaklaagte originally had no date stamp and therefore in the case where no date stamp was available the stamps should have been cancelled as per the Transvaal Post Office Guide No. 4 instructions:



Fig.12: (above) Reverse of a letter posted from Cedarfont Station in 1937 using the Rail Letter Post system.

“Cancellation of stamps in absence of a date stamp. If from any cause an office is not provided with a date-stamp, the name of the office and the date of receipt must be written in ink on each letter posted, and in addition, in the absence of an obliterating stamp the postage stamps on the letters must be cancelled by means of two bold pen strokes drawn diagonally across each stamp, thus: X” (Figs.14 and 15).

Standerton

According to the original plans the Standerton Station building was designed by the Natal Government Railways. Although the internal layout basically followed the NZASM type style, the rest of the design, especially the exterior, differed. Single-line handstamps with the name of the station in sanserif upper case letters, were commonly used to identify the station sending cards advising the arrival of goods and other correspondence, for example, telegrams.



Fig.13: (at right) Postcard with the Vlaklaagte Station. (Collection: Gawie van der Walt, Potchefstroom).



Fig.14 : Cover posted from Vlaklaagte to the USA with the annotation: '28.12.03 Posted at Vlaklaagte distr. Standerton Tvaal' with the Standerton arrival date stamp the same day 28 Dec 03.

The Imperial Military Railways (IMR) was created on 17 March 1900 during the Anglo-Boer War with overall responsibility for managing the railways of southern Africa. Responsibility for administering the railways of the Transvaal was transferred from IMR to the Central South African Railways (CSAR) on 1 July 1902 (Fig.16).

Railway Parcel Stamps

Another interesting aspect of railway philately is the use of railway parcel stamps. Before 1910 parcel stamp usage had involved the despatching station affixing parcel stamps to the value of the carriage charged to one copy of the waybill. In order to identify forwarding stations and to ensure that stamps could be






Fig. 15: Top part of a cover posted from Holmdene on 13 March 1927 using the Rail Letter System and franked 2d. The postage fee at that stage was 1d for basic postage and 2d for the rail-letter fee. This item was underfranked with 1d.



Fig.16: Cover with the Imperial Military Railways cachet used in Standerton on 12 December 1901 during the ABW.

'traded' between stations, they were overprinted with the station codes before being issued to individual stations for example: HGR = Heidelberg, BOR = Balfour and Standerton = SNR (Figs.21-23).





		
Fig.21	Fig.22	Fig.23
3d Railway Parcel Stamp overprinted with the Heidelberg Station code HGR and used in Heidelberg on 5 July 1917.	2/- Railway Parcel Stamp overprinted with the Balfour Station code: BOR	Railway Parcel Stamp overprinted with the Standerton Station code letters: SNR and used in Standerton.

Conclusion:

Most of these date stamps illustrated in this article are indicated as 'rare' to 'extremely rare' by Putzel in his four volumes (Figs.17-20). The author agrees with these ratings --because in more than 40 years of collecting, very few have been found. But the excitement and satisfaction, driving around the Heidelberg/Standerton-area, visiting farms and the elderly looking for material and then discovering odd items, cannot be described.

Sources:

- Todd, Pamela & Fordham, David, *Private Tucker's Boer War Diary*, Elm Tree Books, London, 1980.
- Hagen H.S. & Naylor S.P., *Railway Stamps of South Africa*, Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, Johannesburg, 1985.
- Berry, T.B. *South African Postmarks: a synopsis of the routine hand struck cancellations, 1910-1966*, PFSA, Johannesburg.
- Hagen H.S. & Naylor S.P., *Railway Postal History of South Africa*, PFSA, Johannesburg, 1998.
- Putzel, Ralph, *The Encyclopaedia of Southern African Post Offices and Postal Agencies, Volumes 1-4*, Cape Town.

Selection of Rail Office (R.O.) postmarks used between Heidelberg and Standerton			
			
Fig.17	Fig.18	Fig.19	Fig.20
Kraal R.O. 8 Dec 03	Vlakfontein R.O. 31 Jul 04	Greylingstad R.O. 31 Jul 04	Val R.O. 10 Dec 13
All illustrated copies are hand drawn by the author except the Val R.O. postmark which is from Hagen and Naylor p. 69. Examples of all these copies are extremely rare used on cover.			



ALGOAPEX

14 to 17 October 2020

Sun International Boardwalk Hotel Convention Centre
Port Elizabeth, South Africa



welcome to Port Elizabeth in 2020

The Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society (PEPS) is hosting the ALGOAPEX 2020 National Stamp Exhibition this year and as PEPS is a non-profit organisation, we have a further call for patrons. The table here shows the benefits of becoming an ALGOAPEX 2020 patron.

Patron class	Amount (R)	Benefits
Silver patron	1 000	mention in exhibition catalogue.
Gold patron	10 000	free half page colour advertisement in exhibition catalogue and one place citrus farm tour.
Platinum patron	40 000	free full page colour advertisement in exhibition catalogue, two places citrus farm tour and two Palmares banquet tickets.
Diamond patron (naming rights)	250 000	naming rights, free full page colour advertisement (any placement) in exhibition catalogue, free dealer stand, two places citrus farm tour and two Palmares banquet tickets.

For any further information, should you wish to become an ALGOAPEX 2020 patron, and/or wish to participate as a dealer, please contact either Rodney (rhmaclachlan@gmail.com) or Francois (francois@softchem.co.za).

AN EXCITING NEW FIND

by Nicholas Arrow
 <nicholasarrow@btinternet.com>
 The SA Collectors Society in England



One of the traps for the unwary in stamp collecting is to claim that a certain state of affairs exists. Years ago, when I was a member of the Germany & Colonies PS, the Secretary related how he had exhibited in a competition and his exhibit had contained examples of the three coil strips of the first definitive issue of the new West Germany. On the very next frame to his was an exhibit where the displayer had stated that only two values were known in coil format!

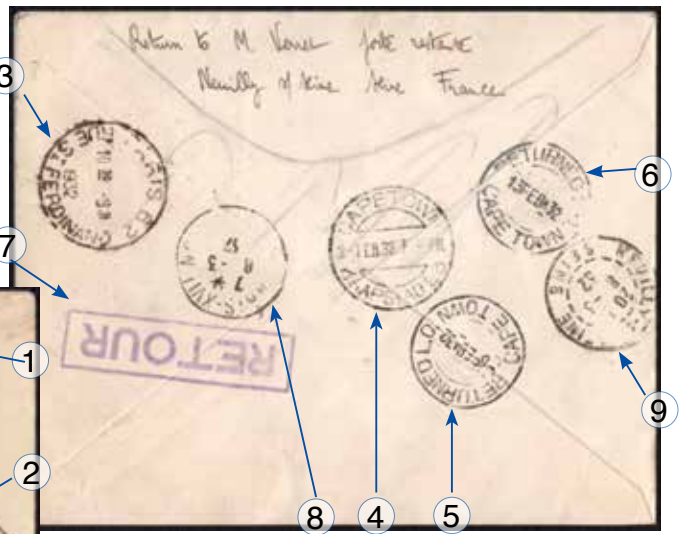
So one does not say that such and such an item is the only example existing, but one simply states that it is the only example of its type yet recorded, which gets one out of a potentially embarrassing situation.

There is also the perceived accuracy of authority, particularly when it is repeated (or at the least not gainsaid) in other authoritative textbooks.

I have just acquired a cover which, until I saw it, I had not believed existed.

boxed marks on the front and back, (strike 7) and sent back to M Verret. It arrived in Paris on the 8.3.32 (Paris XVII mark) at 7am (strike 8) and was finally received at Neuilly Sur Seine on the same day at 8pm (strike 9).

I am grateful to Peter Wingent, for advising that it was returned to England from Cape Town on board the Union-Castle steamer *Armadale Castle*, which sailed from Table Bay on 19 February, and arrived at Southampton at 06.00 on 7 March. Baldwin makes no reference at all to 'contract' or



Town on the first of the new scheduled service of Imperial Airways - see manuscript flight markings at the very top (strike 1). It was posted at, apparently, 9am on 19.1.1932 at the Rue St Germain post office no 62 (strike 2). It was taken from that Post Office at 10.30am (strike 3) and, presumably, was then added to the mail received in Paris from Croydon on 20 January. It was then sent on the 7.30pm train to Brindisi.

The next mark is the usual (and very clear) postmark of Cape Town of 2 February (strike 4).

In Cape Town it was sent to the Returned Letter Office (RLO), and there are markings of 6 Feb (strike 5), (probably on its being received) and (strike 6) 13 Feb (probably on it being sent on its way as it had not been claimed - see the

'treaty' mail, although he does refer to mail from Ireland or North Europe. Wyndham, writing in about 1936, says that transit mail was received in London "from Ireland, America, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland", and in Brindisi "from Malta, and Rome".

Neither Stern (c1972) nor Burrell (1986) attempt to identify the source of mail from any destination. So the impression has grown that no mail from France was carried, a fiction which this cover emphatically overturns. If one piece can be found, how many other examples of French mail may be out there!

I suspect that the item belongs somewhere in the category that our German friends refer to as 'vorläuferpost', which translates (I think) as 'preliminary mail', which would have been unofficially carried before any treaty for the carriage of such mail had been created between the various postal authorities.

Our friend Capt Smye was never far behind bright ideas of how to get odd items of mail onto various new services, but he seems to have missed a trick here - at least I think he did - or did he.....?¹

¹ I have a cover which was carried on the first flight of the internal 1929 Union Airways service from Cape Town to Johannesburg. It was created by Capt Smye, posted in France, and sent over to England, where English stamps were added to cover the air fee. No mention is made in any of the text books to mail from France existing, and the cover, the subject of this article, would invite at least a suspicion that Capt Smye might have thought of creating such an item for the inaugural schedule service to Cape Town as well? 🇬🇧

EXHIBITING OUTSIDE THE BOX

by Members of the Sasolburg Philatelic Society

The Oxford Dictionary defines lateral thinking as *“a way of solving problems by using your imagination to find new ways of looking at the problem”*. Modern technology used in the printing industry enables philatelists to start thinking *‘outside the box’*, and to present their exhibits in such a way that they still conform to set standards, but at the same time offers that global view and joy to onlookers.

The total area allowed to exhibitors on modern frames used in major exhibitions, allows participants to use either sixteen A4 or eight A3 pages, in order to utilise exactly 997,920mm². Imagine the same space allowed to an exhibitor on just one ‘Custom’ formatted page offering the opportunity to provide a global view of a sub-section, or a complete exhibit.

In 2017 the Sasolburg Stamp Club, better known as Oilfilat, received a number of 15-page frames from the Philatelic Federation to replace their old frames. For this generous donation the club will always be grateful. It made it possible for Oilfilat to continue with their annual October Regional Exhibition. They discarded their old wooden frames which caused all sorts of problems, and adapted their lighting system to suit the newly received frames.

However, being confronted with the problem of having to prepare and finalise an exhibit and then place it inside frames not allowing more than fifteen A4 pages, or six A3 pages, proved to be a dilemma to most exhibitors. Not only did viewers (and judges) find it difficult to obtain a global view of the exhibit, but it also meant that a normal 1-frame exhibit consisting of sixteen A4 pages was to be spread over at least two frames. Any larger exhibit, for instance, one of six frames occupied at least seven or eight frames to accommodate the number of A3 or A4 pages required. Unfortunately, having to use more frames requires more space, and it became a serious problem to accommodate all entries received.

In 2019 one of the exhibitors, Johan van Wyk, came forward with a brand new idea, namely to *‘step out of the box’* and presented his complete one-frame exhibit on a single page, fitting inside one of the old type 15-page frames. To everyone’s astonishment, he easily managed to fit the contents of his original eight A3 page exhibit into this new format. His first effort, *‘Lawn Bowls - The Real Sport of Kings’* (Fig.1) exhibited as a one-frame exhibit, lent itself perfectly to the large oval shaped white exhibiting area used, symbolising the shape of a Lawn Bowls wood.

The oval shaped white exhibiting area was again successfully employed in a five-frame exhibit of *‘The Lion’* (Figs.2-4 showing three of these frames). Asked about the cost and effort of doing it on A0 pages he informed us that it is a little more expensive than using A3 pages, but well within the scope of anyone wishing to do his/her exhibiting in this format. To overcome practical problems regarding the transport and presentation of such a large unit is quite feasible when a proper support backing is used. Preparing for the 2020 National Exhibition to be held in Port Elizabeth, his intention is to exhibit an entire project on a single custom-sized page, fitting exactly into the modern frame used by the organisers.

COMMENT from The COO - Andre du Plessis. 083 399 1755

“Interesting concept that has merit and has been utilised before. As far as I can establish from two exhibitors at National Exhibitions exhibiting one and two frames exhibits. Regarding the use of frame space, exhibitors are welcome to utilise the space as they deem fit. If it is different from the traditional page settings, and because of the normal logistics at a National Exhibition, the exhibitor might have to be responsible for the transport, storage, mounting and dismounting thereof”.



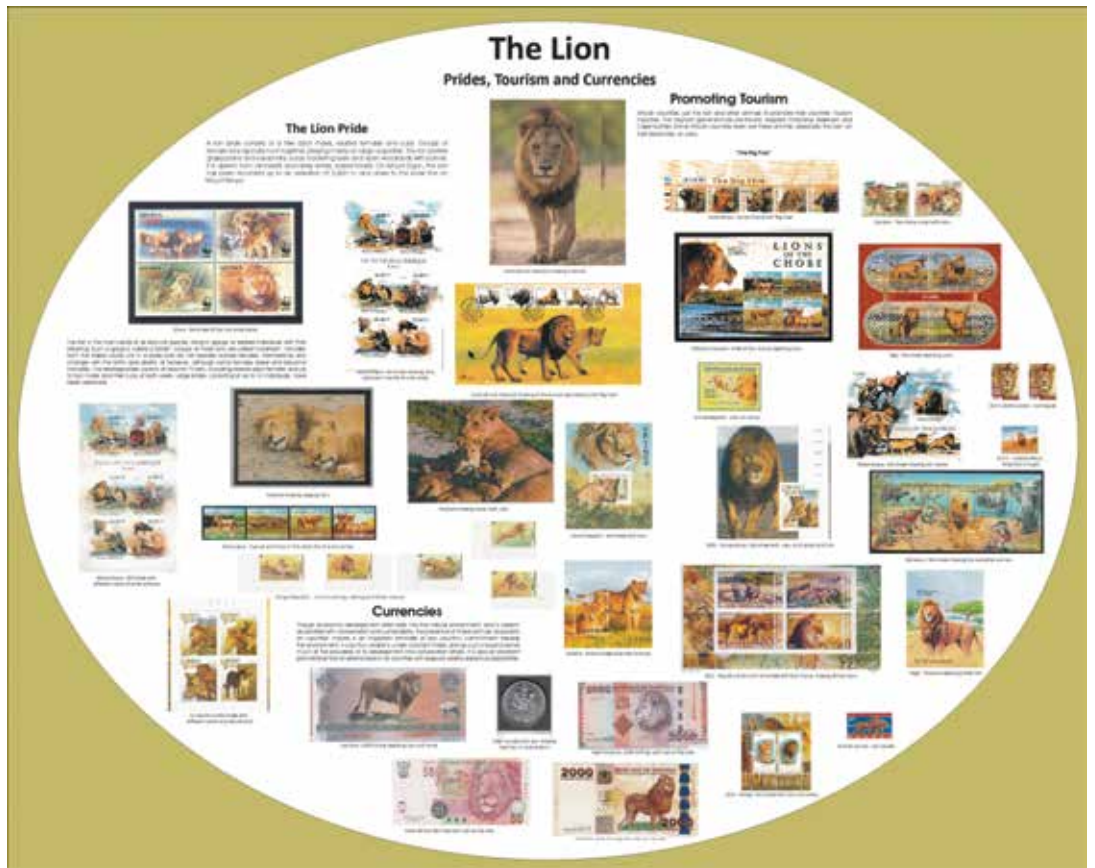
Fig.1; The contents of eight A3-pages fitted into a single older type



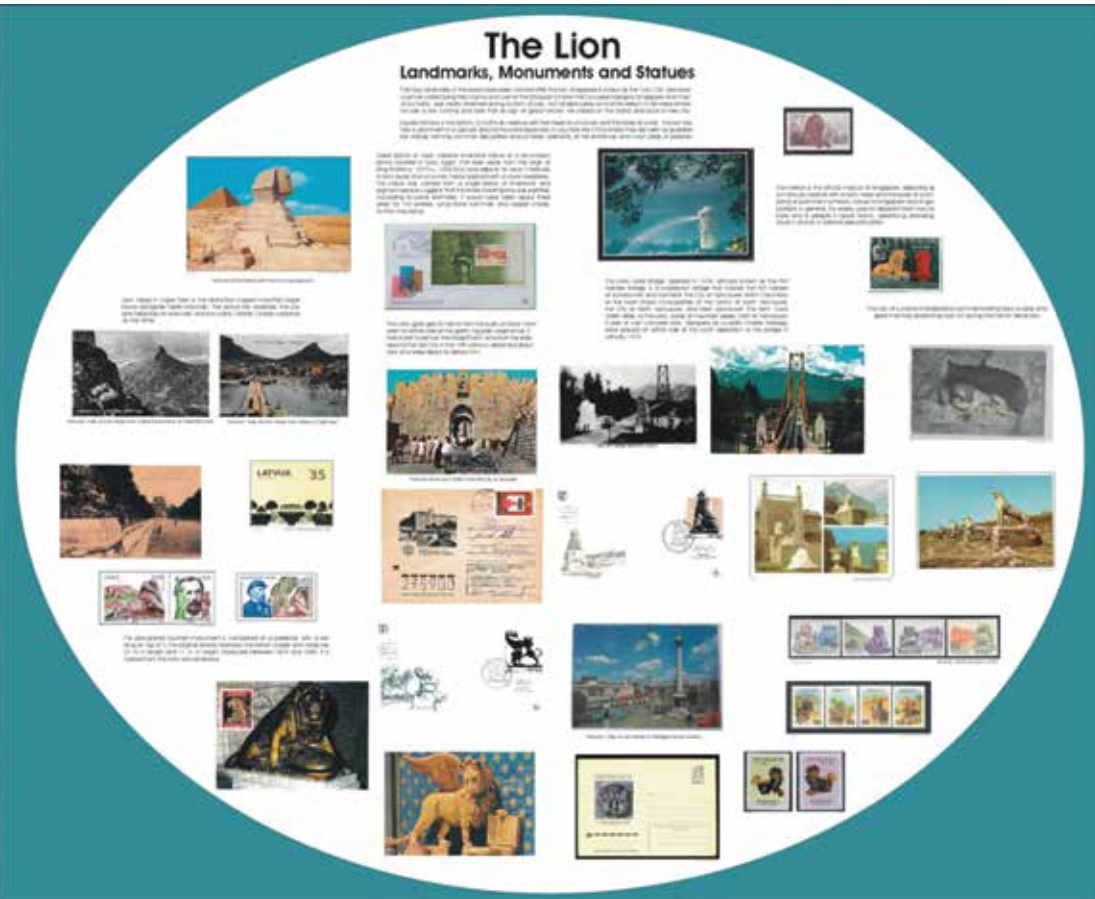
Figs.2 - 4; Three 15-page frames forming part of a five frame



Page 15-page frame.



The exhibition of 'The Lion'.





Flight SA201

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

Built in the early 1950s, the de Havilland DH106 Comet (Fig.1) was a game-changer. It could fly higher and faster than contemporary propeller aircraft, resulting in a smoother and quicker journey. It offered a relatively quiet, comfortable passenger cabin and was commercially promising. Today, the Comet is still considered as a revolutionary development in air travel, much as the Concorde was some 20 years later. It was Britain's hope of gaining part of the post-war aircraft market in the face of overwhelming American competition.



Fig.1: The de Havilland Comet 1, the first jet to enter passenger service, 1952.

It appeared to be an engineering marvel, far in advance of all other passenger aircraft. An outstanding feature was the four engines buried within the wing roots (Fig.2) with elliptical air intakes which reduced drag and allowed for a much smaller fin and rudder thus creating a sleeker form. But accessibility was difficult and in the long run the buried configuration was not viable.

Fig.2: The engines of the Comet mounted within the wing.

The only other passenger aircraft to place the engines in the wing roots was the Russian Tupolev TU-104 (Fig.3) which entered service with Aeroflot, 15 September 1956. Unlike the Comet 1, the Tu-104 was unreliable, heavy, very unstable and poorly controlled in flight.



Fig.3: The Tupolev TU-104, the second passenger jet to enter service.



BOAC inaugurated the world's first scheduled jet service on 2 May 1952 to Johannesburg (Fig.4), taking 21 hours and 30 minutes for a return fare of £315 (worth £6,654 or R129,800 in 2020). The network quickly spread eastwards, extending as far as Tokyo, covering some 40,000 km in total. A big drawback was the Comet's limitation to a four-hour flight, or a maximum range of 2,400 km. This eliminated the all-important transatlantic route.



Fig.4: A flight cover for the world's first scheduled jet service, London - Johannesburg. BOAC issued covers for every sector on the route. It is unknown how many covers BOAC produced.

Despite this ... it began to look as if BOAC would be able in one stroke to place itself at the forefront of the airline industry, thus conquering the handicaps of wartime drought and post-war deficiencies (Higham, 2013:138). This was not to be. The Comet was plagued with problems. (BOAC did not give their Comets names; the registration is used to identify specific aircraft.)

- **26 October 1952:** G-ALYZ failed to take off at Rome.
- **21 January 1953:** G-ALYY landed short of the runway at Entebbe, a result of downdrafts. The aircraft was repaired and returned to service.
- **3 March 1953:** A Comet on a delivery flight for Canadian Pacific crashed on take-off at Karachi.
- **2 May 1953:** G-ALYV broke up on take off at Calcutta during a storm and was destroyed by fire.
- **25 July 1953:** The landing gear of G-ALYR was forced up through the wing while taxiing in Calcutta.
- **10 January 1954:** G-ALYP, en route Singapore - London, took off from Rome and disappeared. It was later established from fishermen the aircraft had exploded about half an hour into the flight. The wreckage was salvaged by the Royal Navy and returned to the UK where the aircraft was reconstructed. All Comets were grounded and inspected in attempts to establish the cause of the crash. The cause was never found, yet sixty modifications were approved and the aircraft returned to service on 23 March 1954.
- **8 April 1954:** G-ALYY disappeared after take-off from Rome.

Thus, in a period of twelve months there were three fatal crashes. SAA entered into an agreement with BOAC to charter two Comets which would operate the London - Johannesburg route. The two aircraft kept the BOAC colour schemes but added SAA titles and logo to the nose and tail (Fig.5). These aircraft were operated by SAA crews. This meant there were four Comet services a week, two by SAA and two by BOAC (Fig.6). The SAA service started on 6 October 1953. First flight covers were issued by SAA and were available from the airport. Kronstein (1957b:52) says there are as few as 30 known, as very little attention was paid to the inaugural flights.

Flight SA201 arrived at Rome's Ciampino Airport for refuelling on Wednesday, 7 April 1954, at 17h35, ahead of schedule (see Fig.6) with seven crew and fourteen passengers (see sidebar). After refuelling the fuel gauge showed no reading. A new cable had to be brought out from the UK which delayed the flight for 25 hours.

While tracing the fuel gauge fault, 30 bolts were found lying inside the wing, while those holding an inspection panel were loose. It was presumed this omission was from the inspections following the crash of G-ALYP in January 1954. The flight eventually left on Thursday, 8 April 1954, at 18h57 after the repairs had been completed. At 19h05 Captain Mostert radioed ahead to Cairo with their estimated time of arrival. Five minutes later Cairo tried to contact G-ALYY but failed. No further messages were received - another Comet had disappeared.



Fig.5: An in-flight publicity photo of Comet G-ALYY showing SAA markings which were added to the nose and tail.



Fig. 7: Location of the crash sites.

CREW AND PASSENGERS ON FLIGHT SA201

Crew

Captain Wilhelm Mostert
 First Officer Barend J. Grove
 Navigation Officer Albert E. Sissing
 Radio Officer Bertram E. Webbstock
 Flight Engineer August R. Lagesen
 Steward Jacobus B. Kok
 Stewardess Pamela Reitz

Passengers

Mr and Mrs A.B. Brooks
 Miss D.M. Eady
 Mr R.L. Wilkinson
 Miss N. Young
 Mr E.S. Hack
 Mr O.L. Anderson
 Mr J. Rosenberg
 Mr Saltzman
 Mr F.H. Harbinson
 Mr M.A. Lamoum
 Dr J. Stuart
 Captain J.A. Collins
 Mr J.F. Murray-White

		S.A.A./S.A.L. AND/EN B.O.A.C.		
		Comet		
		LONDON / LONDEN — JOHANNESBURG		
		SA 201 (3) (7)	BA 113 (2)	BA 115 (5)
London/Londen	D/V	15 00	13 30	15 00
Rome	A	18 40	17 10	18 40
	D/V	19 40	18 10	19 40
Beirut	A	—	22 40	—
	D/V	—	23 20	—
Cairo/ Kairo	A	(4) 00 05 (1)	—	(6) 00 05
	D/V	00 45	—	00 45
Khartoum/ Kartoem	A	03 35	(3) 03 10	03 35
	D/V	04 15	03 50	04 15
Entebbe	A	08 15	07 50	08 15
	D/V	09 30	09 05	09 30
Livingstone	A	12 05	11 40	12 05
	D/V	12 45	12 20	12 45
Johannesburg	A	14 40	14 15	14 40

Fig.6: Extract from the SAA timetable for November 1953 showing the Comet flights and routes. Timetables can provide valuable information regarding the interpretation of flight covers.

A search of the area could only start the following morning in daylight, but the quest was unsuccessful. By 15h00 of the afternoon, 10 April 1954, an oil slick was spotted off the coast of Naples (Fig.7). Ships from the Royal Navy then located six bodies, some floating debris and two mail bags. The remains of the airframe could not be retrieved as in the case of the G-ALYP crash: the sea was too deep at 950 m.

The Comet was grounded again on 12 April 1954, for the second time in three months and the Certificate of Airworthiness was withdrawn. The similarities between the two accidents could not be ignored.

Nierinck (1984:277) says that one mail bag was opened at Khartoum and mail forwarded with a note. The second bag which also contained mail for Sudan, was opened in Rome where a cachet in Italian was applied. This explanation by Nierinck does not account for the existence of covers addressed to Cape Town. It is hardly likely that mail for South Africa, the end point of the flight, would be included in a bag of Sudanese mail – see the route given in Fig.6. Burrell et al (1987:232) record that *One known cover, postmarked Shipley, which was addressed to Cape Town, received a cachet.* Burrell et al do not illustrate the cover. A second cover addressed to Cape Town is shown in Figs.8 & 9.



Fig. 8 Crash cover from flight SA201, post marked Holloway, 6 April 1954, returned to sender with various cachets applied. The return strike for Maitland Depot is dated 24 July 1954.



Fig.11: Inside image of a pressure fracture at a window in the test aircraft.

The sharp cut-out corners of the square windows were subjected to greater stress than the rest of the cabin. This marked a turning point in aircraft development. As a result, all jet aircraft now have much rounder corners to eliminate the stress.

Sales of the Comet 1 dried up rapidly with no interest in the Comet 2 or Comet 3. The Comet 4 (Fig.12) did notch up an important achievement when BOAC operated the first transatlantic crossing by jet, three weeks ahead of the Pan Am service. However, the Comet 4 was quickly eclipsed into obscurity by the iconic Boeing 707 (Fig.13). Proposals for a Comet 5 never materialised.

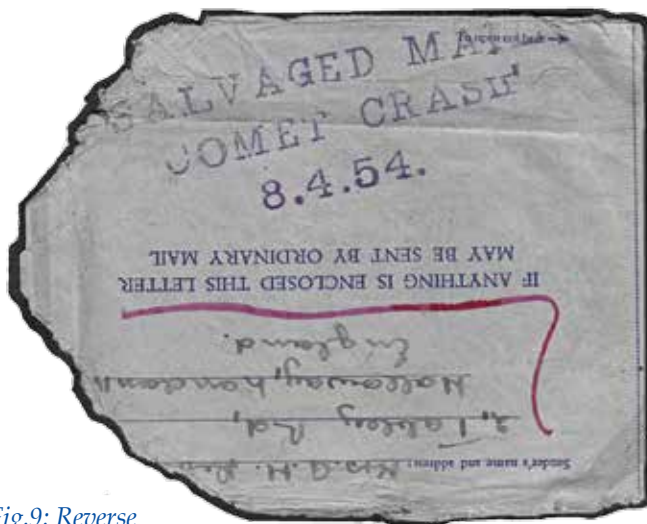


Fig.9: Reverse of the cover shown in Fig.8.

It is not known where the cachet was applied. Covers from flight SA201 are difficult to find and none from Sudan have been seen.

Following an extensive investigation of wreckage from the 10 January 1954 crash and a test aircraft, together with a formal inquiry, it was found that fractures occurred in the roof of the cabin and the windows which caused an explosive decompression. The official findings were released 1 February 1955.

Both crashes were attributed to metal fatigue caused by repeated pressurisation – a phenomenon not fully understood at the time. The problem was made worse by using punch rivets around the corners of the window frames instead of drilling rivet holes. The imperfect nature of the holes caused fatigue cracks to start in the metal, which was also far too thin, around the rivets (Figs.10 & 11).

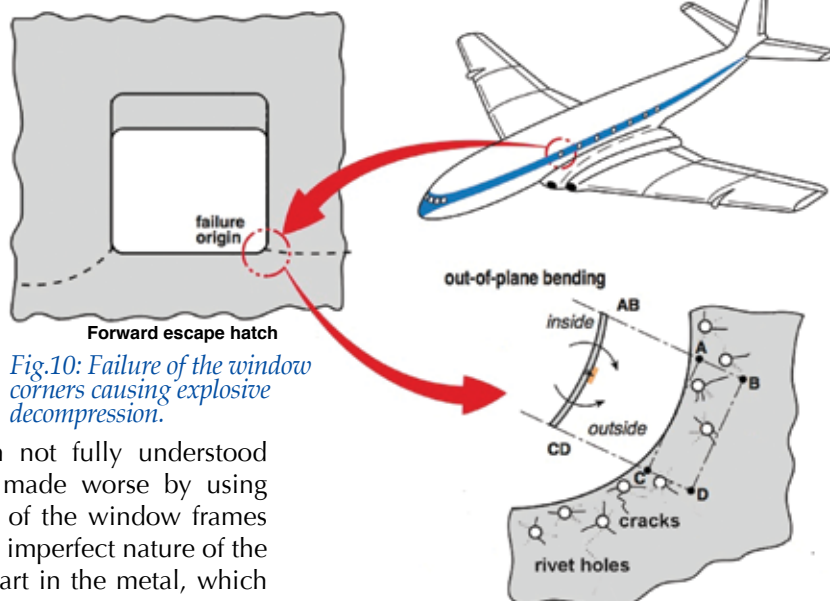


Fig.10: Failure of the window corners causing explosive decompression.

Even though the Comet was a symbol of British design, the subsequent publicity surrounding the metal fatigue failure (Fig.10) was not to be trusted. A consequence was the loss of technological supremacy. Yet, the Comet 1, despite its flaws, marked the development of a new phase of flying: that of a packaged system of travel which was cheap, simple and democratic.



Fig.12: Comet 4 with pinion fuel tanks on the outer wings.



Fig.13: Boeing 707

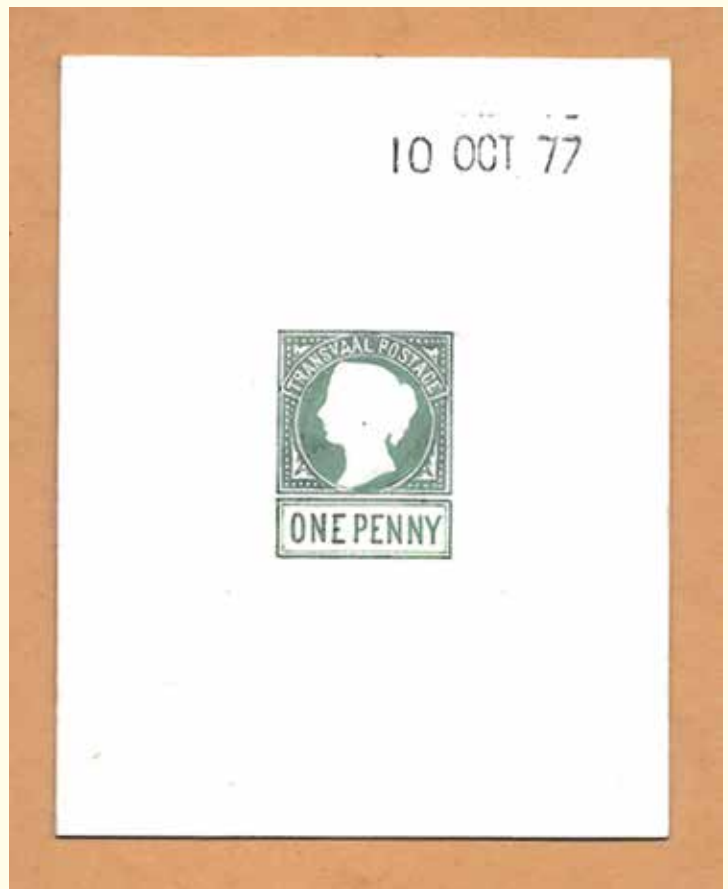
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JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

TRANSVAAL

De La Rue Essay of the 1d. value for the 1878-80 Queens Head Issue



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A Penny for your Thoughts

by Sean Burke <seanburke_1@yahoo.com> Rhodesian Study Circle



In recent years, one of my philatelic interests has been the collecting of Rhodesia 1d Double Heads used fiscally on piece or document. Often hidden from sight for nearly a century, they mostly maintain their wonderful original colours. With over 14 million being printed between 1910 and 1913 from two plates (which deteriorated over that time), combined with a variety of inks, they provide an array of colours and a veritable feast of flaws.

My purpose in the main has been to focus on the colours and the social history that emerges from these items. (If I am brave, and have been fortified with a gin and tonic, I venture into the plating, but that is another story.) Here are two examples.

The first document (Figs. 1 & 2) comes from Fitt & Co., Brokers and General Agents, in Gatooma, Southern Rhodesia (now Kadoma, Zimbabwe). It is dated 1 November 1912, and signed by Geo. S. Fitt.

George Septimus Fitt was born in London on 12 February, 1863; he came from humble beginnings. Initially a rubber

merchant, he later enlisted in the 3rd Glamorgan Volunteer Rifles. He then moved to Rhodesia where he was appointed, Lieutenant, Salisbury Field Force Corps in the Matabeleland Rebellion of 1896, and Captain and Officer Commanding, Garrison Volunteers Corps in the Mashonaland Rebellion of 1897. Writing back to Wales after the Mashonaland Rebellion he comments:

I have been in several lively fights and been successful each time. My first was on an occasion on which I was sent with 60 men as rear-guard to a convoy of waggons foraging for grain, and we came to a farmhouse, but the advance guard 60 yards in front, instead of thoroughly examining the outbuildings, went into the house and began to loot (the owner having been murdered), not noticing that the outbuildings were crammed with rebels. The rebels then let us get within 100 yards and then gave us and the farmhouse a volley. I was ordered to take the left wing and promptly got my men in skirmishing order and rapidly advanced by half troops by rushes to within 60 yards, being subject to a hot fire from the rebels, who had good cover, whilst I had to come right on in the open, with bullets whistling all round. After a few volleys I charged the building, clearing them out with a loss to them of 11 and not one wounded on my side.

They fired too high, and it is lucky for me they did, for I was mounted and only two yards in the rear of my firing lines all the time, riding up and down to give orders. Meanwhile I had got ahead of the Maxim, in the centre, and was marking the fire, so I had to wait for that and the right wing to come up. They had managed to settle another 20 so we did fairly well that day. We drove them into some mountains, as they were some 3000 strong and had a considerable number of mounted men among them. This was the last time the rebels stood against us outside their own rocks...

After these events, Fitt returned to Wales where he wed Amelia Salmon of Swansea. The wedding took place in the Walter Road Congregational Chapel, Swansea. They then went out to Rhodesia, eventually settling in Gatooma. Becoming a successful business man (Fig.4) Fitt was Mayor of Gatooma on two occasions: 1917 and 1927-1930 (Fig.5). He died in 1947 at the age of 94.

Back to the document and stamp. The stamp, from the B Plate, is Position 85, identified by the flaw in the panel above the 'AF' in AFRICA. The second item is a statement and receipt from the Avondale Village Management Board dated 31 May, 1912. (Fig.6) The stamp is position 24 showing the clumsy recut at the top left hand corner which is a primary flaw from the Master Plate.

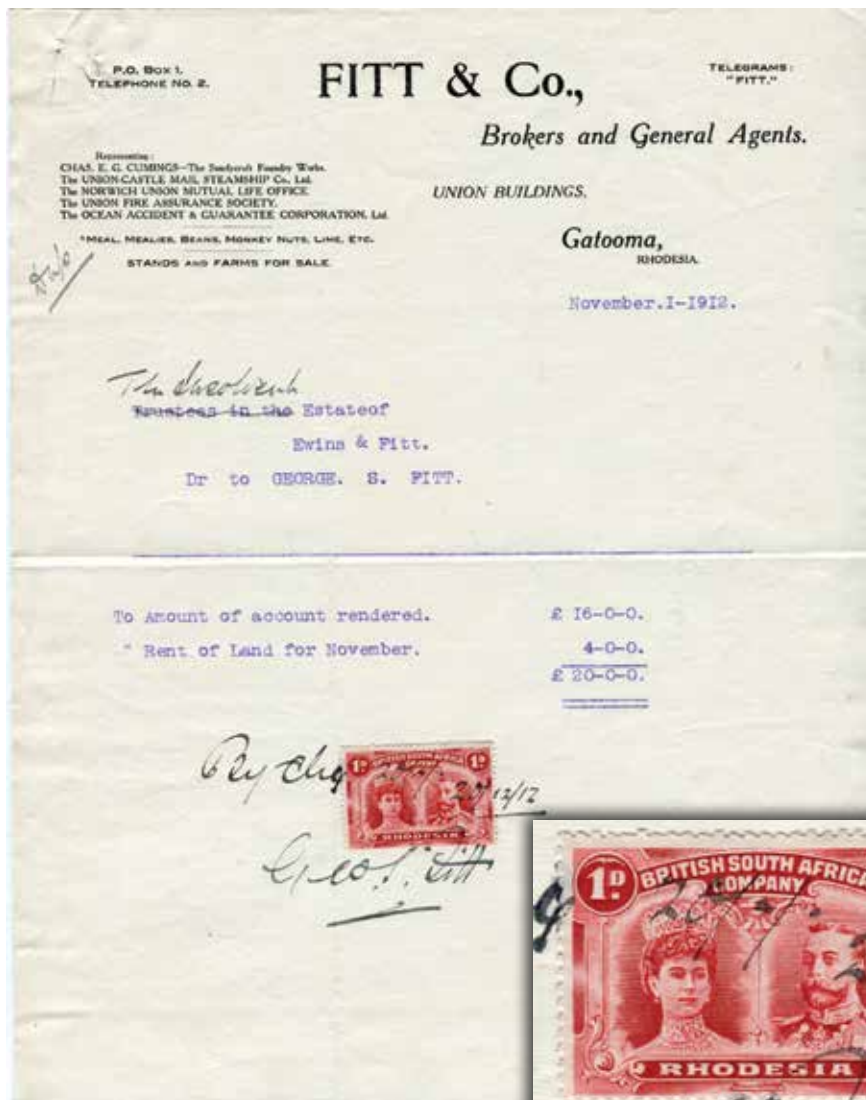


Fig 1:

Fig 2:



Fig 3: (at left) George Fitt, bottom left, with the Salisbury Field Force Officers.

Avondale was the earliest suburb established in Salisbury (1903). The first official European marriage ceremony in Rhodesia took place on the Avondale farm in 1894 when the Count de la Panouse was married to Fanny Pearson (Countess Billie) by Lt Col. Hugh Marshall Hole. Marshall Hole was the Private Secretary to Sir Starr Jameson, the first Administrator of the British South Africa Company in Rhodesia. Countess Billie managed the dairy farm and at the time supplied Salisbury with 100 bottles of milk a day and 100 pounds of butter a week. The statement/invoice is an example of the 'informal apartheid' that existed in early Rhodesia. And one could go on and on. There is something endlessly fascinating about exploring these primary documents and the stamps thereon.



Fig 5: George Fitt as Mayor of Gatooma.



Fig 4: Fitt Bros. & McDonald Stores, Gatooma.

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Avondale Village Management Board,
 Salisbury, MAY 31 1912 191

W. K. Eustace
 Dr. to for *M. Hapies*

Avondale Village Management Board.

To Sanitary Fees for month of <i>June</i>		
..... 1 European Buckets @ 7/6	7	6
..... 1 Native Buckets @ 7/6	7	6
.. Rental of Buckets @ 5d.		10
.. Rubbish Removal for month, @ per month 5/-	5	.
		10
Less 20 per cent.		

All Fees payable in advance.

Complaints as to irregularity of service should be made AT ONCE to the Collectors.

This account must be paid to Messrs. Forbes & Ross at their office Manica Road, Salisbury, P.O. Box 280, or to Mr. Rabinowitz at his Store, Manica Road, Avondale, and is subject to an abatement of 20 per cent. if paid on or before the 10th day of the month to which it refers

Under no circumstances will the statement be allowed unless the fees are paid on or before the day above referred to.

Fig: 6

AFRICAN CURIOS

by Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL, RNCP, George Philatelic Society



In previous episodes of this series of articles on covers that tend to be somewhat out of the ordinary, I chose to illustrate and discuss items from the Americas (June 2019) and Europe (December 2019). Now it is the turn of Africa and I have selected five such covers from my collection of 'Issuing Authorities of the World'. In this part of my collection, the continent was represented by approximately five hundred authorities of which more than fifty were 'on cover'. Certain of these, including such highlights of a 'local' nature as the 'Coleman Provisional' of Natal of 1895 and the Wolmaransstad overprint of 1900 from the Anglo-Boer War have already appeared in articles that I have previously contributed to *The SA Philatelist*. However, from the remainder I have chosen five which might conceivably prove to be of general interest to the readers of the Journal.



Fig 1.

Controlling as it did the western entrance to the Mediterranean, the northern coast of Morocco was of particular interest to those European countries that had trading interests in the East. Predominant amongst these were France, Germany, Spain and Great Britain each of which established and operated postal agencies of their own in the country from the mid-19th Century until well into the 20th Century. From 1886, the British ran such agencies in nine different towns including Tetouan where, between 1886 and 1898, stamps of Gibraltar, already denominated in the Spanish currency, were used for postage. Although Gibraltar itself was to revert to the use of sterling in 1898, it continued to issue stamps in *centimos* and *piasters* for use at all of the British agencies in Morocco. From that date, a number of issues were overprinted with the title 'Morocco Agencies' for, in particular, the franking of parcels and airmail post. Commencing in 1907, certain issues of Great Britain were used throughout the country at either their original face value of shillings and pence or with a surcharge in Spanish *centimos* of which an example is shown in Fig.1 This cover was posted from Tetouan on 26 June, 1935, and gained entry into England via the port of Plymouth in Devon on 4 July. The back flap of the envelope bears the legend "Circulo Recreativo Israelita Tetuan" reminding us that a number of the agencies were under Jewish administration at that time. The northern section of the country bordering largely on the Mediterranean is listed as Spanish Morocco while the southern section was formerly French Morocco.

Further south, a large block of countries and their postage stamps fell, for many years, under the overall title of 'French

West Africa'. This included Mauretania, French Guinea, Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Niger, Senegal and French Sudan. In the absence of a dependable road system, much of the commerce in the territory made use of the River Niger. Gao is the downstream terminus of the river steamers while Mopti, some 320 miles to the west and known as 'The Venice of Mali', is built on three islands at the confluence of the River Niger and the River Bani. The stamps on the cover

of 2 March 1949 and shown in Fig.2 were cancelled at a French post office on a Niger riverboat on the Mopti-Gao section of the river. The cover, which was destined for Bamako, the capital of Mali, has a back-stamp of 9 March indicating that the letter was one week in transit.

Staying in West Africa but a little further South we come

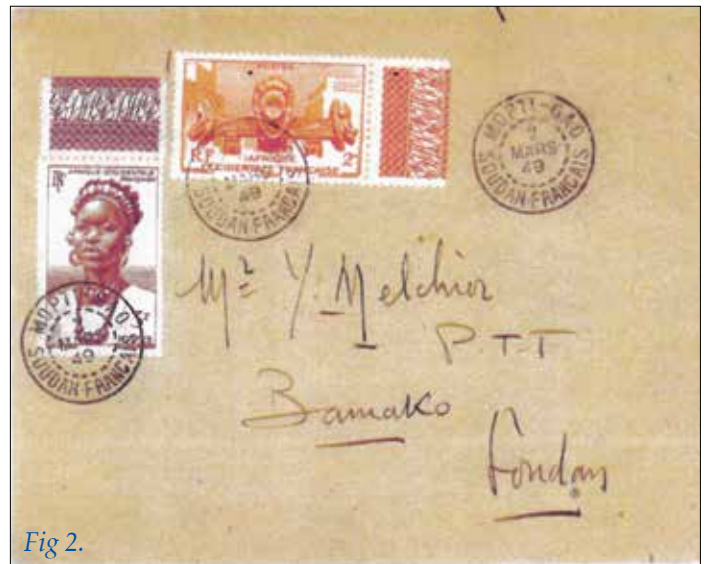


Fig 2.

to Liberia, a territory formerly known as the Grain Coast and which was chosen in 1822 as a refuge for liberated American Negro slaves, an undertaking that was to provide an appropriate name for the new country coming as it did from the Latin adjective *liber* meaning 'free'. Some twenty-five years later it was to become one of only two republics in Africa. Prior to the widespread 20th-Century emancipation of numerous countries on the continent, Ethiopia was, at that time, the only other republic in the whole of Africa. Liberia has the distinction of being one the earliest countries in the

world to issue pictorial stamps. The first set of 1860 featured an allegory of 'Liberty' with a sailing ship in the background and was denominated in the currency of the USA as, apart from 1- and 2-cent pieces, the country had little currency of its own until 1896. A complete set of the six triangular airmail stamps of 1936 is shown in Fig.3 on a cover of the following year which was flown from Monrovia, the capital, to Casablanca in Morocco. It is believed, though, that there was no direct flight to that country and it was therefore necessary for the letter to be routed via Paris, France. However, in spite of the 'roundabout' trip, delivery was achieved in no more than seven days.

On the other side of the continent and, like Liberia, to the north of the Equator, lies the Somali Democratic Republic or, as it is more commonly known, Somalia. The larger, southern part of the country of which the eastern limit was the coastline of the Indian Ocean, fell under the administration of Italy by whom stamps were issued from 1903 until independence was achieved in 1960. From 1874 to 1903, the northern part of the country that bordered the Gulf of Aden fell under the administration of the British Colonial Office and was referred to as British Somaliland. In 1903, control of the country was passed to the British Foreign Office and it became the



Fig 3.

Somaliland Protectorate as shown by the stamps on the cover featured in Fig.4. In 1938, stamps in a typical African design and with the head of King George VI were printed by Waterlow & Sons and were to be reprinted in 1942 showing a different portrait of the King. The face value of this latter set was expressed in the Indian currency of *Annas* and *Rupees* but was surcharged in 1951, as illustrated on the cover of 1952, when the Indian Rupee was replaced by the *East African Shilling* of 100 cents. Unfortunately, the name in the cancellation on this cover is unclear but is, in all probability, that of the coastal town of Berbera from which the flight to Aden on the northern side of the Gulf would have been one of approximately 200 kilometres.

Prior to October 1899, there was little by way of a formal postal service in **Swaziland**. A runner carried mail once a week from Bremersdorp (now Manzini) where Transvaal stamps were affixed for onward delivery. Mail bags were sent

somewhat less frequently to Delagoa Bay and Piet Retief. Legal chaos reigned in the country due to the habit of the Swazi Chief Umbadine of allocating concessions to virtually anybody for anything. In October 1888, he granted the 'Postal Rights' over the entire country to one J.R.Harrington for a consideration of one hundred and twenty pounds!

With the establishment of the Swaziland Condominium in 1889 under which Great Britain and the Transvaal were jointly responsible for the administration of the country, it was the Transvaal that held the Postal Concession. A noted philatelist of the day, Emil Tamsen, addressed a quantity of numbered and registered covers to his address in Waterberg, Transvaal. That shown in Fig.5 was posted at Embekelweni



Fig 4.

on 7 July 1890 and bears the postage stamps of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek to an amount ninepence-halfpenny. The cover has a transit strike of Bremersdorp on the following day and was, apparently, No.8 in Mr.Tamsen's series. Without material of this nature there would, quite possibly, be a limited amount of the Postal History of the period available to philatelists today. The damage at the top of the cover was caused, according to a note in manuscript on the reverse, by an invasion of white ants! Postal services collapsed during the Anglo-Boer War and the country became a British Protectorate in 1902. It was only in 1933 that a set of definitives replaced the stamps of South Africa.



Fig 5.

Pending independence, the country became a Protected State in 1967 and was established as an 'Independent Kingdom' in the following year.



GOLD RUSH, SEA MAIL AND POSTAL AGREEMENTS

by Roger Porter RDPSA, Cape & Natal Study Circle

There are at least 15 covers that have survived which were sent in 1884 and 1885 by sea mail from Sidmouth, England to Natal and addressed to Alan E. Ede at Newcastle, where 14 covers were re-directed to Moodies Reef, Barberton (Table 1).

This correspondence is of outstanding postal history importance because:

- Inward mail to early gold rush diggings is scarce,
- The sea mail contracts from England to Cape Town were shared by two shipping companies under strict compromise agreements,
- The date and port of departure as well as the name of the vessel that would take the mail was inscribed on the front of all 15 covers by the sender.
- The postal convention including the postage rate between the Transvaal and Natal was being re-negotiated between the two governments.
- Using these covers and the dates of the various postmarks, the postal route from Newcastle, Natal to Moodies gold field could be determined.

The discovery of gold at Moodies

Following the gold rush to the De Kaap in the lowveld of the eastern Transvaal, which began in early 1882 conditions deteriorated, due to incidences of malaria and sleeping sickness. These circumstances led to Augusta Robert (better known as French Bob), James Ingram and Jim Murray to cross the valley to higher ground where they prospected for gold on 'Moodie's' estate owned by George P. Moodie. He had surveyed the railway route between Pretoria and Delagoa Bay and in lieu of payment he was granted 13 farms by the Transvaal Government. Subsequently George Moodie was appointed Surveyor-General in the Transvaal (Annhaeusser 2012).

On 3 June 1883 French Bob (Fig.1) found gold on Moodie's estate (on Oorschot & Ameida farms) and named the claim 'Pioneer Reef'. Hordes of diggers converged on Moodies with much frenetic activity as new deposits were located in the area (Annhaeusser 2012). The gold rush to Moodies established the Transvaal as one of the principal gold producers of the world (Bulpin 1965) The finding of gold at Moodies as well as reef gold to the east in creeks leading out of the mountains resulted in the town of Barberton (Fig.2) being proclaimed in June 1884 (named after brothers Fred and Harry Barber and their cousin Graham). The Barberton postal agency was opened on 23 September 1885 (Putzel 1986) and was upgraded to a post office on 1 October 1886. A post office agency was also opened at Moodies on 1 January 1887 (Putzel 1986), a datestamp reading MOODIES GOUDV SEP87 is described by Mathews (1986).

Fig.1: 'French Bob', Augusta Roberts found reef gold on the Moodie Estate, Transvaal in June 1884.



Fig.2. Barberton in the early days. ca. 1885.

This find was of great importance as it was the first payable reef gold found in the mountain land. Its discovery resulted in a new mining process and the application of specialised machinery. The process now used dynamite, coco pans, and water driven crushers in contrast to the age-old alluvial gold panning process.

The following year (1885) Edwin Bray found gold at a place he called the 'Golden Quarry' - this was 'so rich, the rock was encased in gold'. Production amazed the world, shares rose from £1 to £120 each! The 'Golden Quarry' and three other neighbouring claims were later grouped together to form the Sheba Reef Gold Mining Co. which is the oldest working gold mine in the world.

The Sea Mail Contract of October 1883

The Cape sea mail contract had been awarded by the General Post Office, London to the Union Steam Ship Company for many years. However in 1872, when an 8-year contract was again offered to the Union Company, it was challenged by Donald Currie and his supporters. A heated dispute arose and the British House of Commons refused to ratify the proposed contract. This resulted in the previous 1868 to 1876 contract remaining in force (Dickson 2008 & 2010).



Fig.3: 1876 cover from Durban to Scotland endorsed 'Per Messrs Donald Currie & Co.' at the 4d postage rate, marked '2' in red being the 2d accounting fee that accrued to Natal.

The Castle Line, owned by Donald Currie (Fig.6), competed with the Union Co. service to Cape Town from 1873. In March 1875 a coastal service to Port Natal from Cape Town was

provided by Currie; the mail being taken by the *SS Florence*. The postage rate for the Cape and Natal overseas mail was 4d per half ounce (i.e. the Sea Letter rate) compared to the one shilling rate charged in terms of the packet mail contract with the Union Line; thus a saving of 8d. A 2d accounting fee applied to the coastal service between Port Natal and Cape Town (Figs.3 & 4). Currie therefore undercut the Packet rate and bettered the efficiency of the Union service.



Fig.4: 1874 cover from Verulam to the USA (possibly unique) endorsed 'Per Donald Currie Line' at the 6d postage rate routed via Cape Town, London, to New York. With red '2' accounting fee and '2 cents' cachet confirming postage paid from England to USA.

In July 1876 the postage rate for Packet Mail between England and Cape Town was reduced from one shilling to 6d per half ounce. The Cape Post Office then entered into an agreement with the Union Line and the Castle Company in October. Ships departed on Friday and alternated weekly between the two companies, the passage was fixed at 26 days. However the two companies were forbidden to amalgamate but received the whole postage amount (Fig.5).



Fig.5: 1877 cover from Durban to England endorsed 'P[er] Asiatic' (Union Line) at the 6d postage rate and back stamped on arrival. The two shipping companies, Union Line and Castle Line, continued to give effect to the England - Cape mail service from October 1883. However the passage was fixed at 21½ days and if it exceeded 23 days a penalty was imposed. The Natal mails were now being delivered and conveyed more quickly.

Table 1. (at right) List of 15 covers sent from Sidmouth, England to Newcastle, taken by either the Union or Castle packet companies to Cape Town with date of sailing and arrival at Newcastle, Natal.



Fig.6: Sir Donald Currie GCMG



The Currie Cup. 1825-1909.

The first overseas rugby tour to South Africa was in 1891 and Sir Donald Currie gave the gold cup to the British Lions team on instruction that they 'hand this trophy over to the team in South Africa that gives you the best game'. The Lions narrowly won 3-0 against a Griqualand West team who therefore became the first holders of the trophy. It was handed to the South African Rugby Board and thus became a floating trophy. The inaugural Currie Cup tournament was held in 1892 with Western Province the winners. The Currie Cup remains the 'holy grail' of South African domestic rugby.

The 15 covers comprising the Allan Ede correspondence are listed (Table 1.) and cover the period from March 1884 to January 1886. This mail was taken by nine Union Line sailings and six Castle sailings from Plymouth / Dartmouth to Cape Town (Figs.5, 6 & 7). The mail cancelled on 18 July 1884 and 10 December 1885 taken by the Union Line and Castle Line respectively, and a week later (i.e. that of the 25 July 1884 and 18 December) by the Castle Line and Union Line respectively, prove that the sailings alternated weekly between the two companies. It is also clear that the two companies stuck to the sailing schedule as mail was usually received (87%) at Newcastle 31 days after leaving England. The cover carried by the *Hawarden Castle* received at Newcastle on SP 8 84 was redirected to 'Moodies Reef, via Kantoor' i.e. Barberton not named (Fig.8). This place (Kantoor) near the Kaap Valley had such a sinister atmosphere that it was officially named Duivel's Kantoor (office of the devil). In 1882 it was a small town but was later re-named Kaapse Hoop (Bulpin 1965).

SHIP	PACKET Co.	Date left UK	Date @ Newcastle	Transit Date Stamp	No. days UK to N'castle
Trojan	Union	MR 21 84	AP 21 84	na	31
Spartan	Union	JU 20 84	JY 21 84	22 JY 84 (?)	31
Moor	Union	JY 18 84	AU 18 84	na	31
Grantully Castle	Castle	JY 25 84	AU 25 84	na	31
Hawarden Castle	Castle	AU 8 84	SP 8 84	SEP 9 84 (MW Stroom)	31
Pretoria	Union	SP 12 84	OC 16 84	17 OC (Utrecht)	34
Roslin Castle	Castle	OC 3 84	NO 3 84	6 NO 84 (Newcastle)	31
Trojan	Union	FE 13 85	MR 16 85	na	31
Spartan	Union	FE 27 85	MR 30 85	na	31
Norham Castle	Castle	AP 17 85	MY 18 85	na	31
Hawarden Castle	Castle	MY 15 85	11 JU 85	+ 21 JY (Newcastle) + Pretoria?	27
German	Union	JU 19 85	JY 20 85	na	31
Athenian	Union	NO 20 85	DE 21 85	na	31
?	Castle	DE 10 85	JA 11 86	na	32
Tartar	Union	DE 18 85	JA 18 86	na	31



Fig.7: 1884 cover from Sidmouth to Newcastle, Natal at 6d postage rate endorsed 'via Plymouth, Pr Trojan, March 21 1884'. Back stamped Plymouth MR 21, GPO 17 4 84 and Newcastle 21 4 84.



Fig.8: 1884 combination cover from Sidmouth to Newcastle, re-directed to 'Moodies Reef, via Kantoor'. Endorsed via 'Dartmouth, Pr Hawarden Castle, Aug 8, 1884'. With a 4d stamp paying the postage to the Transvaal cancelled Newcastle. Back stamped Dartmouth AU 8 84, G P O 2 9 84, Newcastle 8 9 84, and M. W. Stroom SEP 9 84.



Fig.9: 1885 combination cover from Sidmouth to Newcastle re-directed to 'Moodies, Barberton' at 6d postage rate endorsed 'via Plymouth, Pr German, June 19th 1885', that is taken by the Union Line. With a 4d stamp paying the postage to the Transvaal cancelled Newcastle. Back stamped Plymouth JU 19 85, G P O 17 85 and Newcastle 20 7 85.

Natal - Transvaal Postage Rate

A convention published in Natal Government Notice No. 152 of 30 May 1877 permitted stamps of the Transvaal as payment of postage on mail to and from Natal. The postage rate was reduced from 6d to 4d per half ounce. Following a Postal Convention between the Transvaal and Natal,

a January 1886 government notice gave official (legal) authorisation to the reduction of the postage rate to 2d per half ounce (Fig.10).

Postal route Newcastle to Barberton

Mathews (1986) suggested that the first 12 numeral triple-ring obliterations issued in 1874 by the Transvaal to post offices were linked to the postal routes used at that time. The route from Pretoria (numeral 1) was to Heidelberg (numeral 9), M. W. Stroom (numeral 10) and Utrecht (numeral 11).



Fig.10: 1885 cover from Sidmouth to Newcastle re-directed to 'Moodies, Barberton' at 6d postage rate endorsed 'via Plymouth, Pr Tarter, Dec 18 1885', that is taken, by the Union Line. With pair 1d stamps paying the postage to the Transvaal cancelled Newcastle 18 1. Back stamped Plymouth DE 18 85, and G P O 13 7 86.

The 1879 'Map of the Transvaal and Surrounding Territories' by F. Jeppe confirms this postal route, that is, from Pretoria to Heidelberg (numeral 9), Standersdrift (numeral 20), MW Stroom (numeral 10) and Utrecht (numeral 11), as well as the route from MW Stroom to Newcastle. Before the railway was constructed from Pretoria to Lourenço Marques there was a postal route from Pretoria to Middleburg (numeral 12), Lydenburg (numeral 13), Pilgrim's Rest (numeral 14) and on to Lourenço Marques passing through Duival's Kantoor in the Crocodile River valley to the border with Portuguese East Africa.

Three covers from the Alan Ede correspondence (Table 1) confirm part of this postal route. These are the cover brought by the *Hawarden Castle* cancelled at Newcastle on SP 4 84 and back stamped M.W. Stroom, cover brought by the *Pretoria* cancelled at Newcastle on OC 16 84 and back stamped Utrecht, and the cover brought by the *Hawarden Castle* cancelled at Newcastle on MY 15 85 and back stamped Pretoria. Unfortunately all the covers do not have any further indication of the post offices through which they passed before their arrival at Moodies / Barberton. But it is suggested that from Pretoria they were taken via Lydenburg, Pilgrim's Rest to Duival's Kantoor and finally on a branch route to Barberton.

References:

- Anhaeusser C.R. 2012. *The History of Mining in the Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa, with an Emphasis on Gold* (1868-2012).
- Bulpin T.V. 1965. *Lost Trails of the Transvaal*. Publ. Thomas Nelson & Sons. Johannesburg.

cont...



The American Board Mission at Mt Selinda, Southern Rhodesia

by Sean Burke <seanburke_1@yahoo.com> Rhodesian Study Circle

One of the more interesting aspects of collecting postal history from Rhodesia and Nyasaland (now Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe) is concerned with the various foreign missions that established themselves in Central Africa in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Many of these original missions have evolved and now operate under local authorities.

The first postal agent at Mt Selinda was Dr William Thompson from the mission. In 1893, he and two others established the mission under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Thompson had, in fact, met Cecil Rhodes on the ship to Beira in the then, Portuguese East Africa. Rhodes arranged for the mission to be granted a track of land along the eastern border of Rhodesia.

C.J. Zvobgo, from the Department of History, University of Zimbabwe, writes in 1986, in an article entitled: *Medical Missions: A neglected theme in Zimbabwe's history, 1893-1957.*

The first permanent medical mission staffed by a medical doctor began when Dr W.L. Thompson, a medical missionary of the American Congregational Church, opened a dispensary at Mount Selinda in 1893. A fellow American missionary, of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Dr William T. Lawrence, opened a small hospital at Chikore mission (about 400 km from Mt Selinda) in 1900. The dispensary

at Mount Selinda was gradually expanded until it became a full-fledged hospital — the Willis F. Pierce Memorial Hospital - which was formally opened in 1912.

Today the Mission Station comprises a church, primary school, a secondary school with boarding facilities, a farm, grinding mill and the Willis F. Pierce Memorial

Hospital which is also known as the Mount Selinda Hospital.

Now for a brief taste of the postal history possibilities: these two



items of postal history come from the American Board Mission at Mt Selinda. They reflect the change of postal rate from 2½d rate that applied to the USA up until 1st January, 1922 to the new 3d rate. The first is cancelled MOUNT SELINDA 15 MY / 16, and the second 7 FE / 23.

References continued:

- Dickson J. 2009. *The Union Company's Atlantic Service 1872-1876 Parts 1 to 3. Natal & Zululand Post* Vol. 13 (2-4).
- Dickson J. 2010. *The Union Company's Atlantic Service 1872-1876 Parts 4 to 6. Natal & Zululand Post* Vol. 14 (1-3).
- Mathews I B. 1986. *Transvaal Philately*. Reijer Publishers, Cape Town.
- Putzel R F. 1986. *The Encyclopedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies*. Vols 1-4. Published by Hale & Putzel, Cape Town.

Acknowledgements:

My thanks to Messrs Richard Johnson, Keith Klugman, Alan Macgregor and Chris Rainey for the information from covers in their possession as given in Table 1.



The South African VIRTUAL Philatelic Exhibition

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Bloemfontein 22 – 23 August 2020

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Protea Definitive Series: The 'Flying Saucer' Flaw

by Dr Vic Sorour,
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The 'Flying Saucer' flaw is one of the most obvious flaws in SA philately, which is easily visible to the naked eye. It is one of the most interesting and intriguing flaws and it played an important role in understanding what happened in the printing of the Protea Series.



Fig.1: The 'Flying Saucer' flaw on the 1c and 3c stamps.

The 'Flying Saucer' flaw occurs on the three cent and the one cent stamps of the Protea Series. It is a large ovoid blob of colour on the top margin. It looks like a spaceship on the horizon. The colour of the flaw is the same as the colour of 'RSA'. This is an important observation and its relevance will become obvious later. The flaw is constant and occurs on stamp R9/4 of every B pane.

This leads to the first question: How can the same flaw occur on two different stamps? The only way this can happen is if there is a common cylinder. (The same cylinder is used to print both values). Cylinder 722 is the common cylinder.

However, having answered this question, three more problems became obvious and required an answer.

The First Problem

Nine values were printed by photogravure, the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c, 15c and 20c. Cylinder 722 was the common cylinder in all these values and printed 'RSA', BUT, only the 3c and the 1c values have the 'Flying Saucer' flaw. One would expect all the values printed by Cylinder 722 to have the 'Flying Saucer' flaw. However, none of the other seven values printed by Cylinder 722 have this flaw.

The Second Problem

The three cent value was found with and without the 'Flying Saucer' flaw. (Figs.2 & 3). Comparison of the two sheets shows that:

- The date (10.08.76) is the same.
- The suffix (-0) is the same.
- Cylinder numbers are the same.
- The fly-speck varieties are the same.
- The only difference is the absence of the 'Flying Saucer.'

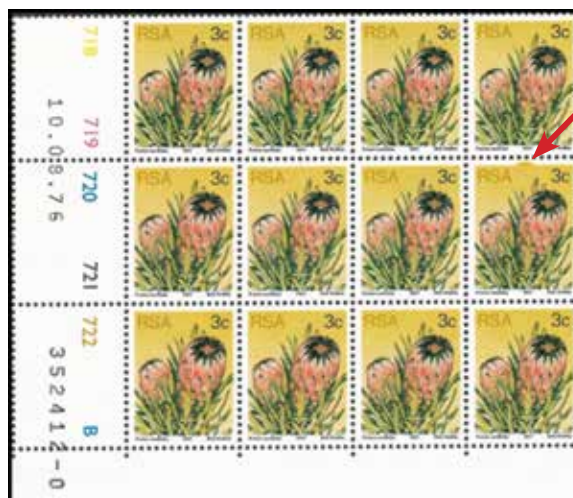


Fig.2. The bottom left corner of the sheet showing the 'Flying Saucer' flaw.

The Third Problem

The 'Flying Saucer' flaw on the 1c stamp remained. It remained for a further three years until October 1980.



Fig.3. The bottom left corner of the sheet without the 'Flying Saucer' flaw.

The Explanation

To understand what happened, we must know the chronological sequence of the Protea Series.

- The Third Definitive Series was released in May 1977.
- Printing occurred before this date to be ready for sale in May 1977.
- The first two values printed were the 3c and the 1c stamps.
- These are the only two values that have the Flying Saucer flaw.

It is easy to suggest that the cylinders were cleaned or repaired to get rid of the flaw.

This would explain the seven missing 'Flying Saucers' and the missing flaw on some 3c stamps, but this does not explain how the flaw persisted for another 3 years on the 1c stamp.

The first step to unravelling these mysteries was the realisation that the MAP (Marginal Bars, the Arrows and the Pane Letter) was BLUE in the sheets with the flaw and GREEN in the sheets without the flaw (Fig.4).

Where does the green come from?

When blue is combined with ochre, the result is a green colour. This can best be seen in Fig. 5, the top right corner of the B pane where there is a large defect in the outer marginal bar in the second row. The marginal bars are blue but the defect is white, the colour of the paper.

In the sheets without the flaw, the marginal bars are green, but the defect is ochre proving that the green



Fig.4: The Marginal Bars and the Arrows are BLUE on the sheets with the flaw and GREEN on the sheets without the flaw.

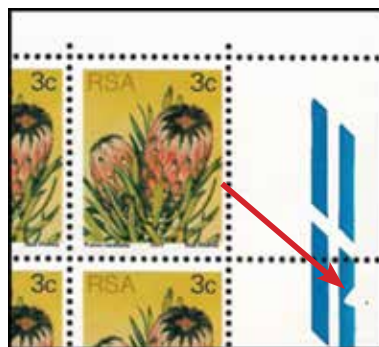
colour is the result of the superimposition of blue and ochre.

If the super-imposition of the two cylinders is not perfect, double or treble colours result (Fig.6). The two primary colours, ochre and blue are on the outer edges of the MAP and green is in the centre.

Fig.5: The defect in the outer marginal bar in right selvedge, row 2, pane B.

What happened?

In the sheets with the BLUE MAP (the sheets with the 'Flying Saucer' flaw) Cylinder 720 prints the MAP in blue and Cylinder 722 prints 'RSA' in ochre.



Sheets without the flaw



Sheets with the flaw

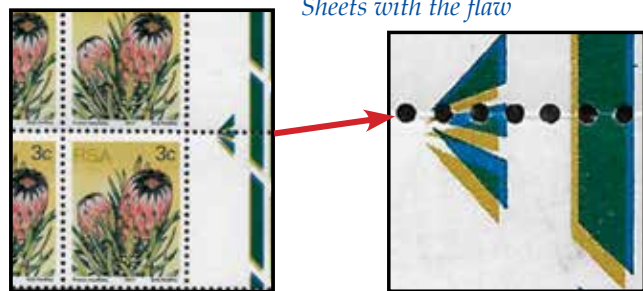


Fig.6: If the two cylinders are not in perfect alignment, two or three colours result.

The sheets with the GREEN MAP appear to be identical to the above. The information printed on the cylinder blocks is the same. The date of printing (10 August 1976); the suffix (-0) and the cylinder numbers (719, 720, 721 and 722) are identical, but these sheets have a green MAP and no 'Flying Saucer' flaw. We have learnt not to trust the information printed on the cylinder blocks (Ref.2).

In fact, this is what happened: Cylinder 722 was changed or modified on several occasions, but Philatelic Services and the Government Printers did not change its number. To simplify matters, I have named these new cylinders, Cylinder 722 States 1 - 4.

Cylinder 722 (State 1) printed the three cent and the one cent stamps. A new cylinder, Cylinder 722 (State 2) was used to print the two cent stamp on 30 September 1976 and the fifteen cent stamp on 3 November 1976.

The next five values to be printed (5c, 20c, 4c, 8c and 10c) were printed with yet another 'new' Cylinder 722 (State 3)

The final Cylinder 722 (State 4) was used to print a new issue of the three cent stamp on 6 April 1977. The information on the cylinder blocks did not change, the date and the suffix remained 10 August 1976 and (-0) respectively. These are the sheets with the GREEN MAP and no 'Flying Saucer' flaw.

How was Cylinder 722 modified?

Cylinder 722 was modified to print the Marginal Bars, the Arrows and the Pane Letter (MAP) as well as 'RSA'.

Why was Cylinder 722 modified?

There are four common features on every Protea stamp printed by photogravure, 'RSA', the Marginal Bars, the Arrows and the Pane Letter. In the first two values printed, two cylinders were used to print the above. The printers then realised that they would have to make a separate cylinder for each value to print the MAP as well. How much easier to use a common cylinder. They already had a common cylinder, so why not modify it to print the MAP.

Of course, they also realised that there was a major flaw on the original Cylinder 722 (The 'Flying Saucer' flaw) and that this would be a good opportunity to eliminate the flaw.

Answer to the First Problem

The first two values to be printed (3c and 1c) were printed by Cylinder 722 State 1 and have the 'Flying Saucer' Flaw. The other seven values were printed by Cylinder 722 States 2 - 4 which did not have the flaw

Answer to the Second Problem

Sheets with the flaw and those without the flaw were printed by two different cylinders, Cylinder 722 State 1 and Cylinder 722 State 4 even though their cylinder blocks contain identical information.

Answer to the Third Problem

The 'Flying Saucer' flaw remained on the one cent stamp until 21 October 1980 when the second issue appeared. Cylinder 722 State 4 was used to print Issue 2 and thus there is no flaw. According to information published in *The SA Philatelist* (Ref.3) five hundred and seventy-one thousand sheets of Issue 1 were printed and delivered to Philatelic Services. Only ninety thousand sheets of Issue 2 were printed and delivered. The three cent and later the four and five cent stamps were used for standard postage and large numbers were printed and used. The demand for the one cent was not so great. There were adequate stocks of Issue 1 to last until 1980 when a new supply was ordered, Cylinder 722 State 4 was used to print with the disappearance of the 'Flying Saucer'.

References

1. Sorour V. *Proteas. Third Definitive Series*. The Concise Edition. 2018.
2. Sorour V. *The SA Philatelist* Feb 2020 . p26/7.
3. *The SA Philatelist*. Nov 1978 p296 SA Postage Stamps Information.

Note: The suffix, after the sheet number, '-0' indicates the first or original printing. The suffix on the second printing would be '-1' and so on.

VISIT the website www.sapa.africa There is a complete society listing with information about meetings, chair-persons and other contacts. It needs to be maintained by the society, who could easily include advertising space on the same page or places to upload auction catalogues and other relative news.

Study Groups

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Monthly meeting, 2nd Wednesday, in the auditorium of the Bellville Library, Charl van Aswegen Rd, Bellville. Meetings start at 19h00 to 21h00 and consist of club cup competitions, workshops and fun evenings with specific themes. Members from other societies are regularly invited. *Chairperson:* Werner Barnard; Email: wernerb@axxess.co.za *Secretary:* Reanie de Villiers; 082 567 0353; Email: philately@netpoint.co.za *Website:* <http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com> Contact the Secretary for further Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 8.00pm at the Athenaeum, Camp Ground Road, Newlands. Visitors are always welcome. Email: royalphilct@gmail.com *President:* Jan Hofmeyr 021 7901811 *Secretary:* Victor Millard 0828028882 or 021 6714613



Website: <https://www.rpsct.org/>

STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Meeting – 1st Tuesday of the month at 19:00. *Plek:* Biblioteek, La Clémence at treeoord, Webers-valleiweg /Road, Stellenbosch. Ons hou uitstallings, ontvang gassprekers, ervaar praatjies/ demonstrasies, monthly newsletters with news on local philatelic activities, Show, Tell and Ask sessions covering all aspects of the hobby of stamp collecting. Besoekers altyd welkom. Visitors always welcome. Join us. Kom saam of kontak stellenboschstamp@gmail.com



PAARLSE FILATELISTE

Sedert 1951

Die Paarlse Filatelite vergader elke maand op die tweede Donderdag van die maand om 19h00. *Filatelite, seëlversamelaars en besoekers is baie welkom. Vergaderings is baie informeel en daar word lekker gekuier en daar is altyd iets te leer (en te ete). Vir meer inligting oor die program en vergaderplek kontak gerus vir:* Gawie Hugo; 083 956 2410 gawiehugo@gmail.com of Riaan Crafford; 082 876 7608 n/u craffies@telkomsa.net



GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Society meets every 2nd Thursday of the month, in the Minor Hall, Presbyterian Church, 8 Caledon St. *President:* Nick Zerbst 0836255804, *Secretary:* Rob Sinclair-Black 044 8746337. Email: robrita@mweb.co.za

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the 'Deep South' of the Cape Peninsula. Circa 20 – 30 members and often a few guests gather once a month. FHPS reaches a wider audience on the internet since launching their website. Please have a look and maybe get ideas or inspiration for your own society. *The society meets every first Tuesday* at 19h30 at Civic Centre, Minor Hall, Recreation Road, Fish Hoek. *President:* Dave Young, Email: davesueyoung@gmail.com *Secretary:* Volker Janssen.



Website: www.fhps.infoFHPS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The society meets monthly at 19:00 on first non-holiday Monday at the Bible Society House, 31 Cotswold Ave, Cotswold. For more information contact either *President* Francois Friend, 082 554 8900, francois@softchem.co.za; or *Vice president*, David Brown 041 360 4025; or *Secretary / Treasurer* Rodney Maclachlan 072 619 5409.



Hosts of the ALGOAPEX 2020 National Stamp Exhibition, Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society (PEPS).

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909 EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Heritage Room, 1st Floor, Berea Gardens 70 Jarvis Road, Berea. **Meetings** : Every 4th Thursday of the month. Time: 19h30



President : David Preston 082 7742090. Email: prestee@telkomsa.net *Secretary:* Carlos Da Fonseca 082 334 7603.

CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE-ISRAEL PHILATELY Meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 20h00, excluding Jewish & Public holidays. Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef <akatzef@mweb.co.za> +27 (21) 4615134 *President* of CASPIP.

ZIMBABWE - BULAWAYO

Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe meets the second Saturday of each month (Except December) - 2:00pm for 2:30pm. at the National Natural History Museum, Park Road, Suburbs, Bulawayo. email: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com

*PLEASE NOTE:

BACK ISSUES of *The SA Philatelist* are limited. Requests for any issue should be made in writing to P.O. Box 131600, Benornyn, 1504 An electronic PDF file may be requested should a printed copy of the journal not be available. VISIT www.sapa.africa

QSA auctions - Kyalami Country Club, Midrand, 09h30 to 13h30.

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

Meetings in the Captain's Table at Woodmead Johannesburg - last Wednesday of each month at 20h00 (except December).

TBVC STUDY GROUP

Contact: *Chairperson:* Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com *Secretary:* Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com

Meeting 1st Saturday of the month at 09:00am for 09:15am at the Greek Orthodox Church Pretoria Stamp Fair. Corner Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Hillcrest, Pretoria - right opposite the entrance to the University of Pretoria.

Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, cor Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Pretoria, 09h00 to 14h00).

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Kontak: djhome606@gmail.com Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publiseer 'n gereelde maandelikse nuusbrieff. Jan de Jong: 079 190 1066.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

This society has amalgamated with the EDENVALE Society. See details on page 70.

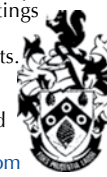
RHODESIAN STAMP STUDY

The Rhodesian Study Circle holds regular member meetings and events across the world. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information on meetings, visit <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/engage/meetings> or Contact the Secretary, Brian Zlotnick. Email bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk or postal address 10 Fortis Green Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 9NA. UK.

The SA representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Meetings: Last Wednesday each month (except December) at 19h30. Activities Hall of Pinelands Library, Howard Centre, Western Cape. Caters for all interested in stamp collecting, from beginner to more experienced philatelists. Programmes for meetings include displays, talks by visiting speakers and 'Show & Tell' exhibits. An Exchange circuit and auctions from time to time. Visitors always welcome! *Contact:* Marilyn Crawford at 021689 5050. Email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall, c/o Postma & Saint Andrews Streets, 9am - 12:30pm. Public parking & entrance - St Andrews Street. All welcome, free entrance and parking. Refreshments available. Large contingent of dealers in attendance to sell, buy, evaluate and advise on all aspects of philately, including stamps, envelopes, covers, postcards, correspondences, postal history, revenues, documents & non-fiction books of a historical nature, plus coins, banknotes & medals, etc. **Stamp Fair dates for 2020:** 1 Feb, 7 March, 4 April, 9 May (2nd Saturday), 6 June, 18 July (3rd Saturday), 1 August, 5 Sept, 3 Oct, 7 Nov, 5 Dec. Auctions continue to be at Bergsig DRC Hall. *Contact:* Ken Joseph ken@philatelicfriends.com

Postage Due Mail Study Group

For more details, look at their website: <http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/> *Contact:* Bob Medland, Secretary & Treasurer of the Postage Due Mail Study Group, email: secretary.pdmsg@gmail.com



Venue: Country Club Johannesburg, Napier St, Auckland Park. For info contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA 082 722 7604.

Dates for Society Meetings 2020 always on a Wednesday at 20h00

- 8 April 2020 - First Competitive Evening
- 13 May 2020 - Visit by Pretoria PS
- 10 June 2020 - One-Frame Evening
- 8 July 2020 - Roads Less Travelled
- 12 August 2020 - Grand Challenge Match

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

For 2020 the meetings - Bishops at Woodmead. The second meeting of each month, except December, is held on the last Wednesday of the month. This is effectively a study group.

EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets first Saturday, monthly at Thornhill Manor Retirement Village Hall, Modderfontein at 1pm. Meetings consist of club competitions, workshops, themed events and many other fun activities. Membership is varied and mainly consists of general stamp collectors. Light refreshments are served. All are welcome - from the novice to more advanced collectors. Our Facebook page allows club activities to continue 24/7; search for Edenvale Philatelic Society. All welcome. Contact: Colin Bousfield 082 309 8656

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Now meeting at the Games Room, Country Life Retirement Village, corner Main/ Stanley Rd, Brentwood Park, 13h15 last Saturday each month. Exhibits, talks and workshops by members and invited guests. Items of interest, quiz, general networking.



Refreshments and safe parking. President: Jimmy Mitchell; jimmy.hcmitchell@gmail.com Secretary: Paul Hammerton. hampaul@ananzi.co.za

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr, Tel: 011 789 6357 Meetings: 19h30, Third Wednesday of the month, at Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane, Blairgowrie. P O Box 131037, Bryanston 2021, South Africa.

2020 meeting programme

- 15 Apr : Anything relating in any way to letters 'O &/or P'
- 29 Apr : 5th Wednesday - Theme to be decided
- 20 May : British Commonwealth
- 17 Jun : Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
- 15 Jul : Foreign, the art of philately & philately as art
- 29 Jul : 5th Wed, Society auction
- 19 Aug : Southern Africa

WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets 3rd Wednesday monthly at 19h30 at Panorama Sports Grounds, Cornelius St, Weltevreden Park. PO Box 198 Florida Hills 1716. Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374. Chairman or Secretary Ian Walker. Tel: 011 4721161. email: ianwalker@vodamail.co.za

OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Society meets every 4th Friday monthly, (except December), at 19h15 at the museum of the Boer Republics in Memorium Road, Bloemfontein. President: Dr Neil Cronjé and Vice president: Garry Osthoff email: OsthoffG@ufs.ac.za

SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the first Monday monthly (Feb to Dec) Venue: Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane (off Susman Avenue), Blairgowrie. Time: 7:30 for 8:00 PM. The society has an active exchange packet circuit and members with a wide range of philatelic interests. Visitors are welcome. For further information contact: Chris Carey 083 6622150 / 011 6732229 / ccarey@icon.co.za

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the first Monday evening monthly at 19:30 at Statech Centre, St. Albans College, 110 Clearwater Street, Lynwood Glen. Monthly newsletter, active exchange section and loads of expertise on traditional philately and postmarks. Day meeting: Thursday, after first Monday of the month, 9.30 am at Philatelic Services, Pretoria. Stamp displays, talks and socialising. President: André du Plessis. andreupfs@gmail.com 083 399 1755. Secretary: Alex Visser. alex.visser@up.ac.za Box 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter is Petra Heath en Sekretaris is Herman van Niekerk. Kontak: arnot@telkomsa.net

THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Meeting 1st Saturday monthly at the Greek Orthodox Church Pretoria Stamp Fair @ 10:00 for 10:15. Vibrant & active group of attendees - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. Group Leader: Helena Snyman Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za

DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING

Tweede Maandag van elke maand om 7nm Posbus10647, Danabaai, 6510. St Peter's Kerksaal, Marsh Straat, Mosselbaai. Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering: November.



President: Japie de Vos 082 767 5004 / 044 695 0705 epos: sanjari@mweb.co.za Sekretaris: Gerrie Conradie 082 952 6700 Tel / Faks 044 698 1074. epos: gajcon@gmail.com

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings are held at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban at 10h00 on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Contacts:

- President: Zbigniew Kawecki, 082 968 6888
- Treasurer: Jeroen Wentink, 082 33 97 588
- Secretary: Harald Deg, 084 464 7171

Association email : KZNPhilately@holistic.cc 'Stamp Exhibitions' with a theme of what to do and what not to do to achieve success... 'All are welcome'



HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN

HPS, Durban, meets at the German Club, 7 Barnham Rd, off Essex Terrace, Westville. 09h00 - 11h30 every third Saturday of the month.

Open invitation to other Philatelic Societies and interested visitors - from beginners to seasoned collectors. Youth encouraged to attend. 'Theme' Exhibits & 'Show-and-tell' Frames by Members, Instructive talks and general networking. Free entrance. Teas/coffees available. Safe parking. German Restaurant open for lunch. The Society encourages past and new visitors to join us and get involved in this wonderful social hobby of Kings.

President: Leigh Hen-Boisen, leigh.hb@gmail.com Secretary: Bronwen Edwards, edwards@worldonline.co.za Membership: Bev Chittenden, bev@natalaircon.co.za or Barry Livsey, livsey@netsolutions.co.za



Established in 1924

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VENUES:

- All meetings now take place at St Mathews Parish Hall, 115 Hesketh Drive, Pietermaritzburg
 - All meetings are held on the same day i.e. the THIRD MONDAY of every month
 - 14h00 Executive Committee Meeting
 - 15h00 (i) Thematic Group and (ii) Traditional Philately Group
 - 16h00 Ordinary Stamp Club/Society Meeting
1. Secretary: Aubrey Bowles 082 316 3308, 033 239 2136 36 Amberfield, Private Bag X010, Howick 3290 E-mail:s:<burncree21@telkomsa.net> <aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com>
2. President: Dave Wyllie (all contact details unchanged)
3. There is one committee member change: Gordon Bennett is no longer Stamp Circuit Book Officer. He has been replaced by Russell Bowton
- Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles. ☺

SMALLS

Wanted: Student, a young lady - R.Ashwini, in Grade 9, interest in collecting stamps; nature, animals & art. R.Ashwini. 5/2 South Avenue, Srinagar Colony, Saidapet, Chennai 600015, India. mail to:<Srividhya_vs@infosys.com>

Wanted: Vintage postcards of old Pietermaritzburg. Please contact Mike O'Connor dumbuzaac@gmail.com advising availability (preferably a scan) and asking price.

Swap: Australian / SA new or old stamps. My grandfather had a great South African collection and I have a lot of the older stamps as I was born and lived in SA for ten years. Toni Phillips <tonijean3@hotmail.com>

Beginner: thematic - sci-fi & fantasy, cartoons, comics, space. Pavel Tregubenko. Spasskaya street, 4 bld., 476 off. 143401, Russian Federation, Krasnogorsk, Russia. ptregubenko@gmail.com

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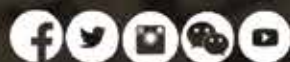
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The South African Philatelist

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THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 96:3. 960

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The Frontier Wars: An entire posted from Cape Town to England on 21 November 1851 arriving per 'Royal Mail Steamer Harbinger'. Very rare letter referring to the 8th Frontier War



CAPE TOWN 2021
International Philatelic Exhibition
with Former President Kgalema Motlanthe
as Patron of the Exhibition



We Welcome the World to Cape Town



In 1798 Edward Jenner inoculated patients,
he called this process 'vaccination'



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The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
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REGULARS

- 76 & 90 Letters to the Editorial Board
- 76 Closing dates for future issues
- 79 Phun with Postmarks
- 81 The 'ABC' of Stamps
- 82 New Stamp Issues
- 82 Errors on Stamps
- 102 Society news

FEATURES

- 77 Meeting With The Minister by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 78 Obituaries: Coen Slagt RDPSA, Joh Groenewald RDPSA
- 83 The Frontier Wars in the Eastern Cape Region with focus on the Seventh and Eighth Frontier Wars - by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA and Col Sipho Majombozi
- 88 A Postie Remembers - by Dr Alan Rose
- 90 The First Coronavirus Stamp - by Denise McCarty
- 91 An Airgraph from Bulawayo - by Andrew Briscoe
- 92 Two Interesting Covers - by Nicholas Arrow
- 94 Georges and Marguerite Reutter - by Sean Burke
- 96 Corona Post Office - by Johan Joubert
- 97 Asian Curios - by Chris Mobsby RDPSA
- 99 The Anti - Vaccination Movement of the Victorian Era - by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith
- 101 A Bit More Than Postal History - by Dr J.R. Frank RDPSA

ADVERTISERS

- 74 SAPDA
- 93 John & Mark Taylor
- 103 A BIG SHOUT-OUT 'THANK YOU' TO ALL OUR ADVERTISING SUPPORTERS
- 104 Spink

Awards:

- o Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- o Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
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THE EDITORIAL BOARD

- Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
- Maira Bleazard: bleazard@telkomsa.net
- Robin Messenger: messenger.robin@gmail.com
- Janice Botes Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za
- David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
- Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL: molens@pixie.co.za

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

- Alex Visser : alex.visser@up.ac.za
- Michael Wigmore RDPSA: dcrocker@lando.co.za
- Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL: mobsbychris8@gmail.com
- Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA: kamffer@netactive.co.za

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER of the PFSA

- André du Plessis: andredupfs@gmail.com
- Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

- Janice Botes: janice@gdb.co.za
- Tel: +27 (0) 11 454 5940

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CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC LOCKDOWN AFFECTS DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAP PRINTED COPIES

For the April 2020 SAP issue, the PDF copy was uploaded to our website on 27 March and all subscribers for 'hard' and 'soft' copy were advised by email of its availability. The printed copies franked for South African distribution were delivered to the SA Post Office at Boksburg on Monday 23 March 2020 and on the same day the copies for outside RSA destinations were taken to the Northmead Square Post Office for franking by airmail, but that Post Office refused to accept the sending based on instructions from Pretoria Head Office that Airmail services were being suspended from that day. Although under the lockdown it was said that some Post Offices would remain open, it appears that was only for the payment of Social Grants but not for postal business. As at 4 May 2020, there has been no feedback that any of the 'local' postings have been delivered, and the 'outside RSA destination' printed copies remain with me still to be posted when airmail postal services are resumed.

As for the arrangements for the June 2020 issue of the SAP, that will be placed on our website by 29 May and all subscribers will be advised accordingly. Hard copies, where required, will be mailed as soon as the South African Post Office resumes its services. We regret the inconvenience to 'hard copy' subscribers and hope that in the meantime they may wish to look at that issue on our website. As for the SAP issue for August 2020 and onwards, we hope that the 'lockdown' will be history and that normal postal services will be reinstated, but there are no guarantees ...

Peter van der Molen,
Chairman of the SAP Committee



Correspondence to THE SA PHILATELIST should be addressed to the Editorial Board. Material received is most welcome and will be reviewed. Articles, letters and items of interest may be published and stand the chance of being rewarded with a STAEDTLER writing gift.

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PLEASE NOTE:

Annual subscription & circulation;

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For SADC countries; the subscription is R700.00 per year.

For International; Overseas R1,000.00 per year. These prices all include postage via airmail.

The 2020 rates are available on the PFSA official website www.sapa.africa

Enquiries regarding subscriptions and membership can be addressed to the COO, André du Plessis at andredupfs@gmail.co.za Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

Publication; *The South African Philatelist*. This journal is published by **The Philatelic Federation of South Africa**.

Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, PO Box 131600, Benornyn, 1504. South Africa or email: janice@gdb.co.za

Advertising:

Rates available from the Advertising Manager, Box 131600, Benornyn, 1504 or email the Production Editor:

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PRAISE INDEED FROM AUSTRALIA

In the *APF News* of December 2019, the Australian Commissioner, David Benson published this report following his visit to South Africa:

"The East Rand 100 Stamp Exhibition was held in Benoni, which is about 40kms east of Johannesburg.

The Exhibition celebrated the Centenary of the founding of the East Rand Society and was held from 4 to 7 September 2019.

There were 379 competitive frames and many invited displays from members.

The standard of the exhibits was excellent with many attaining high awards.

The quality and variation of the invited displays was of world standard. Judging was conducted over two days and was in the most part amicable under the leadership of the Jury President Emil Bührmann.



The lighting in the exhibition hall was most probably the best I have ever seen at any Philatelic Exhibition especially with the addition of small floodlights focusing on the displays.

To avoid late delivery, please note; Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist*. ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

- **August** 2020 - Volume. 96 : 4. 961. **7th July**
- **October** 2020 - Volume. 96 : 5. 962. **8th September**
- **December** 2020 - Volume. 96 : 6. 963. **10th November**

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION CAPE TOWN 2021

Former President Kgalema Motlanthe as the Patron of the Cape Town 2021 International Stamp Exhibition, facilitated a meeting with the Minister of Communications, Telecommunications and Postal Services, Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams and members of the exhibition Organising Committee, in Parliament on the 27 February 2020.

The purpose of the meeting was to familiarise the Minister with the planning of this international event. Pres Motlanthe indicated to the Minister that as Patron, he would like to secure the support of the Minister for this important exhibition.

Gerhard Kamffer explained that the theme of the exhibition is 'The Road to Democracy in South Africa up to 1994'; a theme that is based on his 'Open Class' collection where he displays a balanced selection of philatelic and non-philatelic material, related to the struggle against apartheid.

This collection will be displayed in the Court of Honour during the exhibition in Cape Town. This theme was selected with the aim of generating interest for the exhibition amongst all South Africans.

The Chairman of the Organising Committee, Emil Bührmann, added that it was selected with the aim to expose more South Africans to their cultural heritage through the exhibition by means of relevant philatelic items that will be on display. He also indicated that the organisers are planning to transport school children from underprivileged communities in the Cape Town area to attend the exhibition.

It was mentioned that this is an event supported by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP). Bührmann also mentioned that the Organising Committee could not do this on their own and would like to partner with the Ministry, especially the Post Office, to make a success of this event. He thanked the Minister for hosting the meeting notwithstanding her busy schedule.

Sipho Majombozi and Siphwe Ngwenya emphasised the importance of integrated planning with the Department for such a high-level event. A meeting had already been held with the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS), at their Hatfield offices. The DTPS team had identified and mapped out the exhibition's stakeholders of the event that included the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), and the Departments of Tourism and Basic Education, among others, and had advised the Organising Committee that the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services will play the role of lead department and should also be involved in the planning.



From left to right: *Siphwe Ngwenya, Sipho Majombozi, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams - Minister of Communications, Telecommunications and Postal Services, Past-President Kgalema Motlanthe, Jannie Hofmeyr (standing), Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA and Emil Bührmann RDPSA.*

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams responded positively by saying that it is an honour for her to host former President Motlanthe as the Patron in her office and that she will give her full support and that of her Department to make a success of this event. She also instructed that officials from the Post Office must be involved in the planning. The Minister wished to see an injection of a Fourth Industrial Revolution element into the exhibition and for participating school children to be drawn from a wider geographic area. It was also decided that quarterly feedback will be given to the Ministry on progress being made.

In a word of conclusion, Former President Motlanthe shared advice on how the participation of schoolchildren could be made fun and yet educational, by documenting the efforts of all those taking part in the stamp design competition in a coffee table book. He recalled an experience he had with street renaming in the North West town of Klerksdorp (Tlokwe) where such an approach generated a lot of excitement among participating schools.

He thanked the Minister, the DTPS team and the Organising Committee and wished them success in the planning and execution of this enterprising event.

by Gerhard Kamffer and Sipho Majombozi



Website: www.capetown2021.org

COEN SLAGT RDPSA
5 June 1947 - 1 May 2020

Coen Slagt's great passion in life was stamps. He became South Africa's youngest full time dealer at age 21, having received guidance from his father, Jan Slagt, a senior collector in the dynamic Pretoria collecting environment when the South African economy was strong. Coen purchased the Arcade Stamp Shop in February 1968, neatly located in an arcade between Market and Commissioner Streets (close to Rissik St). He shared this quality retail space with other dealers, such as John Robertson.



In March 1975 he relocated to new premises - Shop No 5 Old Arcade, 100 Market Street. It's clear, therefore, that Coen had managed to get the key business fundamentals right, namely 'position, position and position'. It didn't end there; in co-operation with the popular Pretoria dealer, Glen Carpendale, he set out to study, compile and publish catalogues, which listed both simplified & specialised RSA issues.

This was an important factor in raising and maintaining interest and trust in local issues of the 1960/80s, the peak of South Africa's collecting era. When the stamp market's centre of gravity moved eastwards following several decades of East Rand industrial growth, Coen acquired new premises: Shop 10, 47 Van Riebeeck St, Edenvale. This was in an arcade alongside *De Bakery*, the 'gesellige' Dutch Windmill restaurant and deli ... a home away from home. Such a pleasant place to visit!

Well before this time, Coen was serving on, and chaired, the SA Philatelic Dealers Association's Management Committee (SAPDA), helping to build a structure to which collectors could refer, in cases of difference with dealer members; a key reason why he was made an Honorary Member a few years ago. Coen also assisted the Philatelic Federation, receiving in 2013 their Federation Plaque for Exceptional Service over a long period of time. He also served and chaired the Philatelic Foundation and in doing so, popularised First Day Covers, the income from which, forms part of the Foundation's presently strong capital base. He was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists as long ago as 1990, being the youngest person to do so. Coen's broad range of knowledge also meant that he was much sought after as a Judge at competitive exhibitions and, because he was a dealer, he was always keen to share the evaluation details with an exhibitor.

This photograph here reflects the Coen we'll remember, a sociable young-in-spirit man, professionally framed by the adapted 1st stamp of the Union. As collectors, we will miss his ability to procure important stamp specimens for our collections, hard-bargained for in a relaxed ambience. Of course, the impact of his loss will primarily fall on his wife Brenda, daughters Eleanor, Ingrid and Karen, and their families. Our thoughts are with them all and we hope to join with them after 'lockdown', in their 'Life Celebration Service' to commemorate Coen's life.



PaulVZ ☺

JOHANNES (Joh) GROENEWALD RDPSA / RUFSA
6 November 1939 - 23 April 2020



Elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa (RDPSA) in 1980, and later, in 1992, he became the first Honorary Deputy Life President of the South African Philatelic Federation (PFSA). Joh also held the office of Editor of *The South African Philatelist* from 1978 to 1989 and was, for some years, Chairman of the Management Committee of PFSA. He was also President of PFSA in 1998.

Joh Groenewald se belangstelling in seëls het op 12 jarige ouderdom begin toe hy as 'n Std. 6 leerling by die SATISE- en SADIPU uitstalling in 1952 seëls gekoop het om op gedenkkoeverte te plak.

Hy het in 1953 aan die Posmeester-generaal geskryf en voorbarig gevra dat Suid-Afrika nuwe seëls moet kry, wat diere afbeeld, want daar is so 'n verskeidenheid wilde diere in die Krugerwildtuin. 'n Mooi briefie het teruggekom, en anderhalf jaar later het die Dierereeks verskyn. Hierna is sy belangstelling weer geprikkel deur 'n straatplakkaat van die ZAR 100-uitstalling in 1969 in Oxfordweg, Johannesburg. Hier het 'n gewone ZAR-seël gestempel 'Colesberg' en gebruik tydens die Anglo-Boereoorlog (1899-1902) in een van die uitstallings sy aandag getrek. Dit het gelei tot sy bekende versameling oor die Anglo-Boereoorlog (1899-1902).

Joh het twee keer mededingend uitgestal. Die versameling '*Vryheidsoorlog: Boerepos*' is albei kere bekroon met die Grand Prix. Die versameling wentel om die pos wat deur die posdienste van die twee Republieke gehanteer is tydens die Anglo-Boereoorlog van 1899-1902. By die eerste nasionale seëluitstalling waar hy mededingend uitgestal het in Paarl 75 het hy as 'n 35-jarige versamelaar 'n opskudding versoorsoak deur 'n driekuns te behaal: hy ontvang die Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society in Engeland se trofee, die Posmeester-Generaal Skild vir die beste Suid-Afrikaanse uitstalling en hy deel die Staatspresidentstrofee (Grand Prix) met die 68-jarige kommandeur C.E.D. Enoch RDPSA, FRPSL. Sy goue medalje Boereoorlog-versameling is in 1983 deur bemiddeling van Gencor gekoop en is gehuisves in die Oorlogsmuseum van die Boererepublieke in Bloemfontein.

Agt boeke oor die plaaslike uitgawes of 'dorpseëls' van die Boereoorlog het uit Joh en van sy mede-outeurs se pen verskyn oa: *Die Pietersburg-seëls van die Anglo-Boereoorlog*, *The Pseudo-Siege of Schweizer-Reneke*, *The legacy of Lydenburg* and *The Wherewithal of Wolmaranstad*.

Joh Groenewald het 'n reuse rol in die sake van die Filateliese Federasie van Suid-Afrika gespeel en op verskeie komitees gedien die afgelope 50 jaar soos bv. die kongres se toekenningskomitee en die nuwe uitgawe skakelkomitee van die Poskantoor. Vir sy aandeel in die vernuwing van die tydskrif het hy in 1972 tydens die nasionale seëluitstalling in Salisbury die Skinner-beker van die Federasie ontvang. Hy het hom deur sy loopbaan daarvoor bewyter om Afrikaans as taal in filatelie te bevorder.

Afgesien van lidmaatskap van plaaslike en spesialisgroepe, was Joh 25 jaar lid van die Franse koloniale filatelievereniging. Gedeeltes van sy studie oor Madagaskar tydens die Tweede Wêreldoorlog (1939-45) is die afgelope jare by dié vereniging in Parys vertoon, en by spesialisgroepe in Engeland.

Met die afsterwe van Joh Groenewald op 23 April 2020 het Suid-Afrikaanse filatelie 'n besonderse filatelist en seëlvriend verloor wat diep spore in die filatelie wêreld in Suid-Afrika getrap het. Ons innige meegevoel aan sy lewensmaat Muriel, sy seun Evert en kleindogter Katja, en aan sy broer, suster, familie en vriende.

GK ☺

Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



Catch-up Column

I have had an encouraging response to this column, and in this issue I wish to share the contributions. A special word of thanks to these ardent supporters.

How did airports communicate in the 1920s?

Richard Oliver sent me this fascinating article about his research on the Kimberley Aeradio... "In the late 1920s and early 1930s communication between airports was difficult as many of them did not have radio stations. Kimberley was one such airport which did not have a radio connection. Many aircraft of the time also did not have radios and had to rely on information, such as weather conditions, received at airports before departure. This also applied for aircraft that would land at night.

Correspondence between the Kimberley Airport meteorological officer, Kimberley Postmaster, and the Secretary of Civil Aviation at Roberts Heights, show that the main concern was the communication between the airport and aircraft. This meant that the aerodrome at Victoria West, used as a stopover for refuelling for flights from Cape Town, had to be phoned or telegraphed, and any messages given to aircraft when they landed.

Messages to Kimberley were sent by telegram to the Kimberley Post Office which then contacted airport authorities. Correspondence between the Airport Manager and the Secretary of Civil Aviation on file states that problems occurred when the Post Office was closed after hours and at weekends.

This is clearly shown when, on 12 July 1932, a plane on its way to Cape Town, had to be warned of weather conditions en-route. Telegrams had to be sent from Maitland, Hex River, Tulbagh, Piquetberg and Beaufort West and from the Kimberley Post Office to Victoria West for handing over to the plane on arrival.

This lack of radio communication lasted for some while, and after much correspondence between the relevant authorities an aeradio station was opened in Kimberley in 1935/36 in time for the first South African Airways flight from the Rand to Cape Town, using a Junkers JU 52 aircraft, *Jan van Riebeeck*.

Most telegram forms seen have the Kimberley Post Office cancellation, but it seems as if the Aeradio Station, once established, had its own canceller, as shown in Fig.1. This must have been seldom used as the example shown, dated 21 Feb 1937, is the only one I have seen. This telegram notification must have been received by this station as it is addressed to the airport manager, Kimberley. In it he is asked to check the condition of the runway, which was still gravel-covered, as an aircraft had got bogged down in the mud prior to take-off after a storm. Unfortunately, no names of the pilots are shown on the message form. Runways were only tarred in the 1940s."

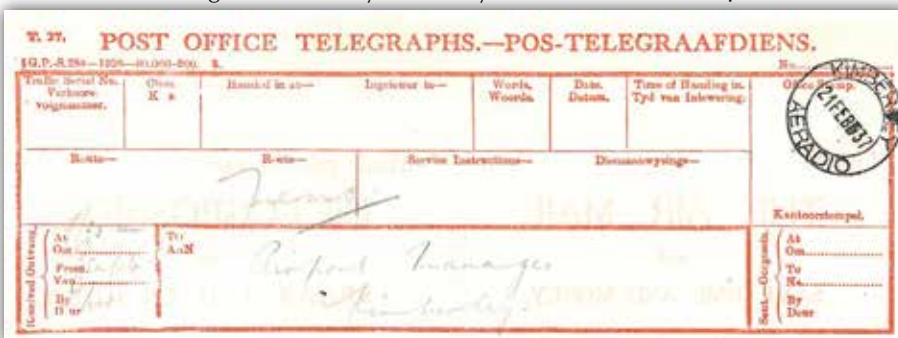


Fig.1: Telegram received at Kimberley Aeradio.

Scouting through my archive I found Maitland Aeradio which is one of the stations on Richard's list. We have recorded a date stamp of 1 JAN E20, shown in Fig.2. So Cape Town had an early advantage. This means that when the first flight from England arrived in CT (*van Ryneveld* landed in Pretoria in early March 1920) they could communicate with the ground. Other airfields had Air or Airport cancellers, but these were for handling normal mail. Have we missed any other Aeradio stations?

Fig.2: 1920 Maitland Aeradio date stamp.



Revenue protection, part 2.

In the April 2020 issue I presented a Revenue Protection cachet used in 2019. I came across another cachet, shown as Fig.3, used in 2009. The only date stamps were for Pretoria/Tshwane, and since there was no return address it is not possible to identify the office where it was used. The one envelope was a B5 size and the other one a B4, and both only had a single standard mail stamp, clearly insufficient. There was no evidence that the shortfall was paid.



Fig.3: 2009 Revenue protection cachet.

Feedback on Louws or Lows Creek

Peter Cooke sent me an interesting extract of Hans Bornman's book *Historical Lowveld across the Ages*, dealing with Low's Creek, as well as permission to quote from the book which is acknowledged with thanks. Low's Creek, a tributary of the Kaap River, was named after the Scottish geologist David Ireland Low (1838 - 1886). Note the name is without 'e' as previously used. He discovered the gold bearing reef 5 km south-west of Low's Creek, on the farm Lilydale 324JU. He founded the Lily Mine (again in news because of a recent mining accident) and named it after his youngest daughter Lily. Bornman, with the assistance of Brian Simmons, David Low's great-grandson, applied to the National Place Names Committee for the name Louw's Creek to be corrected and on 23 June 1991 the Deputy Minister of National Education approved the name Low's Creek, in place of Louw's Creek, for the village, post office (postal code 1302), railway station, police station, and the creek. This was duly Gazetted. The name of the farm Louw's Creek 271 JU was not changed. The outstanding question is whether the post office is still operational.

Mail processing Non Conforming Product (NCP) Code

In the April 2020 column I presented examples of NCP cachets used in various centres. I asked for help with the codes for all centres. Talita Fourie, Curator of the SAPO Museum sent me the listing as shown in Table 1. Although the instruction to the Mail Centres/Hubs had been to make rubber stamps, they may not be in use at many centres. Only documenting usage will we be able to determine where the cachets were used. Your help is again requested. continue...

Table 1. Mail processing NCP codes.

Region	Mail Centre Hub	NCP NO:
Wits	Germiston	NCP NO: 01
Wits	Krugersdorp	NCP NO: 02
Wits	Vanderbijlpark	NCP NO: 03
Wits	Witspos	NCP NO: 04
Northern Region	Nelspruit	NCP NO: 05
Northern Region	Pietersburg	NCP NO: 06
Northern Region	Tshwane	NCP NO: 07
Central Provinces	Bloemfontein	NCP NO: 08
Central Provinces	Kimberley	NCP NO: 09
Central Provinces	Mafikeng	NCP NO: 10
Central Provinces	Potchefstroom	NCP NO: 11
Central Provinces	Upington	NCP NO: 12
Central Provinces	Welkom	NCP NO: 13
Kwa Zulu Natal	Durmail	NCP NO: 14
Kwa Zulu Natal	Ladysmith	NCP NO: 15
Kwa Zulu Natal	Pietermaritzburg	NCP NO: 16
Kwa Zulu Natal	Port Shepstone	NCP NO: 17
Kwa Zulu Natal	Richards Bay	NCP NO: 18
Eastern Cape	East London	NCP NO: 19
Eastern Cape	Mthatha	NCP NO: 20
Eastern Cape	Port Elizabeth	NCP NO: 21
Western Cape	Beaufort West	NCP NO: 22
Western Cape	Capemail	NCP NO: 23
Western Cape	George	NCP NO: 24
Western Cape	Worcester	NCP NO: 25

Postal Training Schools part 3

In the June 2018 and August 2019 issues of *SAP* I started the discussion about the Training Schools. We discovered that in the Cape Province there were schools at Riversdale and Oudtshoorn. I came across a Queenstown date stamp with L at the base, shown in Fig.4 (it is hand drawn, *Postmark and Postal History Society* Vol 14). Seen used 21.7.1959 to 25.7.1959. It appears as if most of the bigger towns had a training facility, and this will remain a challenge as we do not know whether the date stamps were consistently used on mail.



Fig.4: 1959 Queenstown Learner date stamp.

Dit is indrukwekkend hoeveel kennis seëlfersamelaars besit, en wanneer al die stukkies van die legkaart bymekaar gesit word vertel dit baie stories. In hierdie rubriek het ons 'n beskrywing van vroeë kommunikasie tussen die grond en vliegtuie d.m.v. die AERADIO. Dan kry ons nog meer insig oor Lows creek, die gebruik van nog 'n kasjet in 2009 vir die verhalings van onderbetaalde poststukke, 'n volledige lys van NCP volgnommers, en laastens die ontdekking van nog 'n poskool, in Queenstown. Is daar miskien van ons senior vriende wat nog inligting oor die poskole kan onthou?

THE END OF THE WAR

The Second World War in Europe officially came to an end in the early morning of 7 May 1945, when Germany signed a document of unconditional surrender. Public celebrations to mark the end of the war began spontaneously in many places as soon as people heard the news.

ROYAL MAIL REVEALS IMAGES OF NEW STAMPS TO MARK 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

The stamp issue reflects on the end of the war both in Europe and in the Far East and the Pacific, with three concepts: Celebration; Return; and Remembrance.



Eight stamps depict scenes of celebration by service personnel and civilians when news of the conflict's end was announced, and the subsequent return of personnel from overseas and children who were evacuated.

Originally shot in black and white, all eight images have been brought to life in colour for the first time by colourist, Royston Leonard.

Four additional stamps presented in a Miniature Sheet show memorials built to remember and honour the fallen and victims of the Holocaust.

Royal Mail worked with experts and curators from: Imperial War Museums (IWM); the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; the National Maritime Museum; and the Association of Wrens.

The stamps and a range of collectible products are available at www.royalmail.com/endofsecondworldwar. A full set of all 12 stamps, available in a Presentation Pack, retails at £14.60.

The stamps went on general sale from 8 May.



While war in Europe was over, Japan had yet to be defeated. It was not until 14 August 1945 that Japan also accepted unconditional surrender. A two-day national holiday began with VJ Day on 15 August.

The following experts were also consulted: Professor Richard Overy of Exeter University; and military historian, Iain Ballantyne. Philip Parker, of Royal Mail said: "Our new stamps capture how the end of the War was greeted and the resulting return of service personnel after nearly six long years of conflict. We also pay tribute to those who never returned, and the victims of the Holocaust."

The ABC of stamps

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



FISCAL STAMPS

In life, so the idiom goes, the only certainties are death and taxes. This cynical proverb refers to the inevitability of death in order to highlight the difficulty of avoiding taxes. The phrase first appeared in Daniel Defoe's 1726 work *The Political History of the Devil*.

Fiscal stamps, aka revenue, tax or duty stamps, are used to record the payment of tax, duty or fees rather than the payment for the delivery of mail. Revenue stamps often look very similar to postage stamps but can also be found in a variety of shapes and sizes. Fiscal stamps existed long before the arrival of the Penny Black in 1840. In the UK a tax on wallpaper was introduced in 1712 and a hat tax in 1884. When the tax was paid it was recorded by a stamp embossed on the item. Yet it has only been in recent years that fiscal stamps have been accepted by collectors.

The stamp is applied to a document (or object) to validate that transaction (Fig.1).



Fig.4: Revenue stamps used to pay domestic postage on this 24 July 1986 Guyana letter from Mabaruma to Georgetown.

Their validity is indicated by the billing inscription POSTAGE and REVENUE in the design.



Fig.1: Certificate of registration with a 5/- revenue stamp.

Revenue stamps on documents are cancelled either by manuscript (Fig.2) or with a rubber stamp or both (Fig.3).

Fig.2: A revenue stamp cancelled by pen with a person's initials and the date 30 April 1951. (at right)



Fig.3: A revenue stamp cancelled with a rubber stamp.



There have been occasions when revenue stamps have been used to pay for postage when there has been a shortage of postage stamps (Fig.4). Although this is technically an improper usage, Guyana's economic crisis required the Post Office to resort to using revenue stamps to pay for postage.

Some postage stamps are also valid for the payment of revenue and taxes. An example is shown in Fig.5, which could be applied to receipts as well as pay for postage.



Fig.5: South African 1c definitive with the words 'Postage/Revenue' to indicate the dual usage of the stamp. Of the 13 stamps in the 1961 definitive series, only the 1/2c and 1c values had a dual purpose.

Fiscal stamps have been used to collect a wide variety of taxes and duties, such as on alcohol, financial transactions, receipts, cheques, customs duty, assize, entertainment and stock fees. Thus, apart from providing proof that the tax has been paid, it also guarantees the item is genuine and has legal status. In the case of cigarette packs and bottles of wine, the tax stamp also acts as an anti-tampering device by being placed over the opening (Fig.6).



Fig.6: Cigarette tax stamp of 3½d which, because of its shape, can wrap around the pack acting as a security seal.

Tax stamps became progressively less common in the later half of the 20th Century, with the exception of tobacco and alcohol. This makes them a highly collectable item. Today's tax stamps incorporate numerous security devices akin to those used on bank notes. They are also likely to incorporate a code or number that enables the item to be tracked so that enforcement officers, manufacturers and distributors can determine the origin and destination of the products (Fig.7).



Fig.7: Tax stamp for Kenyan alcohol products showing various security features.



NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUES 2020 - Part II

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

12 March 2020 – SA BIRDS SERIES: WOODPECKERS

Denominations: 5 x International Small Letter (R10.70, or R11.60, from 1 April 2020)

Designer: Tobie Beele, featuring the following birds in order:

1. Bearded Woodpecker – *Dendropicos namaquus*;
2. Ground Woodpecker – *Geocolaptes olivaceus*;
3. Cardinal Woodpecker – *Dendropicos fuscesens*;
4. Olive Woodpecker – *Dendropicos griseocephalus*;
5. Knysna Woodpecker – *Campethera notata*.

The Latin names shown above are those appearing on the stamps. The reason for this comment is that the names differ from those appearing in *WHAT'S NEWS*

Printer: Cartor Security Print, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 29 x 38mm

Sheetlet size: 195 x 141mm, comprising five different designs in two rows of five

Quantity: 30,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8601 (cyan), 8602 (magenta), 8603 (yellow) and 8604 (black)

Paper: 247gsm self-adhesive stamp paper

Gum: Self-adhesive

Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 6mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through left, right and bottom sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: 4mm wide 'L' shape on left and bottom margins of each stamp

Printing sheet size: Not yet seen

First Day Cover: No. 8.122 of standard size

(190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.119 – 'KNYSNA' / '12-03-2020'

Acknowledgement:

The above information was collated from SAPO's Philatelic e-mail newsletter *WHAT'S NEWS*, dated March 2020, Newsletters of the RSA Stamp Study Group, produced by Jan de Jong and personal observations.



CANCELLERS

In my *New Issue* article in the April 2020 edition of *The South African Philatelist* (pages 46/47), information on the cancellers for the four issues featured was incomplete. These cancellers are illustrated below. It should be noted that the SASSA issue also celebrated World Post Day.



World Post Day: SASSA
Canceller 8.122



15 January 2020
Stars and Constellations of
the Southern Skies
Canceller 8.124



New President 2019
Canceller 8.123



Poets of Words and Sound
Canceller 8.120



SA Birds Series: Woodpeckers
Canceller 8.119

Comic Corner

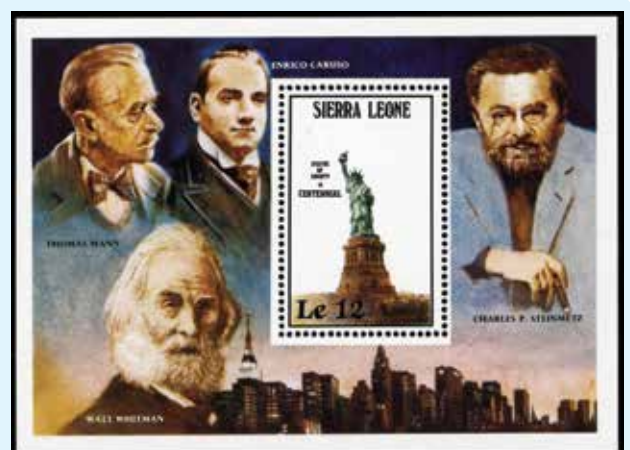
Stamps that make you SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek PS & the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town
Episode 58 Errors on Stamps...

'ONLY THREE ARE IMMIGRANTS'

In 1986 the postal administration of SIERRA LEONE issued a miniature sheet for the 100th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty in New York City, surrounded by four famous U.S. immigrants and the old skyline of Manhattan.

This is correct for the German author Thomas Mann, the Italian opera singer Enrico Caruso and the Polish electrical engineer Charles Steinmetz, while Walt Whitman was born in Huntington, N.Y. in 1819 and died in New York 1892 as the most famous American poet of the 19th Century.



THE FRONTIER WARS IN THE EASTERN CAPE REGION WITH FOCUS ON THE SEVENTH (1846 - 1847) AND EIGHTH FRONTIER WARS (1850 - 1853)

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA and Col Siphon Majombozi¹ Pretoria Philatelic Society



For several decades after 1775 the Zuurveld, a coastal stretch of 150km between the Fish and the Sundays Rivers in the Eastern Cape, was a zone of fierce contests. Both the Xhosa and the Boers were cattle-farming societies competing for land and pasture resources on the frontier. Soon after the British government had taken over the Cape in 1795 they were drawn into the frontier conflicts. From a philatelic point of view this provides postal historians with an opportunity to find covers and letters written by British soldiers, stationed in the Cape and deployed on the eastern frontier, back home to the United Kingdom.

¹Since 1923, in *The SA Philatelist*, we celebrate our first black author - Siphon Majombozi, who was born in King Williams Town, Cape Province. In his matric year he was expelled from Healdtown High School near Fort Beaufort and went to complete high school in Port Elizabeth. He studied science at the University of Fort Hare where, as a student leader, he was expelled for being involved in politics, before completing the B.Sc. degree. When his life was in danger for political activities he fled to exile under the auspices of the ANC.

He taught mathematics and science in Lesotho and Tanzania, and has several degrees in education. He spent 14 years in exile in Lesotho, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia and Australia. He is an accomplished businessman, and a director of companies.

He loves science and literature, and is an enthusiast of history and heritage. He chairs the Funding Committee of the National Heritage Council. He is also currently involved in supporting the Organising Committee for the Cape Town 2021 International Stamp Exhibition to liaise with Government about their support for the exhibition.



These photos were taken at different events with the 'Road to Democracy' book launches at the Presidential Guest House. At left, Siphon Majombozi with the late Pik Botha and at right, with former President Thabo Mbeki and Pik Botha

Background

Invariably these conflicts were triggered by internal power struggles within Xhosa and Boer societies respectively. In an attempt to gain control over the border-region the Government erected forts on the frontier. The British had hoped not to become embroiled in a frontier conflict but they were soon drawn in. From 1779 onwards, the so-called Frontier Wars between the Xhosas and the Boers erupted. The lack of land, together with a sense of pervasive insecurity gave rise to large numbers of farmers trekking out of the country in a movement that would become known as the Great Trek (Fig.1).

From the late 1700s, Boer and Xhosa were locked in an intense but inconclusive struggle for control of the rich grazing-lands of the Eastern Cape. They could no longer rely on the forces of the Cape Government for their protection and the Commando or a citizen militia was introduced in 1715 as an extension of the Cape's military. They were commanded by respected local figures who held the office of veld-kornet and whose area of responsibility was called a veldcornetcy (Fig.2).

The British temporarily occupied the Cape between 1795 and 1803 and although they were determined not to cede it again after reoccupation in 1806, the Cape's status as a proper British Colony was only finalised in 1814 (Fig.3). But in 1811, five years after they had



Fig.1: Map of British Kaffraria 1847-1853 in the Eastern Cape. Arrow indicating the Waterkloof area where the campaign during the Eighth Frontier War took place. (Source: Timothy Stapleton, Maqoma, Xhosa Resistance to Colonial Advance, p. 142)



Fig.2: Entire dated 1 February 1826 posted by Fieldcornet Haupt with the scarce Paarl Crown-in-Circle stamp and addressed to the 'Landdrost van Stellenbosch D.J. van Reyneveld'. Fieldcornet Haupt was a 'veldkornet' in the local Commando.

occupied the Cape for the second time, the British introduced a new factor into the frontier struggle: military intervention on the side of the settlers. It was the beginning of the end of Xhosa independence and the start of more tension between 'Black and White' over land in South Africa.

In 1834 - 35 fighting erupted again, and for the first time the war encroached on the territory of the Gcaleka Xhosa in the former Transkei, whose paramount chief, Hintsu, was shot while in British custody.

After the failure of several treaties, war broke out again, in 1846 over a trivial incident, and the Xhosa were defeated once more in a bitter struggle. After this war the British Government annexed the old neutral territory as the Crown Colony of British Kaffraria (Fig.4). After the deposition of the Xhosa paramount chief, Sandile, in 1851, this territory was reserved, apart from the British military outposts, for occupation by Africans. Simmering resentment in British Kaffraria however, resulted in the eighth and most costly of the wars. Once again the Xhosa resistance was immensely strengthened by the participation of Khoisan tribesmen, who rebelled at their settlement of Kat River. By 1853 the Xhosa had been defeated, and the territory to the north of British Kaffraria was annexed to the Cape Colony and opened to white settlement.

The Seventh Frontier War or the War of the Axe (1846-1847)

The war of 1846-47 was the seventh of the nine Frontier Wars against the Xhosas in the Cape Colony. Tsili, arrested for stealing an axe, was rescued by his friends, but a Khoikhoi prisoner to whom he was manacled was killed during the rescue. This was the pretext for the war, but the roots of the conflict were to be found in the many unresolved issues from the sixth frontier war of 1834-35. Although Sir Benjamin D'Urban's annexation of Queen Adelaide Province had been rescinded by Lord Glenelg, a new system of treaties had been imposed on the Xhosa chiefs. Their divided and limited authority could not however always control desperate people who had lost cattle and land to the whites. With increasing impoverishment, any drought only served to exacerbate the situation. The harsh treatment and killing of Hintsu in 1835 was symptomatic of the attitude of many British military and government officials. Most of them were of the opinion that 'uncivilized' people like the Xhosa could best be controlled by harsh, high-handed actions.

The Tsili incident was used as the excuse for launching a war on the Xhosa. Victory was not as easy as had been expected. Rain quickly bogged down the British wagons and the Xhosa burned all the grass for the oxen and horses; as a result the British attack stalled.

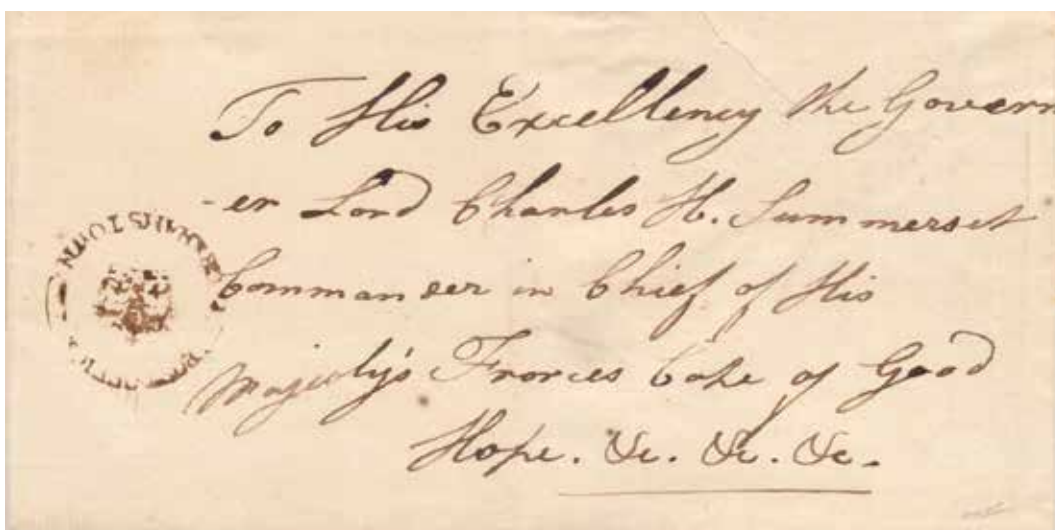


Fig.3: Entire posted from Grahamstown and addressed to 'Lord Charles Somerset Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces, Cape of Good Hope'. Grahamstown was established as a military outpost in 1812. It is possible that this entire was posted between 1819 to 1826. Lord Somerset was Governor of the Cape from 1814 to 1826. Note the early usage of the Grahamstown 30mm Crown-in-Circle handstamp.



Fig.4: Wrapper posted circa 1850 and dated from the pencil note '10/10/50' and annotated 'Post Paid 4d' and bearing at the upper left a bold Hankey octagonal '58' hand stamp. This London Missionary Society letter was addressed 'Care of Rev Laing, Alice Town Victoria' and 'F.G.G. Kayser, Knapps Hope, British Kaffraria'.

The Khoikhoi troops were mutinous because of low pay and low morale and the colonial whites were reluctant to participate. Moreover, the Xhosa had learned to avoid pitched battles. Adopting guerrilla tactics of hit and fading away into the bush country, ensured that the Xhosa had many successes in the early fighting.

Nevertheless, just when they appeared closer to military victory than ever before, many Xhosa chiefs sued for peace. The Xhosa were starving; far from wanting war as the hawkish party among the whites had claimed, the failure of the crops the year before had left them desperately needing peace. Some chiefs adopted a passive stance and refused to fight. They did not admit defeat, but simply attempted to return to normal life. Others eluded British attempts to capture them and continued the fight for about 18 months. However, the systematic destruction of houses, crops and food by British forces eventually made further Xhosa resistance impossible (Fig.5).

Chief Maqoma

Chief Maqoma was the pre-eminent general of the Xhosa armed forces against colonial settlements for 30 years. He holds the record in history of waging the longest resistance against colonialism, at 55 years. During the struggle between British and Xhosa forces the British changed military commanders 22 times while Maqoma retained command of the Xhosa forces during all that time. He invented the guerilla warfare that was used by the Afrikaners against the English in the Anglo-Boer War. He fought his last wars with guns and not with spears - guns he had stolen. (Source: Themba Ngada, publisher of *Maqoma The Legend of a Great Xhosa Warrior* by Timothy J Stapleton).

In his book Stapleton contends that Chief Maqoma (Fig.6) was the most renowned leader of South Africa's Cape-Xhosa Wars and arguably one of the greatest leaders of the 19th Century. Colonial officials and three generations of historians indicated that he was an erratic and volatile ruler. Both oral traditions, and colonial and missionary documents



Fig.5: Folded entire written from 'George den 23 Mei 1846' from Roelof van der Merwe a member of Worcester Commando, who served in the Seventh Frontier War in 1846. The letter was written about two hours distance from George while travelling with other troops by ox-wagon to the frontier.

Later he was imprisoned on Robben Island for 12 years by the British. He was paroled in 1869 and when he attempted to resettle on his stolen land he was banished back to the infamous island where he died in 1873 under mysterious circumstances.

Of all the nineteenth-century African rulers that resisted European expansion in South Africa, Maqoma was the most successful. Maqoma's military reputation largely rests on the second Waterkloof campaign against the British Forces during the Eighth Frontier War.

The Eighth Frontier War: The Waterkloof Campaign, October-November 1851

The Eighth Frontier War started on the night of 24 December 1850 when Harry Smith, Governor of the Cape and Supreme Military Commander, sent his troops into steep, mountainous country covered with dense bush and forest. This was two days after the summer solstice in a latitude between 32 and 33 degrees South, with temperature on that day billed to hit 45 Centigrade. A year later, a watershed instalment of the War, known as the Second Waterkloof Campaign was to play out.

David Saks in an article about the Second Waterkloof Campaign, October – November 1851 pointed out that the Eighth Frontier War was played out in a wide array of theatres, from the dense jungles of the Fish River area, to the Amatola Mountains, along the line of garrisoned frontier forts, Fort Armstrong and Fort Cox amongst them, in the Alice - Keiskammahok - Fort Beaufort triangle and northwards across the Kei. On one memorable occasion, Fort Beaufort actually came under all-out attack and was the scene of chaotic street fighting (Fig.7). The



Fig.6: Chief Maqoma, the most renowned Xhosa chief of South Africa's 19th-century frontier wars in the Eastern Cape. (Source: Timothy Stapleton, *Maqoma, Xhosa Resistance to Colonial Advance*).

theatre of operations, however, that has most captured the imagination of historians is that of the Waterkloof - stronghold of the legendary Xhosa chieftain, Maqoma, and scene of some of the war's bitterest campaigning.

It was in the Waterkloof gorge, in a gigantic overhanging cave of a type that proliferates in the area, that Maqoma had his headquarters. In due course it would be named 'Mount Misery' by the troops who fought in or near there.



Fig.7: Wrapper to Cape Town from Fort Beaufort with oval postmark in black dated 19 July 1865 and an interesting seal of the London and South African Bank which amalgamated with the Standard Bank in 1877. Fort Beaufort was established in 1822 by Lt Col H. Maurice Scott to keep check on the marauding Xhosa tribes and was named after the father of the governor, Lord Charles Somerset, who was the Duke of Beaufort. The town itself was laid out in 1837.

The best known of the Waterkloof campaigns, on which Maqoma's military reputation largely (although certainly not exclusively) rests, took place shortly after the Kroomie debacle, from 12 October until 10 November 1851. Governor Harry Smith, recognising that the war could not be won until the Waterkloof was decisively cleared, committed a considerable part of his available forces to that theatre.

On 6 November a catastrophe occurred that was probably decisive in Lord Charles Somerset's decision to call off the operation. That day began with the most concentrated British offensive yet, the plan being for four divisions to make a simultaneous attack from different directions and to converge on Mount Misery. Somerset, with as many mounted troops as he could muster, was to ascend the Waterkloof while divisions of infantry and levies moved in from the Fuller's Hoek and Kroomie directions. Fordyce, with the 74th, 91st Regiments, two guns and Mfengu, was to advance from the north, across the plateau.

It was on Fordyce's division that the brunt of the day's fighting fell. With his men 'skirmishing in every direction around him ... charging and hurrahing', Fordyce shouted to the straying company to keep to the left, but his voice was drowned in the din of battle. He rushed down the small hillock on which he had been standing and, from an exposed position, waved his cap. It was then that a Khoi marksman shot him through the chest, the ball passing right through him. Within half an hour, he was dead. He was the most senior British officer to have lost his life during the nine Frontier Wars.

The men, presumably from the straying No.2 Company, had succeeded in dislodging the enemy, but at a heavy cost. Lieutenant Carey was shot dead, and Sergeant Diamond and a number of other rank and file killed or wounded. The light company, 74th, coming up as reinforcements, also suffered severely - one man was killed and another mortally wounded by a single bullet fired at point-blank range - before the arrival

of Somerset's men helped turn the tide. Two more guns were brought into the action and two companies of the 12th took over the position won at so high a cost by the 74th. In addition to their popular Colonel, the 74th lost ten other men killed or mortally wounded, with a number of others seriously wounded. Sacks pointed out that by Frontier War standards, these were heavy casualties, and certainly the loss of Fordyce was a crushing blow. There was some more skirmishing on 7 November, but very little on the two succeeding days. On 10 November, the campaign was finally broken off and the various regiments were dispersed to other parts of the country.

Part of the extract below is captured in a letter written on 21 November 1851 by a British soldier who served in the Second Waterkloof Campaign from October-November 1851 during the Eight Frontier War against Xhosa Chief Maqoma:

"The ...War is as usual no susceptible of a decline... every Englishmen must feel disgusted... Lt Col Fordyce and three officers were killed and nineteen men shot from behind...and the Col picked off from a tree by one of the Rebel Hottentots - it will require 5,000 more men to squash this war." (Fig.8).



Fig.8: Entire posted from Cape Town to England and written on 21 November 1851, arriving per 'Royal Mail Steamer Harbinger'. 'General Post Office Cape Town' markings with arrival mark 'Bradford Ja 8 1852' with reverse showing SHIP LETTER and transit code in red. Very rare letter referring to the 8th Frontier War.

According to Saks, Maqoma indeed emerged on top in the second Waterkloof campaign, but, having said that, the extent of his victory must be put into perspective. In none of the innumerable skirmishes had the British suffered anything like a clear-cut setback; even the costly fight of 6 November saw them hold their ground and successfully storm their opponents' positions. Overall, their casualties were surprisingly low given the duration of the fighting, being well under a hundred out of the nearly 3,000 men engaged. The official fatality roll shows that only 27 of the regular troops were killed in action or died of wounds (nearly half of these casualties being accounted for in the 6 November fighting) and while King's and McKay's memoirs suggest that several names have been accidentally omitted, the real figure was certainly well under forty.

It took only ten days for Harry Smith, now dismissed as Governor and fighting the last campaign of his military career, to storm through the Waterkloof in March 1852. Maqoma's Den, the location of which had since been discovered, was captured and Maqoma himself was for a time forced to abandon his stronghold. Fewer than a dozen of the regular troops were killed in the operation. Maqoma reoccupied the Waterkloof shortly after the British withdrawal, but his power was largely broken.

Aftermath of the Cape Frontier Wars

The Cape Frontier Wars, (1779-1879) took place over a period of 100 years of intermittent warfare between the Cape colonists and the Xhosa agricultural and pastoral peoples of the Eastern Cape, in South Africa. As one of the most prolonged struggles by African peoples against European intrusion, it ended in the annexation of Xhosa territories by the Cape Colony and the incorporation of its peoples (Figs.9, 10, 11).



Fig.9: 1880 Officer's Letter at the 6d rate to England. Cover endorsed 'St Johns River Pondoland' franked with two 1d stamp and a 4d stamp tied with BONC 320 with proving codes of 'ST JOHNS RIVER JA28' on reverse. Umtata date stamp dated 'JA 29 80'. Note the early use of the BONC 320 of ST JOHNS RIVER (later renamed Port St Johns). A rare early military letter from a ranking member of the peacekeeping force stationed at Fort Harrison shortly after the 9th Frontier War against the Xhosa. In 1878 the British flag was raised at Port St Johns and Fort Harrison was established to protect the newly acquired territory.

The Transkei came into existence as a result of a series of British annexations which began with the incorporation of Fingoland and Griqualand East into the Cape Colony in 1879 and ended with the annexation of Pondoland in 1894. A further most important step was the introduction of a system of district councils - the so-called Bunga system. Rhodes decided to extend to Transkei the council system which was first introduced in his Glen Grey Act of 1894.



Fig.10A : Cover from Umtata dated 12 Oct 1896 with the adhesives defaced by Banded Oval Numeral Cancellation no. 55. This a fine example of a so-called 'proving piece' which allies the numeral to the office of use.

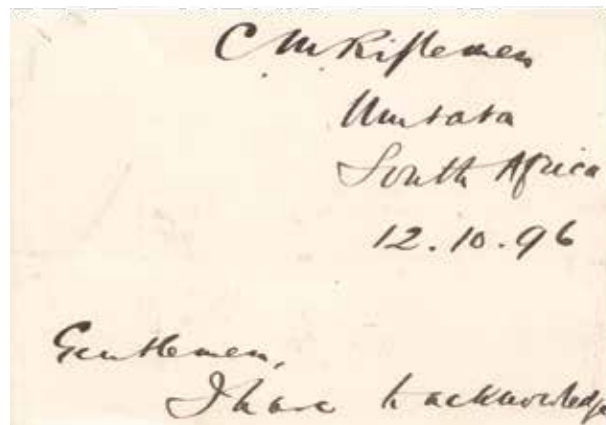


Fig.10B: Letter written by a member of the 'C.M. Riflemen' (Cape Mounted Riflemen) who was stationed in Umtata at that stage. This unit was deployed from the 4th Frontier War (1811-1812) to the 8th Frontier War (1850-1853). The function of this locally recruited multiracial force was to maintain law and order in the districts along the colony's frontier with the Xhosa Kingdoms in the Transkei. Finally in 1878 this unit was fully militarized as a unit of the Colonial Forces and renamed from Frontier Armed and Mounted Police to Cape Mounted Riflemen.



Fig.11: Cover franked with Cape Colony stamps and posted from Umtata on 25 July 1896 to London.

FRONTIER WARS IN THE EASTERN CAPE	
<i>VOC Frontier Wars</i>	
First War	1779 – 1780
Second War	1792 - 1793
Third War	1799 - 1802
<i>British Frontier Wars</i>	
Fourth War	1811 – 1812
Fifth War	1819 – 1820
Sixth War	1834 – 1835
Seventh War	1846 – 1847
Eighth War	1850 - 1851
Ninth War	1877 - 1879

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All illustrated items, unless indicated otherwise, are from the Kamffer collection: *The Road to Democracy in South Africa up to 1994*.



A Postie Remembers

by Dr Alan Rose, East Rand Philatelic Society

As a sixth-former back in the early 1950s, the last two weeks in December were a time for earning extra pocket money as a temporary Postie, helping out with the Christmas rush. Home was Halesowen, a market town some ten miles west of Birmingham, just outside the city boundary, on the fringes of the Black Country. In the 19th Century it had been the centre of nail-making in England, all hand-made by self-employed artisans working in their back yards. Now it had light industry, a scattering of farms and agricultural holdings and was a dormitory area for Birmingham and the neighbouring conurbation.

The first year I reported for duty 'at sparrows' as instructed, and was told I was working 'inside'. Normally temps were used outside as assistants to the regulars on the delivery rounds. 'Inside' I found, meant behind the scenes in the sorting office receiving mail from adjacent towns, sorting and cancelling mail collected from local pillar boxes, keeping the front office box clear of mail and stamping and sorting parcels. The Supervisor apologised that the other temps I would be working with were all girls; as if that was something he thought I would complain about!

The first sign of life was cancelled mail from neighbouring towns addressed to Halesowen which had been delivered the previous night or came in early that morning. This was in exchange for local mail from Halesowen addressed to their regions. There was not much the girls and I could do to help with this as it needed the regular staff to sort it first into their rounds and then into routes within each round and finally into the delivery sequence for each street. As inside temps we hadn't the intimate knowledge of which streets were in which rounds, so we could provide only moral support and tea until the regulars had filled their bags and disappeared out onto the roads with the outside temps.

Our activities started when the early collections from the boxes on the streets and the box in the front office came in. These had gradually been filled by the public overnight. Normally this sorting was done by the regulars before their first rounds, but with the excess of Christmas mail, temps were called in for the inside work as a necessity. Remember now that this was before the days of postcodes and automatic sorting. Facing-up was done by hand and letters were fed manually into the canceller, a machine with a rotating head which carried the cancelling device and the datestamp showing Halesowen as the dispatching office. The date was officially changed each morning by the Supervisor and a sample cancel made for the record.

When we started sorting, we temps were back at school for a geography lesson. Planted in front of a frame with 20 or more yawning mail bags and told "to get on with it" was a little daunting. Bags were labelled for foreign mail and for major cities throughout the country, e.g Manchester, Exeter, London, Edinburgh etc. There were also bags for Halesowen and local towns around the area: Cradley Heath, Brierley Hill, Dudley... These were the easy ones but our detailed knowledge of the rest of the UK was sadly lacking. Where on earth was Pocklington? These were the days of hand written addresses, not always legible, and frequently ending with just the name of the town or village. If lucky we had the name of the nearest big town, or sometimes a county. Fortunately, by this time some of the Posties were back and a shouted query to the office at large was answered by one or more telling us the appropriate bag.



Mail was sent generally to the nearest big town for further sorting and local distribution at that end. The knowledge of British geography the regulars had was really amazing, but it took us a day or two to get up to scratch although we never reached their standard. At least we did learn that Durham and County Durham were not the same and also the location of places like North Elmham and Spithurst.

Work in the sorting office was either feast or famine. Often we sat and chatted, did the crossword or drank tea but when bags appeared from the boxes, the front office, adjacent regional offices or from Birmingham, our major centre, then all hell broke loose. The noise level rose as the cancelling machine screamed, Posties swore, bags were thrown and cries for

Images courtesy of Getty Images & iStock



geographical help filled the room. Skills acquired at school for skimming cigarette cards came in handy when sorting, floating letters into distant post bags on the frame. Local rounds were sorted by the regulars and they left for their next round of the day. By late afternoon desks and the front office box had been cleared, bags with mail for delivery to the not-so-local towns or to Birmingham for onward transmission throughout the country and abroad had been sealed and labelled and loaded onto the vans. After standing for most of the day it was good to get home at night.

My second year was spent 'on the van'. Being surrounded on two sides by agricultural land, there were quite a number of farms and small holdings too spread out for the normal foot delivery. Our little red van made one delivery a day, although this was flexible. Once sorted, mail and parcels were stashed inside for sequential delivery on a complex, devious route, seemingly known only to my driver. Around farms and isolated dwellings, cattle byres, duck ponds - it was never the same. As the temp I was nominated as gopher. Stan drove, and I was delegated to opening gates, fending off dogs, angry poultry and stray cattle, and finally handing over mail and parcels. Recipients were always grateful as I guess on some days we were the only human contact they had. As rationing was still in force, I also took the opportunity to beg half a dozen new-laid eggs under the counter. On the way back the more isolated pillar boxes were emptied, and we frequently returned home almost as laden as we set out.

On my final year I was promoted to an outside temp, on a round. As home was on Annie's round I was allocated to her as a pack mule to carry the bags. She was crafty; after three days during which she saw I was reasonably competent, she went off sick! I was immediately promoted in the field to Acting Postie and told I was on my own, as all the regulars were occupied with their own already overloaded rounds. Fortunately the home round was not a long one, but it was uphill all the way, and that was the year we had deep snow.

Mail for my round was sorted out by the regulars but after that it was all mine. Thus, two or three times a day I was greeted with a pile of letters a foot high and a rack of pigeon holes; plus parcels. The first thing I learned was to sort out house numbers, i.e. did they run in sequence, was it odds one side and evens the other or had they evolved in a random fashion. Either way, a time and motion study was needed to work out when to cross and re-cross the road to minimise the distance walked. One learned quickly, the benefit in my case being that the older houses at the start of the round were numbered, but toward the end, at top of the hill, they all had names, not numbers, so the sequence of these had to be memorised. Fortunately electricity

accounts went out at about the same time and these were parcelled by the Electricity Board in strict house by house sequence so these were a useful guide, both for names and numbers.

Once everything had been ordered in street sequence, pigeon holes were emptied and letters tied in bundles. Posties had a special knot for bundling letters that held fast under all conditions but which could be slipped undone as required. I mastered it at the time but I'm blown if I can recall it now. Loading the bag was another lesson quickly learned: reverse the sequence or spend time squatting on the pavement in the snow digging around for an out-of-sequence bundle.

Leaving the office in the dark with two loaded mail bags and hung about with parcels, I was always thankful the first part of the round was largely on the level although the snow and slush made walking treacherous. With the first half of a bag gone the uphill climb began. A detour of half a mile along the cart track to the Golf Club was a relief although treacherous, and I was grateful for the mug of hot tea often offered on arrival. When leaving, I could take a short cut across number three fairway, but always with the admonition '... to keep off the greens'. This detour seemed a good idea, until I realised it meant wading hundreds of yards through virgin snow often over a foot deep. Though heavy going it did cut quite a bit off the round. As the snow was here to stay I was well muffled up and a good pair of wellies, thick socks and mittens were invaluable.

Back on the road, the middle of the hill was less densely populated but it was an uphill slog and necessitated side tracking a hundred yards at a time down uncleared cart tracks to the odd plots set back from the road. I was thankful that the only industrial address on the hill, *Somers Forge*, was serviced by the van as there was always at least one bag for them every day.

Over the crest of the hill I could aim for the *Stag and Three Horseshoes*, our local hostelry and the end of the round: two empty bags and home. After a quick breather and lunch it was on the bus and back to the office for a repeat performance in the afternoon.

Apart from the geographic knowledge of the regular Posties, I was struck by the variety and depth of the local social scene which they acquired on a day to day basis. Gossip in the sorting office revealed an encyclopaedic knowledge of birthdays, marriages, deaths, divorces and impending births throughout the borough. (A sure indication of a pending arrival was the readily identifiable government correspondence granting supplementary rations to a preggy mum.) This all came from a general observation of variations in the density, senders and recipients of mail, and no doubt, aided by a little doorstep



A LETTER TO THE EDITORIAL BOARD

IS IT OR NOT?

... The Editor

Some time ago it was suggested that what looks like a stamp (whatever that is) but is not, deserves a label as a 'class' so that it can be exhibited. By this time there probably is someone collecting what does not look like a stamp but is a 'stamp' (an official receipt for money paid for the service of carrying a message/parcel). To collect the things you get at the post office when you pay postage, will be a formidable task on the basis of one copy from each post office. And Frama's.

I attach a label that was typical of post from our friend Peter Vogenbeck. The stamps on the label appear with such symmetry that I suspect that the label was bought as prepared with stamps. What sticks to the cover was not stamps but a label. A new 'class' for labels?

I also attach a copy of what looks like a label but was (or was accepted as) a stamp. It is of royal status in my estate. The 'label' was propaganda for 'Philately. The family hobby' with outlines on three sides. Fully within the confines of the label on which those words were printed is a machine cancellation of Saint Paul in Minnesota, USA in January of an unknown year. The cover must have gone to the post office. There is a larger St Paul cancellation with date 14 January 1987 and it presumably now comes out of the Botha collection. It was addressed (and air mailed?) to president P W Botha at the Union Building.

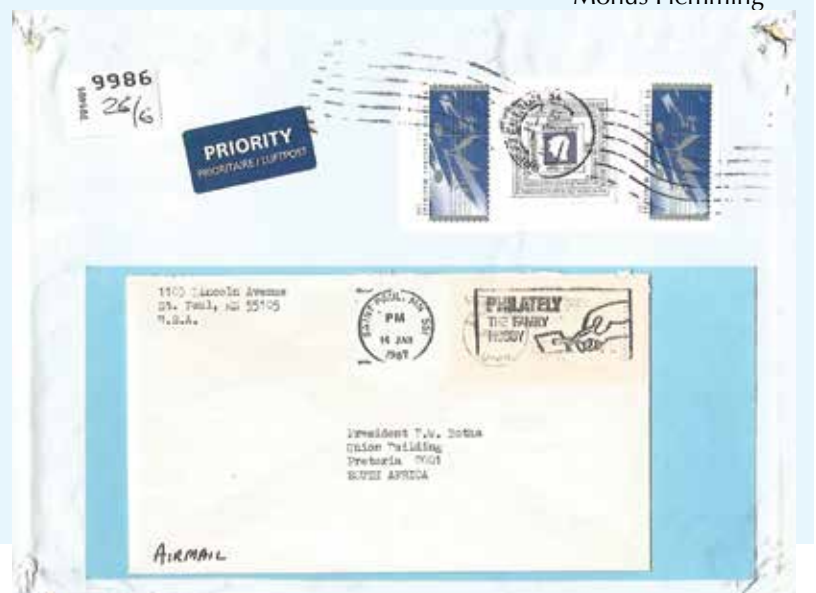
Monus Flemming

chatter. Observations of a different kind, e.g. whose car was parked where overnight, and the noting of surreptitious early morning departures, with or without cars, provided an amusing running commentary on the extra-mural social activities of the community.

Reception of the Christmas Postie was always good (except for the guy I knocked up for Postage Due on an underfranked letter!). No sense of humour. The Christmas morning delivery was almost a social event with smiles and good wishes all round, children proudly showing their presents, and offers of a mince pie and the occasional celebratory glass of sherry. (Not allowed on duty, I'm afraid).

Looking back, it's clear that a Postie's job is much easier now. Post codes, automatic sorting and cancelling have, at least in theory, reduced the labour content and speeded up mail delivery services. And, here in SA the do-it-yourself collections introduced by PO Boxes, have reduced the Postie's role. However, the good old days were fun - and the pocket money was useful.

PS: Checking in the New Year I found that Annie had made a remarkably rapid and full recovery the day after Boxing Day!



IRAN'S CORONAVIRUS STAMP SALUTES MEDICAL WORKER

by Denise McCarty as first published in *Linn's Stamp Weekly*

In mid-March Iran unveiled a postage stamp honoring medical professionals as frontline fighters of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in that country. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani unveiled the stamp as part of a cabinet meeting.

To the best of Linn's knowledge, this is the first postage stamp in the world related to this coronavirus pandemic. The new stamp from Iran is inscribed 'National Heroes' in English on the lower left of the main design. The design of this 18,000-rial commemorative shows four people and includes symbolic images based on electron micrographs of the coronavirus. Three of the four people depicted on the stamp appear to be medical professionals wearing face masks. The fourth person, just to the right of the English inscription, appears to be a soldier wearing a gas mask.

On March 3, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, announced plans to mobilize 300,000 troops to help combat the coronavirus outbreak. According to information on the website of the National Iranian Postal Company, the new stamp salutes "the sacrifices of the country's medical staff as front-line efforts to fight the coronavirus."

The website of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported on March 18 that the number of people in Iran infected with COVID-19 was 17,361. It also reported 1,135 deaths and 5,710 recovered and discharged from the hospital.



An Airgraph from Bulawayo

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



It has often been claimed that “the two main factors affecting the morale of the soldier overseas are the mail and the female.” During the Second World War, the British government introduced the airgraph postal system as a means of addressing the former of these factors.

The airgraph was proposed in 1938 and revived in 1940 by the Eastman Kodak Company in conjunction with Imperial Airways and Pan American World Airways, as a way of reducing the weight and bulk of mail carried by air. The airgraph form, upon which the letter was written, was photographed, the film processed and then despatched as a negative on a roll of microfilm.

The resulting reduction in weight was astonishing. Approximately 1,000 airgraph letters on film weighed just 3 ounces, whilst 1,000 ordinary letters weighed 13.6kg (30 lbs). At their destination, the negatives were printed on photographic paper and delivered as airgraph letters through the normal postal system. The first Airgraph forms for the UK were accepted in Cairo, 17 April 1941. However, UK-Cairo Airgraphs were only accepted 21 May 1942 as the machinery Cairo needed to reproduce the Airgraphs had to be shipped by sea from the US. Approximately 70,000 airgraph letters were sent in the first batch from the UK to North Africa.

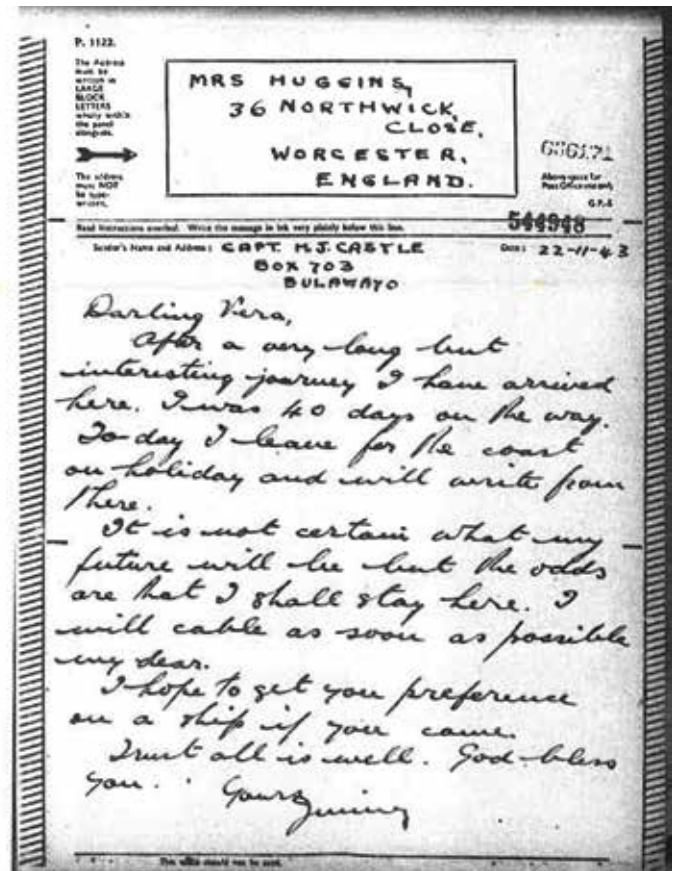
As the system was extended, photographic stations were installed at Johannesburg, Nairobi and other Commonwealth centres. This extended service was initially available only for members of the Forces to send letters to their families and friends, but was soon also available for sending messages to the Forces in the Middle East.

The Rhodesia Connection

The volume of mail did not justify the cost of establishing a photographic station in Rhodesia, but the facilities in Kenya and South Africa acted as relay stations for Rhodesian mail. Airgraph mail for Bulawayo and the Bechuanaland Protectorate was generally received twice per week in Johannesburg, depending on the timely arrival of a flying boat from London carrying the rolls of microfilm. Once processed, the airgraph letters were printed and sent to the South African Post Office for inserting in envelopes and dispatch to Rhodesia. One consignment was then despatched by rail to the Bulawayo Post Office, and the other by air. At Bulawayo, the mail was sorted for delivery to its appropriate destination.

The printed letter forms for delivery to the addressee measured approximately 13.97cm by 10.16cm, and the envelopes in which they were inserted measured 11.43cm by 10.1cm. Before insertion in the envelope, the print had to be folded horizontally backwards so that the address panel appeared in the cut-out panel of the envelope when the print was inserted therein. The folding and enveloping were initially performed by hand, but later a machine was made available for mechanical folding and insertion.

The airgraph service was regarded as supplementary to the normal postal service. It had two main disadvantages: it was not private, and it imposed a pre-determined limit on the



An airgraph written in Bulawayo on 22 November 1943, photographed in Johannesburg and carried by flying boat to London where it was automatically printed, folded and inserted in an envelope, ready for delivery on 7 December 1943.

length of the message to be sent. In practice, these snags were probably more apparent than real. Although an airgraph letter could not be sent all the way in a sealed envelope, it was delivered sealed to the recipient, and the postal staff who photographed and reproduced the letters rarely had any personal interest in their contents nor the time in which to notice them. The cost of sending an airgraph was 3d for the Armed Services and 8d for civilians, by attaching stamps to the back of the form. Occasionally one sees a letter that is unfinished, with the remainder of the letter sent on a second airgraph. As with other correspondence, most airgraphs were censored by the military authorities before despatch.

The introduction of the lightweight air letter stationery and a general improvement in air transport facilities for postal communication towards the end of the war, resulted in a progressive decrease in the number of airgraphs being despatched. There came a point at which the cost of maintaining the photographic stations was no longer viable and the service was wound up at the end of July 1945.

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TWO INTERESTING COVERS

by Nicholas Arrow, <nicholasarrow@btinternet.com>
The SA Collectors Society in England

I was recently able to obtain in a national auction a lot described as 'Later flights incoming section (6) with mail from Germany to Wilhelmstal, etc...'. At the auction, there had been no postal bids and I was able to acquire the lot at its reserve, £75. There were 6 covers all flown to South West Africa - not bad at £12.50 each hammer price! When the lot arrived, I discovered (rather as I had anticipated) most of the pieces were items from various first flights of new services, but two were apparently not. The piece that had attracted me most from the lot description was the commercial cover from Germany - (Fig.1).

It was clearly taken by train to Vienna, flown to Athens and transferred to flight AS287, and on checking Peter Wingent's listing of *Movements of Aircraft on Imperial Airways' African Route 1931 - 1939*, I immediately noted that there had been a delay in Athens.

However, what was even more exciting was that the aircraft had crashed on taking off at Kisumu. The plane (AW-15 'Atalanta') had taken off down a flarepath at Kisumu at 4am, failed to gain enough height, and struck a tree with its port wing, tearing it off the fuselage which came to rest 2-300 yards further on when it ran into some bush. The pilot and flight engineer were ejected through the front of the plane and suffered comparatively minor injuries, everyone else being unhurt. There was an immediate problem, however, because no-one had bothered to tell the starboard engines that things were not quite as they should have been, and they were still roaring away, set at maximum power for take-off!

Exiting the plane, apparently through the windows, must have been a frightening and noisy experience for the cabin crew and passengers.

I could not recall anything about this crash, and on checking my book, it was there all right, but, bliss upon bliss, the entry was in italics, which meant 'No South African mail recorded'. There is now! Which makes the hammer price of £12.50 an even better bargain!

The other cover provided some problems less easy to solve. I show a copy of the front and part of back of the cover (Figs.2&3).

The envelope was one issued by Imperial Airways to commemorate mail carried on the inaugural flights of the extension of their service east, from Rangoon to Singapore, the return flight of which left Singapore on 31 December 1933. My cover was posted in Bandon, Siam, on 5 January 1934, and so clearly missed the flight - never mind, interesting enough - and was taken to Bangkok, I suspect by surface mail, arriving on 6 January. A second mark is the Windhoek arrival mark of 9 February 1934, over a month later. Why on earth had it taken so long to arrive?



Fig.1

I think the answer lies in the third mark, which I had overlooked originally, in that the Air Mail etiquette is cancelled by the two red bars across it. This was done in London! What on earth had happened here?

The only answer which will fit all the data on the cover is that the cover was mis-sorted in Bangkok and bagged for London instead of Johannesburg. How on earth London could have been mistaken for 'Windhoek, South West Africa' I have no idea - there is no logical reason that I can think of, save that the service was entirely new and the postal clerks in Bangkok may have failed to appreciate that mail on the new service could turn left in Egypt, rather than be taken on to England.

The only possible conclusion is that on arrival at Croydon (on Flight IW249) on 17 January, the AM etiquette was cancelled, and the cover was redirected to go to South Africa on the next mail ship, the *Carnarvon Castle*, which left London on 19 January, arriving in Cape Town (there was no intermediate stop at Walvis Bay) on 5 February.

Which of course presented the Cape Town postal officials with a substantial headache, because they had no means at



Fig.2

all of sending it on to South West Africa - the roads were impassable, the railway lines had been washed away and the then postal regulations did not permit mail from South of Kimberley to be accepted for the Feeder Service¹.

This particular problem was solved when Gordon Store of Aero Services (Pty) Ltd of Cape Town, who was carrying out some survey work in South West Africa, came to an arrangement that, if there was any available space on his plane during any of his trips to SWA, he would take some mail bags with him. And so he did, and my cover must have benefited from this arrangement.

The only thing that slightly concerns me (and for which I cannot account) is that the Windhoek arrival mark is a normal Post Office mark, and not the thimble sized postmark of Windhoek airport as would be expected.

My cup of happiness was still not full, however, as Siamese mail was not accepted for the first return flight of Imperial Airways service from Singapore, but only for the second. Both Stern and Burrell make this claim, although



Fig.3

they disagree as to the precise method. Stern refers to a 'First Flight from Bandon (Thailand)' [which Peter Wingent has explained is wrong - see *Imperial Airways Gazette* Issue 55], whereas Burrell claims that, on the second flight, leaving on 5 January 1934, 'letters from Thailand were sent to Singapore for a connecting flight with the IA and regular' service to South Africa. I think my cover proves them both wrong, in that the IA service stopped at Bangkok, where my cover was waiting to be collected.

So the use of the special cover is justified, and not someone trying to use up a spare cover, or a simple case of missing the boat (or rather the plane)! It IS a first acceptance cover, and I suspect, being addressed to South Africa, a fairly rare one at that - certainly worth the second lot of £12.50 in the hammer price!

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¹ Mail from (or to) Cape Town was not accepted for the feeder service until September 1935.



JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

BOER WAR

5th Jan. 1901 cover with original letter, written by R. Baden-Powell from his headquarters at Zuurfontein, posted from Modderfontein to New Zealand. With the rare straight line provisional handstamp, sent through the YF.P.O. at Johannesburg



email address:
markjtaylor@btinternet.com

Address:
P.O. Box 37324,
London N1 - 2YQ
Tel: 020 7226 1503
Fax: 020 7359 7456



Georges and Marguerite Reutter - early missionaries in Barotseland

by Sean Burke <seanburke_1@yahoo.com> Rhodesian Study Circle

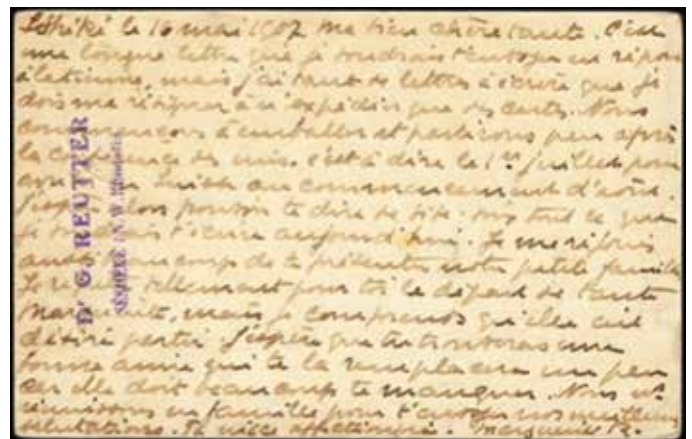
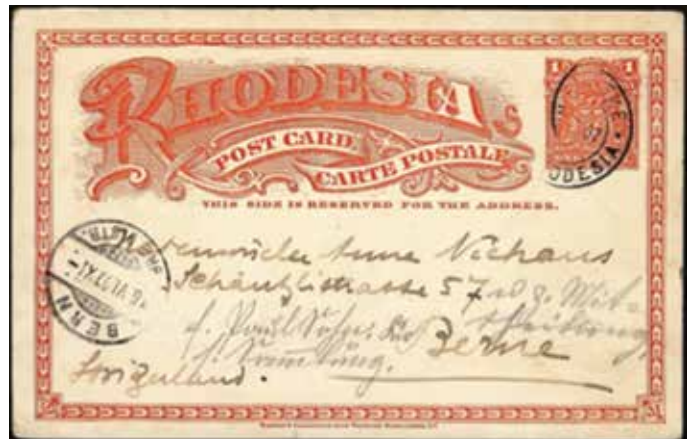
About a decade ago, I along with fellow philatelists, the late Alan Drysdall RDP, RDPSA, (from England) and Paul Peggie (from Australia), came together to write a book on the postal history of the Paris Missionary Society (PMS) in Barotseland (now north-western Zambia). We have continued to gather information in this area and a new book is being prepared

In this journey, we have constantly been taken down side-roads of areas of research and discovered many fascinating characters. This article is about a remarkable couple who joined the mission in Barotseland in 1902. They are an important part of the much bigger story.

In 2008, I visited Zambia, and undertook a journey to the Mwandi (Old Sesheke) to visit the mission, school and hospital, originally established by the Paris Missionary Society (Missions Évangéliques de Paris) in 1885 by the Reverend François Coillard, his wife Christina, the Reverend Dorwald Jeanmairet, Elise Coillard (Coillard's niece), William Waddell (an artisan from Scotland), George Middleton (another artisan) and two Sotho evangelists. The church, school and hospital are very much still functioning, although run under different auspices, and play an important part in the lives of the nearby communities.

The hospital has, at its origins, Dr Georges Reutter, from Switzerland, who first arrived in Barotseland with his wife Marguerite, in 1902. Up to his arrival, the mortality rate of PMS missionaries, and especially their infant children, was extraordinarily high. Catherine MacIntosh, the niece of Christina Coillard, was to write on the subject of the number of deaths of missionaries.

All this trouble had one good result. People at home began to realise that the missionary is not sent out to be, as M. Coillard once said, 'une machine à sacrifices', but to be efficient, and that a cheap mission in a tropical climate could not be an efficient one. The result was the starting of the Building Fund, which has already provided several hygienic houses for the Zambesi.



Figs.2 & 3: A HG 11 is from Marguerite Reutter at Sesheke to Berne, Switzerland. The card has the blue handstamp of Dr G. Reutter Séshéké (N.W. Rhodesia) struck to the rear.

Since the researches of Major Ross, the idea of preventing malaria by mosquito-proof dwellings has become so familiar it is difficult to realise that the first mosquito-proof house at the Upper Zambesi was erected by Dr Reutter, the Mission doctor, in 1902, at Shesheke. It has been a complete success in shielding its inmates from fever.

Jean- François Zorn much later wrote: *Georges Reutter, a Swiss doctor, and his wife Marguerite, settled at Sesheke, where he founded the medical mission of the Lower Zambezi. It was he who, in 1902, made an appeal for special funds for healthier housing. He promoted tropical hygiene, the preventative use of quinine, the wearing of pith helmets and the use of mosquito nets.*

The results were remarkable with fatality rates dropping dramatically.

In this article we show some items of postal history from both Georges and Marguerite Reutter. There is little around and they are rare. Dr Reutter was also a prolific photographer, and a number of his images were used on various postcards published by the Paris Missionary Society in Europe. Marguerite Reutter was an artist, and a number of her watercolour

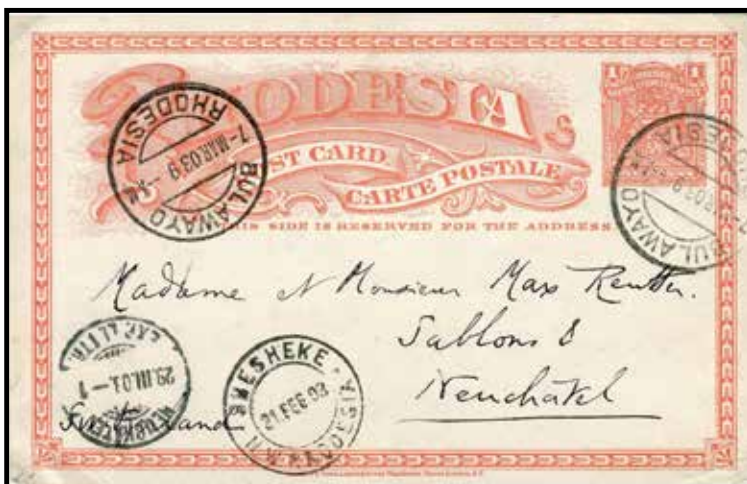


Fig.1: A HG 11, from Dr Reutter at Shesheke in February, 1903, is written to his family in Neuchatel, Switzerland.

sketches on Zambezi flora and fauna were also used on postcards published by the PMS. We show some examples here as well. These postcards were published by the various support groups (known as auxiliaries or 'Zambesias') established throughout Europe to raise funds for the PMS in Barotseland.

So it is easy to see how one gets diverted along different pathways with such a topic.



Fig.4: The next item is unusual; an incoming 1909 Cape of Good Hope card from Kimberley, written by Dr Reutter to fellow missionary, the Reverend Louis Jalla in Livingstone. Jalla, an Italian who arrived in Barotseland in 1887, suffered the loss of his daughter, Marguerite (born and died in Kazungula in 1888), another daughter Anita (again born and died in Kazungula in 1890), son Eduardo (born Kazungula in 1892, died there in 1895), and son Guido (born in Kazungula in 1895, died in Italy in 1900). To compound his losses, Jalla's wife died in Barotseland in 1899. Reutter, with his mosquito-proof houses arrived too late to save them!



Fig.5 & 6: Again we have the 'Reutter' blue handstamp, this time a variation, appearing on the rear of this envelope from Sesheke (5 SEP 1910), Livingstone (9-SEP 1910 – transit) to Geneva, Switzerland.



Fig.7: A PMS published postcard featuring the Reutters in one of the newly erected mosquito-proof houses.



Fig.8: A PMS published postcard using a photograph by Georges Reutter.



Figs.9 & 10: Two postcards published by the PMS and used in Europe in the 1920s, of watercolour sketches from Marguerite Reutter.





Fig.11: a photograph of a conference of the missionaries in Lealui, Barotseland in 1913: Back: Mlle Laura Nicole, M. Ernest Hugenin, M. Felix Vernet, M. Eugène Béguin, M. Theo. Burnier, M. Gustave Berger. Seated: Mlle Françoise Glauser, Mme Marguerite Reutter, Mme Marie Béguin with son Charles, Mme G. Berger-Bornand, Melle Sophie Amesz-Droz. Front: Dr Georges Reutter, M Louis Jalla, and M Adolphe Jalla.

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- www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.wk
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SOCIAL PHILATELY

Corona Post Office

by Johan Joubert, AFP Afrikaanse Filatelie Pretoria

Who would have imagined that the name of this small Post Office, (opened as a TtO 31-08-1925; PA opened 25-03-1935; PTA 07-10-1935; PA 06-10-1975; PTA February 1979 and closed after 1980), would have become such a well-known word in 2020?

Corona was a Post Office situated between Rustenburg and Brits, with Brits as its Head Office (Putzel. 1986 (1)356).



The word 'Corona', borrowed directly from the Latin word *Corōna* (*garland or a crown worn on the head*) as a mark of honour.

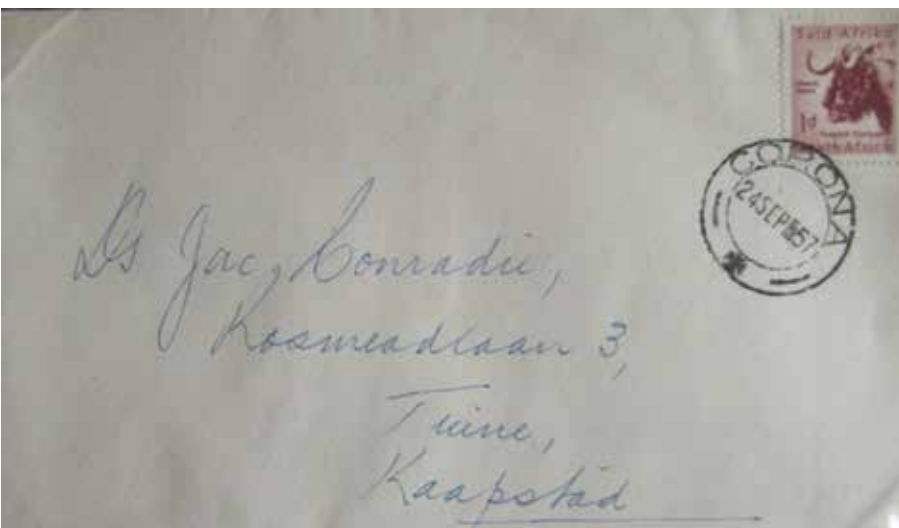
In 2020 a virus called Corona, spread like a veldfire from Wuhan (China), infecting millions of people and leaving thousands dead, all over the world. On 26 March 2020, Pres. Cyril Ramaphosa declared national a state of disaster.

This elicited drastic and radical measures that led to a total National Lockdown in South Africa. Post Offices were only allowed to do SASSA (grant) payouts. The core business of the Post Office namely: mail distribution was hampered. The Corona virus had a detrimental effect on the world economic and financial systems, that rolled over to a major negative impact on the South African economy.

Source:

Putzel, R. F. 1986. *The Encyclopedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies.*

*Line 2: TtO denotes Office facilities: T says it has Telegraphic facilities; t means it has telephonic facilities (no postal facilities). O means a Postal Office rather than an Agency denoted by A. Putzel Vol 1 Pg: 198



Cover send from the Corona Post Office dated 24 September 1957 to Cape Town. Datestamp with a Maltese cross. Nr. 1a (Putzel)

ASIAN CURIOS

by Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL, RNCP, George Philatelic Society



In previous instalments of the present 'mini-series', I have discussed covers from my collection that had not been included in any of the previous articles that I had contributed to this journal. In them, I featured material from the Americas, Europe and, most recently, in April 2020, five items of African origin. By the way, I would like to express my gratitude to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist* for correcting an error in the text that I submitted for that most recent edition. In describing a stamp issued in 1938 for the Somaliland Protectorate, I made the mistake of attributing the portrait thereon to King Edward VII (who died in 1910!). I had, of course, meant to assign the head to Edward VIII but even then I would have been in error. Edward VIII abdicated the throne after only 11 months in 1936 thus vacating it for George VI, the monarch who reigned until his death in 1952. So, the portrait that I had erroneously described as that of Edward VII was, in fact, of George VI. I am sure that readers will be glad to know that the editing of the Journal is in safe hands.

In choosing my first item for the present article, I must admit that I was influenced in part by the fact that it was addressed to Vryheid in Natal. The picture postcard illustrated in (Fig.1) was written by a certain Capt. J.B.L.Noel and franked with the ½-anna and 1-anna values of the King George V set of India that had appeared in 1911 and were only to be replaced in 1937.

However, of greater interest is, I feel, the blue Mount Everest stamp. Viewers might assume that this was no more than a label but it was, in fact, a genuine stamp, albeit of only local validity. It was issued to the members of Lt.-Col. Norton's Mount Everest Expedition of 1924 for mail dispatched by climbers and which was to be carried by runners to the Base Camp situated at the Rongbuk Glacier in Nepal. In this example, a circular cancellation was applied in red. From there, mail was forwarded to Darjeeling Post Office in India. The face of this card shows a view of the mountain and an advertisement for a film of the 'great exploit'. It also lists the name of General the Hon. C.G. Bruce as leader of the expedition but, in fact, he was to fall sick and yield the responsibility to Norton. Incidentally, the ornament in each of the corners of the Expedition stamp are 'right-handed', 'anticlockwise' or 'female' swastikas as made infamous by Germany during World War II. The 'male' or 'clockwise' version of the swastika features in Buddhism where it is seen as 'the path to the inner mind of man'.

However, the 'female' version can also be seen as a religious talisman as was the case with the stamp used by the expedition of Capt. Noel's. As I write this, on 31 March 2020, I have spotted a news-item on the Internet telling me that Mount Everest, on the Chinese side at least, has been closed because of the Coronavirus!

In all, some thirty-five of the so-called 'Feudatory' or 'Princely' states of India issued stamps of their own. All such issues were suppressed in 1950 with the establishment of the Republic of India. I have always contended that these stamps were 'locals' even though most are listed in such catalogues as *Stanley Gibbons*. In Fig.2, I show the reverse of a cover which, I believe, supports this contention. In 1866, circular postage stamps were issued and used in each of the two adjacent states of Kashmir and Jammu in northern India. In the following year, however, both states printed their own, individual stamps and did so until 1878 when a new issue was to appear in the name of Jammu & Kashmir. Just such a stamp was used to frank a letter in 1888 that was destined for the neighbouring state of Lahore which, quite incidentally, is now in Pakistan. The ½-anna stamp was not valid beyond the borders of the state with the result that double the deficiency, i.e. 1-anna, was levied by a handstamp in Lahore reading 'Postage Due' and 'One Anna' as illustrated.



Fig.2.

This, I do believe, confirms my view that the stamps of the 'Princely' states of India are indeed 'locals'.

In March 1986, a paper appeared in the *London Philatelist* in support of three Feudatory Indian States that, hitherto, had not been recognised by established stamp catalogues.



Fig.1.



Fig.3.

Amongst them, Durgapur, of which a stamp issue had been reported in *India's Stamp Journal* of May, 1969, was the first to gain entry into *Stanley Gibbons*. A state post had, reportedly, been established in that state as early as 1877 and stamps were

issued between 1932 and 1948. The stamps on the reverse of the cover in Fig.3 are believed to have been issued in 1940 and portrayed His Highness Maharawal Shri Sir Lakshman Singh Bahadur, KCSI. The total face value the three stamps of 1½ annas (1x1-anna + 2x ¼-annas) was the local rate for letters up to 1 Tola, with the Tola being the weight of the Indian Rupee (11,66 grams).

The illustration in Fig.4 gave me the opportunity of illustrating two 'Issuing Authorities' on a single cover. The original franking of the letter was with two copies of the Indian 3-pies stamps that had been overprinted in 1900 with the letters 'C.E.F.' and were provided for the Chinese Expeditionary Force that had been despatched to suppress the Boxer Rebellion.

Similar issues were to appear in 1904-1909 and 1913-1920. The cover also bears an 1898 issue of China surcharged 'Five Cents' and overprinted 'B.R.A.' indicating the British Railway Administration. (Not to be confused with 'British Railways'!).



Fig.4.

This stamp was used for the collection of 'late letter fees' on letters posted in a railway postal van and the special canceller reads 'Railway Post Office Tientsin'. Other offices were established at Peking, Tongku, Tongshan and Shanhaikwan but the system operated, officially, for one month only – that is to say from 20 April to 20 May, 1901. The wording 'PASS OFFICE P 10MY.01 8.A.M.' and 'F.P.O. No411 MY.01' appears on the reverse of the cover.

Our last visit in this article will be to Malaya and I must confess that, had my collection been based on a single country rather than the 'issuing authorities of the world', Malaya might well have been that country. As it was, the page in my album devoted to 'Malay States' included nine single stamps as

well as the cover shown in Fig.5. The states of Sungei Ujong and Johore were represented by suitably overprinted 1868 Victorian era issues of the Straits Settlements, while for Perlis and Selangor I showed handsome pictorial issues each including a portrait of their ruler. For Kedah, though, I showed the large \$1 issue of 1937 with the portrait of Sultan Abdul Hamid Halimshah in all his glory, a credit to the recess printing of Waterlow. In the case of Kelantan, Trengganu, Negri Sembilan and Pahang, my representatives were in the rather more conventional format of definitives similar to those on the cover from Perak as illustrated.

Returning to that cover, the handstamp of March 1940 reading, as it does, 'Passed for Transmission', is indicative of the awareness of the approaching war zone and Ipoh,



Fig.5.

the capital, was to be overrun by the Japanese by the end of 1941. Interestingly, the cover is addressed to Umtali in, what was then, Southern Rhodesia.

Much of the research that I undertook both in writing up my collection and in composing articles for *The SA Philatelist* was conducted in the 'International Encyclopedia of Stamps', a publication of which the editor was James Mackay and which was to appear in eighty-four weekly instalments in the early 1970s. Living in Swaziland as I did at that time and with my wife being the manageress of the Mbabane branch of the late-lamented Central News Agency, I was able to ensure my acquisition of each and every part. In retrospect, it was with foresight that I had them professionally bound in six hard-backed volumes. The work does appear for sale on Google from time to time and I can heartily recommend it to, in particular, anyone whose interest in philately covers the whole, wide world. I noticed on the web recently that an unbound set was being offered for £125 and bound copies do also appear from time to time.



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The Anti - Vaccination Movement of the Victorian Era

by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith, Highway Philatelic Society



During this worldwide catastrophic pandemic with Covid-19 there has been an unprecedented rush by scientists to develop a vaccine to halt the massive spread, but this may take 12 - 18 months. The whole world is now understanding the importance of having vaccines now and in the future when even more deadly viruses may appear.

There has been much in the news in the last few years about the Anti-Vaccination Movement and the 'Anti-Vaxxers' - people who resist having their children vaccinated, particularly with MMR (the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine). This resistance started in the modern era with the belief that it caused Autism - based on a 1988 paper published in the *Lancet* by Dr Andrew Wakefield - an English Gastro-Enterologist at the time (this study was subsequently shown to be fraudulent and the paper was withdrawn in 2012 and he was struck off the UK medical registry).

There are now very large studies showing no scientific evidence of vaccination being a cause of autism. It was also promoted, predominantly in the US, by well-known personalities and TV talk show hosts - most notably Jenny McCarthy.

In 2019 there was a surge in Measles cases based on this resistance, so much so that the city of New York passed a law preventing unvaccinated children from going to public schools and in the UK the Health Minister tried to control social media fuelled anti-vaxxer propaganda.

The World Health Organisation in January 2019 included the Anti-Vaxxers as being one of the top ten threats to world health, one of the others being a new influenza outbreak!



Fig.1: (at left) A fund-raising 'stamp' which is embossed, die-cut with simulated perforations for a German anti-vaccination organisation with a 2 1/2 pfennig value and stating:

"Public Health Dr Bilfinger says: meningitis, infantile paralysis and other illnesses are frequently seen following a vaccination".

Smallpox was one of the biggest causes of child mortality in the 1700s and early attempts to prevent it, included deliberate inoculation of the virus in the hope that a mild infection would confer immunity; this became known as 'variolation'. In 1798 Edward Jenner inoculated patients with the cowpox virus causing a mild viral illness which conferred cross immunity to smallpox. He called this 'vaccine' (from *vacca*, the Latin for cow) and the process 'vaccination'.

Jenner has appeared on numerous commemorative stamps and covers around the world including the 350th Anniversary of The Royal Society (Fig.2) and a drawing of Jenner vaccinating a child as part of the pattern on a cow's hide (Fig.3).



Fig.2: (at left) Edward Jenner on 25 February 2010 commemorative issue of the Royal Society Anniversary issued by the Royal Mail.



Fig.3: The 2nd March 1999 Millennium Series Commemorative 20p value.

There was some resistance from the clergy to vaccination but also considerable support from the general public and interestingly, from a philatelic point of view, by Rowland Hill and his family who at the time ran schools in Birmingham (Hazelwood) and London (Bruce Castle).

The English Parliament passed the Vaccination Act of 1853 ordering compulsory vaccination of infants up to 3 months old and extended this to children up to

14 years of age with the Act of 1867, which also included fines for non-compliance.

This met with considerably resistance, resulting in the formation of the Anti-Vaccination League and a number of anti-vaccination journals were published.

Fig.4: - Below - *The Cow-Pock, or the 'Wonderful Effects of the New Inoculation'!* Publications of the Anti-Vaccine Society Print (colour engraving) published June 12, 1802 by H. Humphrey, St. James's Street. In this cartoon, the British satirist James Gillray caricatured a scene at the Smallpox and Inoculation Hospital at St. Pancras, showing cowpox vaccine being administered to frightened young women, and cows emerging from different parts of people's bodies.



Once the interest in the Mulready Envelope and its Caricatures declined in the 1840s, the Pictorial Envelopes began appearing. They frequently dealt with social and political issues of the day and in the 1870s this included the Anti-Vaccination movement.

Perhaps the most vocal anti-vaccinator in the Victorian era was Joseph Abel of Farringdon, Berkshire who was prosecuted 21 times from 1875 - 1878 for failing to pay fines as a result of not vaccinating his children.

Almost all the surviving philatelic anti vaccination material from the era is either from or addressed to him. The most famous design is that of a skeleton inoculating an infant with a policeman arresting the mother and holding a poster stating 'Vaccination Act for Jenner-ation of Disease'. It is known both plain and hand coloured.

This envelope (Fig.5) is addressed to Joseph Abel 'Victim of Magisterial Tyranny' and sent by Mrs Hume-Rothery, the Secretary of the National Anti-Compulsory Vaccination (NACV) League of which her husband was the President.

Small-pox is a process of cleansing. Vaccination is a process of corruption and death. One comes from God, a remedy for wrong - the other is a wrong to deceive and get plunder. The deceiver - of parents and the slayer of infants is the vaccinating doctor - his stock in trade filth and a lancet. "

A second anti-vaccination envelope exists with a blank front with the same wording on the rear upper flap of the envelope (Fig.7):

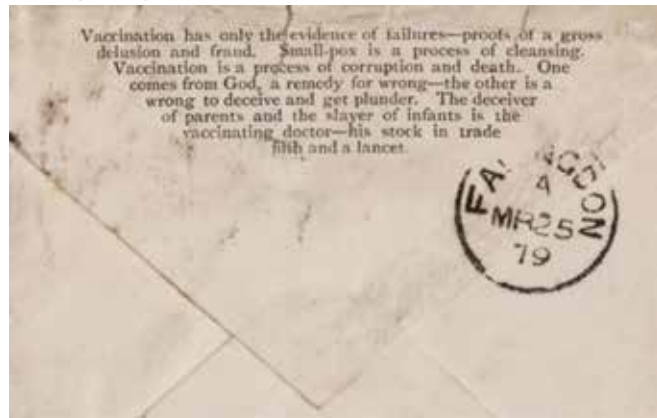


Fig.7: The rear of the envelope shown in Fig.5 with A CDS of Farringdon dated March 25 1879.



Fig.8: shows the front of one of these envelopes and is addressed to Joseph Abel "The Anti Vaccination Hero" from Mrs Hume-Rothery.

On the left on Fig. 8 is a hand drawn banner stating: "Smallpox kills hundreds. Vaccination kills thousands."

Below the address are the hand written underlined words: "Vaccination has only the evidence of failures- proofs of a gross delusion and fraud. Smallpox is a process of cleansing. Vaccination is one of defilement and death. One comes from God a remedy for wrong, the other is a wrong to deceive and get plunder. The duty of parents is clear spurn the doctors filth and superstition and all filth at home. Read the NACV Reporter and join the League Hon Sec't Mrs Hume Rothery Tivoli Cheltenham."

On the rear of this envelope (Fig.9), obscuring the printed message, is a pasted notice 'To Parents and Guardians' scripted by Dr J J Garth Wilkinson which reads:

"Parents and guardians of little children, refuse vaccination and re-vaccination at all costs. God in heaven and posterity on earth will bless you. Remember that if you submit to this accursed thing you will never know what seed of rottenness you have sewn in the blood of your offspring, to spring up in future years. Remember that you are chargeable at the bar of the Most High with having, through base and groundless



Fig.5: A hand coloured envelope from Mrs Hume Rothery of Cheltenham to Joseph Abel. It bears an 1864 1d Red with letters in all four corners cancelled by a Ross duplex dated March 24 1879.

The plate number is indistinct – the 1864 1d issue has the famous Plate 77 - One of the five known used was sold in 2016 for GBP 495,000.00.

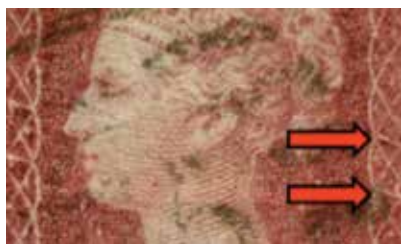


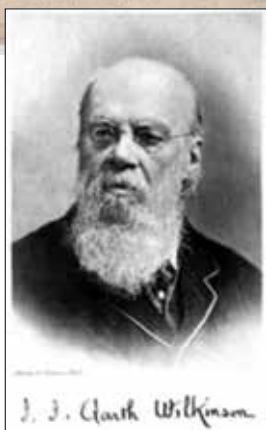
Fig.6 (at left): The design for the envelope originates from a drawing in a publication of The London Society for the Abolition of Compulsory Vaccination.

On the rear of the envelope (Fig.7) is printed a message as follows:

"Vaccination has only the evidence of failure - proof of a great delusion and fraud.



Fig.9: The pamphlet pasted on the rear of the envelope in Fig.5 and on the right (Fig.10.) is a portrait of the author Dr J J Garth Wilkinson - Medical Doctor turned Homeopath, a social and medical reformer, opponent of vivisection and vaccination.



fear for the present, submitted your children to abominable diseases in after life. Also remember you are Britons, and are weakening your country by being vaccination slaves.

REMEMBER AND RESIST

For a full exposure of the Vaccination delusion, its impotence for good; its enormous capacity for evil; read the Vaccination Tracts, edited by Dr J.J Garth Wilkinson and W. Young.

After a massive anti-vaccination demonstration in Leicester in 1885 that attracted up to 100,000 people, a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the anti-vaccination grievances, as well as to hear evidence in favour of vaccination. The commission sat for seven years, hearing extensive testimony from opponents and supporters of vaccination. Its report in 1896 concluded that vaccination protected against smallpox, but as a gesture to the anti-vaccinationists it recommended the abolition of cumulative penalties.

The anti-vaccination campaign has continued through the 20th and into the 21st Century, largely in the US and spearheaded by alternative medicine advocates and practitioners.

Hopefully the current Anti-Vaccers will see the light in 2020 and follow scientific advice.



ITEM OF INTEREST

A BIT MORE THAN POSTAL HISTORY

by Dr. J.R. Frank RDPSA. FRPSL. Philatelic Society of Johannesburg



The Union of South Africa was established on 31 May 1910.

Pending the introduction of the Union's stamps the issues of the four constituent administrations; the Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony and Transvaal, were permitted to be used anywhere throughout the country from 19 August 1910 to 31 August 1913. The Natal and Transvaal £1 remained on sale till July 1916, when the Union £1 value was issued.

This contemporary registered advertising cover to Italy shows a mixed interprovincial use.

The envelope produced by the grocers L. Fatti & Co. of Johannesburg induced feelings of nostalgia.

In my schooldays I often visited this long-established leading firm of grocers in Loveday Street, Johannesburg. The address shown is very close to where it was in my youth.

The cover, registered at the Johannesburg post office, to Genoa, bears a 6½d franking i.e. the 2½d U.P.U. postage rate plus a 4d registration fee, and is postmarked Johannesburg 10 July 1911. It is backstamped Turin 30.7 and Genoa 31.7.11. The franking is made up by a Cape Colony 4d stamp, an Orange River Colony ½d and a pair of Natal 1d.



The question is whether this constitutes what was available to the public at the Johannesburg Post Office or whether an astute philatelist produced this attractive combination cover? It does, however, tick the postal history, social philately and interprovincial boxes nicely.



LOCAL EVENTS & SOCIETY NEWS

VISIT the <https://www.sapa.africa/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1031691006915864/>

It is important to note that Societies are NOT having their regular meetings as previously listed during this time of lockdown, but they do welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chairperson: Werner Barnard;
email: wernerb@axxess.co.za
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 082 567 0353;
Email: philately@netpoint.co.za
Website: <http://bellvillephilatelictripod.com>
Contact the Secretary for further Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Email: royalphilict@gmail.com
President: Ida Potgieter. email:
samizdat@telkomsa.net
cell: 074 333 4646
Secretary: Victor Millard
0828028882 or
email: millardvg@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.rpsct.org/>



STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Kontak
stellenboschstamp@gmail.com



PAARLSE FILATELISTE

Sedert 1951

kontak gerus vir: Gawie Hugo: 083 956 2410
gawiehugo@gmail.com of
Riaan Crafford: 082 876 7608
n/u craffies@telkomsa.net



GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Nick Zerbst 0836255804,
Secretary: Rob Sinclair-Black 044 8746337.
email: robrita@mweb.co.za

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the 'Deep South' of the Cape Peninsula.
President: Dave Young,
email: davesueyoung@gmail.com
Secretary: Volker Janssen.
Website: www.fhps.infoFHPS



PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Francois Friend,
082 554 8900, francois@softchem.co.za; or Vice president,
David Brown 041 360 4025;
or Secretary/Treasurer Rodney
Maclachlan 072 619 5409.
Hosts of the ALGOAPEX 2020
National Stamp Exhibition, Port Elizabeth Philatelic
Society (PEPS) - who welcome your participation



All future meetings will
BE CONFIRMED
after the lockdown is lifted

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909 EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: David Preston
082 7742090.
email: prestee@telkomsa.net
Secretary: Carlos Da Fonseca
082 334 7603.



CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE-ISRAEL PHILATELY
Contact for details: Aubrey Katzeff
<akatzef@mweb.co.za> +27 (21) 4615134
President of CASPIP.

ZIMBABWE - BULAWAYO

Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe
email: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com

EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Our Facebook page allows club activities to continue 24/7; search for *Edenvale Philatelic Society*. Contact: Colin Bousfield 082 309 8656

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY



President: Jimmy Mitchell;
jimmy.hcmitchell@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Hammerton
hampaul@ananzi.co.za

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr,
Tel: 011 789 6357
P O Box 3596, Pinegowrie, 2123.



WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374.
Chairman or Secretary Ian Walker. Tel: 011 4721161. email: ianwalker@vodamail.co.za

OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Society meets every 4th Friday monthly, (except December), at 19h15 at the museum of the Boer Republics in Memorium Road, Bloemfontein.
President: Dr Neil Cronjé and Vice president: Garry Osthoff email: OsthoffG@ufs.ac.za

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

• President: Zbigniew Kaweck, 082 968 6888
• Treasurer: Jeroen Wentink, 082 33 97 588
• Secretary: Harald Deg, 084 464 7171
Association email: KZNPhilately@holistic.cc
'Stamp Exhibitions' with a theme of what to do and what not to do to achieve success...
'All are welcome'



WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P O Box 528, Florida Hills, 1716

The usual venue at the Country Club Johannesburg, Auckland Park is completely closed at this time during the lockdown; for info contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA 082 722 7604.

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

This study group is not meeting at this time
please send all communication to
haschaff@iafrica.com

SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The society has an active exchange packet circuit and members with a wide range of philatelic interests. For further information contact: Chris Carey 083 6622150 / 011 673 2229 / ccarey@icon.co.za

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Monthly newsletter, active exchange section and loads of expertise on traditional philately and postmarks. President: André du Plessis. andredupfs@gmail.com 083 399 1755.
Secretary: Alex Visser. alex.visser@up.ac.za
Box 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927

AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter is Petra Heath en Sekretaris is Herman van Niekerk. Kontak: arnot@telkomsa.net

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President: Japie de Vos
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epos: sanjari@mweb.co.za
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Study Groups

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

Usual Meet in the Captain's Table at Woodmead Johannesburg - last Wednesday of each month at 20h00 (except December).

TBVC STUDY GROUP

Contact: *Chairperson:* Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com *Secretary:* Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com

Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, cor Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Pretoria, 09h00 to 14h00).

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Kontak: djhome606@gmail.com

Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publiseer 'n gereelde maandelikse nuusbrieff. Jan de Jong: 079 190 1066.

SOUTHAFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

This society has amalgamated with the EDENVALE Society. See details on page 102.

RHODESIAN STAMP STUDY

The Rhodesian Study Circle holds regular member meetings and events across the world. For more information on meetings, visit <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/engage/meetings> or Contact the Secretary, Brian Zlotnick. Email bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk or postal address 10 Fortis Green Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 9NA. UK.

The SA representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Programmes for meetings include displays, talks by visiting speakers and 'Show & Tell' exhibits.

An Exchange circuit and auctions from time to time. Visitors always welcome! **Contact:** Marilyn Crawford at 021689 5050
email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall, **Contact:** Ken Joseph ken@philatelicfriends.com

Postage Due Mail Study Group

For more details, look at their website: <http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/>
Contact: Bob Medland, Secretary & Treasurer of the Postage Due Mail Study Group, email: secretary.pdmsg@gmail.com

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36 Amberfield, Private Bag X010, Howick 3290
E-mail/s: [<burncree21@telkomsa.net>](mailto:burncree21@telkomsa.net)
[<aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com>](mailto:aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com)
 2. **President:** Dave Wyllie (all contact details unchanged)
 3. **Stamp Circuit Book Officer** is Russell Bowton
- Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

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The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
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REGULARS

- 108 Letters to the Editorial Board
- 108 Closing dates for future issues
- 110 Phun with Postmarks
- 112 The 'ABC' of Stamps
- 113 Errors on Stamps
- 133 Society news

Awards:

- o Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- o Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
- o Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- o Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- o Federation Plaque 2004,
- o Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
- o Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
- o Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- o Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012.

FEATURES

- 109 An Update on the International Cape Town 2021
by Jannie Hofmeyr
- 109 The Essen international exhibition on
6-9 May 2021 in Germany
SA Commissioner Francois Friend
- 114 The Sixtieth Anniversary of the Opening of the Kariba Dam
by Sean Burke
- 116 'Native Refugee Camps'* in the Transvaal and the Orange
River Colony during the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 121 The Mystery of the Disappearing Mail Boxes
by David Wigston
- 122 The 1981 Malachite Kingfisher Bird Stamp of Lesotho
by Lawrence Barit
- 124 Revisiting the 3rd Definitive Perforators
by Mike Tonking RDPSA
- 128 The Mier Camel Post
by Andrew Briscoe
- 130 Letters to Sir Rowland Hill
by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith
- 134 SAVPEX 2020 - all the results.

ADVERTISERS

- 106 Filat AG
- 111 Bill Barrell Ltd
- 115 & 129 Stampex 2020 Virtual International - London
- 121 Doreen Royan and Associates
- 129 John & Mark Taylor
- 136 Spink

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Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
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 Janice Botes *Production Editor*: janice@gdb.co.za
 David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
 Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL: molens@pixie.co.za

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

Alex Visser : alex.visser@up.ac.za
 Michael Wigmore RDPSA: dcrocker@lando.co.za
 Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL: mobsbychris8@gmail.com
 Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA: kamffer@netactive.co.za

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER of the PFSA

André du Plessis: andredupfs@gmail.com
 Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

Janice Botes: janice@gdb.co.za
 Tel: +27 (0) 11 454 5940

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To avoid late delivery, please note; Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist*.

- **October** 2020 - Volume. 96 : 5. 962. **8th September**
- **December** 2020 - Volume. 96 : 6. 963 **10th November**
- **February** 2021 - Volume. 97 : 1. 964. **12th January**

ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:



FEDERATION NEWS

from the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA
Andre du Plessis 083 399 1755. <https://www.sapa.africa/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1031691006915864/>



As the Covid-19 continues to keep most of us isolated, we are happy to report that the PFSA has adapted to change and seen a great deal of interest in our official website.

Progress is being made with more and more readers using the 'publication' tab to read *The SA Philatelist*. These are positive changes, and although there may be some that want progress a lot faster, adjusting does take time. Management meetings via 'Zoom' are becoming more the norm and if the 'Virtual' SAVPEX 2020 is anything to go by - South Africa attracts attention from across the globe. Sadly, due to the world-wide restriction on air travel, as well as our local restriction on crossing provincial borders, the cancellation of ALGOPEX, our Port Elizabeth National has been unavoidable. With permission granted by FIP, 'The Cape Town International 2021' has been sanctioned and moved its planned dates to 9 to 14 November 2021 where it will now run for five days, rather than the originally planned four days. Feedback from our regional Vice-Presidents indicates that Societies are using more creative ways to stay in touch with their members.

We continue to improve and tweak the PFSA website <www.sapa.africa> with new links to other like-minded sites. We are confident that the site is secure, operating with a security certificate (<https://>). Questions raised and debated regarding the website's security 'WALL' are being addressed. We are in the process of implementing software to allow different levels of access. For example, the current editions of *The SA Philatelist* are available to be downloaded. In line with normal practice, we will soon introduce a \$5 per annum subscription that will allow subscribers full access to the website to search all new and past issues of the *SAP*, as well as other research material. Please note that PFSA members will have this access automatically.

In summary, this will result in two portions of the website. The 'Public' section will provide information about what is happening today and the 'Private' section (behind the WALL) will be a digital library of collections, past publications and other records available

for download by all subscribers and PFSA affiliates for interest and research purposes.

As members were informed, the 81 frame SAVPEX 2020 exhibits are available for viewing on the PFSA website under 'Publications'. This virtual show was planned to run concurrently with the Bloemfontein Hobby X Expo on 22 August 2020 when the results would have been announced. Due to the Covid-19 this expo was cancelled. Exhibits were judged virtually by 25 National and International judges who did a sterling job having all the results available by end July. It was decided to make the results available on the website and we are thrilled to publish it in this issue. Please turn to the inside back page for a full listing as well as the encouraging words from the SAVPEX 2020 Jury Chairman, Emil Minnaar RDPSA.

During this time, it is also important to mention the collaboration and support received for the archiving of our philatelic material, including the scanning of all previously published copies of *The SA Philatelist*, by the Librarian Department of the University of Pretoria. It was envisaged that the scans would be available by the end of May 2020, but this was harshly influenced by Covid-19 and the process will commence after the virus-related restrictions are lifted. Finally, the PFSA Facebook and Twitter pages have been generating much interest. This and numerous other Facebook pages have provided a communication medium for philatelists unable to attend stamp fairs and society meetings during Covid-19, and has broadened our scope to include collectors across the globe. South African interest sites are also available on our FaceBook site and posts on these pages have catered for the full range of interests from beginners (what is this stamp?) to advanced analysis of philatelic material.

The face of our hobby is being forced to change, but most of the changes are progressive and serve to take us all to a better place in the future. Foundation has reviewed its support for local exhibitors to International Exhibitions by subsidising frame fees by 50% in respect of a single event per year.

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PLEASE NOTE:

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Within South Africa, the subscription rate for 2020, for Society Members and 'Direct' subscribers, is R250.00 for a printed copy of each issue and R70.00 for an electronic copy.

For SADC countries; the subscription is R700.00 per year.

For International; Overseas R1,000.00 per year. These prices all include postage via airmail.

The 2020 rates are available on the PFSA official website www.sapa.africa Enquiries regarding subscriptions and membership can be addressed to the COO, André du Plessis at andredupfs@gmail.co.za Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

Publication; *The South African Philatelist*. This journal is published by **The Philatelic Federation of South Africa.**

Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, PO Box 131600, Benoryn, 1504. South Africa or email: janice@gdb.co.za

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London 2020 now Re-scheduled to 2022

SOUTH AFRICANS DID US PROUD BY BEING ACCEPTED TO EXHIBIT AT LONDON 2020 AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXHIBITED IN THE RESCHEDULED LONDON 2022

With the London World Stamp Exhibition 'London 2020' being fully subscribed before the pandemic, organisers offered participants the opportunity to confirm continued interest in the rescheduled 'London 2022'.

The SA Commissioner: Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL he can be contacted on + 27 83 2655649 or email patf@fgprop.com.

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EXHIBITION NEWS

AN UPDATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION CAPE TOWN 2021

by Jannie Hofmeyr, The Royal of Cape Town

The Coronavirus pandemic has upended philatelic planning worldwide. Many shows have been cancelled or postponed. London 2020, one of the most prestigious shows in the world, has been moved to 2022. The steering committee for the Cape Town show was hoping that our relatively late date would make it possible for the show to go ahead as planned in March, but as the pandemic ground on it became clear that pushing for March would be very risky. So the committee decided to approach the FIP and ask for a postponement. Fortunately, there was an opening toward the end of the year; and so the new dates for Cape Town 2021 are 9-13 November.

On the one hand, it's a shame that we've had to postpone the show in this way. On the other, there is a lot of good news starting with the fact that we will now be able to hold the show over five days instead of four at no extra cost.

Setting aside the postponement, there have been many positive developments in relation to the show. By far the most important has been the decision by the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) to take on the show as a special project. A steering committee has been formed to act as a forum for coordinating government involvement with Cape Town 2021 planning. The committee is chaired by the Deputy DG for the DTPS, Mr Jabu Radebe; and it includes representatives from the Motlanthe Foundation, the original CT 2021 planning committee, the DTPS; and, in particular, postal services. Invitations to participate in the planning have been extended to the Departments of Basic Education and International Relations. Our planning for Cape Town 2021 is therefore continuing.



Picture taken when the CT 2021 planning committee met with the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Ms Stella Ndabeni Abrahams. From left to right: Siphixwe Ngwenya, Jan Hofmeyr, Siphso Majombozi, Phindile Dlanini, His Exc. Kgalema Motlanthe, Hon. Min. Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Gerhard Kamffer, Emil Buhrmann, Ayanda Mbolekwa

While it is exceptionally difficult to go forward with certainty, in particular in relation to commitments that require spending, both the original committee and the steering committee are moving forward on the basis that the show will go ahead.

At the moment, while many countries in Europe and Asia have got the pandemic under control, it has become endemic with the potential to flare up the moment that a country lets its guard down. And globally, the rate of new infections is still accelerating, so if anything, the global outlook is now worse than it was just two to three months ago. In our view, the world is going to have to wait for effective treatments and vaccines before anything like normal travel resumes. We are hoping however, that these will be available in time for the Cape Town show. ☹

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION
Cape Town 2021. 9-13 November

Road to Democracy

Website: www.capetown2021.org



For all those lockdowned people wishing their exhibits to get some air - the Essen international exhibition will take place on 6-9 May 2021 in Germany.

Foundation kindly announced that "an exhibitor will be subsidised by 50% of the frame fees in respect of a single show per year. Obviously the exhibitor is not obliged to accept the subsidy should the exhibitor be in a position to afford the fees themselves."

PRESS RELEASE, 2020-07-28
World Exhibition IBRA 2021 will be postponed
Due to planning uncertainties because of Corona Pandemic
This was decided by the Board of Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V. (BDPh) during an extraordinary meeting together with members of the IBRA core team. "We sincerely regret this, but the planning uncertainties are too high", BDPh President Alfred Schmidt said after the phone conference. The IBRA is now scheduled for 2023, talks with the Messe Essen have already started. At the moment BDPh prefers a new date in May 2023.

South African Commissioner

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by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za

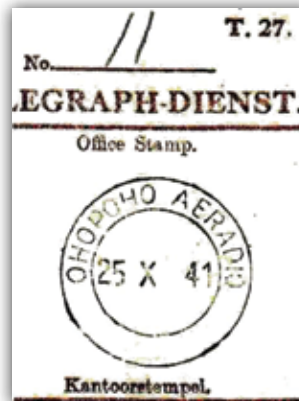


Forgeries

There are a number of individuals who over the years have made copies of stamps, or copied postmarks to defraud either the Post Office service or collectors. Names such as Mirza Hadi Fournier and Madame Joseph are well-known in southern Africa philately in this regard. An enquiry from Neil Donen triggered some research into a suspect first day cover of the South African 1935 Silver Jubilee (SJ) issue, shown as Fig.1 with permission of Nick Levinge.

Madame Joseph was the nom-de-plume for an unknown forger who was thought to be European and who operated from the mid-1930s until about 1960 for Gordon Rhodes, a London stamp dealer. Cancellers were produced for a number of countries amongst others for the 1935 SJ, including South West Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. Cecil Jones inherited the shop, and on his death the material passed onto George Santo. In the early 1990s after George's death a number of dealers worked together to purchase all the cancellers and ancillary material and to donate them to the Royal Philatelic Society London. More than 400 cancellers were recorded, and a 1994 and later 2005 *Madam Joseph Revisited* illustrated compendium was produced by Brian Cartwright. Interestingly, no SJ FDC for South Africa was found amongst the material.

Neil came across the cover shown in Fig.1, and was curious about a FDC being sent from Jansenville to a London Stamp Dealer who had previously been a recipient of other Madame Joseph material. The canceller is identical to Putzel 6, which was recorded used from 1912 to 1953. Furthermore, the application of the canceller was done lightly and did not correspond with the firm impressions made at the post office in the 1930s. I wish to thank Neil for sharing this information with us. A request is for anyone who has FDC or cancellation on stamps of Jansenville 1 MAY 1935 to provide a scan.



need for an aeradio. Windhoek also had a Radio office, and three date stamps have been recorded, seen used from 30.10.1948 to 4.1973 when it closed. It is not clear whether this office performed an aeradio function, especially during the early flights.

Fig.2: 1941 Ohopoho Aeradio date stamp.

When was the earliest permit mail?

Prof David Allison has posed this further interesting question. Early bulk mail either had a stamp affixed, or an indicium imprinted. When was the earliest imprinted POSTAGE PAID (or similar wording) on envelopes or wrappers used? These would be the forerunners of current permit mail. Usually such material would have no date or markings and would thus not be kept.

Figure 3 shows two beautiful wrappers for 'The Vacuum Magazine' (width of 280 mm). Vacuum Oil was a forerunner of Mobil Oil, which more recently became Engen. These wrappers indicate the magazine number, Vol XI No. 2 and Vol 12 No. 2, but no date. In his research David found that the South African Public Library (as it was then called) in Cape Town had a run of the undated *The Vacuum Magazine*. Vol XI No. 2 contained a competition with 30 Sep 1935 as closing date. It follows that the magazine was posted prior to this date. It may be hypothesized that the volume related to year, and if this POSTAGE PAID format was used from the first volume, then the format would have started in 1925. At least we know that this format was used in 1935. Do any of our readers have confirmation of these dates, or earlier dates?



Fig.3. Postage Paid wrappers of 'The Vacuum Magazine' (size reduced).

Dit bly verstommend om voortdurend nuwe inligting of navrae oor ons stokperdjie te kry. Die navraag oor die egtheid van 'n 85 jaar oue stempel bewys weereens dat daar steeds uitdagings is. Die radiotelegraafkantoor het nou uitgekering na Suid-Wes Afrika, en maak die geskiedenis nog meer interessant. Die derde item in die rubriek is 'n uitdaging om materiaal wat oor jare nie oopgemaak is nie weer op te soek. Ek wil ons lesers aanmoedig om te kyk hoe ons al die legkaart stukkies bymekaar kan bring met bydraes of kommentaar.



Fig.1: Suspect Jansenville cancellation of 1935 SJ FDC.

SWA Aeradio Ohopoho

Further to the interesting discussion in the *SAP* June 2020 *Phun Column*, a further Aeradio office was discovered in South West Africa. A 1941 impression of a part telegraph form is shown in Fig.2, and it has been recorded used until 1955. Ohopoho/Ohopoho opened as a Telephone and Radio Telegraph office with temporary postal facilities in April 1939 (Putzel, 1991). Furthermore, it served as a stop on the First Airmail from Cape Town via Windhoek to Loanda in Angola in August 1939. Evidently there were subsequent flights which warranted the

The ABC of stamps

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



FIRST DAY COVERS (FDCs)



Fig.2: An early 1930s example of a printed FDC, produced by entrepreneurs who specialised in making cachets.

Definition

A First Day Cover (FDC) is a cover or postcard with a stamp cancelled on the first day that stamp could be used for postage.

History

First Day Covers are as old as stamps. The first FDC (Fig.1) is for the Penny Black which went on sale 1 May 1840, but was not valid for postage until 6 May 1840. However, covers are known with postmarks from 2 May 1840.

It was only after World War II that the idea of producing FDCs emerged in the UK and Europe. In the UK, the first FDC produced by the Post Office was to mark the issuing of the Shakespeare Festival stamps, 23 April 1964 (Fig.3) together with a special first day cancellation. Up to this point, FDCs were produced by stamp dealers (Fig.4). This resulted in a large variety of FDCs for a single stamp issue.



Fig.1: The first FDC for the day the Penny Black came into use on 6 May 1840 as indicated by the date stamp on the back. The date stamp has been enhanced for greater clarity.



Fig.3: The first FDC produced by the British Post Office was that for the Shakespeare Festival stamp issue, 23 April 1964.



Fig.4: FDC made by a stamp dealer to commemorate the issuing of the Shakespeare Festival stamps of April 1964. This cover was produced by Avon Philatelic Co, Ltd., located in Stratford-upon-Avon.

FDCs, as collectable items started in the US during the 1920s with the use of special cachets. By the 1930s and 1940s specially printed illustrated covers were available for FDCs. These were often elementary, as in the example in Fig.2, produced by cachet maker John Sidenius.

Entry of the Post Office into the FDC market in the mid-1960s led to the rapid disappearance of private FDC makers who could not compete on the same scale as the Post Office.

Parts of an FDC

A contemporary FDC consists of three elements, shown in Fig.5.

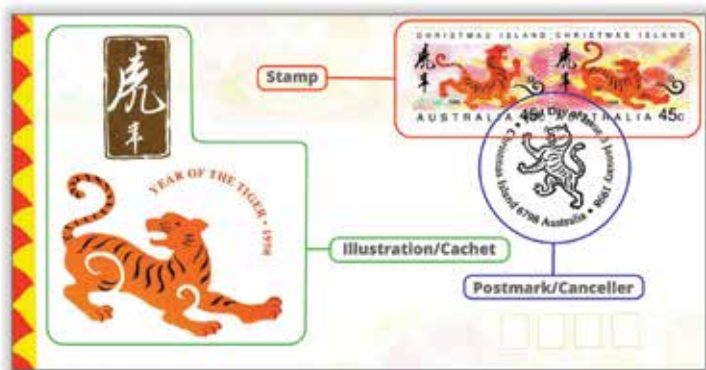


Fig.5: The parts that make up a contemporary FDC.

Note there is no address.

- **The stamp(s):** Most post offices promote new stamp issues by means of an FDC. The stamps applied often do not reflect the postal rate at that time making the item philatelic in nature.
- **The postmark:** ideally the cancellation should just touch the stamp, linking it to the cover. These are usually pictorial and identify the place and date the stamp was issued. However, these are often applied to the covers weeks, or months, before the event.
- **The cachet:** this is an illustration which relates to the stamp and postmark and usually helps to tell the story of the cover. In the case of a cover lacking an illustration or pictorial postmark, it can be difficult to identify as an FDC as in the case of Fig.6. This means you do need to know the date of issue in order to identify it as an FDC. An added clue is that the franking of 15c exceeds the local postage of 2½c.

Addressed or not addressed

As early FDCs actually passed through the postal system they needed to be addressed. This changed as dealers would arrange for large quantities of FDCs to be processed by the Post Office and then returned directly to the dealer without entering the mail.



Fig.6: FDC for the 75th Anniversary of the SA Rugby Board, issued 8 May 1964.

So started the trend for unaddressed FDCs. It's preferable that an FDC has been carried by the mail as this adds acceptability. But there is a risk factor that an FDC placed into the mail will not get the appropriate strike or could be damaged or simply never arrive.

Value of FDCs

Post-World War II there was a boom in stamp collecting based on the tangible investment opportunities the hobby offered. This led to the growth of an industry which grew steadily throughout the 1960s. This growth peaked during the 1980s when there was a strong demand for items like FDCs. The result was a stamp surplus with the promise that, one day, FDCs would be worth something. By the mid 1990s the bubble burst. Globally, the supply of FDCs exceeded demand and the value of FDCs plummeted. The decline continued well in to the 2000s. As a generalisation, the FDC today is seen as a collectable rather an investment. However, there is always an exception!

Exhibiting FDCs

FDCs are frowned upon in thematic exhibits at National level. The cachet, or illustration, has no standing at all. The cover can be windowed, showing just the stamp and the cancellation. But then the cancellation must correlate with the stamp.

Comic Corner

Stamps that make you SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 59 Errors on Stamps...

'MIXED CAR BRANDS'

The postal administration of Equatorial Guinea issued a beautiful block of four stamps with vintage cars from the 1930s. Only problem is that none of the captions agree with the vehicle depicted on the stamp. The Panhard is a MG and the Maybach is a Railton, the MG is the Panhard and the Railton is the Maybach.

The mistake probably happened when the printing plate was put together without checking the car make on the original design...





THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE KARIBA DAM HYDRO ELECTRIC SCHEME

by Sean Burke <sean_burke_1@yahoo.com>
Rhodesian Study Circle

A long time ago I went as a child to the Kariba Dam. I even tried my hand at tiger fishing. Around this time, I remember well being collected by car from boarding school and taken up the strip road to Salisbury (now Harare) to see the Queen Mother as she glided past in what seemed a momentary kaleidoscope of feathers and pastels. She officially opened the Dam on 17 May, 1960. The dam is still the largest man-made dam by volume in the World.

On the 16 May, 2020, I attended a Zoom launch of Jono Waters' book *Kariba – Legacy of a Vision* which celebrates this ever-present wonder (Fig.1).

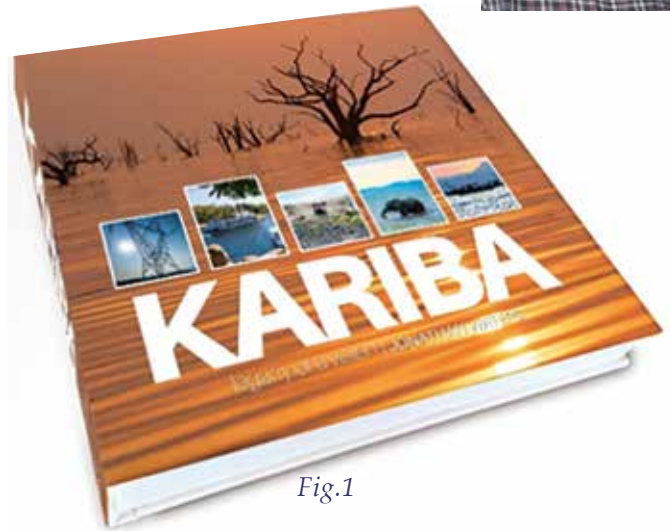


Fig.1

Harare-based Waters writes: “To both Zambia and Zimbabwe, Kariba is more than just a dam. It is part of our psyche. Neither country can think of life without it and for many millions of tourists over the years it has produced many happy memories”.

It is a splendid book, beautifully illustrated. Philately even finds a place and a space: the 1960 Federation of Rhodesia Commemorative Issue features (Fig.2), so too, a splendid series of unadopted essays (Fig.3) from De La Rue & Co. (courtesy of Keith Harrop), and some more recent stamp issues featuring the dam (Fig.4).



Fig.2: The 1960 Federation of Rhodesia Commemorative Issue.



Fig.3: A series of unadopted essays.



Fig.4: Recent stamp issues depicting the Dam.

Publisher details:
'Kariba - Legacy of a Vision'.
Jonathan Waters
Rhodesian Study Circle

More details from this link:

<http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/kariba-legacy-of-a-vision-jonathan-waters/>

Editorial Comment: We wondered why there were only four unadopted essays, but then remembered that De La Rue only printed these four values. The 3d and 6d were printed by Harrison and you can see the difference.

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'Native Refugee Camps'*

IN THE TRANSVAAL AND THE ORANGE RIVER COLONY DURING THE ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society

"Following the British annexation of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony and the beginning of the guerilla war, the military administration was faced with two immediate problems concerning black refugees: firstly, to alleviate hardship and destitution among those Africans whose livelihood had been destroyed by military operations and secondly, to give protection to those communities in danger of suffering at the hands of the Boers for the assistance they had given to the Imperial forces"

(Source: Peter Warwick, *Black People and the South African War: 1899-1902*).

Introduction

Because of the virtual non-existence of philatelic material emerging from 'Native Refugee Camps' during the Anglo-Boer War, not much has been written about the subject until recently when Richard Stroud published his book in 2014 entitled *The Postal History of the Burgher, Refugee and Concentration Camps of the Anglo-Boer War 1900 to 1903*. In the chapter about Native Refugee Camps, he illustrates 14 items linked to post and correspondence emanating from this type of camp.

A postcard I obtained many years back with a 'Native Refugee Camp Heidelberg' rubber stamp on it, made me do some research on the subject (Fig.1). In his five volumes *Die lotgevalle van die burgerlike bevolking gedurende die Anglo Boereoorlog Vol.V* (The fortunes of the civil population during the Anglo-Boer War), published in 1990 by the State Archives, Dr Jan Ploeger, devotes a whole chapter to the *Native Refugee Camps*. These five volumes, contain excellent research on various aspects of the fortunes of the civilians during the war.

Since then, other research has also been done on the topic. For example, in his book *Black People and the South African War*, Peter Warwick mentions the emergence of the refugee problem during the Anglo-Boer War amongst Black people. Elizabeth van Heyningen also devotes a chapter in her book *The Concentration Camps of the Anglo-Boer War - A Social History* to the Black camp experience.

Little is known about the philatelic side of these camps, and very few examples of covers or letters from these camps have come to light. Censorship arrangements also applied to these camps as can be seen from some of the illustrated examples. It is hoped that this article will stimulate Anglo-Boer War collectors to come forward with more examples of cachets or censorship marks originating from these camps.

The purpose of this article is to give an overview of the circumstances surrounding the establishment of such camps in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony (ORC) and to list them. Examples of covers emanating from these camps will also be illustrated. Such camps also existed in the Cape and Natal.

* FOOTNOTE: The word 'Native' was used during the ABW to refer to black people in South Africa. After Unification in 1910 the same word was used when The South African Native National Congress (SANNC), later known as the African National Congress (ANC) was founded on 8 January 1912.

The Influence of the War on Black People

The Anglo-Boer War and its outcome not only had an influence on the white population, but a tremendously negative influence on the daily lives of the Black population in the country. Many workers had to leave the Witwatersrand area because of the closure of the mines.

More or less 6,000 Blacks were recruited to work for the Imperial Military Railways after they had gained control of

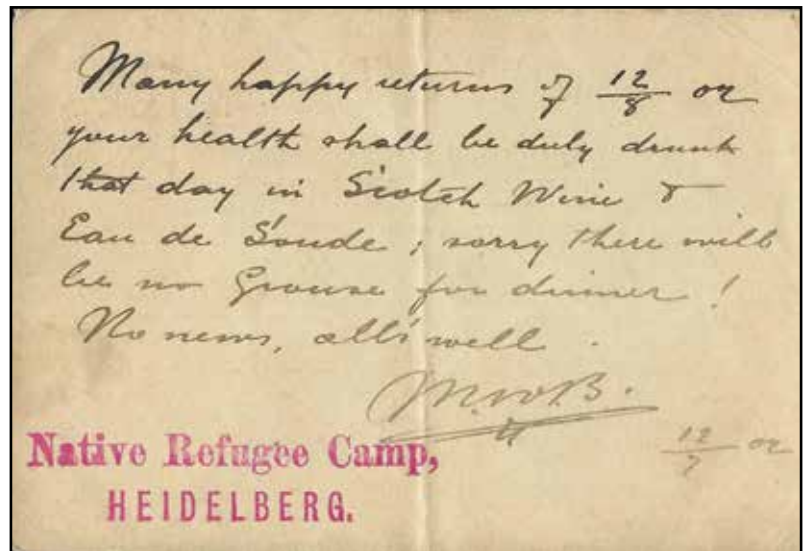


Fig.1: Postcard posted from Heidelberg on 12 July 1902 to England with the Native Refugee Camp Heidelberg cachet applied on the back. Only known copy of this cachet.

the railway system in the country. Ploeger claims that out of a total of 15,000 Blacks who worked on the mines in the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR), between 8,000 and 10,000 were enlisted by the British Forces.

During December 1900, Lord Kitchener issued a memorandum whereby women and children were to be placed in camps. As far as the Black population was concerned, the memorandum said: *"With regard to Natives it is not intended to clear locations, but only such and their stock as are on Boer farms. Every endeavour should be made, to cause as little loss as possible to the native removed, and to give them protection for any works undertaken, for which they will receive pay at Native rates."* Ploeger comes to the conclusion that although it is not said, the real intention of this ruling was to paralyse farm work and farm production. It was also a convenient source of labour for the British Forces.

At this stage there already existed three Native Labour Depots



Fig.2: Cover endorsed 'O.H.M.S.' posted from Volksrust on 15 April 1902 with the Green Hill Native Refugee Camp Volksrust datestamp 1 April 1902. (Source: <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1902-boer-war-green-hill-native-695461200>).

The establishment of camps for Black people in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colonies

According to Ploeger, the date of origin of many of the camps is unknown because of a lack of information. In his report about the activities of the Native Refugee Department for the period June 1901 to December 1902 Captain (and Brevet Major) H.G. Joly de Lotbinière states: "The necessity of forming Refugee Camps for Natives was not felt until June 1901 - some time after the work of clearing the civilised portion of the Colony of everything that might assist the burghers to prolong the war, had commenced. Besides the burghers' families, their native servants and farm labourers, together with all stock, were brought in, but as the carrying capacity of the Military Transport was not great, the grain belonging to the natives had to be largely destroyed, and the natives allowed to retain a limited amount only. Refugees were deposited at those railway stations which were the basis of operation of the columns at this time."

A camp of this nature already existed in the Transvaal at Nigel on 25 March 1901. This can be concluded from correspondence



Fig.3: Pass issued by Chief Kekana of Hammanskraal in 1911.

Fig.4: (at left) Brevet Major H.G. Joly de Lotbinière of the Royal Engineers who was in control of the Native Refugee Department.



exchanged at that stage. According to Stroud the administration of the Native Refugee Camps was initially under control of the military authorities, and who used the superintendents of the camps set up to accommodate white refugees.

Warwick indicates that some refugees arrived with cattle and flocks of sheep and goats, and others came in a starving and destitute condition. In garrison towns, relief was occasionally dispensed through the offices of District Commissioners. However, when Chief Kekane from Hammanskraal requested permission to bring into Pretoria some 800 followers, mostly women and children whose menfolk were absent in



Fig.5: An OHMS cover from Klerksdorp (APO Klerksdorp FE 22 02) to Port Elizabeth with the two-line imprint Native Refugee Department, Johannesburg amended in manuscript to Klerksdorp plus the authorising signature of P.F. Leach probably the Superintendent of the camp.

- in De Aar, Bloemfontein and Johannesburg. Black people were recruited for different sections of the army at these depots.

As far as cachets and censorship marks are concerned, one can accept that each camp had its own stamp or mark, used for administration purposes, as the examples of Heidelberg and Volksrust show (Fig.2).

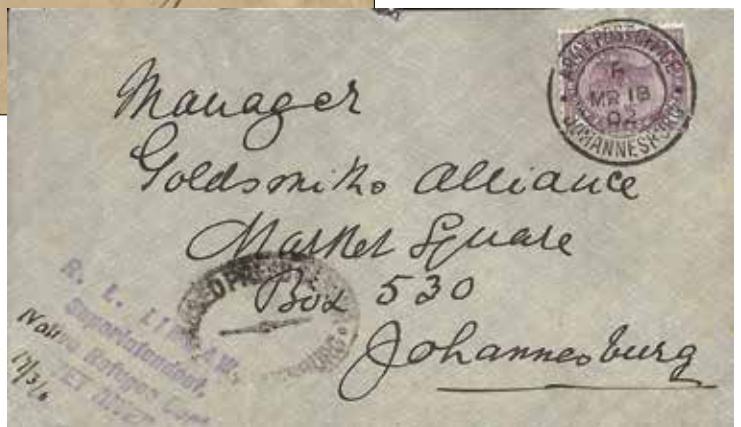


Fig.6: Cover posted from the Army Post Office Johannesburg 18 March 1902 with the very scarce violet cachet 'R.L. LINDAW, Superintendent Native Refugee Dept Vet River' in the Orange River Colony

military employment, General J.G. Maxwell considered it undesirable that they would be given protection in the town (Fig.3).

On 15 June 1901 the Native Refugee Department was established in the Transvaal under the control of Brevet Major Joly de Lotbinière of the Royal Engineers (Fig.4), with its main task to supply workers to the British Army. All Transvaal camps were placed under his department's control at that stage (Fig.5). A month later his authority was extended to the ORC as well.

In the ORC, 12,043 refugees had been concentrated in eight separate camps by the end of April 1901, and by the beginning of June this number had risen to 20,590. The largest camps in the territory were situated at Brandfort, Edenburg, Heilbron, Kroonstad and Vredefort Road (Figs.6 - 10).

The Black refugee camps were situated along the railway lines to make it easy to transport members to where their labour was required during operations and for other routine tasks. Workers were paid 1s a day plus rations that was paid to refugees who accepted military employment. They were enlisted for three months to enable them to return at intervals to go and visit their families. There was also strict control over the movement of people in the camps and a pass was required to move out of the camps (Fig.11).

Native Refugee Camps under control of the Transvaal administration:

	Name of Camp	Number of Black People	Number of Families
1	Vereeniging	2,427	405
2	Meyerton	800	133
3	Witkop	150	25
4	Kliprivier	400	66
5	Natalspruit	600	100
6	Klipriviersberg	600	100
7	Boksburg	776	146
8	Heidelberg	2,945	491
9	Greylingstad	1,831	305
10	Standerton	1,670	275
11	Paardekop	1,600	100
12	Bronkhorstspuit	264	44
13	Brugspruit	454	82
14	Middelburg	451	75
15	Bezuidenhoutsvallei	787	131
16	Krugersdorp	1,769	295
17	Koekemoer and		
18	Klerksdorp	8,135	1,356
	Total Transvaal	24,659	4,129

Fig.7: An OHMS cover with the three-line imprint Chief Supt. Native Refugee Locations O.R.C. used privately to England posted from Ventersburg Road Rail Office on 13 September 1901 from a Lt Jackson Mitchell, D Inspr. (District Inspector). This item was probably posted from the Native Refugee Camp at Ventersburg Road.

Native Refugee Camps under control of the Orange River Colony administration:

	Name of Camp	Number of Black People	Number of Families
19	Taaibosh	2,554	1,000
20	Wolvehoek	300	50
21	Heilbron	1,466	244
22	Kromellenboog	600	100
23	Vredesfortweg	1,880	313
24	Kopjes	944	250
25	Serfontein	1,350	225
26	Honingspruit	2,906	484
27	Boschrand	600	150
28	Geneva	1,500	250
29	Holfontein	1,576	350
30	Ventersburgweg	1,427	238
31	Welgelegen	719	120
32	Smaldeel	1,063	177
33	Vetriver	600	200
34	Eensgevonden	716	128
35	Houtenbek	5,067	800
36	Allemans	1,500	300
37	Harrismith	6,000	1,000
38	Thaba Nchu	1,800	300
39	Oranjerivier	1,337	310
40	Kimberley	1,576	260
41	Taungs	600	100
	Total ORC	38,081	7,349
	Total Tvl & ORC	62,470	11,478

Source: Dr Jan Ploeger, *Die lotgevalle van die burgerlike bevolking gedurende die Anglo-Boereoorlog, 1899-1902, Deel V, pp. 43:20 – 43:21.*

Conditions in the camps

Warwick points out that there can be little doubt about the neglect of some of the camps for Africans (Fig.12). At the camp in Heidelberg for example, refugees were reported to be subsisting only on the carcasses of diseased cattle and when two water carts were sent to the camp to improve the supply of water these were soon afterwards commandeered back again by the Army. As a result of all of this Africans were dying at a rate of about one a day.

Until recently, little had been known about the black concentration camp in the Heidelberg district. The conditions



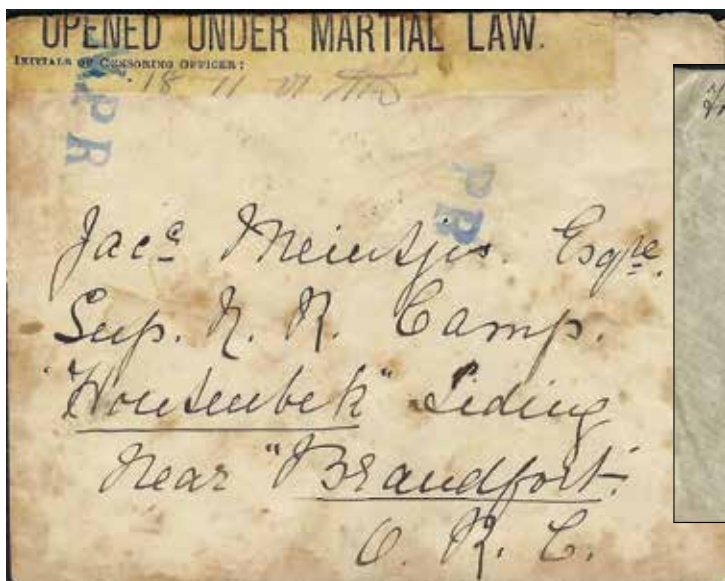


Fig.8: Cover censored at Bloemfontein on 18 November 1901 and posted to 'Jac(obus) Meintjies, Sup. N.R. Camp Houtenbek Siding Near Brandfort' in the Orange River Colony.

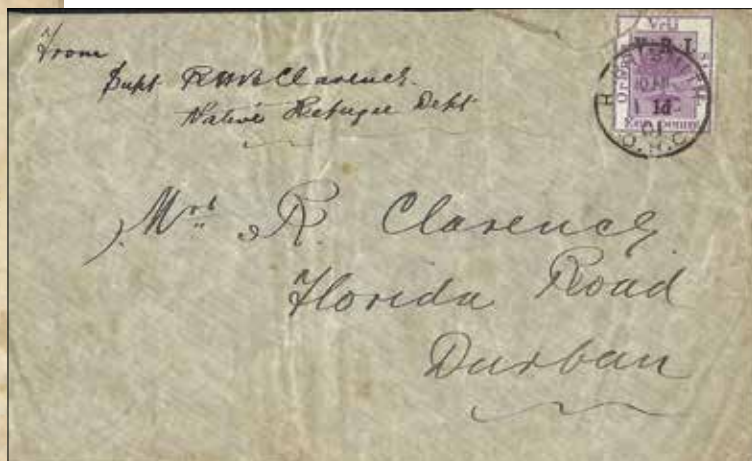


Fig.9: Cover posted from Harrismith on 1 October 1901 to Durban endorsed on the front: 'From Supt. R. A. R. Clarener, Native Refugee

They believed that under the British the racial order would change in South Africa and they were hoping that they would be supplied with land of their own. However, the British never envisaged independent Black farmers. For the British, their only value was their labour.

in the camps in Heidelberg and Greylingstad (Fig.13) improved after their management had been taken over by the Department of Native Refugees in June 1901. Blacks were employed by the army and private households. Some of them were self-sufficient, since they produced maize and other crops. The mortality rate in the black camp at Heidelberg was low, probably thanks to the good work of Stewart, the medical officer. Based on his research about Heidelberg during the Anglo-Boer War, WJ Pretorius pointed out that the average spending on rations per month in the Heidelberg Camp during the period November 1901 to April 1902 was £42, whilst the average spending per month in the Greylingstad Camp for the period November 1901 to April 1902 was £93. By May 1902 the Heidelberg Native Refugee Camp housed a total of 2,484 people whilst the Greylingstad Camp housed a total of 2,220 in July 1902. A total of 150 people died in the Heidelberg Camp from October 1901 and a total of 298 in the Greylingstad Camp from July 1901 onwards. (Figs.14 and 15).



Fig.10: Cover posted from Army Post Office Klerksdorp on 12 January 1902 and censored in Klerksdorp to Mr John Lebaka in Sannaspos Camp.

By the close of 1901 the death rate among black refugees had reached alarming proportions. In all there were 14,154 recorded deaths in the camps, or more than one in ten of those assembled. Warwick pointed out that many deaths probably occurred within the camps that were never reported officially. Van Heyningen also stated that the alleviation of hardship in the African camps took second place to the improvement of conditions in those for whites.

She also pointed out that if repatriation from the camps was a bitter time for the Boers, it was far worse for the black camp inmates as they felt betrayed and their fleeting hope of independence snatched away.

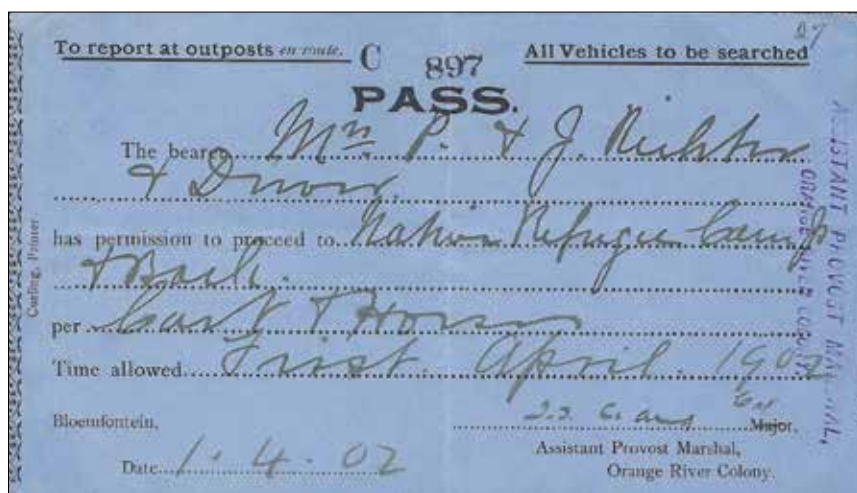


Fig.11: Pass approved by the Assistant Provost Marshal based in Bloemfontein as part of the Orange River Colony government. Approved for two adults and a driver to visit the Bloemfontein Native Refugee Camp on 1 April 1902 and return.



Fig.12: A black family photographed in an unknown 'Native Refugee Camp' in front of a dilapidated tent. (Source: Fransjohan Pretorius, *Verskroeiende Aarde*, p. 126).

Acknowledgement

The author is also thankful to Captain Jacques de Vries from Pretoria and Ian Shapiro from London for their encouragement and assistance with the compilation of this article.

All illustrated items unless otherwise indicated are from the author's collection: *'The Road to Democracy in South Africa up to 1994'*

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Conclusion

The history of the black Native Refugee Camps forms part of the tragedy of the deaths of thousands of people in the concentration camps during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). Although it is 120 years since the conflict ended, the tragedy of the camps is still relevant and deeply felt by both black and white in South Africa.

The Anglo-Boer War claimed the lives of about 7,000 Boer and 22,000 Imperial troops but we will never know how many armed black participants perished in various actions. Although the recorded deaths of Black people in the camps stood at 14,154 - historians estimate that more than 20,000 Black people might have died.

Of the roughly 116, 000 Boers housed in unsanitary and badly run white camps, some 28,000 died.

However, from a philatelic point of view the collecting of the postal history of the Native Refugee Camps remains important, and it is a great challenge to find these items which can be regarded as philatelic gems.

Fig.14/15 : Mr Hennie van Schalkwyk the former headmaster of the school in Greylingstad, who discovered the grave sites of the local Native Refugee Camp in 1999, with one of the learners at a tombstone with the date 1902 engraved on it. (Source: Hennie van Schalkwyk fotoversameling, Greyingstad).



Fig.13: An official cover posted from Greylingstad 7 APR 02 to Rhodesia with the endorsement from R.A. Swart, Supt. Native Refugee Camp Greylingstad, South Africa. Cover censored in Heidelberg and Johannesburg. The cover was underpaid and taxed on arrival.



The Mystery of the Disappearing Mail Boxes

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

Across the United States the ubiquitous blue mail boxes (Fig.1), known locally as collection boxes, are disappearing. Introduced way back in 1858, in 2016 there were about 153,000 mailboxes distributed across the country. Since then, 14,000 boxes have disappeared. As a cost saving measure (does that not sound familiar?) the United States Postal Service has been removing collection boxes which are under-used. The criterion for elimination is that the box receives an average of 25 pieces of mail per day, or lower.



Fig.2: A public notice regarding removal attached to a collection box.

Fig.1: A traditional USPS blue mail collection box with a pull-down flap at the top for inserting mail items, including parcels.



However, the removal of little-used mail boxes has not been a smooth process. Boxes could only be removed after approval by Area management and public notification (Fig.2). An audit found that more than half the boxes had been removed without approval.

The US Postal Service's argument is that these barely used boxes are expensive to service and maintain. Just how successful this move has been is a moot point. Megan J. Brennan, the US Postmaster-General (*postmistress-general? Postperson-general?*) commented: "At a time when America needs the Postal Service more than ever, the reason we are so needed is having a devastating effect on our business. The sudden drop in mail volumes, our most profitable revenue stream, is steep and may never fully recover."

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THE 1981 MALACHITE KINGFISHER BIRD STAMP OF LESOTHO

by Lawrence Barit, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



On 20 April 1981, Lesotho issued a new definitive set of 14 stamps, with each one depicting a different bird. A common feature of the stamps was the imprint '1981', under the word Lesotho. The following year, on 14 January, this beautiful set was re-issued with the imprint '1982'. Other than the year, there were no other changes.

Both the 1981 and the 1982 issues were printed in sheets of 40 stamps by Format Security Printers, with the stamps having been designed by G. Vasarhelwyl. One of the stamps in the set is the 25s Malachite Kingfisher (Fig.1).

The First Day Cover

Due to the number of stamps in the set (14) and their size, the First Day Cover was split into two separate envelopes (Figs.2 & 3). The Malachite Kingfisher was the only image featured as part of the Official First Day Cover envelope, which reads 'Birds Definitive 1981 Lesotho'. The postmark date of the First Day Cover is '20 April 1981'. The imprint date '1981' appears in the centre bottom of all the stamps in the set, whether their format is horizontal or vertical.



Fig.1.

especially when diving to catch its prey in the water.

The Imprints

Enlargements taken from the Malachite Kingfisher 25s stamp show the '1981' imprint (Fig.4) as well as the subsequent dating a year later of '1982' (Fig.5). The imprint is placed under the word 'Lesotho' on all 14 values of this set.



Fig.4.

Fig.5.

Imperforate Stamps

Between 1967 and 1989 Format International Security Printers Ltd, printed stamps for many of the nations in the British Commonwealth. One of the countries was Lesotho.

When the company went into liquidation, the liquidators disposed of remaining stocks of stamps. Figure 6 is an imperforate pair of the 25s Malachite Kingfisher stamp.



Fig.6.



Fig.2.

The Malachite Kingfisher

Not surprisingly, the Malachite Kingfisher stamp has become the stand-out bird of the set, as by implication, the Official First Day Cover placed it in that position. The Malachite Kingfisher is found in Africa, south of the Sahara and its main habitat is located near ponds or slow moving water. The bird is renowned for its swift flight,

The Surcharges

In 1986, some of these Lesotho bird stamps were overprinted with different values. The reason for the surcharging arose from the demand for certain values, whilst stocks of other values still existed. A 35s stamp was needed for overseas letters, hence the surcharging of the 25s Malachite



Fig.3.



Fig.7: 35s surcharge



Fig.8: Inverted surcharge



Fig.9: Double surcharge positioned to the left

Kingfisher (Fig.7). This occurred in September 1987 and both the sheets bearing the '1981' and '1982' imprints were surcharged.

In 1988, the postal rate for countries in the African Postal Union was adjusted to 16s, which included letters to South Africa. With stocks still available of the 25s value, 16s was surcharged on it (Fig.15). This surcharging process continued until February 1988. As with all the surcharges, they were meant to replace the original value by having 'double bars' cancelling it, leaving the new value above the old obliterated one. Unfortunately, some errors were discovered. There were also differences with respect to the formation of the 'S' in '35s' and finally, a variety appeared.

The Errors

- The inverted surcharge (Fig.8): It is believed that only one such sheet was discovered. The position of the surcharge indicates that the sheet went into the overprinting process the wrong way round.
- The double surcharge (Figs.9 and 10): The one stamp has the second overprint to the left of the correct overprint, while the other has the second overprint across the perforations.
- The missing surcharge (Fig.11): One stamp of the pair has no overprint, while the second has the overprint slightly displaced.

The 'S'

There are three different formats, two of which appear on a single sheet (Fig.12). Here, the left stamp has a tiny 'S' while the right has a larger format 'S'. This overprinting was done by Lesotho Ads in Maseru. Figure 13, has the 'S' in a large format, having been printed by a different company, namely Epic Printers, also in Maseru.



Fig.12: Small 's' and large 'S' on a pair



Fig.13: Large 'S' on the single stamp



Fig.14: 35s overprint positioned away to the left of the 25s value



Fig.10: Double overprint across the perfs



Fig.11: Missing overprint on the right hand of the pair



Fig.15: 16s surcharge



Fig.16: surcharge 35s on 16s on 25s

A Variety

The 35s was meant to replace the 25s in the surcharging process, covering the 25s in the format of double bars eliminating the old price. However, Fig.14 has the 35s positioned away from the 25s.

The 16s Surcharge (Fig.15)

This overprint was issued on 30 December 1987. Unlike the 35s on 25s, which was overprinted by Lesotho Ads, the surcharging of the 16s on 25s was done by Epic Printers. Although there do not appear to be any errors recorded of this stamp, there is a sheet where a major variety exists. The 16s is overprinted in the middle of the stamp and the bars do not cancel out anything. Hence, the original duty on the stamp remains intact.

The 35s on 16s on 25s (Fig.16)

It appears that the 16s had first been overprinted on the 25s in the correct position, as the 16s value clearly has the necessary bars cancelling out the 25s, in the position where they should be. However, the 35s cancels out partially the 16s, whilst leaving the value clearly visible of 35s. The imprint date on the stamp is '1981' (original issue).

Conclusion: The Lesotho 1981 bird set can take its place as an educational, whilst at the same time attractive, field of philately. The stand-out stamp of the set is the Malachite Kingfisher, but it must be remembered that this individual stamp is only one of 14 birds in the set, each having its own philatelic story. It is a magnificent issue and a wonderful area of study due to the array of 'happenings' which took place.



Revisiting the 3rd Definitive Perforators

by M.J.H. Tonking RDPSA, South African Collector's Society UK - miketonking@telkomsa.net

During the five year period from 27 May 1977 the third definitive Protea series were issued. The printing was by rotogravure and lithography, both methods were used in order to be able to meet the quantity of each value required for the initial issue. This period saw the development of perforating methods used by the Government Printer largely brought on by the various problems experienced with the De La Rue Giori in-built perforator. Four different perforating appliances were used with two different perforating gauges namely 12.5x12.5 and 14x13.75.

Unfortunately it is not always possible to positively identify the different perforators used from examination of either a cylinder block or sheet. For example perforators were not always set up to perforate in the same way thus leaving one side margin imperforate or perforating all four sheet margins. At times the top and bottom margins were imperforated or either top or bottom imperforate and the other perforated. The Government Printer was only interested in producing a good product and left the student of the Proteas to worry about the type of perforator used.

The De La Rue Giori 841 Press with the in-built Perforator

This rotary perforator formed part of the De La Rue Giori press first commissioned in 1973. It was a continuous source of problems which in the end resulted in the use of external perforating appliances. Of the seventeen Protea values only nine were perforated on the in-built perforator to a gauge of 12.5x12.5.

The in-built perforator always left the top and bottom sheet margins imperforated apart from a single hole at the end of each vertical row of perforations. Both left and right sheet margins of both panes were always perforated.

A characteristic of this perforator was an additional perforation hole in the top and bottom margins over and above the single hole (Fig.1).

This beacon hole appeared on every fourth pane in any print run, however if for any reason, the press was stopped the system had to be resynchronised which could leave the beacon hole in a different position on the pane or even on a different pane.



Fig.1: Beacon perforation hole between rows 3 and 4.

The circumference of the rotogravure printing cylinder was 573.7992mm being half that of the perforating cylinder which was 1147.5984mm thus the rotogravure cylinder revolved twice for every revolution of the perforating cylinders. This is why the beacon hole was only present on every fourth pane printed. The purpose of the beacon hole was to facilitate the location of any bent or broken pin which otherwise would have been very difficult (Fig.2).

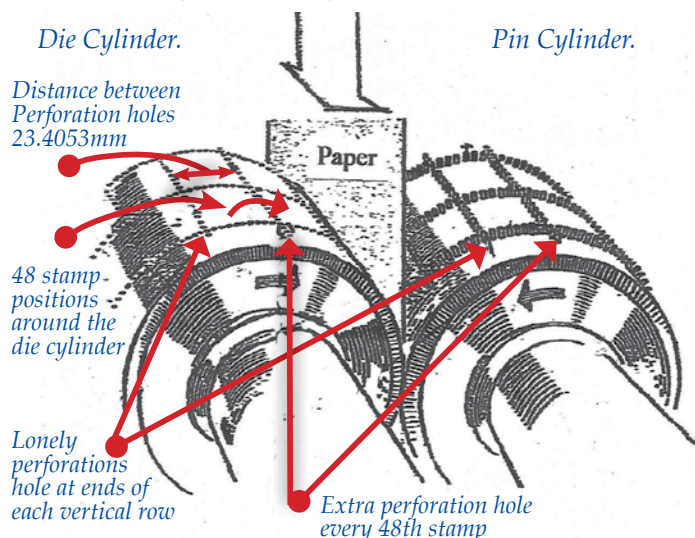


Fig.2: De La Rue 841 press in-built perforation operation.

The Protea stamps all had a width of 23.9083mm which meant that 48 rows of stamps were perforated on each revolution of the perforating cylinders. Each pane of stamps had ten rows and two blank margins making twelve rows in all, thus four panes were perforated per revolution of the perforating cylinders.

Since the perforating speed was about 400 sheets per hour the printing rate had to be slowed down in line with the perforator speed. In addition the perforator was subject to high wear rates and generally gave operating problems. In view of this it was not surprising that the Government Printer finally gave up and then only used external perforators.

It was indeed fortunate that the Government Printer had purchased external perforating appliances which could be utilised to ensure the supply of stamps. At this time there were seven such perforators, all of which were used at one time or another to perforate the Protea series stamps.

- Two Grover perforators purchased in 1959
- Two Walter Kroll perforators purchased in 1975
- One Walter Kroll perforator purchased in 1976
- Two Bickel perforators purchased in 1980

Grover Perforator

The Grover perforator was a flat bed two row or double comb perforator which perforated a single row of stamps on all sides as well as the vertical legs of the next row of stamps. Any perforation irregularity appeared on every alternate row of stamps (Fig.3).

When originally purchased the perforating gauge was

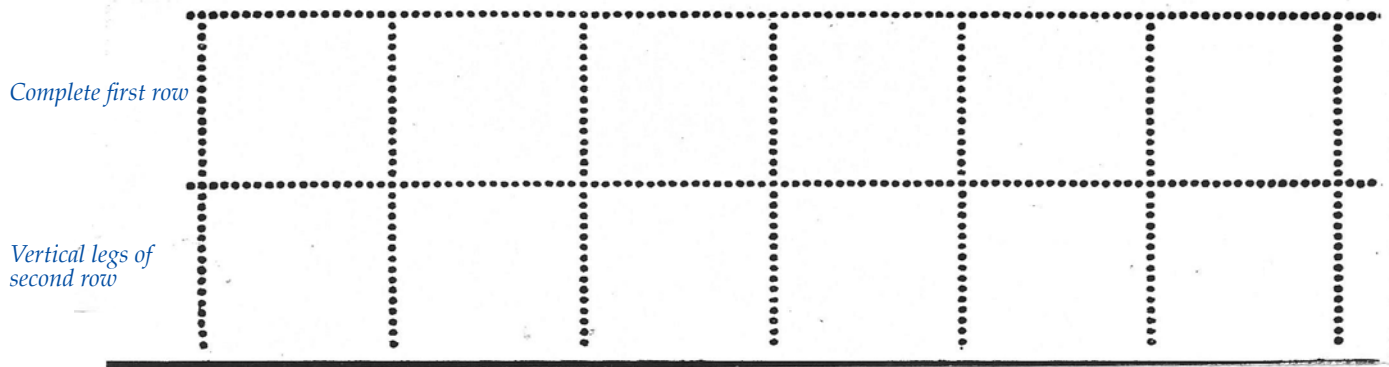


Fig.3: Grover two or double row perforator.

14x13.75 which later was changed to 12.5x12.5 in conformity with the gauge of the in-built perforator. It was then changed back to 14x13.75 gauge, being first used to perforate the 20c dated 16 February 1978 at a time the in-built perforator was out of order. This change of gauge was prompted by the Post Office and Philatelic Services to allow for easier separation of the stamps.

In the first instance single punch holes were made once in the top and bottom sheet margins of the 'B' panes to align the sheets correctly on the perforator bed (Fig.4). For a number of reasons this did not work well, and it was not long before it was decided to revert to a feeding tray. About five sheets each made up of two panes were perforated at a time which resulted in a rate of approximately 700 sheets per hour.

Normally both 'A' and 'B' panes had imperforated top and bottom margins with a single perforation hole at the ends of each vertical row which was similar to the in-built perforator without the beacon holes. Again, normally right and left margins of the 'A' pane and right margin of the 'B' pane were perforated with only the 'B' pane having an imperforated left margin. This was not always so as in some cases all four margins were perforated, for example the 10c issue 2 dated 27 October 1980 (Fig.5).

Walter Kroll Perforator (Fig.6)

Like the Grover this was a flat bed perforator which in the first instance was equipped with a single row comb (Fig.7).

The operation was similar to the Grover except that the sheet travel direction was reversed. The gripper clamp screws had pins which left tiny holes in the left margin of the 'B' pane which, when present, can be used to identify this perforator (Fig.8).

Five sheets were perforated at a time which resulted in a rate of 500 sheets per hour. This was slower than the Grover however the results were considered to be better. Wear rates of the pins and die were not high with about 40,000 sheets being perforated before replacement of the perforating heads was required.

The perforator was originally purchased with a 12.5x12.5 perforating head. It was first used to perforate the 9c issue 1 dated 25 May 1975. Generally this perforator perforated the right and left sheet margins leaving the top and bottom margins imperforated, except for a single hole at the ends of the vertical rows of perforations. A further twenty values were so perforated.

It is reported that on 25 July 1979 a new single row



Fig.4: 20c Group 1 issue 2 dated 16.02.78 showing Grover punch hole in bottom margin.

perforating head gauge 14x13.75 was made and used only once for perforating the 3c group 2 issue 1 dated 1 October 1979. It would appear that this was done to be in conformity with the Grover gauge 14x13.75 which was also used for the same issue.

On 9 August 1979 a new two row perforating head gauge 14x13.75 was introduced for the first time. This head was modified by the removal of the bottom row of horizontal pins so that it would not completely perforate two rows but act in exactly the same way as the Grover two row comb



Fig.5: 10c Value issue 2 dated 17 October 1980 'A' and 'B' panes perforated left margin.

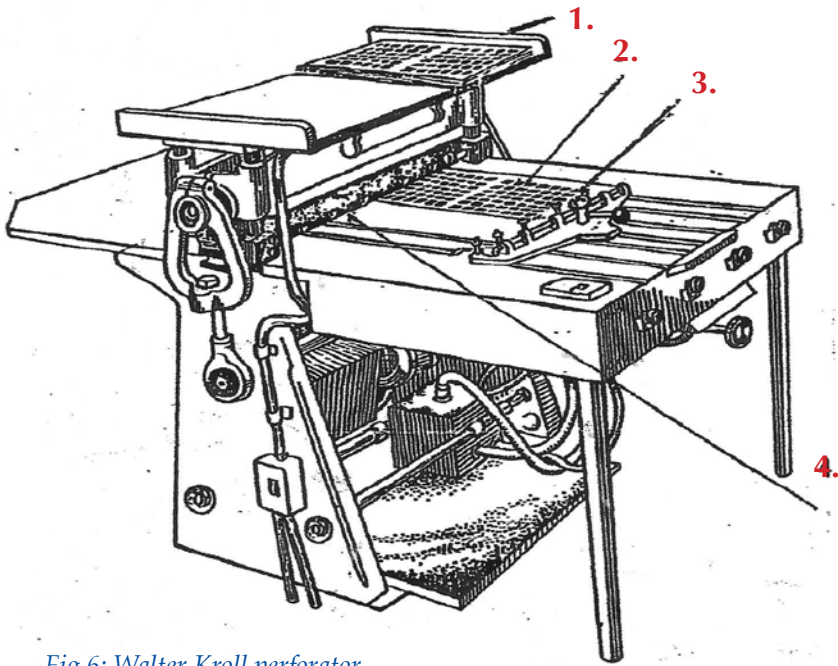


Fig.6: Walter Kroll perforator.

- 1. Perforated sheet storage tray. 2. Five Sheets on feed tray.
- 3. Gripper clamps with pins 4. Perforating head with pins on top.

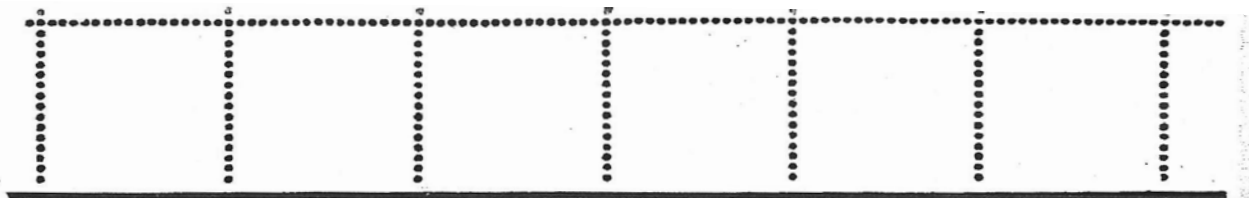


Fig.7: Walter Kroll single row perforator.



Fig.8: 20c Value perforated by the Walter Kroll single row perforator gauge 12.5 x 12.5.

perforator. This was done to avoid the possibility of double strikes after every second row of stamps. It was used for the first time to perforate the 6c issue 2 dated 15 August 1979. All told, six more values were perforated with this perforator which normally perforated all four sheet margins.

Bickel Perforator (Fig.9).

By 1980 the Walter Kroll company had gone out of business so the Government Printer turned to E. Bickel of Heilbronn for the supply of two perforators which were installed in August 1980.

As a flat bed perforator the operation was very similar to both the Grover and Walter Kroll perforators however for the first time the motion was both mechanical and pneumatic. The Grover was purely mechanical and the Walter Kroll mechanical and hydraulic. As in the case of the Walter Kroll perforator the four to five sheets on the feed table were first pushed through below the raised perforator pins and then perforated as the table returned to its original position.

As far as can be ascertained the only Protea value to be perforated by the Bickel perforator gauge 14x13.75 was the 50c issue 2 dated 9 October 1980. In this case all four margins were perforated.

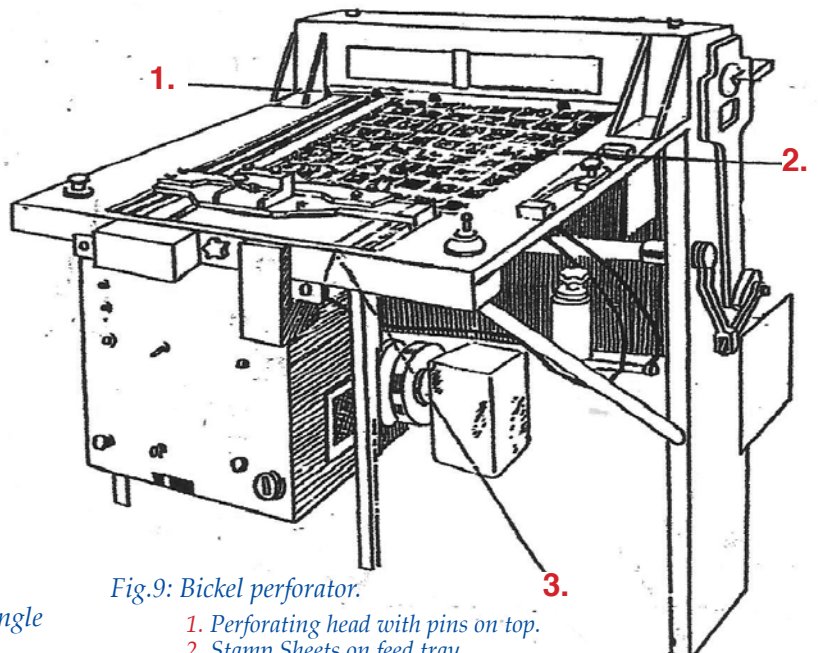


Fig.9: Bickel perforator.

- 1. Perforating head with pins on top.
- 2. Stamp Sheets on feed tray.
- 3. Gripper clamps mechanism.

KEY:
 IB = In-built perforator 12.5 x 12.5 gauge
 G2 = Grover Two Row perforator
 WK1 = Walter Kroll single perforator
 WK2 = Walter Kroll Two Row perforator
 B = Bickel perforator 14 x 13.75 gauge
 x12 = 2.5 x 12.5 gauge
 x14 = 14 x 13.75 gauge

RSA THIRD DEFINITIVE PROTEA SERIES										
Value	Print Date	Suffix	Cyl/Plate Numbers	Rotogravure	Lithography	Perforator				
						IB	G2	WK1	WK2	B
1c	09.09.76	- 0	722, 724-26	x		x				
	21.10.80	-1	"	x		x				
2c	30.09.76	- 0	722, 728-30	x		x				
3c	10.08.76	- 0	722, 718-21	x		x				
	10.08.76	- 0	"	x		x		x12		
	30.01.78	-1	"	x			x12	x12		
	22.08.78	-2	"	x		x				
	27.10.78	-3	"	x		x	x12	x12		
	20.03.79	-4	"	x				x12		
	01.10.79		1254-57		x		x14	x14		
4c	30.12.76	- 0	722, 743-46	x		x				
	16.08.77	-1	"	x			x12	x12		
	16.08.77	-1	"	x				x12		
	10.04.78	-2	"	x			x12	x12		
	30.06.78	-3	"	x		x				
	19.10.78	-4	"	x		x	x12			
	04.12.78	-5	"	x				x12		
	09.02.79	-6	"	x				x12		
5c	13.12.76	- 0	722, 751-54	x		x				
	15.12.76	- 0	"	x		x				
	03.12.79	-1	"	x		x				
	04.03.81	-2	"	x		x	x14			
	04.02.82	-3	"	x			x14			
6c	Not Known		P1055, P1061-65,1107		x			x12		
	15.08.79		1227-33		x				x14	
7c	Not Known		P1055, P1077-81		x			x12		
	19.03.79		1199-1204		x			x12		
	19.09.80		1310-15		x			x14		
8c	11.01.77	- 0	722,747-50	x		x				
	10.07.81	-1	"	x			x14			
	15.01.82	-2	"	x			x14			
	04.02.82	-3	"	x			x14			
	11.05.82	-3	"	x			x14			
9c	Not Known		P1055-60		x			x12		
	22.12.78		1174-79		x			x14		
	11.07.79		1216-20, 1226		x			x12		
10c	13.01.77	- 0	722, 739-42	x		x				
	26.04.79	-1	"	x		x				
	27.10.80	-2	"	x			x14			
	12.01.82	-3	"	x			x14			
15c	03.11.76	- 0	722, 731-34	x		x				
	21.06.78	-1	"	x		x				
	05.07.79	-2	"	x		x				
20c	21.12.76	- 0	722, 735-38	x		x				
	16.02.78	-1	"	x			x12	x12		
	16.02.78	-1	"	x			x14			
	06.01.82	-2	"	x			x14			
	24.05.82		1468-72		x					x14
25c	Not Known		P1055, P1082-86, 1106		x			x12		
	03.06.80		1292-98		x		x14			
	26.10.81		1415-21		x				x14	
30c	Not Known		P1055, P1087-91		x			x12		
	19.05.78		1131-36		x			x12		
	19.10.80		1346-51		x		x14			
50c	Not Known		P1055, P1092-96		x			x12		
	09.10.80		1316-21		x					B
	10.02.82		1439-44		x				x14	
R1	Not Known		P1070, P1072-76, P1097		x			x12		
	19.03.79		1205-11		x			x12		
	30.07.80		1303-09		x				x14	
	30.04.82		1461-67		x				x14	
R2	Not Known		P1066-71		x			x12		
	25.05.81		1393-98		x				x14	

NOTES. The 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c, 15c and 20c values were printed by Rotogravure with a common cylinder 722 printing 'RSA'. The 6c, 7c, 9c, 25c, 30c, 50c, R1 and R2 values were printed by Lithography. With the exception of the R1 and R2, these values used a common cylinder P1055 for printing 'RSA' only for the first printings.

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THE MIER CAMEL POST

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



In the far north west of British Bechuanaland, a few kilometres from the border with German South West Africa, lay the village of Rietfontein. In 1894, a trader named Albert Jackson arrived in Rietfontein and started a private runner post to the nearest post office at Zwart Modder, some 190 kilometres distance by 'road' across the Kalahari Desert. Jackson was paid £50 a year for this service, which took between five and six days to complete. The service was relatively popular, although the weight of mail soon became too much for a 'footpost', and in August 1895, a formal post office was established in Rietfontein with Jackson as the first postmaster. For some mysterious reason, this post office was called Mier, named after a village located some thirty kilometres further north. Part of the Mier district is now located in Botswana.

The establishment of a formal post office was accompanied by a tender for the carriage of mail by an ox-drawn post-cart within four days, which was executed at a cost £800 per annum. The rugged terrain unfortunately made traditional post-cart carriage expensive and difficult to sustain. Against this background, it was decided to experiment with a postal service employing one-humped camels. The Postmaster-General of the Cape reported in 1899: "it was suggested that the camels belonging to the Government, kept at the Uitolugt Forest Station, near Cape Town, might be used. Four camel cows were accordingly sent up during June last, with the driver who had been in charge of them at Uitolugt. They commenced work in July and have proved a great success. The driver uses two on each trip, one to ride and the other to carry the mails, the others meanwhile resting. By this arrangement each couple get 14 days rest each month. The camels have not once been late, but generally do the journey some hours under the time formerly allowed to contractors, vis. 4 days each way. They feed on the grass and scrub along the road when at work, and are turned out to grass, when resting ..." Financially, the experiment was a definite success, costing government £204 per annum (£120 for the driver and £84 for the herd).

The service was suspended during the Anglo-Boer War from 9 March to 18 May 1900 to prevent the camels being captured by raiding Boer commandos.

By 1903, the Postmaster-General was able to report that the service "continues to give satisfaction. The herd now consists of one bull and four cows, the bull having been purchased through the Agricultural Department and added to the herd during the early part of the year. From the experience gained by this Department, there is little doubt that the camel is a most useful animal for transport purposes in certain districts where other means fail owing to the sandy nature of the soil, and it is interesting to note that the introduction of these animals into Rhodesia for riding and transport purposes also appears to have been a success, the Government of that country having procured 34 from India together with attendants."



An envelope carried forwards and backwards along the Camel Post route by ox-cart in 1906 when the camels were being rested.

The Last Days of the Camel Post

But as the weight of the mails increased, carriage by camel became problematic. By 1905, the Postmaster-General reported that owing to a considerable increase in the weight of the parcel post to Rietfontein, the camel post had to be suspended: "... towards the close of the year the mail from Zwart Modder was at times so heavy as to overtax the strength of the camels and to necessitate leaving a quantity of mail matter behind. The prolonged drought led to a scarcity of the herbage on which these animals feed, with the result that they fell into poor conditions and one cow died - the immediate cause of death, however, being snakebite. A second cow is still very weak. The Commissioner of Police kindly came to the assistance of the department, and carried the mails on several occasions while the post office camels were resting. Arrangements have been made for a temporary ox-cart service until the herd can be strengthened by the addition of new animals..."

The service was also temporarily suspended in 1906 to allow the camels to regain their strength. Similar challenges were experienced by the camel post over the following years, and the conclusion of the service is documented by Franco Frescura who records that on 31 March 1914, "the animals were finally withdrawn from the route. At its height the Post Office herd numbered fifteen camels but only eight were available for service at any one time, and when the project was abandoned, the animals were sold to the Department of Defence."

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A postal stationery card carried by the Mier Camel Post in November 1899

It's Stampex, but not as you know it!

The Philatelic Traders' Society are delighted to announce the launch of Virtual Stampex from 1-3 October. This is the world's first 24-hour international online stamp show officially sponsored by Spink. To register for the event head to stampex.vfairs.com

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Letters to Sir Rowland Hill

by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith, Highway Philatelic Society

Thomas Wight Hill, followed by his sons Rowland and Arthur, revolutionised the English educational system in the early 1800s with their Hazelwood School in Birmingham where they advocated nurture and reward instead of punishment which was the norm at the time. With the success of this method they moved to London and started the Bruce Castle School in Tottenham where Rowland was Headmaster from 1827 to 1839 when he was moved to Treasury to institute his postal reform ideas following his famous pamphlet of 1837 in which he detailed his plan.

Arthur took over as headmaster until 1868 when his son Birbeck Hill succeeded him.

The postal system pre 1840 was very inefficient and expensive which limited its usage, but with the advent of postal reform and uniform penny postage developed by Rowland Hill and introduced on 6 May 1840, the volume of letters sent by post increased dramatically.

Rowland was a meticulous archiver of his correspondence and so much of this material has survived. He would number the letter received and write an annotation on it regarding the contents and his response to the sender.



Fig.1: Arthur Hill in the grounds of Bruce Castle where this painting still hangs.

In this series of articles, I detail some of letters and the famous Victorians who wrote them, including any philatelic reference through the years.

Arthur and Lewin are my antecedent maternal grandfathers.

Fig.2: (at right) Rowland Hill's portrait in the National Portrait Gallery, London.



Another of Arthur's sons, Lewin, became the Assistant Post-Master General in the 1870s, working under Henry Fawcett. He was an ardent collector of letters and autographs, particularly relating to Rowland and the Post Office. Luckily much of this has survived and I have managed to collect a number of these.

1. Charles Babbage - The 'Father of the Computer'

Charles Babbage (26 December 1791 – 18 October 1871) was a genius of the Victorian era - a Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, politician, cryptographer,

writer, founder of various scientific organisations and an expert on industry. His famous pioneering book *On the Economy of Machines and Manufactures*, first published in 1832, was cited in Karl Marx's *Capital* and John Stuart Mill's *Principles of Political Economy*. The 'Babbage Principle' widely known today from this work states that skilled workers should not be used for lesser tasks so as to improve efficiency.

Some of his very varied inventions included the ophthalmoscope, the 'cow-catcher' attached to the front of trains to clear the rails, the Dynamometer Railway Car to measure train efficiency and a war submarine bell.



Fig.3: Charles Babbage on the commemorative issue of 2010 celebrating The Royal Society 350 year Anniversary

He was driven by a vision of a combination of man and machine and this resulted in the development of probably the greatest of all machines - the computer

What is less well known is that he played a big part, along with his friend Thomas Frederick Colby, a leading Geologist of the era, in assisting Rowland Hill in his postal reforms and the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in 1840.

Charles Babbage was married to Georgiana Whitmore and they had eight children, of which only four survived to adulthood.

Benjamin Herschel Babbage was the oldest sibling and he and his younger brother Charles Whitmore Babbage, attended Bruce Castle School.

1827 was a tragic year for Charles Babbage. In February his father died aged 73 but he left Charles a substantial estate which would prove invaluable for his future research and inventions.

In July, his son Charles Whitmore died from a childhood illness at age 10 and more tragedy was to follow with his wife dying post-partum together with their newborn son in September 1827.

Charles was devastated and wrote the following letter to Rowland Hill who was Bruce Castle School Headmaster at the time.

My Dear Sir

As I propose being absent from England for many months I should wish to see my son at home for a few days. I am aware this will be disadvantageous for his studies but under the severe afflictions I have experienced, I can hardly give up this comfort.

Will you point out the days least injurious and let him come to me by coach. I had thought of Saturday next and that he may return on Tuesday morning, but I wish you know the circumstances you judge me the fittest time – he need not bring many things and may walk from the coach to my house with



Fig.4: The envelope front is addressed to R Hill Esq, Bruce Castle, Tottenham and bears a Great Portland Street black linear stamp plus an oval red Noon 9 October 1827 Paid stamp.



Fig.5: On the rear is Babbage's black wax seal alongside a red oval receiving evening stamp of the same day. This early letter is the only one in the collection not having Rowland's annotations.

his small bundle. I should wish to have a line stating the day I may expect him.

The papers have informed us all of your recent marriage. May you be blessed as I have been and may your fortitude never be put to so severe a test as mine, which has almost given way.

Believe me very faithfully yours
C. Babbage

Devonshire House
Monday night

Above - the transcription of the contents which details Charles wanting to take his son Benjamin Herschel out of school for a few days prior to his European trip.

Fig.6: pictured here, Charles in later years.

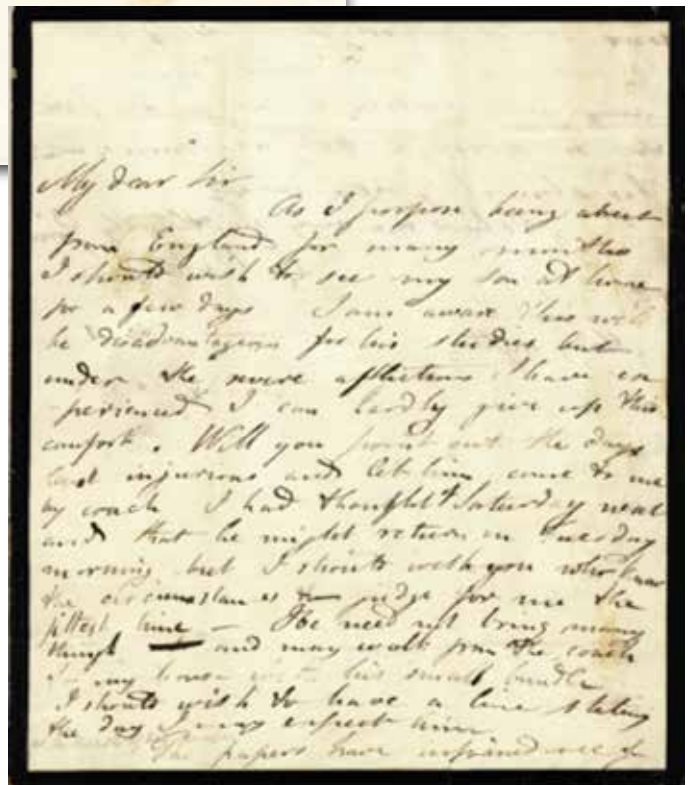


Fig.7: The letter contained within is written on black edged mourning paper following the recent death of his wife and new born child.

Grief stricken, Charles Babbage left on a year long tour of Europe in December 1827 and met up with leading scientists there to discuss his ideas of an 'analytical machine'. On his return to England he was a changed man with his famous spirit and good humour restored but he was never quite the same and did not remarry.

The evolution of the Computer

He worked tirelessly on his machines from an early age and in 1822 invented his first 'Difference Engine' which produced mechanised arithmetic. It was 2.4m high, weighed 13,600kg and had 25,000 parts. This machine was never fully completed as he was drawing up plans for an improved version, the second *Difference Engine*, which he also did not complete due to funding problems and obstructiveness from other scientists, leaving it to be built from the plans more than a century later in 1989 by the Science Museum using tolerances that were achievable in the 19th Century. This Engine worked very well, returning calculations to 31 digits.



Fig.11: The 1999 Millenium comm-orative cover of The Royal Institution, London on its 200th Anniversary showing an engraved portrait of Babbage in 1833, aged 42, when he was the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University. He features on the 22d stamp and the 1 Crown coin.



Fig.8: (above) The First Difference Engine appearing with Charles Babbage on the 1996 USA Computer Technology FDI and (at left) Fig.9: the 2007 Guinea-Bissau Great Inventors issue.



Babbage started working on a series of machines called 'The Analytical Engines' with the major innovation being that they were to be programmed using punched cards and had many features used in modern day computers. His associate, Ada Lovelace (Lord Byron's daughter) developed the cards and is widely acknowledged as the world's first Computer Programmer.

Once again these machines were continually being refined and the *Analytical Engine* was not completed by his death in 1871. Researchers in Britain started building this Engine in 2011 and hope to complete it for the 150th Anniversary of his death in 2021. It is expected to have a memory of 675 bytes and run at 7 Hz

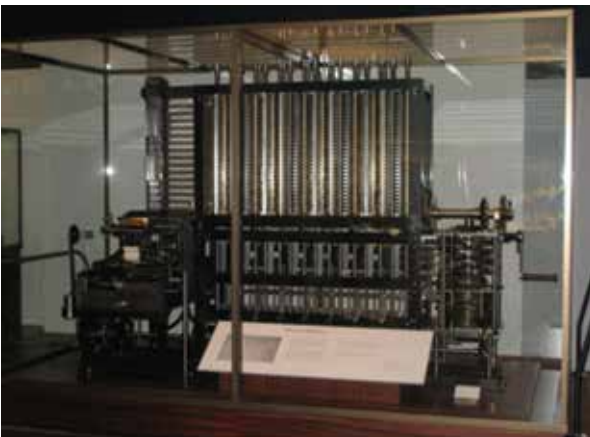


Fig.10: The Babbage Second Difference Engine on display in the Science Museum, London.



Fig.12: The 2008 Malawi 'Great Scientists' issue featuring Charles Babbage and Michael Faraday.



Fig.13: A photo of the Babbage exhibit at the Science Museum

LOCAL EVENTS & SOCIETY NEWS

VISIT the <https://www.sapa.africa/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1031691006915864/>

It is important to note that Societies are NOT having their regular meetings as previously listed during this time of lockdown, but they do welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chairperson: Werner Barnard;
email: wernerb@axxess.co.za
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 082 567 0353;
Email: philately@netpoint.co.za
Website: <http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com>
Contact the Secretary for further Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Email: royalphilct@gmail.com
President: Ida Potgieter. email:
samizdat@telkomsa.net
cell: 074 333 4646
Secretary: Victor Millard
0828028882 or
email: millardvg@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.rpsct.org/>



STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Kontak
stellenboschstamp@gmail.com



PAARLSE FILATELISTE

Sedert 1951

kontak gerus vir: Gawie Hugo; 083 956 2410
gawiehugo@gmail.com of
Riaan Crafford: 082 876 7608
n/u craffies@telkomsa.net



GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Nick Zerbst 0836255804,
Secretary: Rob Sinclair-Black 044 8746337.
email: robrita@mweb.co.za

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the 'Deep South' of the Cape Peninsula.

President: Dave Young,
email: davesueyoung@gmail.com
Secretary: Volker Janssen.
Website: www.fhps.infoFHPS



PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President Francois Friend,
082 554 8900, francois@softchem.co.za; or Vice president,
David Brown 041 360 4025;
or Secretary/Treasurer Rodney
Maclachlan 072 619 5409.
ALGOAPEX 2020 National Stamp
Exhibition, Port Elizabeth **CANCELLED**



All future meetings will
BE CONFIRMED
after the lockdown is lifted

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909 EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President : David Preston
082 7742090.
email: prestee@telkomsa.net
Secretary: Carlos Da Fonseca
082 334 7603.



CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE-ISRAEL PHILATELY
Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef
<akatzef@mweb.co.za> +27 (21) 4615134
President of CASPIP.

ZIMBABWE - BULAWAYO

Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe
email: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com

EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Our Facebook page allows club activities to continue 24/7; search for *Edenvale Philatelic Society*. Contact: Colin Bousfield 082 309 8656

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY



President: Jimmy Mitchell;
jimmy.hcmitchell@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Hammerton
hampaul@ananzi.co.za

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr,
Tel: 011 789 6357 All PSof meetings
have been cancelled until such time as we consider it safe
for us to resume. This will not happen while our venue is
not safe and available, the 21h00 curfew is in place and the
risks of infection remain. Members will be kept informed.



WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374.
Chairman or Secretary Ian Walker. Tel: 011 472 1161
email: ianwalker@vodamail.co.za

OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Society meets every 4th Friday monthly, (except
December), at 19h15 at the museum of the Boer
Republics in Memorium Road, Bloemfontein.
President: Dr Neil Cronjé and Vice president:
Garry Osthoff email: OsthoffG@ufs.ac.za

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

- President: Zbigniew Kawecki, 082 968 6888
- Treasurer: Jeroen Wentink, 082 33 97 588
- Secretary: Harald Deg, 084 464 7171

Association email: KZNPhilately@holistic.cc
'Stamp Exhibitions' with a theme of what to do and what not to do to achieve success...
'All are welcome'



The usual venue at the Country Club Johannesburg, Auckland Park is completely closed at this time during the lockdown; for info contact the President: Herbie Schaffler
RDPSA 082 722 7604.

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

This study group is not meeting at this time
please send all communication to
haschaff@iafrica.com

SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The society has an active exchange packet circuit and members with a wide range of philatelic interests. For further information contact: Chris Carey 083 6622150 / 011 673 2229 / ccarey@icon.co.za

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Monthly newsletter, active exchange section and loads of expertise on traditional philately and postmarks. President: André du Plessis.
andredupfs@gmail.com 083 399 1755.
Secretary: Alex Visser. alex.visser@up.ac.za
Box 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927

AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrieff 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter is Petra Heath en Sekretaris is Herman van Niekerk. Kontak: arnot@telkomsa.net

THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Vibrant & active group - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. Group Leader: Helena Snyman. Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za

DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING

President: Japie de Vos
082 767 5004 / 044 695 0705
epos: sanjari@mweb.co.za
Sekretaresse: Gerrie Conradie
082 952 6700
Tel / Faks 044 698 1074.
epos: gajcon@gmail.com



HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN

German Restaurant open for lunch. The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join us and get involved in this wonderful social hobby of Kings.

President: Leigh Hen-Boisen, leigh.hb@gmail.com
Secretary: Bronwen Edwards, edwards@worldonline.co.za
Membership: Bev Chittenden, bev@natalaircon.co.za
or Barry Livsey, livsey@netsolutions.co.za



EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

Usual Meet in the Captain's Table at Woodmead Johannesburg - last Wednesday of each month at 20h00 (except December).

TBVC STUDY GROUP

Contact: Chairperson: Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com Secretary: Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com

Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, cor Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Pretoria, 09h00 to 14h00).

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Kontak: djhome606@gmail.com

Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publiseer 'n gereelde maandelikse nuusbrieff. Jan de Jong: 079 190 1066.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

This society has amalgamated with the EDENVALE Society. See details on page 102.

RHODESIAN STAMP STUDY

The Rhodesian Study Circle holds regular member meetings and events across the world. For more information on meetings, visit <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/engage/meetings> or Contact the Secretary, Brian Zlotnick. Email bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk or postal address 10 Fortis Green Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 9NA. UK.

The SA representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Programmes for meetings include displays, talks by visiting speakers and 'Show & Tell' exhibits. An Exchange circuit and auctions from time to time. Visitors always welcome! **Contact:** Marilyn Crawford at 021689 5050 email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall, **Contact:** Ken Joseph ken@philatelicfriends.com

Postage Due Mail Study Group

For more details, look at their website: <http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/> **Contact:** Bob Medland, Secretary & Treasurer of the Postage Due Mail Study Group, email: secretary.pdmsg@gmail.com

Established in 1924

MARITZBURG

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

1. Secretary: Aubrey Bowles 082 316 3308, 033 239 2136
36 Amberfield, Private Bag X010, Howick 3290
E-mail:s:<burncree21@telkomsa.net>
<aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com>
 2. President: Dave Wyllie (all contact details unchanged)
 3. Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
- Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

*PLEASE NOTE:

BACK ISSUES of *The SA Philatelist* are limited. Requests for any issue should be made in writing to P.O. Box 131600, Benoryn, 1504 An electronic PDF file may be requested should a printed copy of the journal not be available.

VISIT www.sapa.africa

SOUTH AFRICAN VIRTUAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION - SAVPEX 2020

Message from Jury Chairman, Emil Minnaar RDPSA.

In January this year no one would have foreseen that Exhibitions both locally and Internationally would be either cancelled or post-poned. Clubs have ceased meetings, exchange books stopped circulating and with social distancing, contact with fellow philatelists has stopped.

With the temporary closure of postal services, it was fortuitous that at the last Federation Congress it was decided to offer The SA Philatelist in electronic format. The publication has been available on the Federation website now for a number of issues.

Our South African Virtual Exhibition, BOFEX 2016 to SAVPEX 2020, which is now in its fifth year, has to some degree overcome the absence of live exhibitions. This year we approached all FIP affiliated countries and received a total of 80 entries from 14 countries. The FIP members were also asked to nominate a juror to participate and as a result we have appointed 25 jurors from 12 different countries. Unfortunately, Australia and New Zealand, from which we received strong support in the past, have not participated. This may be due to the fact that their Federation has now also decided to host a Virtual One Frame Exhibition later this year.

With the advance in on-line video communication I believe that Societies, Auction houses and dealers will use this format going forward.

I wish to thank the Jurors for their time given, the exhibitors for their contribution and our secretary for his dedication to the success of this Exhibition.

NAME	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	CLASS	%
Jaiswal Mr. Sandeep	Jammu and Kashmir Telegraphs	1	93
Okninski Mr. Roman	Numeral Cancellation '1' in Warsaw 1858 - 1875	2	93
Chiu Dr. Sammy	Detained in Hong Kong and the Ones that Got Away	2	92
Jaiswal Mr. Sandeep	Indian Postal Stationery for the China Expeditionary Force	5	92
Hickson Mr. Darcy	International Stamp Cancelling Machines at Brandon, Manitoba 1907-1919	2	92
Santos Mr. Everaldo	Postal Documents in the History of Colonial Brazil - 1606 - 1822	2	92
Donen Dr. Neil	The 1935 Quetta Earthquake Impact on Postal Services	2	92
Jaiswal Mr. Sandeep	The First Issue of Jaipur	1	92
Jaiswal Mr. Sandeep	British India - Queen Victoria Letter Sheets	5	91
Van Beukering Mr. Jan	Early Union of South Africa Roll Stamp Production	1	91
Benninghoff Mr. Robert	The Creation of the Border between Two Irelands 1913 to 1923	7	91
Leage Mr. Damian	The Pigeon Mail of Great Barrier Island	4	91
Strydom Dr. Danna	The V.R.I. Overprints on Transvaal Postage Stamps	1	91
Chabros Mr. Slawek	Internment Camp's Correspondence of Polish Legionnaires 1917 - 1918	2	90
Tillard Mr. Jean- Jacques	Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon - 'The Fox' of 1952. The First Two Stamps Issued for Air Mail Rates	4	90
Benninghoff Mr. Robert	The Provisional Government of Ireland December 1921 to December 1922	7	90
Benninghoff Mr. Robert	The Struggle for Irish Independence from Great Britain May 1916 to December 6, 1921	7	90
Grinfelds Mrs. Vesma	The First Banknote Stamp and its Overprints	1	89
Thy Mr. Peter	The Newspaper Wrappers of British Bechuanaland	5	89
Porto Mr. Rubem	A.P.O. (Army Post Office): The North-American Military Postal Service in Brazil during the II World War	2	88
Suttill Mr. Malcolm	GB - 1881 Penny Lilac - The Stamp	1	88
Schumann Stephen	New Zealand Stamps to Order Private Envelopes	5	88
Wong Mr. Ivan	Cancellations on Issues of Hong Kong Queen Victoria 2 Cents after 1900	2	87
Millington Prof. Andrew	Falu Gruva - The Mine that made a Nation	7	87
Okninski Mr. Roman	Introduction of 'A Widow' and 'A Postman' at II C Woldenberg Camp	1	87
Glassman Dr. Les	Anglo-Boer War: The Mozambique Connection	2	86
Jones Mr. Julian	Discriminatory, Retaliatory and Restored Rates Period 1847 - 1849 USA - GB	2	86
Tan Mr. Andrew	Exclusive Usages of the Australian 1/2d Orange Kangaroo Stamp	1	86
Jaiswal Mr. Sandeep	Shahpura - A Newly Discovery Stamp Issuing State	1	85
Benninghoff Mr. Robert	The Collection of Postage Due Fees in Ireland 1914 to 1925	2	85
Benninghoff Mr. Robert	The e Watermark Definitive Coil Stamps of Ireland 1940 - 1970	1	85
Jaiswal Mr. Sandee	The First Issue of Dungarpur	1	85
Van Der Vliet Mr. Oscar	SHIELDED SECRETS! (Hidden) Facts of the Coat of Arms Revenues from RSA (1961-68)	5	84

NAME	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	CLASS	%
Chusyd Mr. Marcos	<i>The Treaty of Bern - Brazil 1877 - 1879</i>	2	84
Suttill Mr. Malcolm	<i>GB - From Line Engraved to Surface Printed. The 1879 and 1880 Tenders</i>	1	83
Kupczyk Mr. Jacek	<i>Polish Officer's Correspondence from German Prisoner of War Camp at Berxen B. Vilsen of the period 1916 - 1918</i>	2	83
Dorr Mrs. Ute	<i>The Orient-Express 1883 - 1914</i>	2	83
Chabros Mr. Slawek	<i>Field Post During Mobilization April - August 1939</i>	2	82
Callan Dr. Brian	<i>Graf Zeppelin DLZ-127 Mail from North Africa</i>	4	82
Ficken Mrs. Sylvia	<i>NEWFOUNDLAND DOGS - Newfoundland Postal and Revenue Material 1887 - 1944</i>	7	82
Cheung Dr. Andrew	<i>Pipe Smoking</i>	3	82
Trower Mr. William	<i>Postcards from Alaska 1904 - 1910 (My Search for "Ruby")</i>	8	82
Archard Mrs. Victoria	<i>Privately Printed Postal Stationery Cards of Deutsch-Ostafrika and the German Colonies with Associated Postcard</i>	5	82
Macedo Mr. Reinaldo	<i>The Mickey Mouse Brazilian Issue</i>	10	81
Jeffreys Mr. Gordon	<i>Military Telegraphs - Unappropriated Dies as used in Bechuanaland, Egypt and Sudan</i>	1	80
Saundry Dr. Richard	<i>Romanian International Air Mail Services during 1947</i>	4	80
Pienaar Mr. Gary	<i>Scouting Through Old Picture Postcards</i>	8	80
Wong Mr. Ivan	<i>Security Markings on 1880 & 1882 Issues of Hong Kong Queen Victoria 2 Cents</i>	2	80
Auleytner Prof. Julian	<i>Problems at the Post Offices in Poland with Food Parcels from the USA 1920 - 1924</i>	2	79
Mastrorosa Mr. Sergio	<i>Santos: From Precursors to the Empire (1826-1843)</i>	2	79
Callan Dr. Brian	<i>Argentina 1897 Picture Postal Stationery specimens</i>	5	78
Hedger Mr. Don	<i>Canadian Soldier's Post Cards from Somme and Flanders - May 1915 - April 1916</i>	8	78
Hedger Mr. Don	<i>Epic of Vinny - A Canadian Pilgrimage 1936</i>	3	78
Allison Mr. Robert	<i>Osborne - Queen Victoria's Holiday Home</i>	2	78
McEntyre Mr. John	<i>The Development of Official Canadian International Airmail Routes 1928 - 1942</i>	4	78

NAME	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	CLASS	%
Weiner Mr. Baruch	<i>Israel POW Mail from 1948 - 1949</i>	2	77
Callan Dr. Brian	<i>Walter Quensell's Tin Can Mail</i>	2	77
Benninghoff Mr. Robert	<i>Ireland's Dual Role in the Great War</i>	2	76
Sorour Dr. Vic	<i>The 'Flying Saucer' Flaw - Protea Definitives</i>	1	76
Viljoen Mr. Diederik	<i>British Rubber Company Punctures - 1888 - 1965</i>	1	74
Da Fonseca Mr. Carlos	<i>Centenary of Arrival of British Settlers in Natal</i>	1	74
McLaughlin Mr. David	<i>World's Grain Exhibition and Conference, Regina, 1933</i>	1	74
Yankowski Mr. Ronald	<i>The National Theatre of Costa Rica</i>	1	73
McLaughlin Mr. David	<i>The 1933 UPU Preparatory Commission Issue of Canada</i>	1	72
Scharning Mr. Rolf	<i>The Flying Coffins of WW II</i>	4	72
Du Plessis Mr. Andre	<i>Pretoria Typograph Pictorials</i>	1	71
Venter Mr. Lieb	<i>The Story of the '1' - Obliterated Hyphen Variety of the 1937 Union Coronation Issue</i>	1	71
Lawn Miss. Heather	<i>Cockatoos</i>	3	70
Houde Mr. Michel	<i>German Hospital Ship Helgoland</i>	7	70
Rebello Mr. Américo	<i>O Sport Lisboa E Benfica Visto Atraves Da Cartofilia</i>	8	70
Janssen Mr. Volker	<i>100 Years of the SLESVIG PLEBISCITE 1920 - 2020</i>	1	68
Williams Mr. Jon-Michael	<i>7th Definitive Colourful S.A. Flowers, Butterflies and Moths</i>	1	67
Van Der Merwe Mr. Joof	<i>A Study of the 1/2d Warthog, Animal Definitive Series, 1954 - 1961 of the Union of South Africa.</i>	1	67
Ficken Mrs. Sylvia	<i>Newfoundland Caribou 1897 - 1941</i>	3	65
Rykert Mr. Henryk	<i>Apollo 11 - Report from a Historical Journey</i>	3	62
Mitchell Mr. Vernon	<i>South African Symbols and Orders</i>	7	59
Janssen Mr. Volker	<i>Mourning Stamps</i>	3	56
Bellville Philatelic Society	<i>Getting from here to there (Modes of Transport)</i>	3	55
Hassler Mr. Dennis	<i>Mourning Covers</i>	7	50
Janssen Mr. Volker	<i>Private Stamp Designs</i> NOT JUDGED	7	

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS



The South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition 2021

a one-frame exhibition, which takes place under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in 2021. **Entries close: 31st March 2021** Entries need to be scanned and uploaded to the jury chairperson by 30th April 2021. Judging will take place in June 2021 and the results will be posted on the Federation website <https://www.sapa.africa> in July 2021. For more information: (IREX) and entry forms, contact: Joof van der Merwe <jnc1@vodamail.co.za> Emil Minnaar <emil@minnaar.org> visit the Federation website <https://www.sapa.africa>



This event is rescheduled for 9 to 13 November 2021. Participate in the 2 000 frame International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX), Cape Town in November 2021. See Gerhard Kamffer's International award-winning exhibit 'The Road to Democracy' featuring letters written by former SA President Nelson Mandela from Robben Island For more information please visit: capetown2021.org

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All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 96:5. 962

www.sapa.africa



Censored letter to a British POW in Pretoria directed via the American Consulate as per regulations.

Now officially moved to 9 - 13 November 2021

Road to Democracy
CAPE TOWN 2021
International Philatelic Exhibition



Please note that the exhibition will now be 5 days and not 4 days



In support of the International Anti-Apartheid Year



The 2011 Mozambique commemorative issue of botanist, Joseph Dalton Hooker

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Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
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REGULARS

- 139 Closing dates for future issues
- 140 Editorial Board Comment, 100 /not out
- 142 Phun with Postmarks
- 143 Errors on Stamps
- 144 The 'ABC' of Stamps
- 151 New Stamp issues
- 165 Society news

Awards:

- Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
- Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- Federation Plaque 2004,
- Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
- Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
- Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012.

FEATURES

- 146 Countries that issued Postage Stamps in support of the struggle against apartheid and to honour Nelson Mandela
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA and Maj Siphwe Ngwenya
- 152 Botswana 1966 Independence Overprints - the 7½ Colour Error
by Lawrence Barit
- 154 Fraser's War
by Andrew Briscoe
- 156 Minor European aristocracy, oranges and peaches, missionaries and a breed of dog – two postal stationery cards
by Sean Burke
- 157 Airgraphs Between The Union of South Africa and the United Kingdom
by Jim Findlay RDPSA
- 158 Censorship of Diplomatic Mail
by Andrew Briscoe
- 160/1 Obituaries: Dr Eddie Pretorius, Andy Kriegler, Otto Peetoom
- 162 Letters to Sir Rowland Hill
by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith
- 167 Book Review: Transkei

ADVERTISERS

- 138 Filat AG
- 141 Bill Barrell Ltd
- 143 John & Mark Taylor
- 153 South African Dealers Association (SAPDA)
- 155 Doreen Royan and Associates
- 168 Spink

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
Moir Bleazard: bleazard@telkomsa.net
Robin Messenger: messenger.robin@gmail.com
Janice Botes *Production Editor*: janice@gdb.co.za
David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL: molens@pixie.co.za

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

Alex Visser : alex.visser@up.ac.za
Michael Wigmore RDPSA: dcrocker@lando.co.za
Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL: mobsbychris8@gmail.com
Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA: kamffer@netactive.co.za

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER of the PFSA

André du Plessis: andredupfs@gmail.com
Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

Janice Botes: janice@gdb.co.za
Tel: +27 (0) 11 454 5940

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Post Office 

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ARTICLES should be submitted in the month **prior**:

- **December** 2020 - Volume. 96 : 6. 963 **10th November**
- **February** 2021 - Volume. 97 : 1. 964. **12th January**
- **April** 2021 - Volume. 97: 2. 965. **9th March** 



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PLEASE NOTE:

Annual subscription & circulation;

Within South Africa, the subscription rate for 2020, for Society Members and 'Direct' subscribers, is R250.00 for a printed copy of each issue and R70.00 for an electronic copy.

For SADC countries; the subscription is R700.00 per year.

For International; Overseas R1,000.00 per year. These prices all include postage via airmail.

The 2020 rates are available on the PFSA official website www.sapa.africa

Enquiries regarding subscriptions and membership can be addressed to the COO, André du Plessis at andredupfs@gmail.co.za Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

Publication; *The South African Philatelist*. This journal is published by **The Philatelic Federation of South Africa**.

Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, PO Box 131600, Benoryn, 1504. South Africa or email: janice@gdb.co.za

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<janice@gdb.co.za>

One Hundred, Not Out

In 2004, the Editor of *The South African Philatelist* resigned following differences with the Management Committee on the policy for the future of the journal. The Committee responded with the formation of a six-man Editorial Board under the Chairmanship of Alan Rose; Janice Botes was appointed Production Editor. Under her guidance the quality of paper was improved, fonts and layouts were discussed and colour printing was introduced. More recently we have gone digital, a move she has taken in her stride. The success of these changes is evident today as the current issue, October 2020, leaves the presses. This is the 100th issue produced by the Board, an achievement of which we are understandably proud.

Recruited to oversee the layout and technical production of the journal, and now one of only two surviving members of the original Board, Janice confesses that when she joined, she knew nothing of stamps or philately. Even now she maintains that is not her province, and leaves the content to others. However, her input is significant: single handedly she liaises with authors, advertisers, printers and Federation, and then completes the layout of 36 pages each issue. Her computer skills are legendary as she manipulates articles to the whims and ultimate satisfaction of Board members. As with all organisations, continuity is essential and we gratefully acknowledge and thank her for her contribution in this respect over the years, bringing us back into line on occasions when we have strayed.

We are pleased to think that the journal has progressed during our stewardship with several awards under its belt. After a Federation Plaque in 2004, we achieved international awards of a Silver in 2006, Large Silvers in 2007, 2008 and a Large Vermeil at IPhLA in 2012. Our pool of authors has expanded over the years and we are pleased to print in this issue the 50th article by Gerhard Kamffer who supplies us with a stimulating variety of topics. Whilst relying on such established authors, we will always welcome new ones.

It envisaged that electronic media and changes in postal systems and practice in the future will reflect variously on philately and look forward to recording this in our journal.

The Editorial Board

London 2020 now Re-scheduled to 2022

SOUTH AFRICANS DID US PROUD BY BEING ACCEPTED TO EXHIBIT AT LONDON 2020 AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXHIBITED IN THE RESCHEDULED LONDON 2022

With the London World Stamp Exhibition 'London 2020' being fully subscribed before the pandemic, organisers offered participants the opportunity to confirm continued interest in the rescheduled 'London 2022'.

The SA Commissioner: Patrick Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL; he can be contacted on + 27 83 2655649 or email patf@fgprop.com.

The Business Design Centre, Islington, North London.

Well located on London Bus and Underground routes (Angel Underground Station is a three minute walk).



Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



1993 Putzel riddle solved

On p.48 of Volume 2 of the *'The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States and Colonies'* that was published in 1993 a cover, Fig.1, is shown in the middle of the page. Evidently the cover originated from the OFS and the postage of 6d was to Cape Town, and 1/- from Cape Town to England. Only from 1.1.1881 did OFS stamps become valid overseas. The caption in the book states *"...and absolutely unknown 11-bar circular obliterator probably used at Cape Town Dispatch Office because an OFS adhesive was used"*. The OFSSC compendium of postmarks shows this 25mm obliterator, Fig.2, as having been used at Fauresmith between 2.1868 and 13.5.1868. The cover falls within this period of use as there is a Cape Town date stamp of FE 18/68 and an illegible PACKET of MR 28/1868.

With this new information the caption in the Putzel book should be corrected to *"1868 Proving cover to England with Cape Town Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor No. 1 plus early cds. The 11-bar circular obliterator was used at Fauresmith to prepay postage to Cape Town."*

Often this was also known as a 'time code letter'. Starting with blank, and then A, B, C... the letter represented a time slot from 6 am until close. Examples are shown in Fig.3. The time slot was not the same for the larger Cape office, and even changed over time. After the British introduced a general code where two letters were used in different variations, in 1894 the Cape followed suit (Fig.4). Letters were used up to about 1900 when AM and PM were introduced (Fig.5). All the provinces that used date stamps with a three line date used the alphabetical or AM/PM styles. Since the date was changed by inserting slugs we find variations such as inverted time code letters as there were four positions in which the slug could be inserted. These are as a result of human error.



Fig.3: Examples of earliest time code letters (blank to M).

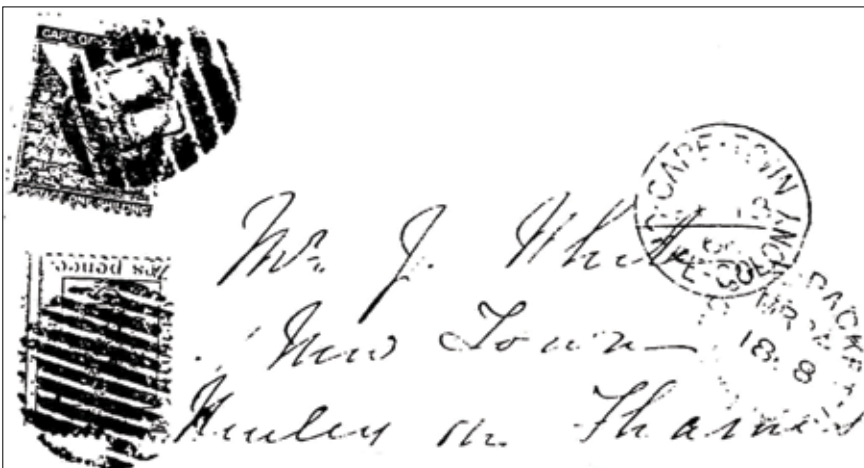


Fig.1: 1868 Cover from Fauresmith to England (cover cropped).

What are time code letters?

I often receive enquiries regarding time code letters. Going through a lot of junk, including photocopies that Ralph Putzel had hoarded, I came across a photocopy of a page from a collection of Athol Murray which included the Index Letters in Date stamps. Evidently this may have been an extract produced by Jurgens in *SAP* p. 102, 1944. Not having access to this copy of *The SA Philatelist*, I could not confirm the origin. However, more extensive information is given in Goldblatt's *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*, which I will summarise.

The single circle date stamp of 1864 with Cape Colony at base introduced a time designation by alphabetical letter above the date. Known as a 'time index letter' it was a slug that was inserted into the date stamp above the date line.



Fig.2: Scarce Fauresmith 11-bar obliterator.

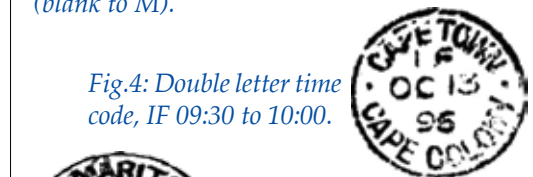


Fig.4: Double letter time code, IF 09:30 to 10:00.

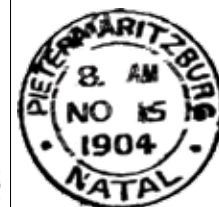
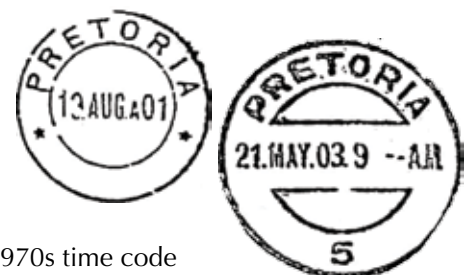


Fig.5: Time of day as time code.

When single line dates were introduced after about 1900, time code letters (t) were introduced into the date line such as DDMMMtYY.

These were either a letter or A or P denoting AM or PM. An example is shown in Fig.6a. It is unclear as to what extent the time code letters were linked to time. In the larger offices the date and time of day and later time in hours were used, shown in Fig.6b.

Fig.6: Single line date with time code letter or time of day.



By about the mid-1970s time code letters were used as counter codes in instances where the date stamp did not have a counter number inscribed. This is confirmed by the impressions on the same date as shown in Fig.7. After 2000 the time codes were discontinued and the date is either in reversed or normal format as shown in Fig.8.

Stamps

that make you **SMILE**by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and
the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 60 Errors on Stamps...

'OLYMPIC CHESS'

The postal administration of Mocambique issued a commemorative stamp set for the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988.

The stamp of 75Mt. shows a player making a move on a chess-board.

The error is that chess has never been an Olympic discipline in the history of the Olympic Games.

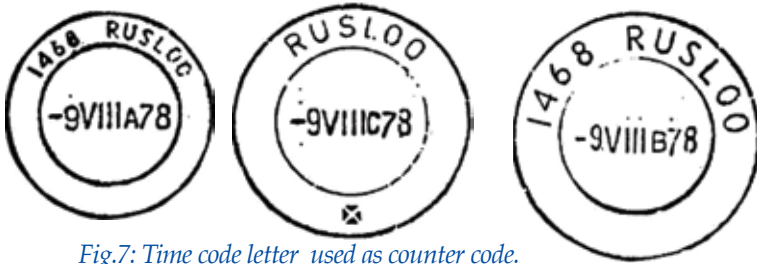


Fig.7: Time code letter used as counter code.

Fig.8: Modern date stamps without time code letters.



Ons kom agter dat hoe meer ons weet hoe minder weet ons, soos die Oranje Vrystaatse koevert aantoon.

Dit herinner my aan die staaltjie van Winston Churchill op sy 75ste verjaardag viering in die plaaslike stadsaal. Die seremoniemeester het genoem dat die whisky wat Winston gedurende sy lewe gedrink het tot by die vensterbank van die stadsaal sou kom. In sy repliek kyk Winston na die plafon en meld dat daar nog so baie is om te doen in 'n beperkte tyd. Dit is mos die lekker van ondersoek instel. Selfs 'n eenvoudige stempel element soos die tydkodeletter laat nog baie onbeantwoorde vrae.

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

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The ABC of stamps



by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

HEALTH STAMPS

Initially they were called seals, then they became charity stamps and only later were known as health stamps'. Starting in 1929 the New Zealand Health Stamps went on to become one of the longest running series of stamps, ending in 2016 after 87 years. The stamps carry two denominations; one to cover postage, the other as a donation to a specific cause - the fight against tuberculosis.

The first stamp was issued 11 December 1929 depicting a nurse in uniform (Figs.1a), with the double-barred Cross of Lorraine, the symbol of the global fight against tuberculosis. The design of the stamp was modelled on that of the Danish Christmas Seal of 1904 (Fig.2). While Christmas Seals are charity labels that had to be used together with regular postage stamps, the New Zealand seal combined both postage and charity in a single item.

The second stamp, issued 29 October 1930, (Fig.1b) was supposed to have been of a different design. But due to a printing problem the 1929 design was reused with a different inscription. This was the time of the Great Depression and there was a high rate of malnutrition which resulted in diseases such as rickets and tuberculosis. The 1930 issue only raised £898 0s 11d, 27.5% of that gathered in 1929; the decline caused by the economic conditions of the time.



Figs.1a & 1b : The first issue of 1929(1a) compared with the second issue of 1930 (1b).

The money raised was used to fund the children's health camp movement. These camps were established by Dr Elizabeth Gunn (Fig.3), a school doctor and former army officer, for children with nutritional and physical problems.



Fig.3: (at left) Dr Elizabeth Gunn, founder of New Zealand Children's Health Camps, issued 6 August 1969, on the 50th anniversary of the camps.



Fig.2: Danish Christmas Seal of 1904 featuring Queen Louise and the word Julen (Christmas)

The first camp was established at Turakina in 1919. A network of six camps were set up in semi-rural areas across New Zealand (Fig.4).



Fig.4: Location of Children's Health Camps in New Zealand.

The best-known health stamps must be the *Smiling Boy* issue of 31 October 1931 (Fig. 5). This issue had two values as postal rates doubled from 1d to 2d in June 1931. It was also the last time that the Cross of Lorraine featured as part of the design.

The word 'health' featured prominently for the first time, reflecting the move from being a Charity Stamp to that of a Health Stamp. When issued, these stamps were considered to be unattractive and poorly designed.



Fig.5: The 'red boy' and 'blue boy' issue of 1931.

Subsequent stamps showed smiling healthy children as part of the design, promoting the idea of improving health by attending one of the health camps. The stamps reflected what was considered to be children's well-being. This lasted until 1959 when the stamp designs changed to feature birds (Fig.6). Ten years later, in 1968, sports

became the topic featuring both boys and girls in the same issue. In 1974 the topic changed again to show children with animals. From 1978 onwards the topics became variable with no specific theme evident.

Fig.6: Images of healthy children were replaced in 1959 with birds.



British Royal children have featured regularly, (Fig.7) starting with an issue showing Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret in 1943 and again in 1944, followed by Prince Charles on 2 October 1950 and Princess Anne on 1 October 1952.



Fig 7: The 1943 Health Stamps started a tradition of showing portraits of royal children. This was a big change, not only in shape but that the subject was the royal princesses, HRH Princess Elizabeth on the 2d+1d stamp, and HRH Princess Margaret on the 1d+1/2d stamp

By 2016, with the decline in the use of sending mail, the surcharge collected dropped below the break-even point and could no longer cover administrative costs. In addition there was a move away from institutionalised welfare. The New Zealand Post Office, together with Stand Children's Service (previously Children's Health Camps) decided to end the series of Health Stamps (Fig.8).



Fig.8: The last New Zealand Health Stamps, issued 7 September 2016.

THE TEDDY BEAR STAMPS

The 1996 Health Stamp emphasised the importance of child road safety (Fig.9). One of the stamps showed a baby buckled into a safety seat with a teddy bear using an adult seat belt in the rear seat of a car. The stamp was designed by Helen Casey and printed by Enschedé Holland.

It was only a few weeks before release on 6 June 1996 that the error was noticed. According to New Zealand law, a baby under six months has to face the rear when travelling in a car. The seat belt around the teddy bear indicated the child was facing the wrong direction. Several hundred copies of the incorrect design had been sold in two post offices. The Auckland Savings Bank purchased most of the incorrect stamps and used them on regular business mail. With only a week to the release date a corrected version was reprinted by Southern Colour Print in New Zealand. This accounts for the differences in the appearance of the corrected stamp.



Fig.9: Left, the original design with gum. Centre, the self-adhesive version, slightly smaller in size and more vivid. Right, the corrected stamp with gum but without its teddy bear.

ROYAL MAIL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF RUPERT BEAR

Featuring the artwork of Alfred Bestall, who wrote and illustrated more than 270 Rupert stories after he took on the role in 1935, Royal Mail has now issued a set of eight stamps to mark the 100th birthday of Rupert Bear.

The set is made up of four pairs of stamps, each pair featuring two illustrations from one of Rupert's adventures - *Rupert's Rainy Adventure* (1944), *Rupert and the Mare's Nest* (1952), *Rupert And The Lost Cuckoo* (1963) and *Rupert's Christmas Tree* (1947). Rupert's first appearance was in the *Daily Express* on 8 November 1920. Herbert Tourtel, who wrote the stories, was an editor at the *Express*, and his wife, Mary, was the illustrator.

The Rupert Little Bear Library Series ran to 46 issues and published periodically between 1928 and 1936. Mary retired in 1935 due to her failing eyesight.

The full set of eight stamps, available in a Presentation Pack, retails at £10.00.

The stamps and a range of collectible products are available from www.royalmail.com/rupertbear



Follow us on twitter @RoyalMailStamps

COUNTRIES THAT ISSUED POSTAGE STAMPS IN SUPPORT OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID AND TO HONOUR NELSON MANDELA

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society
and Maj Sipiwe Ngwenya (guest author)



Many countries in the world, and specifically in Africa supported the liberation struggle in South Africa in various ways. Some of these countries also issued postage stamps to support the actions against apartheid and to commemorate Nelson Mandela as the leader of the struggle. From a philatelic point of view, this provides collectors with an interesting variety of stamps and labels from various countries linked to the history of South Africa that can be collected. This is also to support the idea that all African countries involved in the past in this regard will be invited to participate in the November 2021 International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX) in Cape Town.

Introduction

The elimination of South Africa's system of legalised racial discrimination known as apartheid was on the agenda of the United Nations (UN) from its inception.

On 22 June 1946, the Indian Government requested that the discriminatory treatment of Indians in the Union of South Africa be included on the agenda of the very first session of the UN General Assembly.

This whole process of resistance started in South Africa with the Defiance Campaign in 1952. This campaign ostensibly sought the abolition of the 'five unjust laws' that embodied the Nationalist Party's apartheid programme. Although the campaign did not achieve the desired aim of overturning the apartheid laws, it was successful in several other respects. The resistance won UN recognition that the South African racial policy was an international issue, and a UN Commission was established to investigate the situation. These years were crucial as the Defiance Campaign saw the movement of the African National Congress (ANC) from moderation to militancy. During the campaign, the ANC began to receive funding from sympathizers in Britain, representing the first signal of international support for the liberation struggle (Fig.1). Not long after this, Ghana issued a set of stamps in 1959 to honour Africa Freedom Day (Fig.2).

Major Sipiwe Ngwenya is the former Chief Executive Officer of the Gauteng Tourism Authority, born in Gauteng's Temba township in the city of Tshwane, South Africa.

He is currently a serving member of the South African Air Force (SAAF) Reserve, and is working as special support and aide to former President Kgalema Motlanthe.

Sipiwe joined the ranks of the public service in 2006 where he became a special policy advisor to Gauteng MEC For Finance and Economic Affairs. He was later appointed Deputy Director General (DDG) in the same department where he was responsible for Business Regulation and Governance matters.

Sipiwe has obtained a number of qualifications including: Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of New England (UNE), Australia; BSc Honours Degree in Agricultural Economics and International Economics Specialisation, from the University of Pretoria; Wits Business School; Masters in Public and Development Management, and Masters in Development Finance from the University of Stellenbosch.

Since the commencement of his involvement with the arrangements for the Cape Town 2021 International Stamp Exhibition, Sipiwe has developed a keen interest in stamp collecting.



Fig.1: Complete booklet with the 1/- stamps to raise funds for the 'MILLION SHILLINGS FOR FREEDOM 1952' fund that started in support of the Defiance Campaign in 1952. An extremely rare booklet with stamps for this fund printed in 1952.

In the decades that followed, the world body would contribute to the global struggle against apartheid by drawing world attention to the inhumanity of the system, legitimizing popular resistance, promoting anti-apartheid actions by governmental and non-governmental organisations, instituting an arms embargo, supporting an oil embargo and boycotts of apartheid in many fields.

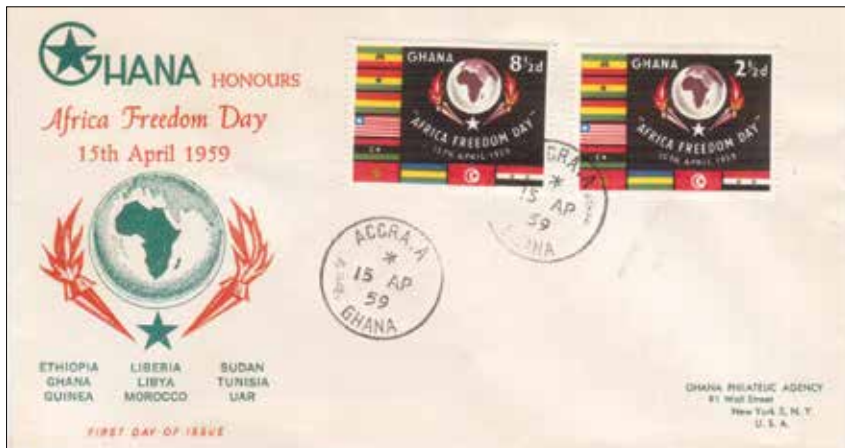


Fig.2: First Day Cover issued on 15 April 1959 by Ghana to honour Africa Freedom Day.

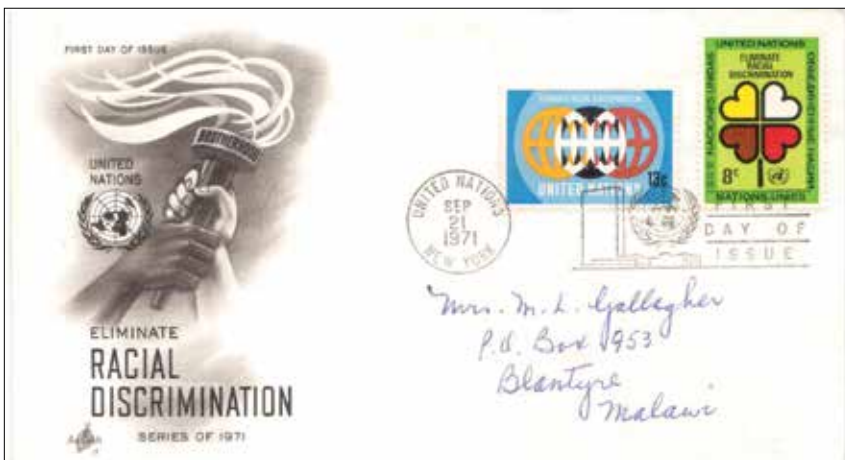


Fig.3: Stamps issued by the United Nations in 1971 with the theme: 'Eliminate Racial Discrimination'.



Fig.4: Stamps issued by Lesotho in 1971 aligned with the theme: 'Decade of action to combat racism'.

On 6 November 1962, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 1761, condemning South African apartheid policies. On 7 August 1963 the UN Security Council passed Resolution 181 calling for a voluntary arms embargo against South Africa, and that same year, a Special Committee Against Apartheid was established to encourage and oversee plans of action against the regime. In 1966, the UN held the first of many meetings on apartheid. The General Assembly proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in memory of the Sharpeville

bloodbath. In 1971, the UN General Assembly formally denounced the institution of 'Bantustans' in South Africa, also known as 'homelands' (Fig.3).

Countries such as Zambia, Tanzania and the Soviet Union provided military support for the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC). It was complicated, though, for neighbouring states such as Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, because they were economically dependent on South Africa (Fig.4).

The aim of this article is to show a selection of postage stamps issued in support of the struggle against apartheid and to honour Nelson Mandela before 1994.

Zambia

In keeping with the philosophy of humanism as promulgated by President (Dr) Kenneth Kaunda and other nationalist leaders, Zambia opened its doors to several liberation movements from South Africa and elsewhere at enormous cost to the country's security and economy because of its geographical location.

It is against this background that liberation movements were welcomed in Zambia with open arms. For instance, the ANC had offices in the Liberation Centre which was established on Chilimbulu Road in Kamwala, Lusaka with the full support of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Liberation Committee.

There were also other liberation movements such as the PAC - Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and the Non-European Unity Movement (NEUM), the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola - Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola - União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) of Angola; the



Fig.5: Letter posted from Russia and addressed to Dr Oliver Tambo as President of the ANC in Lusaka, Zambia in June 1986.



Fig.6: Stamps issued in 1978 by Nigeria with the theme: 'Rioting in Soweto'.

Mozambique Liberation Front - Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO) of Mozambique; the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) of Namibia; the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). Apart from Zambia, the international community had also shown commitment towards the liberation of other African countries that were still under the yoke of colonialism. All over the world, countries which were opposed to apartheid, colonialism and other forms of racial injustices in South Africa and other African countries had rendered their unwavering support towards the liberation struggle (Fig.5).

Nigeria

During South Africa's apartheid era, Nigeria was one of the foremost supporters of the Black South African liberation movements, including the ANC. The Nigerian government issued passports to South Africans involved in the struggle seeking to travel abroad. Nigeria also issued a set of stamps in 1981 supporting the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) (Figs.6-7).

The role of Tanzania in fostering African Liberation movements

Following the Sharpeville Massacre on 21 March 1960, Frene Ginwala went to Tanzania to establish an office in Dar es-Salaam. While there, she worked as a journalist and received ANC members in exile as they came into the country. The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) was also established in Mazimbu in Morogoro, Tanzania for South African children in exile. Tanzania also issued a set of 'Anti-Apartheid' stamps in 1978.

Tanzania's support for liberation movements went well beyond rhetoric encouraging African unity and solidarity. The country offered itself as a base for those fighting for liberation, hosting the forces of organisations including the ANC and the PAC from South Africa, Mozambique's FRELIMO, Angola's MPLA, ZANU and ZAPU from Zimbabwe, and SWAPO from Namibia.

These movements benefitted from the safety and stability of the country and the experience and guidance of those who had already achieved independence. Tanzania also welcomed and housed large numbers



Fig.7: Stamps issued by Nigeria regarding the apartheid policies with the theme: 'Police Brutality'.



Fig.8: Set of four stamps issued by Tanzania in 1978 to support the International Anti-Apartheid year. The designs on all the stamps depict apartheid brutality in one form or another.

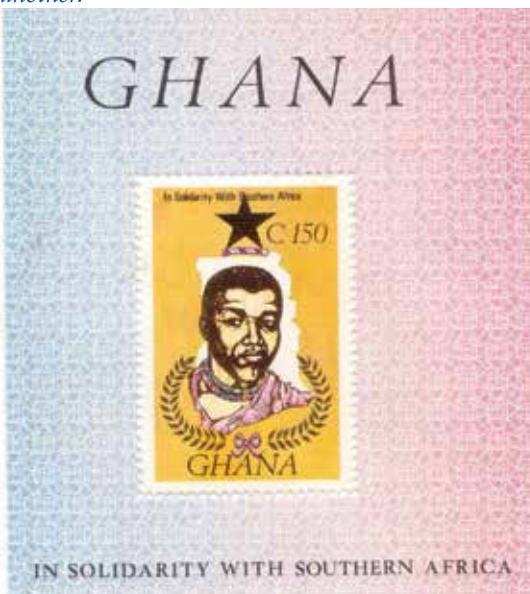


Fig.9: Miniature sheet issued by Ghana to honour Nelson Mandela.

of refugees from liberation struggles across Southern Africa, providing an escape for those endangered by war or colonial oppression.

To underscore this commitment of being at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid, the Tanzanian Posts and Telecommunications

Corporation (TPTC) issued a set of four symbolic stamps decrying the apartheid system (Fig.8).

Ghana

Ghana has always been at the forefront of this struggle for the liberation of Africa. Starting from the fight for the abolition of

the slave trade, for human rights and advocacy for self-government and democracy, Ghana's first Prime Minister and President Kwame Nkrumah's insatiable desire for African unity and the liberation struggle saw him condemn in no uncertain terms the Sharpeville shootings and the whole question of apartheid in South Africa. At the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference held in London in May 1960, Nkrumah damned the hypocrisy of the Commonwealth on the apartheid government of South Africa by saying "Today the lives of thirteen million human beings in South Africa are at stake" (Fig.9).

Kenya

South Africa's apartheid regime maintained cordial relations with Kenya, although Kenya was one of Africa's leading pro-Western governments. These relations were not

publicised and did not go beyond trade until 1990. For many years, Kenya's Government failed to exert enough pressure in various international forums against the South African regime over its apartheid policy.

While Kenya supported OAU resolutions which prohibited any kind of interaction with South Africa, prominent Government officials still continued to act in a way which compromised its position. It is suggested that Kenya relied heavily on European partners for trade,

and in doing so it could not fully comply with the OAU's resolutions. [3]

Others claim that Kenya's principle of 'non-interference' limited Kenya from playing a more robust role in South Africa's liberation struggle (Figs.10-11).



Fig.10: Kenya stamps in solidarity with the Anti-Apartheid year issued on 11 December 1972.

Uganda

Uganda played a crucial role in the South African liberation struggle, allowing liberation fighters to establish themselves in the country towards the end of apartheid. The ANC set up military training camps in Uganda from late in 1989 to prepare for the transition to the democratic dispensation. Thousands of uMkhonto We Sizwe (MK) soldiers trained mainly in guerrilla warfare, and recruits were instructed in conventional army methods and techniques. The training aimed to prepare participants for a role in the new army, integrating soldiers from the liberation movement and the then South African Defence Force (SADF). Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni not only allowed the opening of the camps but provided instructors to assist with the training (Fig.12).



Fig.11: Stamp issued by Kenya to honour Nelson Mandela in 1978.

Angola

The ANC established its first military training camp in Angola in 1976 amid a deluge of young people leaving South Africa in the aftermath of the 16 June Uprising and its concomitant clampdown. Angola had been independent of Portuguese colonialism since 11 November 1975 and provided a natural home for South African exiles. MPLA, which assumed power in the country, and the ANC were both a part of the 'Khartoum Alliance'. The parties forged the pact at the first International Conference of Solidarity with the fighting People of Southern Africa and the Portuguese Colonies in Khartoum, Sudan, held from 18 to 20 January 1969.

Zimbabwe's ZAPU, Namibia's SWAPO, and the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) were the other parties in the alliance. Further, the MPLA and the ANC shared a main backer in the Soviet Union.

The ANC set up its first military training facility in Angola - Gabela Camp, followed by several others including Funda, Engineering, Nova Katengue and Quatro (Fig.13).

The role of some countries outside of Africa: Soviet Union and East Germany

Soviet Union

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), was arguably the biggest supporter of the South African liberation struggle, and in particular, the ANC and the South African Communist Party (SACP). Following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, the country committed to supporting the national liberation struggles around the world. The SACP, then known as the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA), had relations with Moscow from inception in 1921, mainly through its joining the Communist International

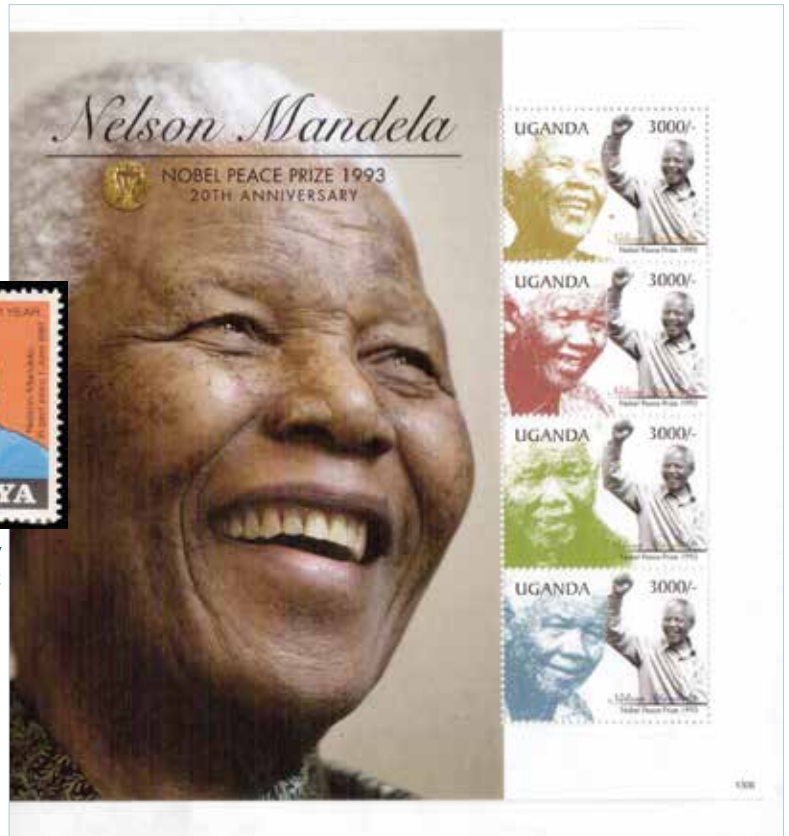


Fig.12: Set of stamps issued by Uganda to celebrate the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Nelson Mandela in 1993.



Fig.13: Angolan stamp used on a cover with an anti-apartheid theme in 1981 with the words: 'Luta Contra o Apartheid' indicating the Angolan government's sympathy for the struggle against apartheid.

(Comintern) headed by the Soviet Union's leader, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. The Comintern had as its primary objective the fomenting of a world socialist revolution. The USSR's move to establish relations with the ANC began in 1927 when the organisation's then-president, Josiah

Tshangana Gumedé visited Moscow. However, practical and political support for the South African liberation struggle only materialised after a delegation of the SACP that included Moses Kotane and Yusuf Dadoo went to the Soviet capital in the early 1960s. The ANC Deputy President Oliver Tambo followed in April 1963 to further strengthen the cooperation between the country and the Congress Alliance of which both the ANC and the SACP were members. Moscow then became one of the most ardent political, diplomatic, financial and military supporters of the ANC and SACP until the country attained liberation in the early 1990s.

The Soviet Union's institutions trained 1,501 combatants from the ANC's military wing, MK, between 1963 to 1991. The cooperation extended to humanitarian assistance, which included food, clothes, stationery, building materials and other goods. The USSR further provided direct financial aid to the liberation movement amounting to millions of Rands and opened its doors to South African students to study (Fig.14).

German Democratic Republic

It is a historical fact, that East Germany, known officially as the German Democratic Republic (GDR) had at all time supported the international struggle against racism and apartheid, and worked constructively to implement this and all other fundamental principles and tasks outlined by the United Nations. The basis of relations between the GDR and the ANC and the SACP were common ideological and political values.

The cooperation between the ANC and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (German: *Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands*, - SED) included features such as solidarity with political prisoners, material assistance and support for propaganda and the armed struggle (Fig.15). From the viewpoint of Marxist-Leninist ideology and revolutionary theory, the political leadership of the GDR perceived South Africa as the country with the greatest 'revolutionary potential' in sub-Saharan Africa, partly because of its developed class structure.

The Africa Fund

The Africa Fund was founded in 1966 by the American Committee on Africa (ACOA), and supported liberation movements' health and educational projects. It also supported the South African Council of Churches (SACC) to aid political prisoners and their families. It researched American corporations and their ties with South Africa (Fig.16).



Fig.14: Stamps issued by the USSR to honour Nelson Mandela on his 70th birthday in 1988.



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• All illustrated items are part of the Kamffer-collection: *The Road to Democracy in South Africa up to 1994*.

Fig.15: Stamps on a cover (partly illustrated) posted from the Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR) of East Germany on 17 July 1987 to Johannesburg franked with stamps showing solidarity with the freedom struggle.

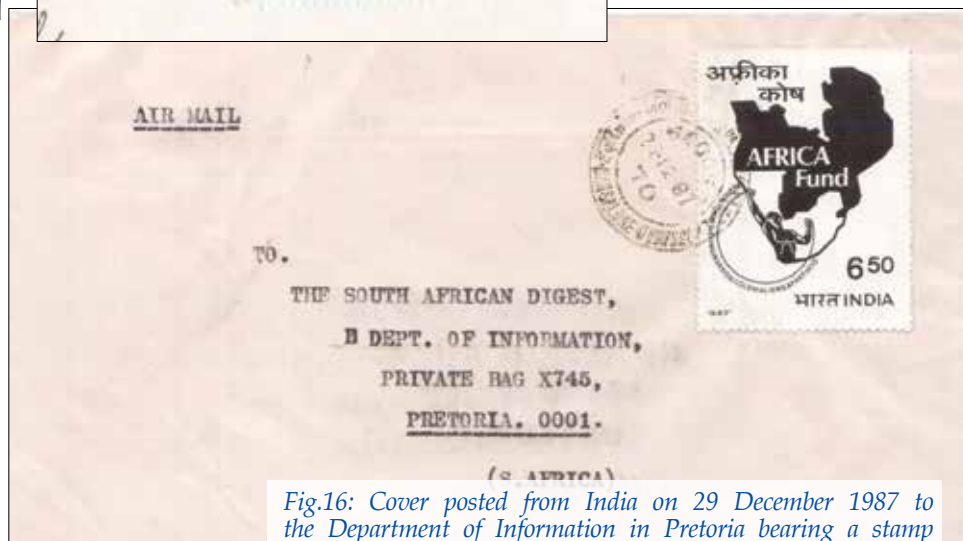


Fig.16: Cover posted from India on 29 December 1987 to the Department of Information in Pretoria bearing a stamp commemorating the Africa Fund and with the inscription: 'Action for resisting invasion, colonia' in the postmark.

Conclusion

The issuing of this type of stamp served as a visual expression of resistance against apartheid, and goes hand-in-hand with resistance art in South Africa which started in the 1960s after the Sharpeville massacre. The reverberations of the political clampdown which followed were also felt in the world of visual art. Many resistance artists were indeed imprisoned, and some left the country to continue their work in exile. These stamps represent an interesting aspect of South Africa's painful history.



NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUES - 2020 - part III

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

First Day Covers (sic) of the following five stamp issues of the 2019 programme are now available from Philatelic Services.

9 October 2019 - SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA)

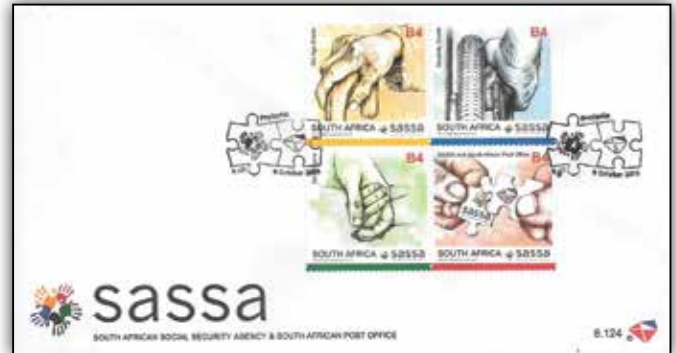
First Day Cover: No. 8.124 of standard size (190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 were produced. (seen at right)

Canceller: No. 8.122 - 'PRETORIA' / '9 October 2019'.

15 January 2020 - STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN SKIES

First Day Cover: No. 8.128 and 8.129 of standard size of which 1,000 of each were produced.

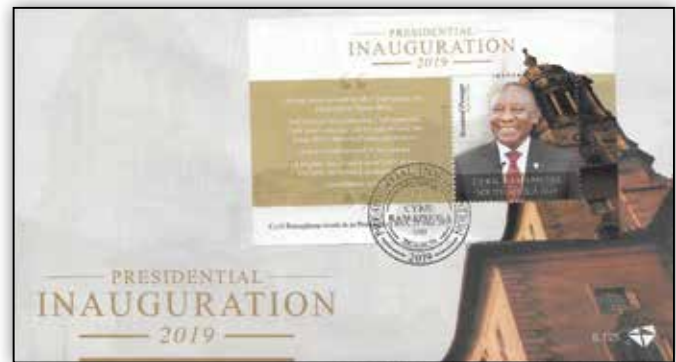
Canceller: No. 8.124 - 'RONDEBOSCH' / '15 January 2020'.



31 January 2020 - PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION 2019

First Day Cover: No. 8.125 of standard size of which 1,000 were produced.

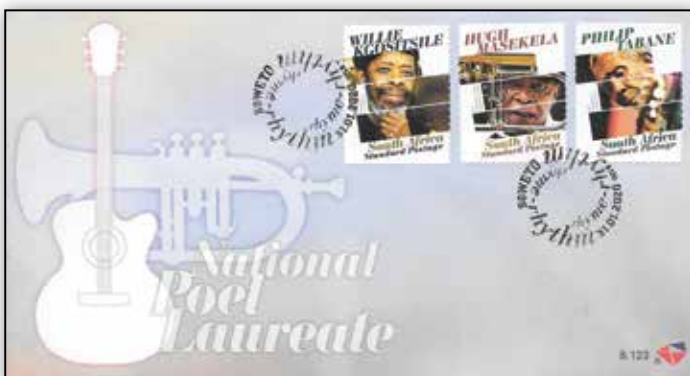
Canceller: No. 8.123 - 'PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION' / 'PRETORIA' / 'CYRIL RAMAPHOSA' / 'of RSA. 25 May 2019' / '2020.01.31' / '2019'.



31 January 2020 - POETS OF WORD AND SOUND - Commemorating Willie Kgositsile (poet), Hugh Masekela (trumpeter) and Philip Tabane (guitarist)

First Day Cover: No. 8.123 of standard size of which 1,000 were produced.

Canceller: No. 8.120 - 'SOWETO' / '31.01.2020'.



12 March 2020 - SA BIRDS SERIES: WOODPECKERS

First Day Cover: No. 8.122 of standard size of which 1,000 were produced.

Canceller: No. 8.119 - 'KNYSNA' / '12.03.2020'.

(The images of the FDCs shown here, have been reduced. The actual size is 190 x 101mm)



Botswana 1966 Independence Overprints - the 7½c Colour Error

by Lawrence Barit, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

When the Bechuanaland Protectorate in Southern Africa achieved Independence from Great Britain on 30 September 1966, that territory now named Botswana issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the event. At the same time, the territory's definitive series of stamps printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd in Great Britain, as shown on the printer's publicity issue sheet in Fig.1, were overprinted with 'REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA', presumably by Harrison's, for use until a new definitive series of stamps became available. First Day Covers with the overprinted stamps, all cancelled '30 IX A66', were prepared by the Mafeking and Bechuanalands Philatelic Society (and by others without the illustrations) to commemorate the event as shown in Fig.2.

After the issue of the FDCs with the stamps overprinted with 'REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA' it was noticed that on a small number of the 7½c stamps used, the background colour was yellow rather than the apple-green colour as originally issued,



Fig.2: Botswana Overprint First day cover with yellow 7½c.

Fig.3: (on the left) Botswana Overprint 7½c Apple-green background.



Fig.4: (at right) Botswana Overprint 7½c Yellow background.

as illustrated more clearly in Figs.3 and 4. This 'error of colour' was noted in the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, *Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840 – 1970* (2017 Edition), at p.108 which states: "(The stamp) shows a background in yellow instead of apple green and may have come from a trial printing. Almost all known examples come from First Day Covers, but eight unused examples have also been reported."

The question is, how did this error, which is not part of the overprinting process, and has not been reported with respect to the original 1961 set, occur? To balance quantities of stamps for overprinting purposes, Harrison's made a reprint of the 3½c duty, which showed a marginal shade difference of "flesh" instead of 'pink' (SG209a) and presumably applied the 'REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA' overprint. Possibly at Harrison's there were also some of the original trial sheets of the 7½c stamps with a yellow background which were included in the overprints and sent out to the territory, but we will probably never know for certain. It however makes for an interesting philatelic study of this issue.



Fig.1: Harrison and Sons Ltd, Presentation Sheet (Image reduced).



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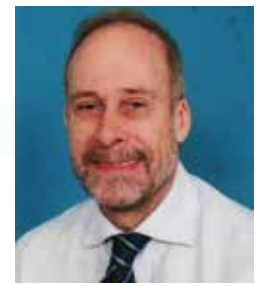
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FRASER'S WAR

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



The illustrated cover front, addressed to T. Oliver Fraser, the Press Censor at Durban, presents a satirical depiction of the work of a Press Censor during the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902: a masked executioner prepares to behead a fountain pen.

Although we do not know who authored this cartoon, press censors were invariably ridiculed by the war correspondents. Lady Elizabeth Briggs described their challenges in the following terms: *"The correspondents have their papers to serve, and they wish to pass messages through that the press censor, for military reasons, cannot sanction. I am convinced there is no position so difficult to fill on active service as that of press censor. In censoring the war correspondents' telegrams which they submit to him for transmission, he has to consider how far the information would be useful to the enemy when telegraphed back to Boer sympathisers in the course of a few days, and to what detrimental effect it could be employed against the British forces Having arrived at a decision as to what should be eliminated, he has to run with no unsparing hand the well-known and thoroughly hated blue lines through the objectionable paragraphs, which not infrequently includes the whole message."*

T. Oliver Fraser served as the Press Censor in Durban for two years, from the beginning of the war until October 1901. He had a civil service background, having previously worked at the Colonial Office in Pretoria and the Foreign Office in Lourenço Marques. Upon his appointment as Press Censor, Fraser joined the Department of Intelligence with the rank of Captain.

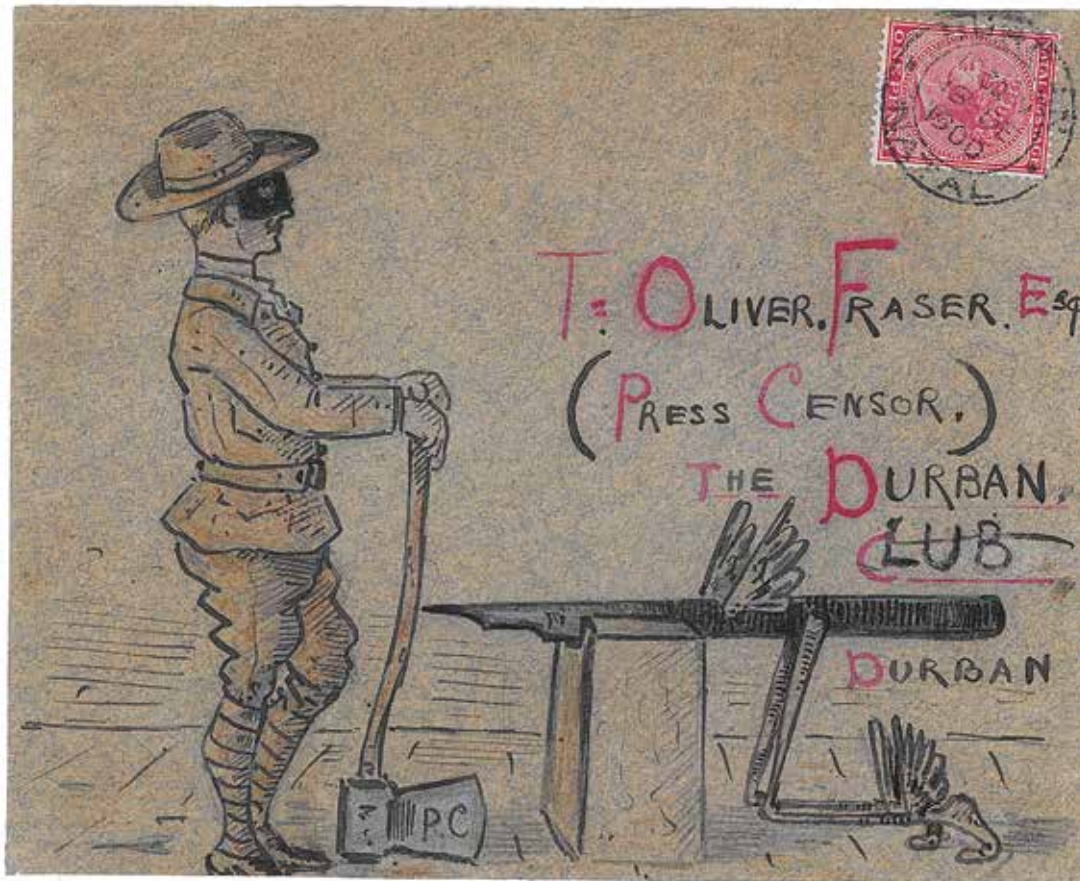
Fraser's general instructions defined his role: *"Prevent any information reaching the enemy which might be of use to him, stop anything passing along the wires which might reveal military operations, especially as to the movements of troops, report at once anything which might be of service to the Intelligence Department, and refer to the General of Communications any matter on which advice is required. Also to inform the local press at Durban that nothing referring to military matters is to be published without reference to the Censor"*. Fraser was not only responsible for censoring newspapers and other publications. Cables, letters and telegrams also had to be scrutinised.

The Censoring of Letters

Fraser's team of letter censors initially comprised six people deployed in the Durban Post Office to read and censor a mountain of correspondence. By January 1900, long delays in processing the mail had accumulated, and the Cape

Colony authorities complained loudly. An inspection by the military revealed that some 11,000 letters addressed to the Cape as well as seven bags of Dutch letters offloaded at the port destined for Transvaal were waiting to be censored. Fraser estimated that his six assistants would take five weeks to clear the backlog. The team was then supplemented by a further ten members, and the backlog was gradually cleared.

There were frequent complaints that some of the assistant censors were ill-suited for the task. Many were convalescent army officers recently discharged from hospital who served temporarily whilst they became fit enough to be returned to the front. Fraser himself argued that the work required suitably trained persons, appointed on a permanent basis: people who knew how business operated, and were conversant with foreign languages. Letters to and from the Transvaal, the Orange



Free State and Lourenço Marques, as well as those relating to foreign countries were closely scrutinised. After examination, so far as possible, those letters that were passed were carefully resealed and traces of interference were removed before forwarding them to the addressee. Letters deemed unsuitable were retained, or occasionally returned to the sender.

The Commandant at Durban was Sir Percy Scott, who arrived in the port on *HMS Terrible*. In his autobiography, Scott summarised Fraser's role as follows:

"Captain Fraser looked after the Press and opened all the letters, from which we derived a great deal of information."

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Some we re-posted, some we kept, and those I sent to the Governor, Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, who was making a collection of them. The language in some of them was shocking, especially those from ladies. One lady writing from Pretoria to a friend, said that the British prisoners taken outside Ladysmith had just come in, and explained what she would like to do with them."

A contemporary reference to Fraser's work is to be found in *The Commission of HMS Terrible* by George Crowe:

"The Commandant, in conjunction with Mr Fraser (the official censor) had to deal with the examination of letters, and suspicious or irregular telegrams, detained under martial law procedure. When one is aware of the number of fabulous accounts which have emanated from pens propelled at the will of imaginative brains, has read the unjust - and often malicious - criticisms and accusations glibly directed against men and matters which are intended for dissemination among a credulous public, and knows the means employed to furnish the enemy with desirable information, the much traduced censorship is seen to be an indispensable institution in war time."

In October 1901, Fraser was replaced as Chief Censor in Durban by a military officer, Major Gardiner.

Acknowledgements

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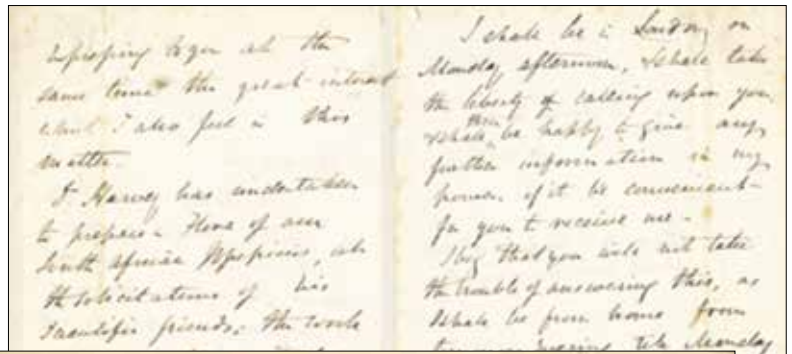


Minor European aristocracy, oranges and peaches, missionaries and a breed of dog – two postal stationery cards by Sean Burke, Rhodesian PS



I am, with Paul Peggie from Australia and Patrick Flanagan from South Africa, in the midst of writing another book on the postal history of the Paris Missionary Society in Barotseland (now north-western Zambia) from 1885 until 1924. I have, in *The SA Philatelist*, written before of some of the stories that come out of this exercise. Here is another: shown here are an interesting couple of postal stationery cards (Figs.1,2,3,4); not so much for their contents, but rather due to the people concerned.

Both cards, one from 1910 and the other in 1913, are from Mrs Elizabeth Helm, wife of the Reverend Charles Helm at the Hope Fountain Mission near Bulawayo. They are written to Mme Nina Jalla, the wife of the Rev Louis Jalla at the Paris Missionary Society station at Livingstone. Both cards concern sending fruit via the train from Mrs Helm to Mme Jalla.



Figs.3&4, 1913: Have sent a small bag of oranges (40lbs) to station hope they will arrive safely. Only fit for preserve. No good for eating...

Feb. 12. Sorry to find them in
I sent some peaches for
stewing or preserving; we
tried to get the hardest
we could, as I hope they
will not all be eaten
before reaching you. I
preserve them whole, only
but they must be kept
a long time else we
keep, must look good
red before done. Those
we cut up keep better.
I am writing this in
great hurry as my
hand is just leaving
Bulawayo and waiting
station for the Sunday.
We send two bags one
plumces and a small
bag of peaches. - When shall
we make your acquaintance
Yours sincerely
E. Helm



Fig.5: Elizabeth and Charles Helm

Note that the first card is addressed to Victoria Falls and the second to Livingstone. The Paris Missionary Society station was at Livingstone. Jalla used to complain that mail addressed to them at the Victoria Falls took an extra day to arrive!



Fig.6: Nina and Louis Jalla

Figs.1&2: 1910: I sent some peaches for stewing or preserving; we tried to get the hardest we could.... When shall we make your acquaintance.

AIRGRAPHS BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

by Jim Findlay RDPSA, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg



The article 'An Airgraph from Bulawayo' by Andrew Briscoe in the June 2020 issue of *The South African Philatelist* stimulated me to search in my collection for my historical airgraphs.

As stated in Andrew's article, airgraphs were brought in to being to reduce postal mass and speed up delivery. The size and design was standard with minor variations.

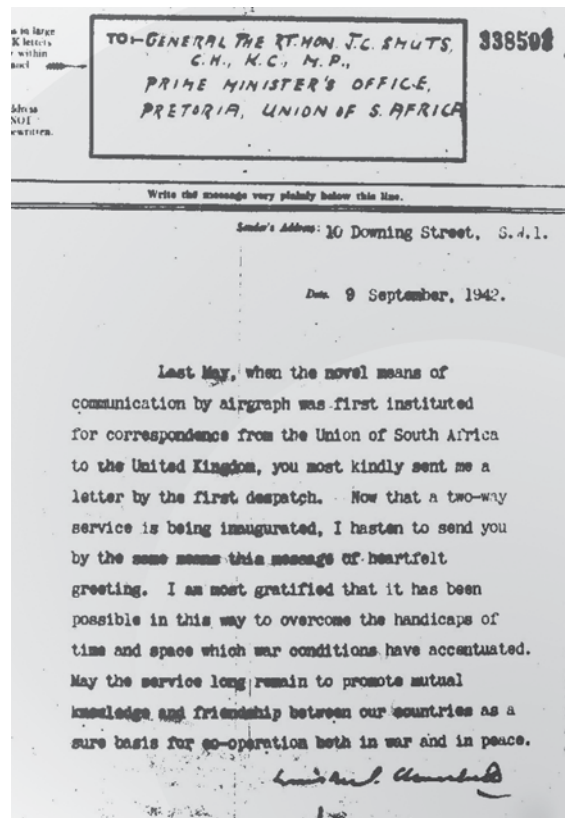
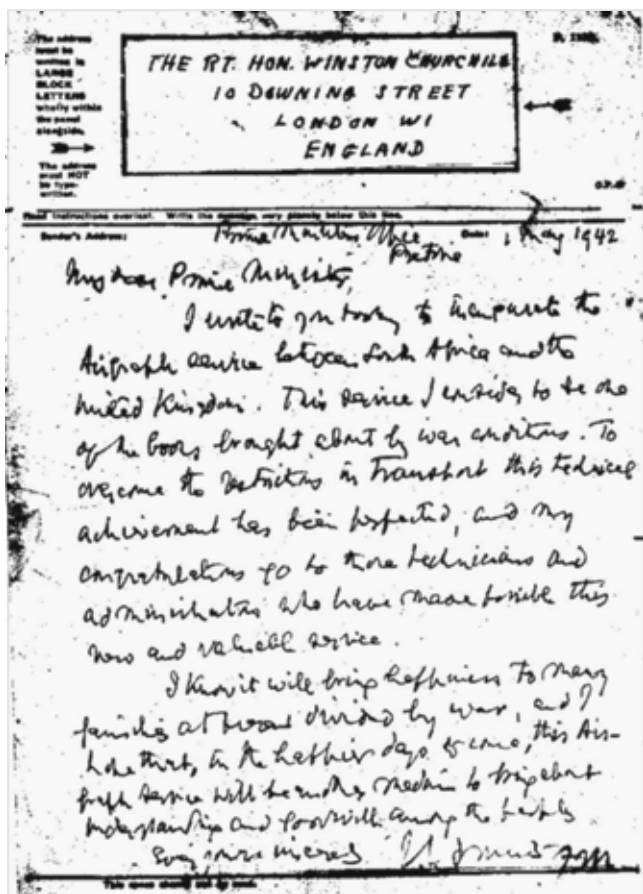
The first airgraph, Number 01, from the Union of South Africa to the United Kingdom was sent by the South African Prime Minister, Field Marshall Jan Smuts, to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, The Right Honourable Winston Churchill on 1 May 1942. (The airgraph number, '01' is in the top right corner and is not visible in this scan).

come, this airgraph service will be another medium to bring about understanding and goodwill between the people.

Ever yours sincerely

Signed: J.C. Smuts PM"

The first airgraph dispatch from the United Kingdom to South Africa took place on 11 September 1942. Winston Churchill reciprocated and sent the first airgraph from the United Kingdom (No. 338501) to Field Marshall Jan Smuts as Prime Minister of the Union.



The transcript of the airgraph is:

"THE RT. HON. WINSTON CHURCHILL,
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON W1
ENGLAND

Sender's Address: Prime Minister's Office Pretoria 1 May 1942

My Dear Prime Minister,

I write to you today to inaugurate the Airgraph service between South Africa and the United Kingdom. This service I consider to be one of the boons brought about by war conditions. To overcome the restrictions in transport this technical achievement has been perfected, and my congratulations go to the technicians and administrators who have made possible this new and valuable service.

I know it will bring happiness to many families at present divided by war, and I hope that, in the happier days to

The transcript of the airgraph is:

"To: GENERAL THE RT. on HON. J.C. SMUTS C.H. K.C. M.P.
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,
PRETORIA, UNION OF S. AFRICA.

Sender's Address: 10 Downing Street, S.W. 1

Date: 9 September, 1942.

Last May, when the novel means of communication by airgraph was first instituted for correspondence from the Union of South Africa to the United Kingdom, you most kindly sent me a letter by the first despatch. Now that a two-way service is being inaugurated, I hasten to send you by the same means this message of heartfelt greeting. I am most gratified that it has been possible in this way to overcome the handicaps of time and space which war conditions have accentuated. May the service long remain to promote mutual knowledge and friendship between our countries as a sure basis for co-operation both in war and peace.

Signed: Winston Churchill"

There is no doubt that Jan Smuts and Winston Churchill were formidable leaders and part of their success was their mutual respect for each other. These airgraphs illustrate their friendship as well as their acknowledgement of the airgraph technology. [🔗](#)

Censorship of Diplomatic Mail

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



Confidentiality and secrecy have long been regarded as integral to diplomatic relations. The use of sealed diplomatic bags, couriers and coded messages are some of the ways that nations have employed to protect communications from acts of espionage or disclosure in the media. Today, diplomatic mail has absolute inviolability (by virtue of the Vienna Convention of 1961), but at the time of the Anglo-Boer War, there was no treaty regarding the confidentiality of diplomatic communications, merely an understanding that "gentlemen do not read each other's mail".

The American Mission in Pretoria

At the outbreak of the war, in October 1899, Charles E. McCrum was the American consul in Pretoria. When he discovered that his mail was being opened by British censors, he formally requested, and was granted, leave from office. Upon his return to the United States, McCrum issued a statement detailing the reasons for his decision "It was over four weeks from the time the war opened before I received a single mail despatch from my government or a personal letter. The mail for the Transvaal had all been stopped at Cape Town by order of the High Commissioner. When this mail was finally forwarded to me after Colonel Stowe, the Consul General at Cape Town, had secured its release, I had the humiliation, as the representative of the American Government, of sitting in my office in Pretoria and looking upon envelopes bearing the seal of the American Government, opened and officially sealed with stickers, notifying me that the contents had been read by the censor at Durban when I accepted my post as consul I knew nothing of any secret alliance between America and Great Britain that my mail was to be opened."

Britain then reduced the potential for further tension by instructing that letters to or from U.S. consuls were not to be opened or detained. The date on which these instructions were issued is not clear, but Fig.1 illustrates a cover with a censor cachet dated 14 February 1900 from the U.S. Consulate General in Cape Town addressed to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Castle Barracks, for a Boer prisoner of war held on the prison ship *HMS Manilla*.

Early in the conflict, Britain requested the U.S.A to represent her interests with the Boer Republics. The consent of the Boers for this arrangement was not sought, and the Boers initially refused to recognise the arrangement. This stance was changed in February 1900, when the Boers permitted the U.S. consuls in their territory to perform certain specific and limited functions with respect to British prisoners of war, upon the understanding that U.S. consuls in Britain would be permitted to perform similar functions with regard to Boer prisoners held in Britain.

On 2 March 1900, the following regulation was accordingly issued for the guidance of censors in Natal: "Letters for Prisoners of War in the O.F.S. and Transvaal will be forwarded to C.I. Department, Maritzburg who, after examining them, will make them up into packets addressed to the American Consul at Pretoria, and submit the packets to the Postmaster General to be franked."

Figure 2 illustrates a cover from Pietermaritzburg dated 28 March addressed to Lieutenant Colonel Hunt, Royal Artillery, a British prisoner at Pretoria. The cover is endorsed "To Press Censor per American Consul, R.H. Martin, Comdt P.M. Burg.", and bears censor cachets of both the British and Boer censors, as well as the violet oval handstamp of the Consulate of the U.S.A. to the S.A.R. at Pretoria. Hunt was the most senior British officer held in Pretoria, who had been wounded and captured at Colenso on 15 December, 1899.

Diplomatic Mail of Other Countries

In late November 1899, some six weeks after the outbreak of hostilities, a clerk at the Durban post office, by mistake, opened ten letters addressed to the German consuls in the Transvaal. The errant clerk was removed, and the letters were forwarded to the German consul in Lourenço Marques, with an apology. A formal complaint was made by the German consul, which led to a revision of the relevant procedures.

A set of instructions was issued on 4 December 1899. These instructions provided for the examination of all letters contained in sealed bags, except for those of the United States. Diplomatic letters were, if necessary, to be examined

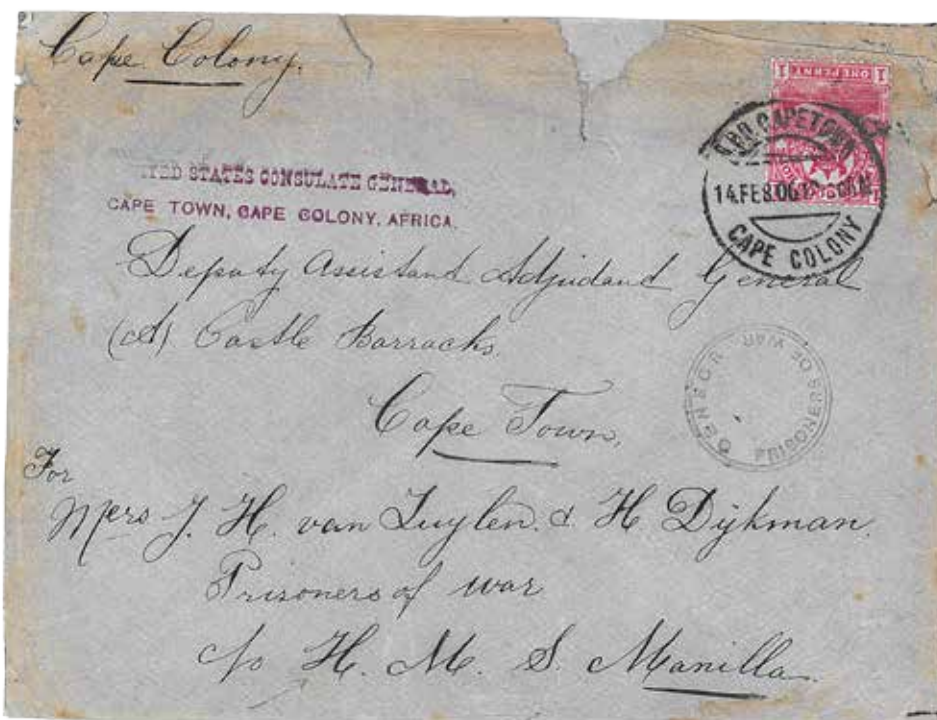


Fig.1: Censored cover from the U.S. Consulate General to a Boer POW held on HMS Manilla.



Fig.2: From Pietermaritzburg to a British POW held in Pretoria

by experts and afterwards 'forwarded with as little indication as possible of their having been treated'. This procedure applied not only to inter-consular mail, but also to letters between consuls and private individuals.

On 3 January 1900, the German consul in Cape Town complained to the Colonial Secretary, this time regarding the delay in delivering to him a letter dated 13 December 1899 which had been posted in Durban. The consul not only complained about the delay but also indicated his intention to report the matter to the German Government. This complaint and threat was relayed to the Post Master General for Natal, W.G. Hamilton, who asked the military censor for an explanation.

The military censor explained that under Martial Law, he was obliged to examine the letter in question, which must have been delayed over the festive season. In order to reduce the likelihood of further such complaints, the Post Master General suggested that when letters to consuls were received at the Post Office, they should receive no date stamp before being forwarded for censoring to Pietermaritzburg. By this means, consuls and their correspondents would be unaware of how long such letters were kept. Whether this suggestion was implemented is not clear. Soon afterwards, the Netherland consul in Durban complained that 'The flaps of the envelopes show most distinctly that they had been opened by a steaming process, and subsequently reclosed. Although I fully understand that under the existing circumstances, the public has to bear certain inconveniences, I must certainly complain of

letters being opened and closed again, except in any other manner, as is generally adopted by administrations in civilised countries ... as a neutral country which lives in peace and friendship with Great Britain, I might expect my official letters would be kept unviolated, but in the state same lately arrive – as above described – I think I am entitled to ask you to kindly make strong investigations and let me know the result.'

A formal set of Rules for the Censorship of Correspondence in Natal was issued on 2 March 1900. Amongst other things, these Rules provided that "Correspondence between Foreign Governments and their Consuls, whether residing in Her Majesty's possessions or the Republics or in Delagoa



Fig 3. From the Italian Consulate with Pretoria censor cachet



Fig. 4 From the Acting Consul for France with Johannesburg censor cachet

Bay, is not to be opened.... [Other] consular correspondence should, if examined, be examined by experts, and be forwarded with as little indication as possible of having been so treated Consular correspondence thus examined may, after examination, be forwarded, returned to sender, or suppressed, as considered advisable by the censors." These Rules were undoubtedly welcomed by the Postmaster General, since the blame for delay or other relevant inefficiencies would henceforward clearly lie at the doors of the military censors rather than those of the Post Offices.

The new set of Rules differed little from existing custom and practice. Complaints and recriminations continued unabated, and the Governor of Natal, Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson came to the view that *'the inconvenience and friction caused by the practice are greater than any other advantage derived therefrom.'* General Wolfe-Murray on behalf of Military Intelligence agreed: the practice was *'not worth the candle.'* In June 1900, the Governor recommended to the British government that the censorship of consular mail be discontinued. He suggested also that the governments of the relevant countries should not be informed about the discontinuance of the practice. By this means, their belief that consular mail was still being opened would deter them from using such letters as *'a safe channel of communication with enemy.'* Hely-Hutchinson's recommendation was accepted, and complaints of tampering with consular mail abated.

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate consular mail that bear censor cachets, although it is likely that the cachets simply signify that the covers passed through the censor's hands, not that they had been opened. Figure 4 is especially interesting because it was posted on 1 June, 1902, the day after peace was signed and the war came to an end. The cover also bears the only recorded example of this particular Pretoria censor cachet.

Acknowledgements

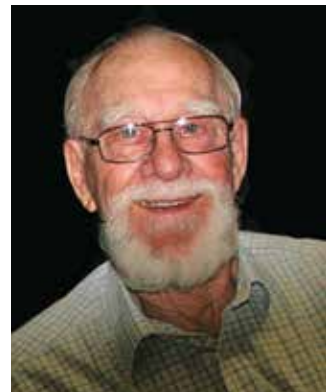
- Stroud, R., 1989, *The Impact of the Anglo-Boer War on Consular Communications*, Anglo-Boer War Philatelist, Vol 32, No 1.
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OBITUARIES

Dr Edwin Johannes Pretorius 'Dr. Eddie'

07.09.1932 – 08.08.2020

Dr. Eddie grew up in Pretoria and after finishing his schooling, he studied to become a medical doctor - a profession he actively practised until the end. His interest in stamps started at an early age and his enthusiasm for philately was visible through all the years of his life. His philatelic interests covered a wide variety of topics. He was a member of the Sasolburg Philatelic Society (Oilfilat) for ± 38 years; as Vice Chairperson for many years and as Chairperson since 2000.



Dr. Eddie was a strong supporter of joint exhibitions with the East Rand Philatelic Society and exhibited yearly at the October Sasolburg/ERPS annual exhibition. His exhibit on the history of the Sasolburg club was always an item of great interest. In 2001 the club awarded him with a certificate for Service to Philately. He also exhibited several times at the National Exhibition, these included exhibits on RIP (Mourning Stamps) and Vatican City, gaining a Large Silver for the former project.

With the passing of Dr. Eddie on 08 August 2020 South African Philately lost a special philatelist and friend. Our sincere condolences to his daughters, sons-in-law as well as his grandchildren and other family and friends.

P.E. Sasolburg

Andrew Bernard Byron Kriegler 'Andy'

19.01.1943 – 08.08.2020



"He was a unassuming man, and never sought the limelight. He was my friend as well as my husband, I will miss him greatly." These heartfelt words are how Andy's wife, Emma describes the late Andy Kriegler.

Andrew's father died young and in service during WWII. He was schooled in Aliwal North Primary and later Wynberg Boys High where he played in the school band and was a very good left arm spinner cricket player - always a keen sportsman, he later played soccer and golf.



The South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition 2021

This One-Frame Virtual Exhibition, which will take place under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in 2021. **Entries close: 31 March 2021** Entries need to be scanned and uploaded to the Jury Chairperson by 30 April 2021. Judging will take place in June 2021 and the results will be posted on the Federation website <https://www.sapa.africa> in July 2021. For more information: (IREX) and entry forms, contact: Joof van der Merwe <jnc1@vodamail.co.za> or Emil Minnaar <emil@minnaar.org> or visit the Federation website <https://www.sapa.africa>

School was followed by the army where he was part of the Cape Town Rifles regiment. Andy then went into banking and later became an investment advisor.

Andy and Emma married in their early 20s and enjoyed each others company for almost 60 years.

As a collector of stamps from age 9, when he relocated to Johannesburg, he became member of various societies. He only collected the best quality and not quantity and also dealt in the best. Andy won many awards for his German South West Africa collections: from 1986, Silver for GSWA and at the International JHB 100, The J H Harvey Pirie Award for the same GSWA, Otgimbingue 100 Silver, 1988 again Harvey Pirie 1990, GSWA Silver Gilt for postal history and postmarks of GWSA. In Benoni 1994 Vermeil Postal History GSWA. JOPEX Court of Honour. People remember him for his gentlemanly conduct, his honesty in dealing, sense of humour, and the advice he freely gave. He served on the SAPDA committee and as a jury member. As a dealer he made many friends abroad. He will be missed and remembered as a loving husband and father, to three sons and six grand children.

May he rest in peace.

Emma Kriegler 

Otto Peetoom


R.I.P 11 July 2020

Otto Peetoom was educated at Helpmekeer Boys High School in Johannesburg before becoming a Sea Cadet in 1964 and later a Safmarine Cadet. He joined the British Merchant Navy in 1971, eventually getting his Masters Certificate in 1974. After several years at sea as a Captain he retired to open a stamp shop in Ormskirk, Lancashire in 1979.

Philately obviously suited him as by 1983 Otto had sold the shop and established a mail order business specialising in South and Central Africa. Travelling extensively throughout Britain, he and his wife Gillian were regular attendees at all major stamp fairs. The reputation gained was as a knowledgeable, fair but tough dealer, not given to offering discounts. He was prodigious author on south and central African philately with an annual output often running to 200 pages or more. He started and edited *The Rhodesian Philatelist* in 1993, was editor for a while of *The Runner Post*, the journal of the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society, and later co-founded his own journal *South African Philately*.

Not content with hard copy, Otto embraced the internet and promoted philately and collecting on several websites, eventually establishing his own in 2015. He was a stalwart of the South African Collectors Society, publishing regularly in their journal, *The Springbok* and presenting professional standard displays at their conferences. His efforts in the promotion of philately were recognised by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in 2016 at their 78th Congress with the prestigious Manfred Weinstein Memorial Award. The citation recorded "his huge role in the development of the current interest in Southern African Philately", at the PFSA's 78th Congress at Bedfordview in October 2016.

As a person Otto was often difficult, abrasive and always opinionated. He did not tolerate fools gladly and was frequently in dispute and conflict with his colleagues. Confrontations were not prolonged as he was a man of action and preferred to roll up his sleeves and get things done rather than argue needlessly. Otto was a character and his passing leaves the philatelic world poorer; he will be remembered for his hard work for, and dedication, to philately.

Supplied by South African Philately Club (edited) 



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This event is rescheduled for 9 to 13 November 2021. Participate in the 2,000 frame International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX), Cape Town in November 2021.

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For more information please visit: capetown2021.org



Letters to Sir Rowland Hill

by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith, Highway Philatelic Society

In this series of articles, I will be detailing letters written by famous Victorians to Sir Rowland Hill, who reformed the British postal system in the 1840s and invented the adhesive postage stamp, and include any relevant philatelic material : the '1st' of these appeared in the August 2020 issue (Vol 96 : 3 Whole No 961)

2. Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker OM GCSI CB PRS (30 June 1817 – 10 December 1911)

Hooker was one of the greatest British botanists and explorers of the 19th Century. He was a founder of geographical botany and Charles Darwin's closest friend. For twenty years he served as director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (succeeding his father - William Jackson Hooker who founded the gardens) and was awarded the highest honours of British science.



Fig.1: A painting by John Wilson Carmichael in 1841 of HMS Terror and Erebus in New Zealand.

The Ross Antarctic Expedition

This was a voyage of scientific exploration of the Antarctic from 1839 to 1843, led by Captain James Clark Ross, with two unusually strong warships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. They explored what is now called the Ross Sea and discovered the Ross Ice Shelf. On the expedition, Ross discovered the Transantarctic Mountains and the volcanoes Erebus and Terror, named after his ships. The expedition visited Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Crozet & Kerguelen Islands, Antarctica and Falkland Islands. The young botanist on the trip was Joseph Dalton Hooker who made his name on this expedition.

Fig.2: (at right)

The 2011 Mozambique commemorative issue on the 100th anniversary of Hooker's death. It is illustrated with artwork by W.H.Finch from Hooker's books on Himalayan plants.



Hooker's further travels

Hooker wrote 17 books about his travels and botany which included the following countries:

- 1845 - 47: Geological survey of Great Britain
- 1847 - 51 Himalayas and India
- 1860 Syria and Palestine
- 1871 Morocco
- 1877-71 Western United States

He never visited Southern Africa but co-authored a major work on South African flora.

The Hooker – Darwin relationship

Their correspondence began in 1843 when Hooker, just returned from James Clark Ross's Antarctic expedition, and already an admirer of the older Darwin, was approached about working on Darwin's collection of plants from the *Beagle* voyage.

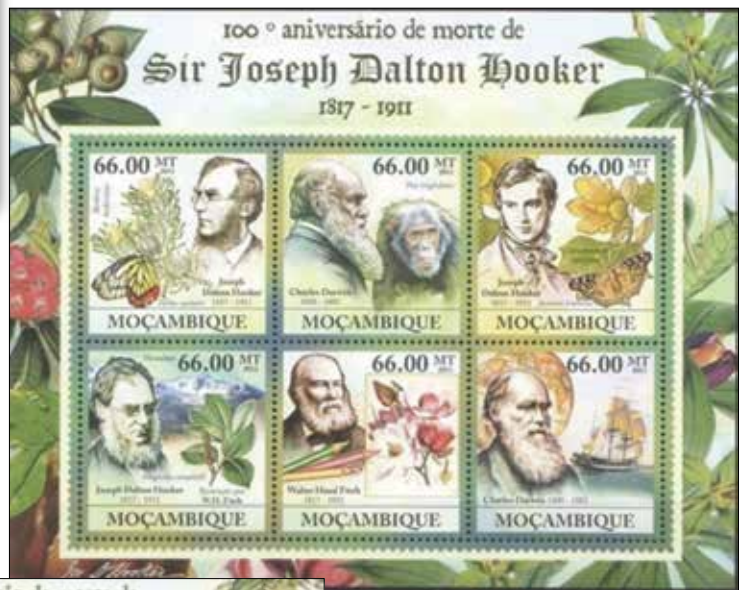


Fig.3: A further 2011 Mozambique commemorative issue showing three stamps of Hooker and his plants, two of his friend Charles Darwin and one of his book illustrator, Walter Hood Finch.

From the dawn of Darwin's career, when 22-year old Hooker slept with the proofs of the *Voyage of the Beagle* under his pillow in order to read them as soon as he awoke, to the day he accompanied Darwin's coffin to its final resting place in Westminster Abbey, Hooker was Darwin's closest confidante and staunchest supporter.

Royal Gardens Kew
July 9th 1855

My dear Sir

My father Sir W. Hooker is I believe addressing you in the subject of a valuable parcel of plants, addressed to our friend Dr Harvey of Dublin, + which parcel appears to have been committed to the Post through the blunder of some person at Cape Town: - he will forward to you a letter from Dr Harvey himself + take the liberty of expressing to you at the same time the great interest which I also feel in this matter.

Expressing to you at the same time the great interest which I also feel in this matter.

Dr Harvey has undertaken to prepare a Flora of our South African Provinces, at the solicitation of his scientific friends; the work will be of the greatest benefit to the Colony + to all the leading Botanists of Europe - it will occupy several years of continuous labour, + cannot yield him any pecuniary return whatsoever.

I shall be in London on Monday afternoon, + shall take the liberty of calling upon you + shall then be happy to give any further information in my power, if it be convenient for you to receive me -

I beg that you will not take the trouble of answering this, as I shall be from home from tomorrow evening till Monday morning when I shall be examining at the India House into the afternoon. Should you not be able to receive me, perhaps you will have the goodness to leave word with your doorkeepers. I have the honour to be yrs very truly

J D Hooker

9th July 1855

J. D. Hooker Esq
in R. Hill's

Charge on a Packet of dried plants from Cape of Good Hope.

Fig.4.

Fig.5. the reverse of the letter

It was in a letter to Hooker that Darwin first initiated his theory of natural selection in 1844 and in another letter Darwin says to Hooker: "You are the one living soul from whom I have constantly received sympathy...I never forget for even a minute how much assistance I have received from you".

A letter from Hooker to Rowland Hill (Fig.4)

Rowland Hill implemented his postal reforms from 1839 to 1842 when he was unpopularly and controversially dismissed from the Post Office by the newly elected Conservative government. He became the director of the London and Brighton Railway which he also reformed. When the Whigs returned to power Rowland returned to the Post Office as Secretary from 1854 to 1864 when he retired due to ill health.

This letter of complaint from Hooker was written on 9 July 1855 when Hill was in charge of the postal service.

Royal Gardens Kew
July 9th 1855
My dear Sir

My father Sir W. Hooker is I believe addressing you in the subject of a valuable parcel of plants, addressed to our friend Dr Harvey of Dublin, + which parcel appears to have been committed to the Post through the blunder of some person at Cape Town: - he will forward to you a letter from Dr Harvey himself + take the liberty of expressing to you at the same time the great interest which I also feel in this matter.

Dr Harvey has undertaken to prepare a Flora of our South African (??), at the solicitation of his scientific friends, the work will be of the greatest benefit to the Colony + to all the leading Botanists of Europe - it will occupy several years of continuous labour + cannot yield him any pecuniary return whatsoever.

I shall be in London on Monday afternoon, + shall take the liberty of calling upon you + shall then be happy to give any further information in my power, if it be convenient for you to receive me.

I beg that you will not take the trouble of answering this, as I shall be from home from tomorrow evening till Monday morning when I shall be examining at the India House into the afternoon. Should you not be able to receive me, perhaps you will have the goodness to leave word with your doorkeepers. I have the honour to be yrs very truly

J D Hooker

On the rear in Rowland Hill's handwriting: (Fig.5)

RH 1067 (refers to his archiving number)
9th July 1858
J.D. Hooker Esq
Recd 12th July

Charge on a Packet of dried plants from Cape of Good Hope.



Fig.6: William Henry Harvey.

Prof William Henry Harvey FRS FLS (5 February 1811 - 15 May 1866) (Fig.6) was an Irish Professor of Botany specialising in algae. In 1855 he went to South Africa and became Treasury-General of the Colony and lived in Bishops Court, collecting plants in the early morning from the mountain and seashore and working on the plants at night. He wrote a three volume work *The Genera of South African Plants* with Joseph Dalton Hooker the co-author. Harvey was a lifelong friend of Joseph's father, Sir William Hooker.

Hooker, Darwin and Ascension Island

In 1836 the second *Beagle* voyage visited Ascension Island and Darwin described it as: "An arid treeless island, with nothing growing near the coast. Sparse vegetation inland supported about six hundred sheep, many

goats, a few cows and horses, large numbers of Guinea fowl imported from the Cape Verde Islands, rats, mice and land crabs." He agreed with the people of St Helena who said "We know we live on a rock, but the poor people of Ascension live on a cinder!"

Fig.7: The 2019 hardcover reprint of 'The Genera of South African Plants'. The first print was in 1868.



Fig.8: J D Hooker on the 2011 Ascension Island 'Age of Victoria' issue.



Fig.9: The 2009 Ascension Island 'Introduced Species' issue featuring a stamp with a young and aged Hooker plus stamps of five of his introduced plants – Blue Water Lilly, Raspberry, Prickly Pear, Ascension Lily and the Yellowboy.



Fig.10: Green Mountain on Ascension Island today

In 1843 Hooker visited the island and four years later, with encouragement from Darwin, advised the Royal Navy that with the help of Kew Gardens they should institute a long-term plan to ship trees and plants to the island. He reasoned that this would

capture more rain and improve the soil - which did happen and Fig.10 shows the island today.

The BAT Naturalists Issue

The British Antarctic Territory (BAT) is a sector of Antarctica claimed by the United Kingdom as one of its fourteen Overseas Territories of which it is by far the largest by area. Despite the lack of permanent inhabitants, BAT issues its own postage stamps. While some are actually used by visiting tourists and resident scientists, the bulk are sold to overseas collectors. The first issue was in 1963, with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth overlooking various scenes of human activity in BAT.

The 1985 BAT Naturalists issue features: (Fig.11)

- Robert McCormick, the ships surgeon and geologist on the Ross expedition, with the *South Polar Skua* which is named after him.
- Joseph Dalton Hooker, with Antarctic grasses.
- Jean Rene Quoy, a French naval surgeon, anatomist and zoologist, described the now extinct Giant Skink of Tonga, with the Hourglass Dolphin.
- James Waddell, a British captain of a sealing vessel, with the Waddell Seal - the most southerly mammal.

Hooker died aged 94 years in his sleep after a short apparently minor illness on 10 December 1911.

The Dean of Westminster Abbey offered a grave near Darwin's but also insisted that Hooker be cremated.

His widow, Hyacinth, declined and he was buried according to his wishes alongside his father in the churchyard of St. Anne's Church, a short distance from Kew Gardens.



Fig.11.

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

Usual Meet in the Captain's Table at Woodmead Johannesburg - last Wednesday of each month at 20h00 (except December).

TBVC STUDY GROUP

Contact: Chairperson: Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com Secretary: Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com

Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, cor Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Pretoria, 09h00 to 14h00).

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Kontak: djhome606@gmail.com

Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publiseer 'n gereelde maandelikse nuusbrieff. Jan de Jong: 079 190 1066.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

This society has amalgamated with the EDENVALE Society. See details on page 102.

RHODESIAN STAMP STUDY

The Rhodesian Study Circle holds regular member meetings and events across the world. For more information on meetings, visit <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/engage/meetings/> or Contact the Secretary, Brian Zlotnick. Email bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk or postal address 10 Fortis Green Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 9NA. UK.

The SA representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

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Bellville Valley DRC Hall, Contact: Ken Joseph ken@philatelicfriends.com

Postage Due Mail Study Group

For more details, look at their website: <http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/> Contact: Bob Medland, Secretary & Treasurer of the Postage Due Mail Study Group, email: secretary.pdmsg@gmail.com



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[<aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com>](mailto:aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com)

2. President: Dave Wylie (all contact details unchanged)
3. Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

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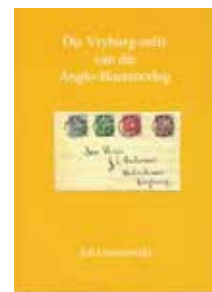
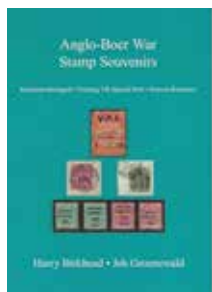
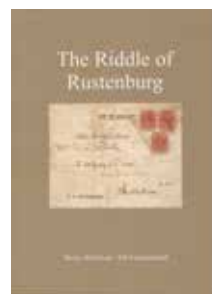
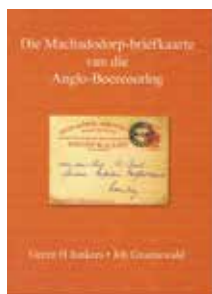
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- *Die Machadodorp-briefkaarte van die Anglo-Boeroorlog* by Gerrit H Jonkers & Joh Groenewald. 2006, 56 p. The ZA Republiek government left Pretoria ahead of the British onslaught and moved to Machadodorp, where a special Staatscourant (government gazette) was printed on the back of ZAR postcards to declare Machadodorp the seat of government.
- *Die Pietersburg-seëls van die Anglo-Boeroorlog* by Carel Breecht and Joh Groenewald. 2007, 109 p. When stamps ran out in ZAR administered regions of Transvaal, a newspaper press at Pietersburg produced rudimentary stamps. To validate these, an official had to initial all 54,000 stamps by hand. The printing contract tells how the printer was paid in stamps, and an amazing story unfolds. Full sheets of all printings are illustrated.
- *The Riddle of Rustenburg* by Birkhead and Groenewald. 2007, 79 p. The 52 days of the first British occupation of Rustenburg are set out day by day, with the story of the stamps and the mails interwoven. The official ZAR stamps overprinted 'VRI' in Pretoria were available yet not used; instead ZAR stamps were locally handstamped 'VR' and used on outgoing letters – an intriguing history. Numerous forgeries are described.
- *The Legacy of Lydenburg* by Birkhead and Groenewald. 2009, 78 p. It was the overprinting of ZA Republiek stamps at Lydenburg which angered the British military authorities and put a stop to 'local stamp issues'. Souvenir covers were made at Lydenburg and while few genuine postal items are recorded, forgeries were quick to appear, especially of the spectacular variety of the overprint letter R with a 'long tail'.
- *Anglo Boer War Stamp Souvenirs* by Birkhead and Groenewald. 2014, 56 p. The Cape stamps with 'Kuruman Besieged', the ZAR stamps with Vryburg 'VR Special Post' and the ZAR revenue stamps with 'VRI' (issued at Zeerust) are rated as souvenirs since there is no record or evidence of their postal validity. Yet these elusive items are keenly sought by collectors and their histories are part of the canvas of war.
- *The Wherewithal of Wolmaransstad* by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald. 1999, 59 p. (2005 update supplement of new material that appearing during the centenary of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). The story of how enthusiasts, working on a large diningroom table one evening, handstamped a number of stamps of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek with the initials of Queen Victoria; how the stamps were used, and how the wartime mails functioned around Wolmaransstad in the Western Transvaal.
- *Die Vryburg-seëls van die Anglo-Boeroorlog* by Groenewald. 2010, 90 p. The first special stamps of the Anglo-Boer War arrived within weeks into the war. Vryburg in the Northern Cape was occupied as a preventative measure, a mail link with Transvaal was arranged, and Cape of Good Hope stamps were overprinted 'ZAR'. The ZAR postmaster-general was annoyed but later relented, and many souvenirs were made.
- *The Pseudo-Siege of Schweizer-Reneke* by Birkhead and Groenewald. 2005, 63 p. Stamps of both the Transvaal Republic and the Cape Colony were handstamped with the word 'Besieged', and were then within days sold out to eager troops. Hardly any were actually used on letters. Siege? No, the town was isolated but not besieged, as the contemporary record and postal history reveals.

BOOK REVIEW: THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF TRANSKEI: A PHILATELIC INVENTORY BY DR HEINZ WIRZ

reviewed by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA

In an article by Dr Tom Berry titled: 'Transkei Philately' published in *The South African Philatelist* of October 1976, he was of the opinion that "the philately of the Transkei presents a pioneering adventure into a philatelic region hitherto unknown and unexplored". This is exactly the gap that Dr Heinz Wirz has explored and filled in terms of highlighting the total spectrum of the philately of the Transkei.

This excellent publication by Dr Heinz Wirz, is the third in a series of four books on a philatelic inventory of the four, then independent territories, within South Africa, namely the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, and Ciskei (TBVC) states. It follows the same format as the first two publications: *The Independent State of Bophuthatswana (6 December 1977 - 27 April 1994) - A Philatelic Inventory*, and *The Independent State of Ciskei (4 December 1981 - 27 April 1994)*.

This book is not only about the period since 1976 when the Transkei became the first independent 'homeland' in South Africa but also includes the forerunner periods starting with the pre-independence period, namely the Cape (1879-1910), the Union of South Africa (1910-1961) and the Republic of South Africa (1961-1976).

A very interesting section is also included on the role that missionaries and mission stations as well as trading stations played in the socio-economic development of the region, and is illustrated by means of covers and documents. From that point of view, this book will fill many gaps in the knowledge base of potential and current collectors of the postal history and related philatelic material of that region.

Also included are the original stamp designs and beautiful water colour essays from the South African Post Office museum. The two chapters on the stamp designs and postmarks make up more than half of this publication, which makes it the largest of the three 'homeland' volumes. The Transkei Postal Stationery section includes and illustrates postcards, aerogrammes, registered envelopes, and postal orders that are included as part of the inventory and are also illustrated.

Other new sections include railway and rail letter post, flight and Transkei coastline shipwreck covers, as well as a Transkei philatelic checklist.

A new approach to this book, which makes it more user-friendly, is the section called 'Opening the Gateway'. It is an introduction to the post offices and postal agencies



section and demonstrates to readers and collectors how to optimally navigate this book.

Dr Heinz Wirz must be congratulated with this philatelic publication on the Transkei since it should without a doubt encourage philatelists and collectors to explore the Transkei more from a philatelic point of view, just as Berry stated long ago. This book proves that the Transkei as a collecting field has all the "ingredients" from a philatelic, postal history and socio-economic aspect to develop an exciting exhibit based on the principles of the different classes of philately.

As a region, the Transkei did not receive the philatelic recognition it should have in the past, mainly because of the negativity coupled to the TBVC states as instruments of the 'apartheid' system before 1994. Luckily we have reached a certain level of maturity as far as this is concerned since there is a renewed interest in the philately of the TBVC states, and this publication will definitely fill that gap.

This book is a worthwhile contribution to modern South African philately, and the author should be commended for taking the trouble and care in compiling this comprehensive guide on the Transkei. This book is a must-have for collectors of the philately of Southern Africa and specifically the philately and postal history of the Transkei-region.

Book details:

This book - '*The Independent State of Transkei: A Philatelic Inventory*' is an impressive volume of 600 pages, which has been printed on high gloss paper and is stitched and bound in a durable red hard cover weighing 2.7 kg.

Cost: R2100 available from the publisher who can be contacted on 082 821 6914. Numbered and signed by author.

On Saturday 3 October 2020, the book launch will take place at SAPDA dealer, Paul van Zeyl's Pretoria's stamp browse and auction, at the Greek Orthodox Church hall (opposite entrance to the University of Pretoria).

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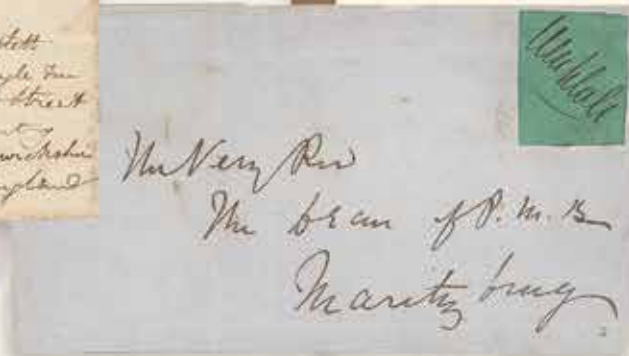
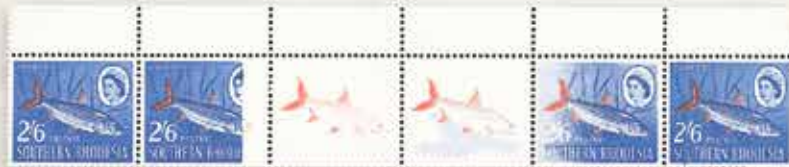
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Contents

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REGULARS

- 171 Closing dates for future issues
- 172 Message from the Editorial Board
- 174 Phun with Postmarks
- 175 Errors on Stamps
- 176 The 'ABC' of Stamps
- 180 New Stamp issues
- 205 Society news

Awards:

- o Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- o Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
- o Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- o Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- o Federation Plaque 2004,
- o Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
- o Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
- o Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- o Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012.

FEATURES

- 177 Book announcement: A new Catalogue of Postal Stationery Airgraphs
- 178 Protea Definitive Series: The flaw on pane A, row 4/1
by Dr Vic Sorour
- 178 Obituary: Jimmy Mitchell
- 181 Book Review: Catalogue of Postal Stationery Airgraphs
- 182 The Mmalebôhô (1894), Magoeba(1894/1895) and Mphephu(1898) Campaigns in the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Zar) against the Vendas
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 187 82nd PFSA Congress
- 192 Letters from Home: South African Soldiers enlisted in the British Pioneer Corps during WWII
by Peter Thy FRPSL
- 196 Journal References
- 197 Letters to Sir Rowland Hill
by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith
- 200 Weird and Wonderful Stamps
by David Wigston
- 202 Christmas Cards in support of the Paris Missionary Society in Barotseland
by Sean Burke

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EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

- Alex Visser : alex.visser@up.ac.za
- Michael Wigmore RDPSA: dcrocker@lando.co.za
- Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL: mobsbychris8@gmail.com
- Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA: kamffer@netactive.co.za

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER of the PFSA

- André du Plessis: andredupfs@gmail.com
- Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

- Janice Botes: janice@gdb.co.za
- Tel: +27 (0) 11 454 5940

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• **February** 2021 - Volume. 97 : 1. 964. **12th January 2021** • **April** 2021 - Volume. 97: 2. 965. **9th March 2021**

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The year 2020 has certainly been an unusual one, with a rampant global pandemic. The word of the year must surely be 'new-normal'. All of us had to make significant adjustments to our lifestyles and that included our hobby. We faced uncertainty and the unknown, while we have little idea of what the future holds. Society meetings ground to a halt from March 2020. Some societies have since managed to resume meetings again; some are still not allowed back into their venues. It's a classic case of wait and see. We also saw the annual National Exhibition scheduled for Port Elizabeth cancelled, while the Cape Town International was moved to a new date.

During this time your Editorial Board managed to produce successfully four issues of *The SA Philatelist* without being able to physically meet by using e-mail, WhatsApp, and cell phones to keep team members connected. The need for a nationwide lockdown had a dramatic effect on local postal services which ground to a standstill for several months. This, together with the financial deficit of the SAPO, had a significant impact on the design and issuing of new stamps by Philatelic Services. The stamp programme remains in a state of flux while the discussion around new proposals continues.

It wasn't long before COVID-19 stamps started appearing. The first country being Iran on 17 March 2020 (Fig.1), although commentators have labelled this more a propaganda effort than anything else. Themes cover preventative measures (Fig.2) and the acknowledgement of the efforts by essential workers (Fig.3). We have also seen a number of suspicious and spoof stamps enter the market (Fig.4). *Caveat emptor!*



Fig.1.



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4.

From all of us on the Editorial Board, we wish you and your families a restful and peaceful holiday and happy stamping for 2021.



Christmas fun stamps from Norway. 

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The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.

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Within South Africa, the subscription rate for 2021, for Society Members and 'Direct' subscribers, is R300.00 for a printed copy of each issue (*Please note this can be seen as a basic R70.00 affiliation, as for the electronic copy, with the rest costs incur for postage, envelopes and admin to mail the hard copy*) and R70.00 for an electronic copy.

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The 2021 rates are available on the PFSA official website www.stampssa.africa

Enquiries regarding subscriptions and membership can be addressed to the COO, André du Plessis at andredupfs@gmail.co.za Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

Publication; *The South African Philatelist*. This journal is published by The Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, PO Box 131600, Benornyn, 1504. South Africa or email: janice@gdb.co.za

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SPECIALIST IN RARITIES, ERRORS AND VARIETIES
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Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



The inner workings of cancellers

In this column in the October 2020 issue of *The SA Philatelist* an exposé was given about time code letters. The date and time code letters in the early cancellers were all loose slugs that were inserted by tweezers to avoid dirty fingers. Further disadvantages were that the slugs had to be kept in a box and were easily mislaid and could be inserted incorrectly until a design which prevented this was introduced. These cancellers invariably had the date information on two or three lines, as shown in Fig.1a. Goldblatt (1983) shows the design with three slots which could accept the slugs (Fig.1b). The year could also be depicted as four digits as shown in Fig.1c.

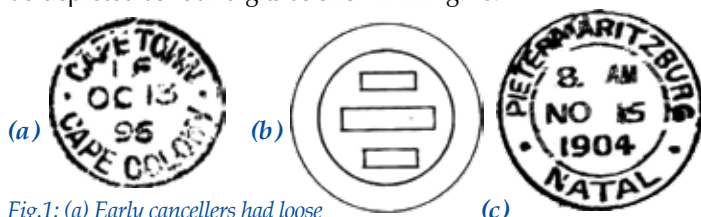


Fig.1: (a) Early cancellers had loose slugs that were inserted to change the date that (b) fitted into slots, and (c) year as four digits.

This design must have frustrated the postal staff as the ZAR and OFS used date stamps with single line dates, as shown in Fig.2, with the year as two digits from 1894. An 'underground'* type with date wheels was used in Cape Town in 1898/9 (Putzel 376). Interestingly the months have the Dutch spelling, suggesting that they were sourced in Holland or Germany. Was this experimental? After the Boer War the provinces started using single line dates that had wheels.

An instrument for ENON, OVS, as shown in Fig.3a was never used and it is presumed that an office was planned but the Boer War intervened. Note the rectangular opening for the date wheels, and the hole for the central locking pin. It was fairly easy to manipulate the date format by taking the pin out, but this was not generally done. Figure 3b shows the date line intact on a Pretoria ZAR squared circle instrument as well as the locking pin. (Photo taken of the cancellers in the RPSL Museum). I wish to acknowledge the input received from Bas Payne.



Fig.2: An early example of an instrument with a single line date with wheels, typically with the year as two digits.

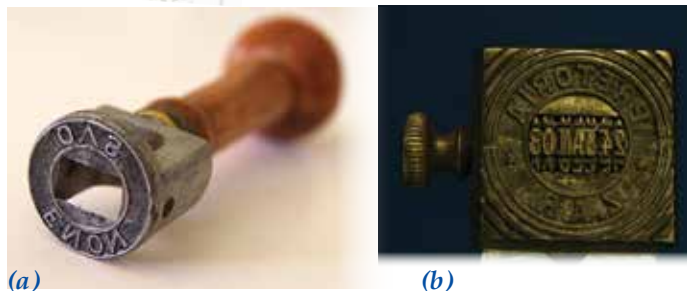
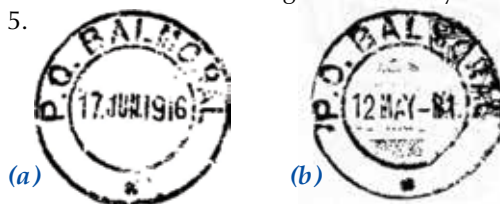


Fig.3: (a) Cancellor for ENON, OVS, showing the opening for the date wheels, and (b) Pretoria ZAR squared circle showing date configuration.

Typically a wheel would have 12 positions, such as for the month, and this also allowed the numbers zero to nine. The unused positions were used for a blank, block or hyphen. Sometimes the blank would become dirty and a block would appear. The hyphen was also used on one of the wheels of the day for single digits.

Some Transvaal date stamps did not have a time code letter, but the year as four digits in the DDMMMYYYY format. In some cases the same date stamp would appear later with a DDMMMYYY format. The only plausible explanation is that the instrument was maintained and some of the wheels were replaced. As an example Balmoral has been seen with year as four digits from 1902/17, and with year as two digits 1930/1 (Figs.4a and b). It is uncertain whether the YYYY format was on individual wheels or only two wheels in the early instruments. Post-Union cancellers generally had the year as two digits, but during the 1940s cancellers with the year as four digits appeared. Careful inspection shows that there were only two wheels, with the first three digits on one wheel and the last digit on another wheel, as the first YYY are perfectly aligned whereas the last Y is out of alignment as may be seen from Figure 5.



Figs. 4a and b: Balmoral with two types of date style.



Fig.5: Paarl Main Street with the style 1940s with YYYY format.

Although Post-Union the new date stamps were all of the single line type described above, a single circle with heavy bar at the base appeared in the early 1920s at existing offices as well as new offices. The date was typically in two lines as shown in Figs.6a and b. These are often confused as Cape date stamps, but appeared in all provinces. It is speculated that after the First World War there was a shortage of raw material and the usual suppliers were unable to provide the single line date stamps or because of anti-German sentiment. Hence these date stamps were sourced elsewhere. I am indebted to David Allison who pointed out this date stamp style and initiated the discussion. Are any readers able to add to this discussion?

Fig.6: A 1920s date stamp style with the date in two lines.



What is happening in Pietersburg/Polokwane?

In 2005 Pietersburg Post Office was renamed to Polokwane, and the steel date stamps (Fig.7a) were systematically replaced

with self-inking date stamps of various styles (Fig. 7b). Unexpectedly a new self-inking date stamp inscribed PIETERSBURG (Fig.7c) made an appearance in 2020. Even though Polokwane was the new town name, the Hub retained Pietersburg as name. The new date stamps have been seen with counter numbers 1 and 11, which suggests that the post office used this date stamp, as there were more than 15 counters. I would love to hear from our Pietersburg philatelists as to what is happening.

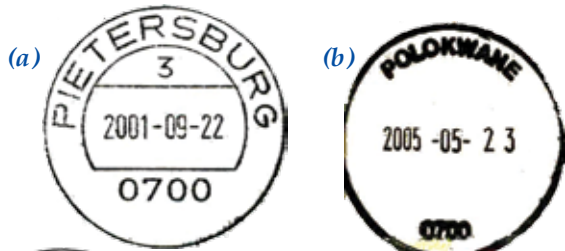


Fig.7: Evidently Pietersburg has reverted to its original name.

Die datum styl waar die jaar twee of vier syfers is bring skielik nuwe insigte, en natuurlik nog vrae. Wie sou kon dink dat die Eerste Wêreldoorlog 'n nuwe stempelstyl tot gevolg sou hê? En wat is in Pietersburg aan die gang. Kan iemand asseblief help?

* just in case you were wondering... An 'underground' type



Comic Corner

Stamps that make you SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 61 Errors on Stamps...

'9000TH BIRTHDAY'

This commemorative stamp issue of the West-African islands S.Tomé & Príncipe was issued for the 90th Birthday of the President of the former South-East-European Republic of Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito in 1982. Next to the portraits of Tito we find the years and in a circular order: '90. Centenario do Nascimento' in Portuguese, which means the Ninetieth Centenary of his Birthday which would be his 9,000th Birthday!

As we know most great statesmen want to be immortal, so at least on S.Tomé and Príncipe and on stamps only President Tito comes very close to virtual immortality...



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The ABC of stamps



by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

HIDDEN MESSAGES AND DATES

It's not exactly steganography (the art and science of writing hidden messages in such a way that no one apart from the sender and intended recipient even realises there is a hidden message); nor is it exactly cryptography, where the meaning of a message is hidden, but does not conceal the fact that there is a message. Yet it's a bit of both. Starting in 1935 with the King George V definitive issue (Fig.1), Canada decided to hide the date somewhere in the design. Why the Canadian Post Office decided to hide the date remains unknown. It could have been to prevent forging stamps; or it could have simply been to challenge collectors. Most are very difficult to find: you need a strong magnifying glass and lots of patience. The trend continues with an exception of stamps issued 1971-1973. However, not every issue has a hidden date. Then there are some stamps that should have them but you can't find them. And then there are the exceptions with no hidden initial or date.

In 2017 Canada celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary (150 years). To commemorate the event Canada Post hid a 'Canada 150' marker in addition to the hidden date in every stamp issued that year (Fig.3). Director of Stamp Services, Jim Phillips, said "Some of that will be overt and you'll be able to see it quite clearly, but some of it will be hidden in micro-type or in tagging". Some stamps contain the dates '1867-2017'



Fig.3 The hidden 'Canada 150' marker found on stamps issued by Canada in 2017.

Of the 67 stamps designed in Canada from 1952 to 1962, 30 included the designer's initial with the hidden date (Fig.3). Again, no reason is known for allowing designers to include their initial in the stamp image.



Fig.1: King George V issue of 1 June 1935, the first stamp with a hidden date.

In 1973 a set of two stamps was issued with no hidden date (Fig.2). A year later, in 1974 the 15¢ value was re-issued as part of a set of three stamps, this time with a surcharge (known as a semi-postal) in addition to a hidden date. The surcharge was to help raise funds for the 1976 Montreal Olympics. After the Olympics finished, money collected from further sales was contributed to literacy and health concerns. Both sets were printed by Ashton-Potter, with 11-million copies for the 1st issue and 30.7-million for the 3rd issue. Where the date is a part of the stamp design it is known as an open-date.



Fig.4: Designer's initial and date hidden in the stamp design. The stamp was designed by Alan L Pollock, hence the hidden 'P'. In this example the year '1962' is rather obscure and difficult to find.

Czeslaw Slania (1921-2005) a renowned engraver of stamps and banknotes was known for including the names and/or images of girl friends, relatives, friends, and co-workers buried in intricate engraving detail. One such example appears on a stamp (Fig.5) that forms part of a five-stamp booklet issued 2 March 1973. The stamp shows the start of the Vasa Ski Race in Sälen. He engraved images of himself and a few of his friends on this Swedish stamp. When asked why he put in the faces of himself and his co-workers on the stamp, he answered: "I was sitting home on a Christmas Eve and had to finish the stamp after a photograph. None of the faces on the photo appeared clearly, so I couldn't engrave them clearly either. For at least having some clear faces on the stamp I put ours in, and chose my co-workers because I had their photographs at home. It was the first time my face appeared on a stamp that I have engraved myself."



Fig.2: Montreal Olympic Games. Left, 1st issue of 20 September 1973 with no date. Right, 3rd issue, of 17 April 1974, smaller in size with a surcharge and hidden date.

He is the cross-country skier wearing glasses in the extreme lower-left corner of the design. 'J.AFTON 1972' which appears on Slania's bib means 'Christmas Eve 1972' (Fig.5), and refers to the time when Slania engraved this stamp on Christmas Eve 1972. This was not the first time Slania featured himself on a stamp. He previously appeared as a mechanic on a Polish 1952 stamp (Fig.6).

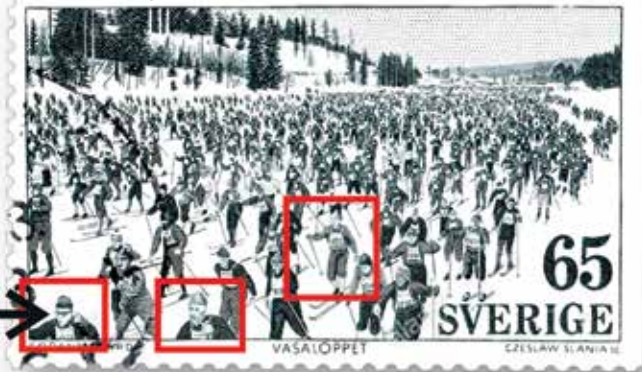


Fig.5: The scene depicted is the start of the race, with Slania depicted in the lower left corner with Lars-Eric Ewert, right, Head of the Swedish Stamp Printing Works (PFA Stamp Printing Works) and Sven Andersson behind, a technician at the Swedish Stamp Printing Works.

Fig.6: (below) Polish semi-postal issued 12 December 1952 showing assembly of the Pobjeda Warszawa M-20 with Slania fitting a wheel.



JUST PUBLISHED

CATALOGUE OF POSTAL STATIONERY AIRGRAPHS

by Wayne Munez

Finally. . . a catalogue about postal stationery airgraphs!

This 80-page, full-colour book covers the issues of the eight countries which issued these WWII forms prepaid, rather than as formulars (the vast majority). It is, for the first time, a definitive history of the development of the Airgraph idea and an in-depth and copiously illustrated description of the production processes. The book gives insight into the magnitude and scale of this innovative solution to the problem the United Kingdom faced, to provide rapid communications between the large number of its far-flung troops and their families at home. The British operational postal system was complex and constantly evolving, and this is explained in detail.

The catalogue portion includes many items never previously listed, and untangles the erroneous listing attempts of others. An up-to-date and accurate assessment of the catalogue values of Airgraph forms (the mint paper forms) and Airgraphs (the developed photographic prints sent to the addressees) is included. All items are illustrated, and in colour.

This new book is available for \$27.60, or \$34.00 to non-members, postpaid to USA and to foreign addresses. Order now from UPSS Publications, P.O. Box 3982, Chester, VA 23831, upsspubs@aol.com or from website at: www.upss.org.

Wayne Munez <waam@pacbell.net>
Postal Stationery #435 November-December 2020

A review of this book appears on page 181.



ROYAL MAIL CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS 2020



A series of six stained-glass Nativity scenes - the stamps showcase the extraordinary detail and craftsmanship of this highly specialised decorative art, covering a range of eras, styles and technique. Stained glass windows from the following churches are included in the set:

- 1) *St Andrew's Church, East Lexham, Norfolk* - Anglican church East window, thought to date from circa 900AD and said to be one of the oldest in England.
- 2) *St Andrew's Church, Coln Rogers, Gloucestershire* - Anglican parish, often described as unique, as it has a Saxon nave and chancel which have survived almost intact and date to the mid-11th century.
- 3) *Church of St James, Hollowell, Northamptonshire* - built in 1841 in the gothic style, and known for its stained-glass windows in the eastern apse of the chancel, and the rose window above the west door.
- 4) *All Saints' Parish Church, Otley, West Yorkshire* - only the foundations of

- the first church on this site remain. It was enlarged in about 1240.
- 5) *St Columba's Church, Topcliffe, North Yorkshire* - the present building dates from the 13th century and largely rebuilt by railway architect George T Andrews in 1885.
- 6) *Christ Church, Coalville, Leicestershire* - built between 1836 and 1838, with a west tower, large nave, transepts, chancel and vestry added later in 1936.

The Nativity is a common subject in stained glass artistry - from the 13th Century onwards, scenes often focused on the new-born infant Jesus and his mother, the Virgin Mary. The techniques of making stained glass have hardly changed since the Middle Ages.

These went on sale on 3.11.20 and are available at www.royalmail.com/christmas2020.

Follow on twitter @RoyalMailStamps



HERBERT CHARLES (JIMMY) MITCHELL

12 May 1943 - 30 September 2020



Jimmy was the doyen of stamp collecting on the East Rand. He had served organised philately for some fifty years in various guises and ways.

Together with the late Jules Danneels of the Sasolburg Society, he played a leading role in establishing the annual inter-club exhibition between Sasolburg and, at first, the Boksburg PS and later on the East Rand Philatelic Society. The event became the high point in the programme of both societies. Jimmy was so proud when ERPS managed to bring home the Grand Prix title year after year. He was always to be seen working in the background at National exhibitions and manned the reception tables at many Congresses held in the Gauteng area.

Jimmy's achievements were legendary:

- Served on the Committee of the Germiston Philatelic Society in the capacity of Treasurer and Chairman from the early 1970s.
- He was responsible for the distribution of Audio-Visual shows in the 1970s.
- A member of the Organising Committee for the GEBEX 86 exhibition and Chairman of the Organising Committee of ER100
- Founder member of the Boksburg Philatelic Society and served on the Committee, including periods as President.
- Responsible for the highly successful amalgamation of the Germiston and Boksburg Philatelic Societies and, then much later, the merger with ERPS. It was Jimmy's decision to retain the ERPS name, being the oldest of the three societies. It was unanimous that he was elected President of the new ERPS, a position which he held until his passing.
- Vice President for Region 2 for a period of four years.
- A founder member of the PFSA Youth Activities Committee.

Jimmy had catholic collecting interests but focused largely on thematics. His favourite exhibit was *The Conveyance of Mail* which was awarded a Silver at the East Rand 100 Stamp Show in 2019. Other outstanding collections included *Boksburg - Some postal History* and *Postmarks* and *By Air - Aeroplane to Zeppelin*. Other interests included *The Mosquito* and *Lighthouses*, all topics he had been working on. He had a vast collection of minisheets and was always on the lookout for a new one to add to his accumulation.

In 2019 Jimmy was honoured with the W.E. Lea Trophy for his contribution to the philatelic community. Jimmy was also a member of the Wits Philatelic Society, the African Telately Association as well as the Boksburg Historical Society. He was a friendly and approachable philatelist who always found time to assist with queries and advice when approached. Family, friends, and fellow philatelists will miss him dearly. Thanks to Oilfilat (Sasolburg) for additional comments.

DJW



PROTEA DEFINITIVE SERIES
The Flaw on Pane A, Row 4/1

by Dr Vic Sorour, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The flaw consists of a semi-circular row of dots above the 'S' of 'RSA' on Pane A, row 4, stamp 1 (Fig.1).

Pane A, Row 4 can be identified by a short horizontal green line, just above the bottom left corner of the upper inner marginal bar (Fig.2).

The flaw is in the colour of 'RSA'. This is a Cylinder 722 flaw. Cylinder 722 is the common Cylinder that prints 'RSA' on all the values produced by rotogravure. The flaw appears for the first time on the one cent stamp printed on 21 October 1980. It is present on all values printed by Cylinder 722 after this date (Fig.3 on the next page).

Value	Date	Issue	Print
1c	21 Oct 1980	2	1
10c	27 Oct 1980	2	2
5c	4 Mar 1981	2	2
8c	10 Jul 1981	2	1
20c	6 Jan 1982	2	2
10c	12 Jan 1982	2	3
8c	15 Jan 1982	2	2
5c	4 Feb 1982	2	3
8c	11 Mar 1982	2	3

Table 1. List of Printings with the flaw



Fig.1: The flaw on Pane A, R4/1. 5c value.



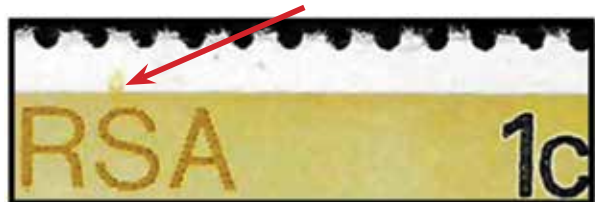
Fig.2: Pane A, R4/1. The flaw on the inner marginal bar.

Why is this flaw important?

Many philatelists are sceptical when it comes to the study of flaws. They call it fly-speck philately and a waste of time.

However, the knowledge of flaws can be valuable in the identification of Issues and Printings.

A study of the 5c value of the Protea Definitive Series illustrates this point. There were two Issues of this stamp and Issue 2 had three printings. There are thus four possibilities. In addition, the second printing of Issue 2 is perforated 12,5 or 14.0, increasing the number to five.



1c Protea. Issue 2 .



5c Protea. Issue 2, Print 2 or 3.



8c Protea. Issue 2. Print 1,2 or 3.



10c Protea. Issue 2 Print 2 or 3.

NOTE: I have not yet located an example of the flaw on the 20c - does anyone have one?

Fig.3: Examples of the flaw. Always in the colour of 'RSA'.

	Issue	Print	Perforation	Flaw R4/1	Bars	Green Line R5/7
5c	1	1	12.5	No	1	No
	2	2			2	
		3	14.0	yes		yes

Table 2: Summary of the 5c value.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Errata: *The SA Philatelist* August 2020, p127 – errors crept in in the table of cylinder numbers. For the 1c value they should be 722-26 and for the 2c value they should be 722, 727-30. The two missing numbers are both yellow and whilst checking with my collection of cylinder blocks the printed numbers were barely discernable. All other values are correct. RM

Pane A, Row 4 can easily be identified (Fig.2). Using this stamp, the five possibilities can be identified.

1: Issue 1.



- Only one marginal bar, thus Issue 1, No flaw. Perforation 12,5.

2: Issue 2, Print 1



- Two marginal bars, thus Issue 2.
- Perforation 12,5, thus Print 1 or 2
- Flaw absent, thus Print 1

3: Issue 2 Print 2 (perforation 12.5).



- Two marginal bars, thus Issue 2.
- Perforation 12,5, thus Print 1 or 2
- Flaw present, thus Print 2

4 + 5: Issue 2 Print 2 or 3 (perforation 14.0)



- Two marginal bars, thus Issue 2
- Perforation 14,0, thus Print 2 or 3
- The flaw is present.

Prints 2 and 3 can only be distinguished by the green line that develops on stamp R5/7 in Print 3 (Fig.4).

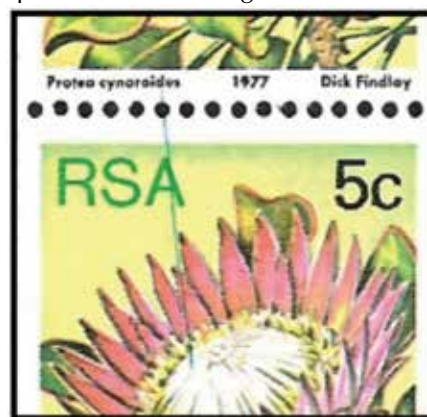


Fig.4: Green line flaw. Only Print 3.



NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUES - 2020 - part IV

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

NOTE: The following stamp issues became available from Philatelic Services circa 5 October 2020. The issue dates are those appearing on the sheet margins and on the cancellers. First Day Covers are not yet available. However in addition to these a new product has been introduced. For each of these issues, Commemorative Display Cards will be produced, on which the same stamps will be affixed. The size of these cards is the same as the FDCs (190 x 101mm) and, whilst not identical, will be similar in appearance. The cost of the cards will be R3.00 plus the cost of the affixed stamps compared with R6.00 for the FDC.



29 February 2020 – SOUTH AFRICAN ENDANGERED SPECIES SERIES: FROGS

Denominations: 4 x Registered Small Letter (R34.35)

Designer: Rachel-Mari Ackermann from photographs, featuring the following frogs:

- Row 1/1. Rose's Mountain Toadlet - *Capensibufo rosei* (photo by Louis du Preez);
- Row 1/2. Northern Moss Frog - *Arthroleptella subvoce* (photo by Atherton de Villiers);
- Row 2/1. Table Mountain Ghost Frog - *Heleophryne rosei* (photo by Joshua Weeber);
- Row 2/2. Rough Moss Frog - *Arthroleptella rugosa* (photo by Andrew Turner).

In addition, on the upper margin of the sheetlet: Micro Frog – *Microbatrachella capensis* (photo Andrew Turner).

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 35 x 35mm

Sheetlet size: 126 x 150mm, comprising the four different designs in two rows of two

Quantity: 150,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8697 (cyan), 8698 (magenta), 8699 (yellow) and 8700 (black)

Paper: 242gsm Chancellor self-adhesive stamp paper

Gum: Self-adhesive

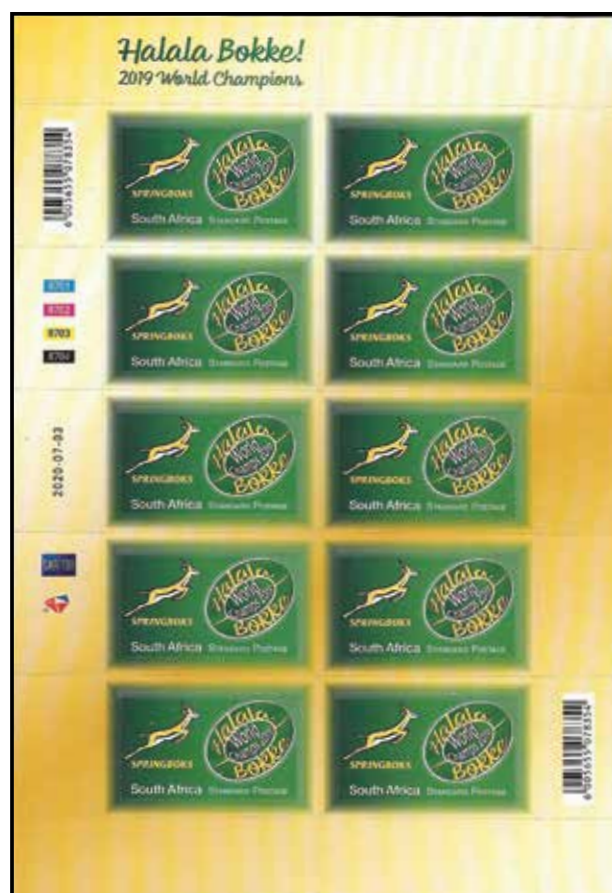
Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 8mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through left, right and bottom sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: Yellow-green 2.5mm wide frame on margins of each stamp

Printing sheet size: 430 x 665mm comprising 12 sheetlets in four rows of three

First Day Cover: No. 8.130 of standard size (190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.126 – 'Rondebosch 2020.02.29' / 'ENDANGERED SA FROGS'



3 July 2020 – HALALA BOKKE! – 2019 WORLD CHAMPIONS

Denomination: Standard Postage (R 4.90)

Designer: Thea Clemons

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 41 x 24mm

Sheetlet size: 138x200mm, comprising 10 stamps in 5 rows of two

Quantity: 150,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8701 (cyan), 8702 (magenta), 8703 (yellow)

and 8704 (black)

Paper: 242gsm Chancellor self-adhesive stamp paper

Gum: Self-adhesive

Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 8mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through the sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: Yellow-green 2mm wide in an inverted 'L' shape on right and top margins of each stamp and also 1mm wide around elliptical rugby-ball 'logo'

Printing sheet size: 460 x 665mm comprising nine sheetlets in three rows of three

First Day Cover: No. 8.131 of standard size of which 1,000 will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.1276 – 'Springbok' / '2020.07.03'

Acknowledgements: The above information was collated from SAPO's Philatelic e-mail newsletter *WHAT'S NEWS*, dated October 2020, Newsletters of the RSA Stamp Study Group, produced by Jan de Jong and personal observations.

Details of book on p177

Reviewed by Lars Engelbrecht RDP, FRPSL

Catalogue of Postal Stationery Airgraphs

United Kingdom - East Africa Command - Ceylon - Egypt - India - Palestine - South Africa - Southern Rhodesia. by Wayne Menuz, FRPSL. 2020 World War II prepaid forms for microfilming and resultant letter photographs.

United Postal Stationery Society, Inc, Chester VA, USA, www.upss.org. 80 pages, soft bound. ISBN 978-1-7351629-2-8

Postal stationery includes a wide range of different pre-paid items – one being prepaid airgraphs, and this book by Wayne Menuz is the first to describe all pre-paid airgraphs.

Airgraphs are letters written on standardised forms, microfilmed near the sender, the microfilms were then flown to special development centers where they were developed into prints and sent to the receiver. Airgraphs were introduced by the British forces in April 1941 and were an innovative solution in a situation where the capacity for mail was limited and became very important for the fast and secure communications in wartime.

Several countries issued airgraphs - this book focuses on issues that were prepaid - issued by the eight countries noted in the title. The vast majority of Airgraphs were given out as 'Formulars', that is, the user had to apply postage stamps, and are therefore not covered in this work. The first plus-point of this book is that, in three chapters, it covers the technical development, production and system in great detail. Every aspect of the service is described and illustrated with more than 50 wonderful photos, of the cameras, the film, the developing machines and the operators censoring, taking the photos, checking the print, cutting the airgraphs etc. This is philatelic story telling at its best.

The second half of the book has a comprehensive list of all recorded items of pre-paid airgraphs. The listing is made country by country starting with an overview of which countries had the service during which time period. Then, all pre-paid airgraphs are described and listed together with illustrations – even of proofs and varieties. The listing includes a realistic price indication for both mint and used items. The author has done a tremendous job in finding material from all countries with the help of numerous collectors from all over the World who have contributed with scans of items. The book concludes with a bibliography - the only objection I have to the book is that it deserved a hard bounding. It is a remarkable work which is extremely readable.

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THE MMALEBÔHÔ (1894), MAGOEBA(1894/1895) AND MPHEPHU(1898) CAMPAIGNS IN THE ZUID-AFRIKAANSCH REPUBLIEK (ZAR) AGAINST THE VENDAS

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society



This is the first time anything has been published about these three wars from a postal history point of view.

Background

As the Boers began to reoccupy the Zoutpansberg area in the northern parts of the ZAR in the 1880s, they carried out military campaigns against the Venda in order to bring them under the government control.

By the beginning of the 1890s, white authority was established in the Transvaal, except in the northern and north-eastern regions. It was therefore to be expected that the ZAR government, which was establishing effective control over all residents within its borders, would come into conflict with local black communities.

In view of the strained relationship that had erupted between the government and the black communities, a force of white volunteers, known as the 'Zoutpansberg Riding Border Guard', was established in October 1888. The government agreed to provide funds for the maintenance of a mounted force of 25 men with Lieutenant G.A. du Toit as Commander. Shortly afterwards, the resistance of whites in the area was strengthened with the construction of Fort Hendrina and Fort Henning (Figs.1 & 2).



Fig.1: Fort Hendrina, named after Hendrina, the wife of Commandant-General Piet Joubert (Source: <https://www.zoutnet.co.za/articles/news/44226/2017-09-29/the-story-of-the-zoutpansberg-as-last-three-forts>, downloaded 19.11.2020).

The Commandant-General of the ZAR, Piet Joubert, began preparations to subjugate all the chiefs by military means (Fig.3). In 1894 the first campaign was executed against Mmalebôhô (Malaboch), the second one against Magoeba (1894/1895) and later in 1898, another against Makhado's successor Mphephu who refused to submit to Boer rule. In 1898 a Boer force of some 4000 men invaded and defeated the Venda (Fig.4). According to Giliomee and Mbenga, this ended the resistance of the last independent African chiefs in South Africa.

The conquest of the Hananwa of Mmalebôhô, 1894

The first black community to be decisively defeated by the ZAR forces, assisted by sympathetic black people, was the Hananwa of Mmalebôhô (Fig.5) in the vicinity of the

Blouberg. These clashes occurred from about May to the end of July 1894.

In the preceding period, there was particular friction over the tax liability of the Hananwas and the application of the government's policy of reserves for black communities. In terms of taxation, Mmalebôhô was, at most, willing to pay a small tribute to the ZAR authority. However, the demarcation of a reserve for the Hananwas was unacceptable to Mmalebôhô.

This state of affairs resulted in a clash of wills. Consequently, in April 1894, Commandant-General Piet Joubert sent an ultimatum to Mmalebôhô, which required that he present himself to Barend Vorster, the local Commissioner, within three days. He was to provide information needed by authorities about the Hananwa and pay the tax arrears.

Mmalebôhô was unwilling to comply, and did not respond to a further instruction from Joubert on 7 May 1894, that he was to move to a reserve of 40,000 morgen (34,261 ha) on the Mogalakwena River within eight days.

The authorities consequently called up a militia of 1500 men from the districts of Pretoria, Middelburg, Rustenburg, Waterberg, Marico and Soutpansberg. They were supported by the State Artillery (Fig.6) and various black communities. The commandos from the various districts arrived at Blouberg from the end of May 1894 until as late as 25 June 1894. Joubert himself arrived there on 2 June 1894.

He had a total of about 1760 burghers and 2000 compliant black people at his disposal. The various commandos set up camps at strategic positions at the foot of the mountain. The Pretoria Commando's camp, for example, was located in the Beaulay Valley, southwest of Setswakop (Fig.7).



Fig.2: Telegram with the Fort Hendrina rubber stamp dated 14 February 1899. (Source: National Archives, Pretoria).

The first major offensive against the Hananwas took place on 14 June 1894. The Pretoria Commando was active on the southern side of the mountain where they attacked and burned down a number of huts.



Fig.3: Official cover posted from the Commandant General's office in Pretoria 26 January 1894 to a number of 'burghers' or citizens in the Zoutpansberg area. The contents of this letter from the head of the ZAR's military was probably in connection with the coming Malaboch campaign. (Source: Kamffer collection).

From 18 to 19 June, at the request of Mmalebôhò, a ceasefire was declared; but he was still not prepared to surrender (Fig.8). On June 20, the next major offensive began, from the fort just north-east of Lenare. Between 1500 and 2000 cattle and a number of horses were looted during the operation. This led Mmalebôhò and his followers to seek refuge in the well-entrenched cracks, cliffs and holes on the mountain slope. They were now cut off from water and began to experience hardships.

The pressure exerted on Mmalebôhò had already led him to demand peace on 6 July; however, he was not yet ready to unconditionally give himself up.

On 28 July, he requested an interview with missionary Sonntag and it appeared he wanted to surrender. Although many women, children and Sejoma surrendered during these negotiations, Mmalebôhò was not committed to it. He only surrendered on 31 July. According to Joubert's summary report, eight civilians were killed and 19 wounded. It is not known how many of Mmalebôhò's warriors were killed.

However, many of his cattle were looted - Sonntag puts this number as high as 4000. These cattle were, according to the provisions of Martial Law, divided among the burghers and loyal black people.

For the Hananwas, the end of the campaign was a major setback. In addition to the loss of life and the loss of cattle, crops and huts burnt, their leader and his advisers were captured and sent to Pretoria to be tried. Mmalebohò remained in prison in Pretoria until 1900. However, with the British conquest of Pretoria, he was released and returned to rule over his followers.

In terms of Act No. 27 of 1913, as amended, a reserve was granted to Mmalebôhò just south of, and including part of the Blouberg. Mmalebôhò died in 1939.

The subjugation of the black communities in the north-eastern escarpment under Kgosì Makgoba, 1894-95

After the Hananwa of Mmalebôhò were defeated by July / August 1894, Commandant-General P.J. Joubert focused his attention on the rebellious black communities in the north-eastern escarpment, including the Tlou of Makgoba (Magoeba) at Magoebaskloof (Fig.9).

For some time dissatisfaction with government measures had been prevalent in these communities and, just as with the Hananwa, particularly over the payment of tax. The tax contribution of other black communities in the area, such as that of Makgoba, was also weak.

In the 1890s the ZAR government instructed that, with the exception of Modjadji, the Rain Queen, to whom a reserve was allocated on a portion of her existing land, all the black communities in the area had to leave their settlements and settle south of the Great Letaba River.



Fig.4: Map indicating where the different wars or campaigns took place in the northern parts of the ZAR. (Source: Louis Changuion & Bertus Steenkamp, Omstrede land, p. 109).



Fig.5: A drawing of Mmalebôhò (Malaboch) (Source: Rev. Colin Rae, Malaboch or notes from my diary on the Boer campaign of 1894, p. xvii)

The area north of the river was ear-marked for occupation farms. During the second half of July 1892, the black communities that were required to settle south of the Great Letaba - including those under Mmamathóla, Maupa and Makgoba were informed of this by the Location Commission.

There was a great reluctance to leave their traditional territory. Although all were opposed to this arrangement, Makgoba in particular spoke out strongly against it. Commandant-General Piet Joubert arrived in Pietersburg on 10 August 1894 after the campaign against Mmalebôhò. The next day, the council of officers met to discuss military strategy in the north-eastern escarpment.

After subjugating various black chiefs, the next target was action against Makgoba. Makgoba's kraals (in the vicinity of present Magoebaskloof) would be attacked from the west the Lydenburg commando would approach from the foot of the



Fig.6: Part of the ZAR Staatsartillerie (State Artillery) used in the campaign against Hanawa of Mmalebôhō. (Source: Rev. Colin Rae, Malaboch or notes from my diary on the Boer campaign of 1894, Facing p. 66).

mountain. Makgoba's force initially offered strong resistance, but later retreated to the dense forests. Their kraals were burnt down, and their herds plundered.

It was not until May 1895 that another attempt was made to take military action in this area on a large scale. Burgers of the districts of Soutpansberg, Lydenburg, Waterberg, Rustenburg, Pretoria and Middelburg were called up - a total of 781 men. In addition, the State Artillery and the black groups under Commissioners Potgieter (Waterberg), Abel Erasmus (Lydenburg) and D.J. van der Merwe (Soutpansberg), as well as the Tsonga Commando under Adolf Schiel also joined these commandos. The black warriors were between 6000 and 8000 in number.

Makgoba was the main target of the joint forces at an early stage and efforts were made to isolate him from the other black communities to prevent him from escaping from the dense forests of Magoebaskloof. Joubert, with the approval of the military council, sent a final warning to Makgoba on 29 May 1895, to surrender, but to no avail. Preparations for an attack began, planned for Monday 3 June 1895

The attack, with the initial main target being a peak (then known as Spioenkop) located just north of Makgoba's main kraal in Magoebaskloof. The black people fighting on the side of the ZAR forces, would wear white bands around their heads and learn a password to distinguish them from the followers of Makgoba.

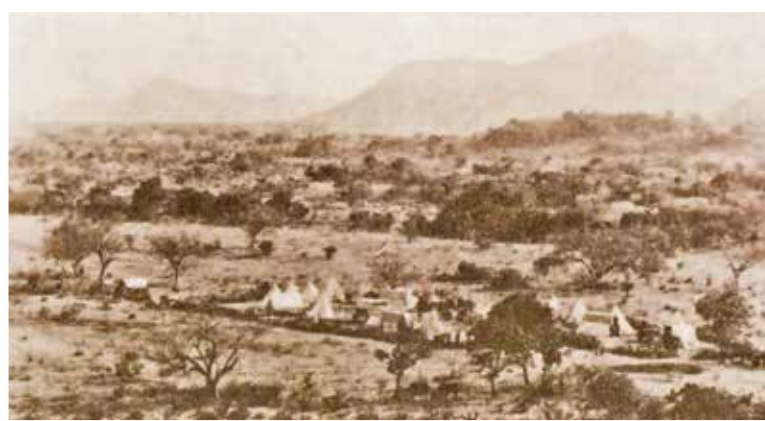


Fig.7: Camp of the Pretoria Commando at the Beuley valley near Blouberg during the campaign against Mmalebôhō (Source: Rev. Colin Rae, Malaboch or notes from my diary on the Boer campaign of 1894, Facing p. 114).

On 3 June the burghers and black people from Joubertskroon reached Spioenkop quite easily. However, the forces attacking from an easterly direction, did not make the same progress. In the course of the day, the commandos were ambushed by some of Makgoba's warriors, who were also wearing white headbands. This attack therefore failed and another attack on Makgoba was planned for the next day. On 4 June the main kraal of Makgoba was captured without much resistance and set ablaze. However, Makgoba and his followers were in a different shelter and managed to flee into the dense ravines.

The Lydenburg commando under Commandant Abel Erasmus had meanwhile joined the ZAR forces. Along with them was a group of Swazi warriors and it was they who, on 9 August 1895, tracked down one of Makgoba's wives and forced her to point out his

hideout (in a natural forest area). They then hunted down and killed Makgoba, decapitating him. His head was taken to Commandant General Joubert as evidence (Fig.10).

The campaign had far-reaching consequences for the black communities in this area. Not only were many of them killed or wounded, but a few thousand of them were taken as prisoners of war to Pretoria. Later they were sent to different districts where they were obliged to work as labourers for white farmers. In time, some of them returned to the north-eastern escarpment, where they settled on white farms. Many black communities of the north-eastern escarpment lost their territories during this time.

The 1898 Conquest of the Vendas of Mphephu

By the 1890s, the ZAR authority still did not have full control over the Vendas under Makhado - and from 1895 under Mphephu. These Vendas were the last black community in the ZAR that had not been conquered. Apart from the ZAR government wanting to gain control of the Venda people to make tax collection more efficient, white farmers in increasing numbers had established themselves in these parts and incidents of friction necessitated land demarcation.

The influx of white farmers in this part, especially with Act No. 8 of 1886, Occupation Act for government lands located in the district of Zoutpansberg and part of Waterberg, gained direction and momentum. Some of the first land earmarked for this purpose in 1886 was located just south of the former Schoemansdal and east of the Sand River. Due to the hostile attitude of the Vendas under Makhado (and later Mphephu), the settlement of white farmers in this area was slow.

To prevent incidents between Makhado and the immigrant whites, the ZAR authorities instructed immigrant farmers not to settle north of the Doorn River, which was considered by Makhado as the border. Even so farmers south of the border, were constantly harassed and intimidated by Vendas who regularly came across the Doorn River border.

On 8 and 9 May 1895, the Location Commission, then chaired by H.P.N. Pretorius, made another attempt to persuade Makhado and his councillors to a census of his subjects and to have a reserve demarcated for them on that basis. Makhado was only willing to accept



Fig.8: Stampless Malaboch-campaign cover from F.C. Esterhuizen (manuscript on the rear) from Pietersburg (18 June 1894) where it entered the post addressed to A.D.W. Wolmarans L.E.V. (member of the First Volksraad of the ZAR and the Executive Council). Cover endorsed on the front 'Veld dienst op last van Com Erasmus' (Source: Emil Bührmann collection).

the boundaries as indicated by him, which included the Doorn and Sand River. It was clear that the situation was heading for conflict between the ZAR's forces and Makhado.

Makhado died on 11 September 1895, and it initially seemed as if Mphephu, his successor, would pursue better relations with the ZAR government. However, under Mphephu, a strained relationship developed with the whites and the ZAR government. Signs of this could already be seen in the succession struggle after Makhado's death.



Fig.9: Sculpted image of Makgoba (Source: Kgoshi Mamphoka Makgoba, Heritage Publishers).

Some Vendas who did not support Mphephu placed themselves under the protection of ZAR officials, who received them with hostility. This must have undoubtedly made a negative impression on Mphephu. To a large extent, the issue that ultimately led to the outbreak of war was taxation. The collection of taxes from black communities in the ZAR had always been a problem. Both Makhado and Mphephu showed a reluctance in this regard and thereby influenced other black communities. In 1898, Mphephu forbade other black communities to pay taxes to the ZAR and collected them for himself from then onwards.

On 13 September 1898, the ZAR government decided that a commando should be called to deal with the unstable situation. Firstly, this commando had to move the iron forts at Fort Klipdam and Fort Hendrina to the farm Rietvlei where a new town would be laid out.

Commandant-General Piet Joubert immediately summoned 1050 men from the districts of Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Waterberg, Heidelberg, Standerton and ordered the artillery to leave with

100 men. The joint forces would meet at Fort Schutte. As early as 17 October 1898, they crossed Mphephu's border, the Doorn River and arrived on 19 October. (Figs.11 & 12).

Mphephu again twice invited Joubert to come to his capital, something the latter considered unwise, and those efforts came to nothing. On 21 October, the Vendas attacked the main camp at Rietvlei, and on 23 October the camps of Soutpansberg and Waterberg, which were in the vicinity of the former Schoemansdal. Both attacks were repelled fairly easily and without loss on the Boer side. Despite this, Joubert sent another letter to Mphephu on 24 October in an attempt to find a peaceful solution. This too was ignored by Mphephu and on 29 October the Vendas attacked the Buys community during which one person was killed. The Military Council decided to wait until after the arrival of the newly called-up civilians and the approximately 1500 Swazis and 1500 Tsongas, who would come to assist them, before starting military action.

Although the rough, mountainous and forested terrain provided major problems for Joubert during the onslaught, it was completed relatively quickly and with relatively little loss of life. The action began at 3a.m. that morning; with Mphephu's Luatame capital attacked from three directions.

The Krugersdorp, Johannesburg, Potchefstroom, Lydenburg, Wakkerstroom and Ermelo commandos, assisted by one battery of the artillery and about 700 Swazis, acted on the eastern flank with the mountain peaks Malimuwa and Sunguzwi as targets. The commandos of Pretoria, Heidelberg and Standerton, with two advanced from a central position directly north onto batteries of the artillery,

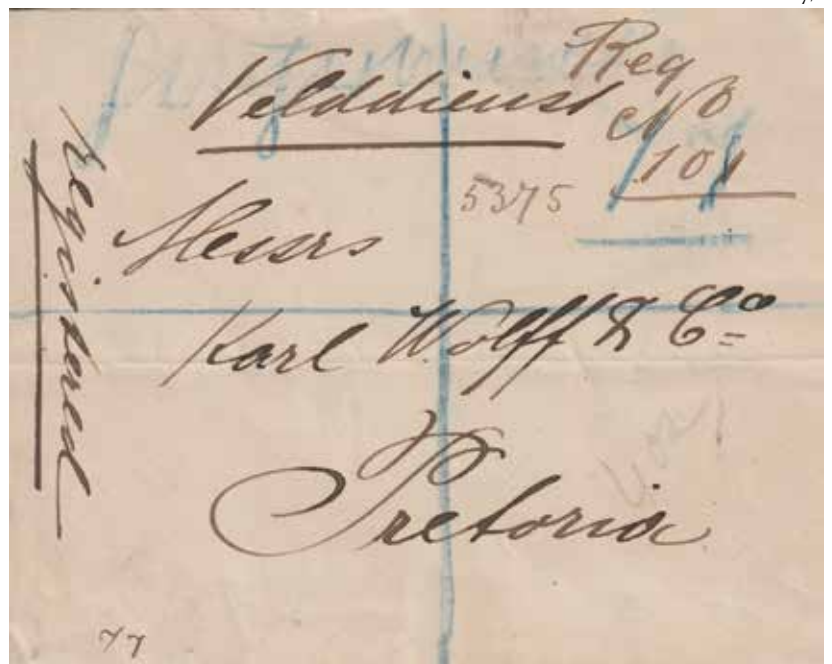


Fig. 10: Unfranked registered cover from Pietersburg to Pretoria emanating from the Makgoba campaign endorsed 'Veld dienst' with a Pietersburg postmark on the back dated 7 September 1894. (Source: Jannie Hofmeyr collection).

Luatame, with the intention of isolating Mphephu in his capital and prevented him from fleeing. The eastern flank who met with strong opposition, had their progress delayed, only reaching their intended position at Mphephu's capital the next day.

The other groups progressed remarkably fast and surrounded the enemy by half past one and were inside the capital by nine o'clock. In this attack the well-equipped artillery under Commander S.P.E. Trichardt played an important role.

Mphephu, with the majority of his followers, still managed to escape, although about 200 of his men were killed. He and his remaining fighters later fled across the Limpopo.

Due to the midsummer climate and risk of contracting malaria, it was decided not to pursue him further. This campaign resulted in other Venda leaders from the area also approaching Joubert for peace talks. By 2 December 1898, the commando was back in the main camp and was disbanded (Fig.13).

Joubert himself returned to Pretoria on 8 December 1898. While efforts were launched to recover grain hidden in the mountains; this plan was later abandoned when it appeared that Mphephu's people were suffering acute deprivation.

The campaign against Mphephu incurred huge expenses by the ZAR; by March 1899 it was estimated at about £157,000. In addition, at least five civilians and a number of Swazi and Tsonga forces had been killed. On the other hand, this part of the Transvaal was now open for white settlement and the town of Louis Trichardt was established.

For Mphephu's Vendas, these events had serious adverse consequences, having 1500 cattle, between 3000/4000 sheep and goats looted from them. In the time when Commandant Trichardt (after Joubert's departure) was in command, about 3000 Venda rifles were seized. Some of the Venda leaders were also captured and sent on to Pretoria, while Mphephu and many of his followers fled the ZAR.

On his return after the Anglo-Boer War, Mphephu received a reserve further north, but his power was curtailed. The Vendas who had previously been his subjects were divided into three groups and split between himself and his two brothers, Sinthumule and Kutama, in separate demarcated reserves. In reality, they lost large areas of territory which they had previously claimed. Mphephu died in 1924.

Conclusion

For all the Venda Chiefs, these events had serious adverse consequences. In the various battles, large numbers of them were killed or wounded and their cattle, sheep and goats looted. The black communities of the northern part of the ZAR in 1894 lost their territories during this time. After the war with Mphephu in 1898, the freedom of the last independent South African chiefdom ended. It was 100 years later when South Africa achieved democracy in 1994, that in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 most of these communities got their land back.

• The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Capt. Jacques de Vries of Pretoria with the writing and editing of this article.

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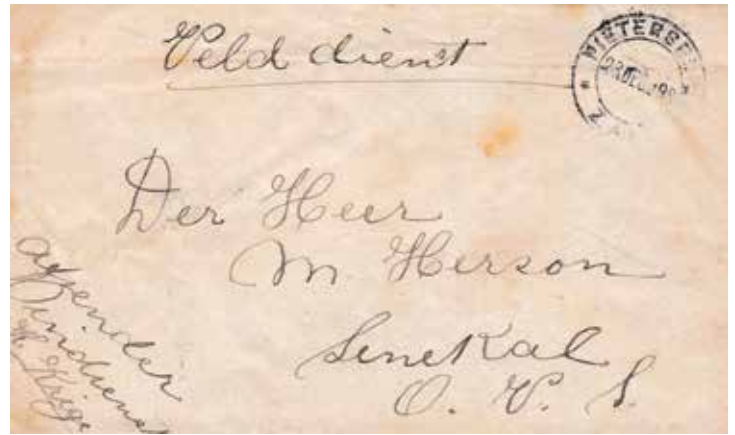


Fig.11: Stampless cover from the Mphephu campaign annotated 'Veld dienst' via Pietersburg (23 December 1898) to Bloemfontein 'DE 26 98' (backstamp) to Senekal with manuscript 'Afzender in diens H. Krige'. Members of commando's on active service enjoyed a free franking privilege. (Source: Emil Bührmann collection).

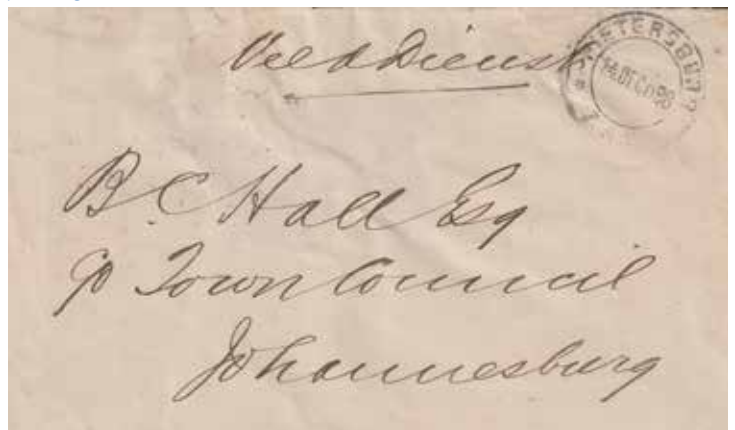


Fig.12: Unfranked envelope from the Mphephu campaign endorsed 'Veld Dienst' and cancelled in Pietersburg on 14 December 1898. (Source: Jannie Hofmeyr collection).



Fig.13: Luatame, capital of Mphephu after the ZAR forces took it over. (Source: J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika, Die vier noordelike provinsies*, p. 39)

82nd PFSA Congress



THIS CONGRESS HAS TAKEN PLACE ON 3 DECEMBER 2020
AT THE JOHANNESBURG COUNTRY CLUB

With the planned 2020 National Exhibition in Port Elizabeth being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) Executive decided that at least the annual Congress should be held. The 82nd Congress was convened at the Country Club Johannesburg on 3 December 2020. The PFSA President Francois Friend could not attend this Congress and it was conducted by Emil Minnaar RDPSA. It was attended by some 28 delegates representing 17 affiliated Societies together with 3 observers.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONGRESS

by Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL, Chair. Rhodesia Study Circle

With the PFSA being a member of the world philatelic body FIP, Patrick reflected on the positioning of the PFSA within the three regional bodies of FIAP in the East, FEPA in greater Europe and FIAF in the Americas. He believed that our present alignment with FIAP is not optimal for South Africa and should be reviewed by an independent task team.

Patrick noted that whilst PFSA membership has increased since the last Congress, it appears that in view of the wide range of activities of stamp fairs, auctions and the phenomenon of social media, the Federation may not be truly representative of South African stamp collectors. He lauded the appointment of André du Plessis as Chief Operating Officer and hoped that this function could lead to a growth of the collecting bodies, being enabled by the technology revolution of social media platforms. The havoc wreaked by Covid restrictions has been largely negated by 'new ways' of stamp collecting, through websites, virtual Zoom meetings, exhibiting and judging. The funding of the PFSA was of concern, being too dependent on the Philatelic Foundation. Patrick proposed that the PFSA should have a fundraising strategy together with a stringent review of its expense budget – paying for Judges and Commissioners and subsidising exhibitors should be examined - the PFSA needs to be a self-sustaining organisation.

Patrick concluded his address by saying that there remains a lot of good about our hobby - fantastic in fact. He noted there exists a great deal of energy and we need to harness as much of this energy as possible. He would also love to see more transparency and for all of those in the stamp collecting and philatelic community to show respect, tolerance and integrity. He wished that our hobby grow from strength to strength and that all those who collect stamps enjoy doing so - it is a truly wonderful pastime.

PFSA PRESIDENT

Apologies were received from President Francois Friend who was unable to attend but sent his thoughts regarding the cancellation of Algoapex 2020. "It was with a sense of pride that the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society (PEPS) welcomed the Philatelic Federation of



Francois Friend



Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL

South Africa's 2019 Congress announcement that Port Elizabeth was selected for the 2020 national stamp exhibition.

The PEPS exhibition committee did an excellent marketing and organisational job with dealers from as far as the United Kingdom taking up stands, along with their South African counterparts; exhibitors from across the world entering and various sponsors donating copious amounts of money for this event. Alas, then came the corona pandemic that rocked the world and eventually resulted in the organising committee cancelling Algoapex 2020. Not only was all the hard work in vain but also the fact that 2020 may have

represented the last opportunity for such an event in Port Elizabeth, made the actual outcome an extremely sad occurrence. The organising committee wishes to thank all their sponsors, prospective exhibitors and most of all, the relevant dealers who were prepared to venture into the Eastern Cape (a province that although known for its natural beauty and diversity, is definitely not known for its abundance of financial resources, especially in comparison to its westerly and northerly provincial counterparts). Thank you all with this very short and very sad report on Algoapex 2020".

REPORT FROM CONGRESS CHAIRMAN

by Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Chairman of the 2020 Congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.



Emil Minnaar RDPSA

"Welcome to this 82nd Congress. This past year has been a difficult year with the advent of the global pandemic. Life has changed with our having to live with the Covid-19 global pandemic. Clubs ceased meetings, exchange books stopped circulating and social contact with our fellow collectors has been extremely difficult. Both National and International Exhibitions have been cancelled or postponed.

With the temporary closure of postal services, it was fortuitous that at our last Congress a decision was taken to offer *The SA Philatelist* in electronic format. The publication has been available on the Federation website now for a number of issues.

We introduced our Virtual One Frame Exhibition some five years ago and this year we had 80 entries from 14 countries. Judging was done by 25 jurors from 12 countries. This year, virtual exhibitions were introduced in Australia, England, Bangladesh, United States and some European countries.



Management: Peter van der Molen RDPSA, Jill Redmond RDPSA, Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Neil Cronjé RDPSA... A view of delegates at the Conference...

Two of many sites on the internet which are displaying exhibits are: Exponet - Web address http://www.japhila.cz/hof/index02_.htm and Stampedia - Web address <http://www.stampedia.net/stamp/exhibition/en>.

Life is slowly returning to 'normal', if there is such an existence and we all look forward to attending meetings and stamp fairs once again. The lockdown has given us more time to explore the Internet. I recently joined a group called "Post Crossing". It is a project that allows you to send postcards and receive postcards back from random people around the world. That is real postcards, not electronic media. I have enjoyed preparing the postcards, one of which took three months to reach the United States. Hopefully, the delivery times will improve. I am very proud to be associated with our fraternity. I find it soul satisfying to associate with all my collector friends. In closing, I would like to thank the following in making this Congress possible:

- The Chairman and members of Management Committee;
- André du Plessis as COO for his proactive management;
- The Philatelic Foundation for their continued guidance and Financial support;
- The Johannesburg Country Club for making available this magnificent venue".

CONGRESS MOTIONS & PRINCIPAL DEBATES

There were no motions and principal debates.

INCOMING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Incoming Management Committee was announced as:

<i>Hon Life President</i>	Mr Peter van der Molen RDPSA
<i>President</i>	Mr Hugh Amoore RDPSA
<i>Chair Management Committee</i>	Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr Derek Roth
<i>Chief Op. Officer</i>	Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
<i>Foundation Representative</i>	Mr Jim Findlay RDPSA

The Incoming Standing Committees' Chairmen are:

<i>Exhibitions</i>	Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
<i>Expert</i>	Mr Michael Wigmore RDPSA
<i>FIP/FIAP</i>	Mr Emil Minnaar RDPSA
<i>Judging & Ethics</i>	Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA
<i>The SA Philatelist</i>	Mr Peter van der Molen RDPSA
<i>Promotion: Website</i>	Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
<i>Awards Custodian</i>	Mr Ian Matheson RDPSA
<i>Publications</i>	Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
<i>Heritage</i>	vacant
<i>Post Office Liaison</i>	Mr Alex Visser RDPSA

PHILATELIC FOUNDATION REPORT TO CONGRESS

Dr Jim Findlay RDPSA, President of the Philatelic Foundation of South Africa.

"Congratulations to Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA and André du Plessis for organising this Congress during such abnormal conditions. Since March 2020 we have all been severely affected by the Corona virus. South Africa has not escaped this devastation combined with some draconian regulations including a lockdown without whisky and 'smokes'. However, I believe it is essential that we continue to promote philately and plan for the future. This congress is more important than those of yesteryear. Why you may ask? We know the world is already very different from this time last year and changes and new adaptations are happening around us. Reports from dealers indicate that there is an increase in 'stamp collecting' and overseas auctions are getting excellent prices for 'good' items which indicates an upswing.



Dr Jim Findlay RDPSA

There has been little activity on the Foundation front since last year. The Foundation remains committed to supporting Federation in the promotion of philately. This is largely financial support but does include the encouragement to improve the hobby and the business of stamp collecting.

Over the past year, our investments have been on a roller coaster ride but I am pleased to report that they have now largely recovered and represent a total sum of approximately R13.5 million. We are pleased to affirm that Foundation exists to support the Federation Management Committee and its initiatives".

CITATIONS

Nomination of Dr Chris Board OBE to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

Chris Board has been involved with organised philately for the best part of forty years. He was invited to join the Committee of the Transvaal Study Circle in 1978 as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer and was the Editor of *The Transvaal Philatelist* from 1985 to 1991 and he has been the Chairman of the Transvaal Study Circle since 2003. Chris is also active in his local Croydon Philatelic





Neil Cronjé addressing delegates ... Mnama Phalatse of the SA Post Office with Chris Carey & Beate Carey ... Herbie Schaffler, Peter Oppenheim & Ian Matheson.

Society, the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies and is an adviser to The British Postal Museum & Archive. He has always been willing to help others in their philatelic pursuits. Chris's interest in South Africa, its people, history, geography, cartography and philately started sometime in the 1950s when, as a post-graduate scholar, he carried out a survey in a rural area of the Eastern Cape which culminated in a PhD. He has visited South Africa on numerous occasions in order to carry out philatelic research in various archives and libraries. During the last few years these visits were almost on an annual basis. He has also followed this with research in the UK and even with the UPU in Berne, Switzerland. It so happened that when he and the late Tony Chilton visited the South African National Archives in 1983, he made notes which later helped to establish that certain philatelic items, available in the trade, had been taken from the archives.

When a study was completed, he always made it available in print. He has contributed numerous articles to *The Transvaal Philatelist* - topics covered include *inter alia*, the 'Interprovincial Period of South Africa', 'Edwardian Postal Stationery' and 'ZAR Numerals in Triangular Cancellers'. His magnum opus related to the SG1 stamp of the Union of South Africa. He has also formed an award winning collection relating to this stamp which he was invited to show in the Court of Honour at the International Exhibition in Sandton in 2010 – the exhibition staged to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the issue of that stamp. He has also examined the official pictorial post cards of the Cape of Good Hope.

His most significant contribution was his new interpretation of the very complex 'Interprovincial Period' of the Union of South Africa. To substantiate this new interpretation he carried out extensive research in the Treasury Records at the State Archives in Pretoria. His research was published in *The Transvaal Philatelist* in 1986. The 'Interprovincial Period' had traditionally been regarded as extending from the 31st May 1910, the date of Union, to the end of August 1913. This view was challenged by Chris Board after his detailed study of the way in which stamps and postal stationery were distributed during the early years of the Union and he proposed three new periods. Since then his subdivision of this period has been accepted in philatelic circles as the correct one based on his scientific research. He was awarded the Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medallion in 2015.

Proposed by Dr Andrew Higson FRPSL. For the *Transvaal Study Circle*

Nomination of André du Plessis as a Signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa

André du Plessis has become a philatelic activist of note since he started participating in formal philately in 2014. He has published extensively on the South African King

George V Silver Jubilee stamp issue, the Air Mail stamps, the 1936 Johannesburg International Philatelic Exhibition (JIPEX) stamp issue, and the stamp issues of the World War II. More recently he has done a detailed study on the various printing techniques of South African stamps. By doing the detailed research on these published topics he has readily shared his information with all philatelists and stamp collectors.



PFSA COO André du Plessis, signing the Roll of Honour

His collecting interests of the King George V Jubilee issue and the JIPEX miniature sheets has achieved gold medals. His exhibits of 'Made in the Union of South Africa: Stamps and varieties of the un-hyphenated issues' and 'Johannesburg: The first 50 Years - from shanty town to world city' Open Class, achieved Large Gold awards. He also showed an outstanding exhibit 'Gold in the Transvaal 1871 to 1922' at Benoni. These exhibits illustrate the diversity of André's interest in philately as well as the thoroughness with which he researches his material. Each of his exhibits is a reference for other collectors His exhibits have also been shown at international exhibitions such as in Hong Kong and China. Apart from his publications and exhibits, Andre has enthusiastically become the chairman of the Pretoria Philatelic Society. Apart from the regular once-a-month evening society meeting, he started a Thursday morning meeting schedule for those members who cannot attend the evening meetings. This has become a successful attraction for the society.

André received many accolades for his chairmanship of the Stampshow 2018 national exhibition where he introduced some innovations. The most significant improvement at this exhibition was the introduction of a frame lighting system, which made a big impression on all who visited the show. Having the exhibition at an hotel was a big attraction for many dealers and philatelists, purely based on no extra travel required as well as staying over for the Palmares dinner and philatelists being able to socialise on site.

Another innovation was having a mini-exhibit of RDPSAs which advertised with whom specific philatelic knowledge could be found.

André was the initiator for Federation to have a permanent Exhibition Sub-Committee to assist any society that wants to host an exhibition. He was the Chairman of this sub-committee at the Benoni ER100 exhibition. It was at this exhibition that he and Steve Marsh tested a new improved frame lighting system, which received many favourable comments. At the ER100 Federation Congress, André was elected as Chairman of the standing Exhibition Committee. For the third year André was elected Vice President of Region 3 at the congress.

He is proposed to be a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

AWARDS CUSTODIAN REPORT

by Ian Matheson RDPSA, Awards Custodian.

“The most important tasks to be tackled each year by the Awards Custodian all revolve around preparation and management of the logistics around the annual stamp exhibition. As the Port Elizabeth stamp show fell victim to the Covid containment measures, this activity proved unnecessary.

In the past year Peter van der Molen has extended every assistance in the handover and cataloguing of the trophies to

the current incumbent, and has offered help into the future when exhibitions get under way again. I appreciate the help and the work he has done in the past. The job would have been well nigh impossible without his input.

One major task has been initiated this year and Congress decisions are invited. Few of the recipients of awards wish to take responsibility for looking after their awards for a year, and also for ensuring that they are returned in time for the following year’s show. We therefore undertook to photograph each trophy and to prepare certificates to award in lieu of the cups, trays and shields. This has been done and I wish to express my gratitude to David Wigston, who took my photographs and generated a fine set of certificates. To make every certificate identical and simply to insert the name of the trophy did not do justice to the benevolence of the donors and the efforts of the winners. I think you will agree that David has done a splendid job. Congress must now decide the fate of the huge stack of trophies in the corner of my wife’s art studio!”.

SKINNER CUP

Not awarded.

W.E. LEA CUP

Not awarded.

THE J.H. HARVEY PIRIE MEMORIAL AWARD

Not awarded.

ATTENDEES AT THE 82nd CONGRESS



The venue for this years Congress and the home of Witwatersrand PS.

Back Row L-R: Diederik Viljoen, Bellville Philatelic Society. Albert de Jong, Afrikaanse Filateliese Vereeniging. Kenny Napier, SAPDA. Ben Jansen, Postmark & Postal History Society, Herwig Kussing, PE PS. Joof van der Merwe, OFS PS. Ian Matheson, Awards Custodian. Herbie Schaffler President Wits PS. Howard Green, Chairman of the Awards Sub-Committee and Treasurer of Foundation. Herman van Niekerk, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria. Middle Row L-R: Terry Lydall, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, Dineo Poo, SAPO. Chris Carey and Beate Carey, Sandton Philatelic Society. Robin Messenger, The SA Philatelist. Peter Oppenheim, Wits PS. Clive Carr, PS of J. Leon Jacobsen, Sasolburg Filatelievereniging. Marnus Steyn, Afrikaanse Filateliese Vereeniging. Neil Cronjé, Chair Management Committee. Seated L-R: Mmanna Phalatse, SA Post Office. Jill Redmond, Congress Secretary. Emil Minnaar, FIP / FIAP. Peter van der Molen, Hon. Life President. Patrick Flanagan, Rhodesian Study Circle. André du Plessis, Chief Ops. Officer.

THE MANFRED WEINSTEIN MEMORIAL MEDALLION

Dr Jannie H Hofmeyr: For his research of the USA 3c Denomination, Design and Uses: 1861 - '69 and published as the *Quantitative Colour Analyses* of the U.S. 3-Cents 1861 Issues.

FEDERATION PLAQUES

Awarded to Mrs Moira Bleazard, for many years of outstanding service on *The SA Philatelist* Editorial Board.

Mr Joof van der Merwe for Outstanding Organisational Work on SAVPEX 2019 & 2020

THE JACK HAGGER AWARD

Dr H J G (Gerhard) Kamffer: Best article on SA philately published in *The SA Philatelist* in the last two years: Union of SA Customs Duty / Douane Stamps. (February and April 2019).

CONGRESS CERTIFICATES

For articles published in *The SA Philatelist*; June 2019-April 2020 certificates were given to Lawrence Barit, Andrew Briscoe, Sean Burke, André du Plessis, Morgan Farrell, Jim Findlay RDPSA, Francois Friend, Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Ian Matheson RDPSA, Jimmy Mitchell, Chris Mobsby RDPSA, Roger Porter RDPSA, Ted Roberts. The Sasolburg Philatelic Society, Vic Sorour, Pauw Steyl RDPSA, The TBVC Study Group and David Wigston. Certificates were also issued to 'Regular Contributors': Alex Visser RDPSA, Volker Janssen, Robin Messenger and David Wigston.

PRESIDENT FOR 2021: ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS

The elected PFSA President for 2021 is Hugh Amoore RDPSA, and Dep. President Jannie Hofmeyr, proposed by Diederik Viljoen, and seconded by Herwig Kussing.

CONFIRMATION OF REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Region 1: Gauteng and North West: Andrew Fischer

Region 2: Eastern Gauteng: Colin Bousfield

Region 3: Pretoria, Mpumalanga & Limpopo: André du Plessis

Region 4: Free State/Northern Cape: Dr Leon (Jake) Jacobson

Region 5: KwaZulu-Natal: Vacant

Region 6: Western Cape: Diederik Viljoen

Region 7: Eastern Cape: Vernon Mitchell

Region 8: Outside Areas: Richard Stroud

FUTURE CONGRESSES & EXHIBITIONS

CAPE TOWN 2021. 9-13 November: International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX)

JAPAN 2021. Philanippon 2021.

To commemorate 150th anniversary of the Japanese Postal Service.

25 - 30 August 2021.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Within South Africa, the rate for 2021 for R300.00 for printed copies of each issue.

R70.00 for an electronic copy to all. For SADC the rate is

R750.00 and Overseas, R1,100.00 per year.

(For clarity please see page 172)

Howard Green congratulating Joof van der Merwe (Federation Plaque) and Robin Messenger (Certificate).



Kenny Napier, SAPDA

Space and time constraints necessitate that further reports from sub-committees appear in the February 2021 issue.



ATTENDING SIGNATORIES OF THE RDPSA



Back Row L-R: Emil Minnaar, Dr Ian Matheson, Dr Neil Cronjé and Herwig Kussing. Front Row L-R: Herbie Schaffler, Howard Green, Jill Redmond, Peter van der Molen, Patrick Flanagan and Dr Jim Findlay.

2020 JUDGING AND ETHICS REPORT

by Dr Neil (JDE) Cronjé RDPSA, Chairman Judging and Ethics. The year 2020 was not a very good year for philately in general. The same goes for judges as they did not have any exposure to national or international exhibits. No new judges were trained.

No complaints about ethical misconduct have been received over the last few months.

Please note the judges are always available to assist with exhibits and I am prepared to assist with the promotion of exhibiting at stamp clubs. If you have a problem contacting a local judge, you're welcome to approach me for advice or a lecture as required.

SAPDA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

by Kenny Napier.

Membership: Continues to decline in line with all philatelic organisations, this year in particular was above average as we lost our Honorary Life member Coen Slagt and long time member Andy Kriegler. Andy's wife, Emma will continue to run the business. There were also a few resignations for issues which should have been resolved and happily we will have them back in the fold for next year.

As a result of Covid, stamp collecting has been given a huge boost as collectors return to their hobby and with the various lockdowns in place, buying material from Europe is suddenly not so easy. Getting it here via the South African Post Office is of course virtually impossible. As a result local dealers have benefited tremendously.

A further result of Covid is that SAPDA is offering its members free subs for next year as we were unable to offer any benefits this year such as the Da Vinci show. This is due jointly to the sound financial position we find ourselves in as well as the generous gesture from IFSDA to waive subs for this year.

Letters From Home

Southern African Soldiers enlisted in the British Pioneer Corps during WWII

by Peter Thy, FRPSL, Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

When Prime Minister Chamberlain's ultimatum to the German Government expired on 3 September 1939, Great Britain was at war with Germany. But as Britain was at war, so were also the Empire territories. The result would be that before the war was over in 1945, an estimated 470,000 African soldiers had served, in various capacities in the British Army engaged in service, labour, or combat functions. About 7-8 percent of these came from the High Commission Territories (H.C.T.) of Southern Africa (Fig.1).

The formal request for men to join the British Army in the Middle East was received in Southern Africa in July 1941. The H.C.T. were, however, prepared and recruited and trained 5,500 men in just 6 months and less than a few years later reached 35,000 'volunteered' men (Jackson, 2010).

The British administration and army command took for granted that all recruits for the war were volunteers. They, however, had few options other than leaving the actual recruitment to the local chiefs and had to turn a blind eye toward any violations of their wishes. The initial excitement lasted about a year after which the sentiments cooled and it became more and more difficult to find volunteers (Simelane, 1993; Jackson, 1999). Many chiefs pushed recruitment hard on their people and expected them to obey as was customary. The chiefs' justification was to prove to the British that their people were worthy of respect in order to secure long-term independence for their people, despite the constant threat from South Africa (Jackson, 2010).

together with general coercion and intimidation. Organised abduction of men fit for war and nightly rounding-up and raids on villages were practised in some places (Kiyaga-Mulindwa, 1984; Simelane, 1993). It is thus fair to say that while the first wave of companies arriving in the Middle East were made-up largely of volunteers, the last wave in 1942 saw a fair amount of soldiers who would have preferred to have spent the war years somewhere else.



Fig.2: Official Army Field Press photo from 1944 showing a Bechuanaland labour group doing road construction together with Royal Engineers near Castel del Rio, northern Italy.

The home front suffered from the draining of men in their prime ages between 20 and 30 years. Bechuanaland had in 1946 about 250,000 African inhabitants, Basutoland 555,000, and Swaziland 180,000. A simple calculation - (50% male of which 8.5% were 20-30 years old) would suggest that most of that population bracket, was removed from the rural economy. Traditionally, men handled the cattle and the spring preparation of the fields, while women took care of planting and harvesting in addition to dealing with children and the extended family. The result was that families were broken up and the women left to cope with managing of cattle herds, land assignments, boundary disputes, and ploughing the fields for the spring harvest, with only help from teenagers and the elderly. This affected the agricultural production and the livelihood of the people, despite it being common for men to spend extensive periods away from home, working in the South African mines.

On the other hand, the war engagement could last for up to four to five years creating a further issue of whether the women were faithful to their men and the possibility of unexpected family growth or death. An additional issue was that the soldiers received a daily small allowance (9d) and in addition a 9d deferred payment. Most soldiers claimed dependants and would get an extra 9d to be paid out to their dependants. The deferred portion would be deposited by the local administration in a postal savings account (Bent, 1952). The deferred part of the pay would be paid out to an



Fig.1: Map showing the three UK High Commission Territories (Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, and Swaziland) and the Union of South Africa. Location of training centres; Mafeking was the administrative centre for Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Tribal regimentation, targeting opponents and tribal minority groups, and attempts to retrieve escapees from the mining sector in South Africa, or from bush hide-outs, were practised

identified person or administrated by the local tribal administrations that would give money to the women at home on a need basis. It is against this background that letters between home and the soldiers should be seen.

Organisation

A total of 84 companies were formed and numbered for each of the territories as given below (Bent, 1952; Grey, 1953). Each soldier had a unique assigned service number prefixed by 'AS' for Basutoland, 'EC' for Bechuanaland, and 'SW' for Swaziland.

- Basutoland: 21,500 soldiers formed 50 companies: Nos. 1901-1951
- Bechuanaland: 10,000 soldiers formed 24 companies: Nos.1966-1990
- Swaziland: 3,500 soldiers formed 10 companies: Nos.1991-2000

With the war advancing and with the invasion of Sicily and Italy, new group attachments and the formation of new companies occurred. Some companies were seconded particularly to the New Zealand or Australian expeditionary forces. From 1943, some labour companies were diluted into British units in Sicily and Italy.

Here they saw active combat mostly in Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery (H.A.A.A.) units and indirectly released better-trained British soldiers for the North European invasion. Other companies or parts of companies served in smoke generation, salvage, and fire-fighting groups. However, the majority of companies spent the whole war performing labour and service functions in northern Africa and the Middle East without seeing direct military action.

The Soldiers

They all went through a basic training to learn to obey orders and to march in columns. This training occurred at national centres. They were formed into companies of about 350 men, if possible from the same tribal group (Bent, 1952; Grey, 1953). The Commanding Officer was British with little or limited local knowledge of African language and culture. The British Second-in-Command of the commissioned officers, was often seconded from the district administrations and had at least a rudimentary knowledge of the men and their background and expectations.

On the regimental level, each territory was assigned a chaplain with the rank of Captain and a group of African ordained ministers in addition to a group of Regimental

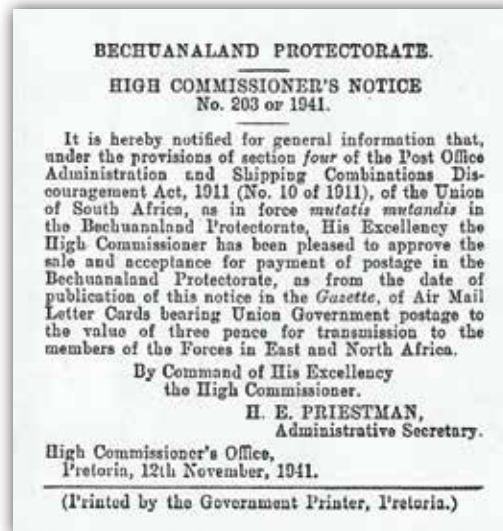


Fig.3: High Commissioner's Notice No. 203 of 1941 for Bechuanaland Protectorate announcing that South African Air Mail Letter Cards with Union postage of 3d were allowed for transmission to Forces in East and North Africa (later expanded to other areas of the war). Similar notices were published in Basutoland and Swaziland.

Sergeant Majors, the latter recruited from the tribal royalty. The company sergeant majors, sergeants, and corporals were recruited from among the Africans and were essential for the companies to function, providing translation, welfare, and conflict mediation (Jackson, 1999). Since the companies were often formed on a tribal basis, both the soldiers and the non-commissioned officers came from the same tribe and had similar backgrounds.

The British and tribal administrations had a keen understanding of how important it was for the soldiers to communicate with their families and dependants during their prolonged absence from home. Therefore the initial training included letter writing and how to address an envelope. This could not have been an easy task because of the limited literary skills of the majority of the soldiers. Both

the British territorial administration and the governing chiefs were very concerned about what would happen when the men returned home after the war. Would they have learned new ways, would they demand improvements in their rural societies, and would they still honour the traditional allegiance to the chiefs that was so essential for the traditional societal structure to survive?

This is the reason that the companies were organised along



Fig.4: South African Active Service Letter Card used in 1944 in Serowe in Bechuanaland mailed to a pioneer of the 1968 Bechuana Coy - later readressed to the 1981 Coy.

tribal lines and for the presence of the local administrators and royalty in command of the companies. They were there to secure allegiance to the British Crown and the tribal governments. In addition, the Swazi King had insisted that his men should be kept together throughout the war and that they had little interaction with other units.

When the first soldiers arrived in Egypt and Syria, it was a freezing cold winter for which they were completely unprepared and inexperienced.

From the beginning they were deployed as labour companies in the Middle East Forces against German aggression in North Africa (Bent, 1952; Grey, 1953). They took part in the advance of the Eighth Army that eventually expelled the enemy from Africa. Typical functions were guard duty, transport, harbour and road construction (Fig.2), and the operation of smoke screen generators. The H.C.T. pioneers were belatedly repatriated in 1946 after the defeat of Germany and following widespread protest about extended waiting times.

The Postal Arrangements

The pioneer companies were serviced by British Army Post Offices. It was a specific requirement from the home administrations and the chiefs that the pioneers would not be associated with South African units and thus not serviced by South African Army Post Offices. For this reason the pioneers were offered the same basic postal services as the British troops. The airmail rates to southern Africa were uniformly 3d for an aerogramme and a general 10d letter airmail rate.

The home front were allowed to use South African Active Service and Air Mail Letter Cards franked by a 3d stamp addressed to a soldier in active service (Fig.3). They were only available from the home postal offices. These cards were not issued to the soldiers in the field from British Army Post Offices.

Letters From Home

There are very few letters that have survived from the home front to the soldiers in the field. They are all on South African letter cards that were allowed at a 3d rate to members of the armed forces serving in the East and North Africa and later also the Mediterranean in general. This was the cheapest rate available. All mail to the forces was channeled through the South African Army Postal Service at Durban and flown to Cairo via a stop in Nairobi.

The early letter cards used were the Active Service Letter Cards (A.S.L.C.) after July 1941, but may have been replaced by Air Mail Letter Cards (A.M.L.C.) in early 1944 (Bridges, 2004). The individual Air Mail Letter Cards overprinted for each of the H.C.T. were only issued in April 1945 (Fig.9), too late to have had much effect on the war mail.

There are two types of letters: one type is mailed by the local tribal government in response to direct inquiries from the pioneers. The only example of the former is shown in Fig.4. The other is from the home front to soldiers in the war. This is the only example known to the writer genuinely used and addressed to a Bechuana soldier in the Central Mediterranean Forces. The card was mailed at Serowe on 20 September 1944, and addressed to 8004 Morake Keitseope, 1969 (Bechuana) Coy, A.P.C., C.M.F. The letter was readdressed to 1981 Coy since 1961 Coy did not exist, and got a F.P.O. 385 receiving mark of 15 October 1944, on the reverse. The card took about 27 days to reach the soldier in the field. F.P.O. 385 is known to have been located in Italy from early 1944 until the end of the war.

The card contains a short typewritten message dated 18 September 1944. Bechuana 1981 Coy was one of two companies (the other was 1980) that in October 1943 was transferred to Italy to provide continued support for the Eighth Army's offensive (Bent, 1952). The letter card was likely received somewhere in Northern Italy.



Fig.5: South African Air Mail Card used in 1945 in Basutoland to a pioneer of the 1943 Basuto Coy, C.M.F. continued support for the Eighth Army's offensive.

Tshekedi Khama, who signed the letter, was the acting chief of the Ngwato. At that point, he was waiting for his nephew Seretse Khama to return from London where he was studying law, to take over his inherited chieftainship. The other types of letters are from loved ones at home to husbands or uncles in the war. They seem to be only written by women. These are again very rare with only less than ten examples known to this writer, most from Basutoland and one from Swaziland.

A letter was mailed in January 1945 (Fig.5) from Pitseng in Basutoland to a soldier with Coy 1943. The writer is a young schoolgirl who writes to her uncle pleading with him to send money so she can buy a European coat to go to school instead of having to use the traditional Basuto blanket. The uncle, Molamu Mot'sabi, was part of Coy 1943 of the Central Mediterranean Forces (C.M.F.). In the late February of 1945, when the letter may have reached him, he was near the war front at the River Po in northeastern Italy after having taken part in the rapid advance culminating in the surrender of the German army in Italy (Grey, 1953). Unfortunately, we will never know if he was able to respond or whether his niece ever got her European coat, although we can predict that the money would not have arrived in time for the start of her Standard 5 class, which she must have attended in her traditional blanket.



Fig.6: South African Active Service Letter Card used in 1942 in Basutoland mailed to a pioneer of the 1915 Basuto Coy, M.E.F.

There, however, exists an additional airmail letter card mailed from Pitseng written in the same handwriting as the previous card and dated 1 September 1944 (Cattell, 1989). The content and the card's present whereabouts are unknown.

The following three letters originated from women left with the

task of maintaining the family subsistence farm and livestock. The first of these is shown in Fig.6. The letter sheet was mailed in August 1942 from Khabos in Basutoland to a soldier of Coy 1915 of the Middle Eastern Forces. The sender was probably his wife responding to a letter with instruction about what to do with the livestock.

The postal agency of Khabos was opened in 1937 (Scott, 1980) and is, like Pitseng of the previous letter, located in the Leribe District of northwestern Basutoland. Khabos is about 20 kilometers straight north of Pitseng toward the lowlands and the border to South Africa. This suggests that the writer of the letter lived outside of the village of Khabos. There exists another letter mailed to the same soldier also in 1942 (Scott, 1980, page 70).

In 1942 after the fall of Tobruk, Coy 1915 was on guard duty in the harbor of Alexandria, where the letter may have reached the soldier. Part of the company was in 1944 absorbed into a heavy-aircraft regiment of the Fifth Army serving in Italy (Grey, 1953).

A wife similarly writes a letter to her husband in the war in response to an inquiry letter (Fig.7). It is written at Jonathan's in Basutoland in December 1943 to a soldier of Coy 1918 of the Central Mediterranean Forces. The sender is responding to a letter with instruction about preparing the fields and the livestock and complains about not receiving letters as before.

The postal agency at Jonathan's was opened in 1927 (Scott, 1980) and is like Pitseng and Khabos also in the Leribe District of northwestern Basutoland. Jonathan's is about 20 kilometers northwest of Khabos in the lowlands near the Caledon River that forms the border to South Africa.

Coy 1918 had disembarked in early September 1943 in a thunderstorm without immediate shelter (Grey, 1953). They advanced north with the 8th Army working on bridge repairs and in January 1944 on airfields on the east coast of Italy where the letter may have reached the pioneer. The company's involvement in the rapid Italian offensive may explain why his wife did no longer so often receive his letters, perhaps not necessarily because they were not written, but also because of interrupted mail transport.

in Basutoland in January 1945 to a soldier of Coy 1949 of the M.E.F. The message was not translatable except for the initial greetings and message that reads: *"Mr Hloriso Rachau, I received the letter from you. I am still fine and the children are fine."*

The postal agency at Bokong, dating back to 1931, is one of the most isolated offices in Basutoland. Although at the about the same elevation as Pitseng, it is right in the centre of the country, located on the highest plateau near a drainage system flowing southeast toward the Orange River. The agency was allocated to Leribe after the war. Coy 1949 was in early 1945 on garrison duty in Beirut because of a popular protest against the continued French presence. It was probably in Beirut that the pioneer received the letter about half a year before he would be able to return home.

An airmail letter sheet (Fig.9) exists used from Mbabane in Swaziland during November 1945 to a soldier of Swazi Coy 1998 in the C.M.F (van der Molen, 2013). Due to the late usage, it is written on an overprinted Swaziland letter sheet released in November 1944; it is the only known of these overprinted sheets to the C.M.F. from any of the H.C.T.s. The content of this letter, as well as its reverse, is unknown.



Fig.8: South African Air Mail Card used in 1945 in Basutoland mailed to a pioneer of the 1949 Basuto Coy, M.E.F.

Summary

Based on a sample of only five complete surviving letters mostly from Basutoland, some similarities are nevertheless obvious. They are all factual responses to inquiries received in letters from the war. It is understandable that this would be the case in a letter from the tribal administration (Fig.4). But why is this also the case for letters written by the women (Figs.5 to 8) left behind to manage children, the fields and livestock? The women responding to the letters from their husbands are mostly located in rural areas often far from the nearest postal agency. These women, like their husbands, were basically illiterate and, it is fair to assume, did have help with reading and writing the letters. This would certainly dictate the style of their responses with only indirect expressions of tenderness, like the querying why he had stopped writing (Fig. 7).

The letter from the niece to her uncle (Fig.5) differs in that it asks for money, a need that a wife may not have had since she presumably would get part of his dependent pay.



Fig.7: South African Active Service Letter Card used in 1943 in Basutoland mailed to a pioneer of the 1918 Basuto Coy, C.M.F.

The final letter shown (Fig.8) caused some translation problems. It is an Air Mail Letter Card mailed from Bokong

The correspondence clearly shows that a regular letter exchange existed to some extent between the soldiers and their families at home. Both the army command and the tribal administrations put significant effort into urging both the soldiers and the families at home to write letters. Despite such efforts it was universally complained that the families did not write enough and that letters often contained distorted and depressing news of life at home (Jackson, 1999).



Fig.9: South African Letter Sheet overprinted for use in Swaziland and mailed in 1945 to a pioneer of the 1998 Swazi Coy, M.E.F.

This may certainly be a reason for the very few letters preserved. An additional reason may be the unlikely case of letters being preserved through a long war of 4-5 years duration being carried in pockets and bags and finally being brought home after the war. This is clearly reflected by the poor conditions

of most of the letters with some of the damage likely to have been inflicted at home after the war like the rodent or termite nibbling. That at least some letters had survived attests to their importance to the soldiers.

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The author welcomes any further information and use of these letter cards by Southern African pioneers during WWII.
pthy@ucdavis.edu

South African National Exhibitions in 2021



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More specific and up-to-date news will be shared with the Philatelic Societies in due course.



JOURNAL REFERENCES – Some significant recent articles noted relating to Southern Africa Philately, with most recent first.

- 1: The London Philatelist of November 2020, on pp.457 – 476 – ‘Natal : Use of the 1857 Embossed Stamp. Part 3’ by Keith P. Klugman FRPSL.
- 2: The London Philatelist of October 2020, on p.386 - 397 ‘Natal: Use of the 1857 Embossed Stamps. Part 2’ by Keith P. Klugman FRPSL.
- 2A: Also pp403 – 410 : ‘The Formular Cards of Sainte-Marie de Madagascar’ by Peter Thy FRPSL, which territory is an island to the East coast of Madagascar with a very checkered postal history.
- 3: The London Philatelist of September 2020 pp323 – ‘Natal: Use of the 1857 Embossed Stamps. Part 1’ by Keith P. Klugman FRPSL. who notes that “The first primitive local stamp issue of Natal ... comprised four values. These embossed stamps are rarely encountered on cover and this set of papers define the record of their known use.”
- 4: The Anglo-Boer War Philatelist, September 2020 pp48-62: ‘ The Circular Postmarks of the Natal Field Force’ by Roddy Sparks and Richard Stroud. Authors state “It is the intention to provide a more complete record of these interesting and scarce markings.”
- 5: The Orange Free State Study Circle Bulletin No.2020 of September 2020, on pp.4706 – 4713: ‘The BESANÇON Collection of Orange Free State (Part 4), gives realisations in CHF of auction.
- 6: The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle, August 2020 pp 258-263: ‘Rhodesia & Nyasaland Archival Material’ a stunning display of QE2 Essays and Proofs by Patrick Flanagan.
- 6A: Also pp 272-277: ‘A Tale of Two Plates – A Doublehead Puzzle Explored’ by Bob Looker which discusses the 1/2d and 1d Doublehead plates.
- 6B: Also pp296 – 303: “Samuel Koslowsky – Family Matters in Philately” by Walter Herdzik and ‘Samuel Koslowsky, my Father’ by Sonia Stein. Samuel Koslowsky was better known as Sam Kelly who was the foremost Northern Rhodesian philatelist from the 1930s to the 1980s.

Letters to Sir Rowland Hill

by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith, Highway Philatelic Society



In this series, I am detailing letters written by famous Victorians to Sir Rowland Hill, who reformed the British postal system in the 1840s and invented the adhesive postage stamp, and include any relevant philatelic material: the 1st of these appeared in the August 2020 issue - Vol 96:4 Whole No 961, and the 2nd in the October 2020, Vol.96:5 Whole No 962.

3. Anthony Trollope (24 April 1815 - 6 December 1882)

Trollope was a famous English novelist and civil servant of the Victorian era. He was born in London to a privileged background but due to his father's mismanagement of numerous endeavours they had very little means. Anthony had no money or friends and had a miserable schooling at three elite institutions where he was bullied a great deal. The family fled to Belgium to escape debtors and survived on Anthony's mother, Frances', earnings as a well-known writer.

Anthony joined the London Post Office as a clerk at the age of 19 in 1834 and remained an employee until 1866 and rose almost to the top of the organisation.



Fig.1: Stamps from the Royal Mail 200th commemorative issue 24-04-2015 of the anniversary of Trollope's birth. On the left is his mother Frances (Fanny) – three of her children became writers. In the centre is Harrow, where Anthony attended school. He described his schooling "as unhappy as that of a young gentleman could well be".

Young Anthony was a poor worker who was regularly late for work, took extended lunches, ran up debts and liked a drink and a game of cards. Trollope stated that "the first seven years of my official life were neither creditable to myself nor useful to the public service" At the Post Office he acquired a reputation for unpunctuality and insubordination. He hated his work but saw no alternative and lived in constant fear of dismissal.

In 1841 he volunteered for the position of Postal Surveyor's Clerk which became available in central Ireland. His supervisor, William Maberley, was eager to be rid of him and sent him off to Banagher, Kings County.

He loved the Irish and blossomed, becoming a hard working valued public servant as a post office surveyor.



Fig.2: St Martin's le Grand Post Office in London where Trollope worked for seven years from 1834.

A special type of postmark was developed by Trollope in the 1850s in an effort to improve the standard of Irish

cancellations. He was impressed by French postmarks and modelled his double ring duplex numbered cancellations on a well-known French type. They were not well received in Ireland and are only known used in black from two towns – Enniskillen and Kingstown (shown in Fig.4 on cover).

Fig.3: The 2009 Irish Post Office 82c issue commemorating the 150th anniversary of the departure of Anthony Trollope from Ireland.



To make the best use of his time he spent on train journeys for the post office, he had a portable desk made and wrote as he travelled. At home he rose at 05h30 and wrote for three hours, 250 words every 15 minutes - progress of which he recorded in a diary. Trollope was one of the most prolific writers of all time, producing 47 novels, 12 series of short stories, 16 non-fiction works and a play.



Fig.4.



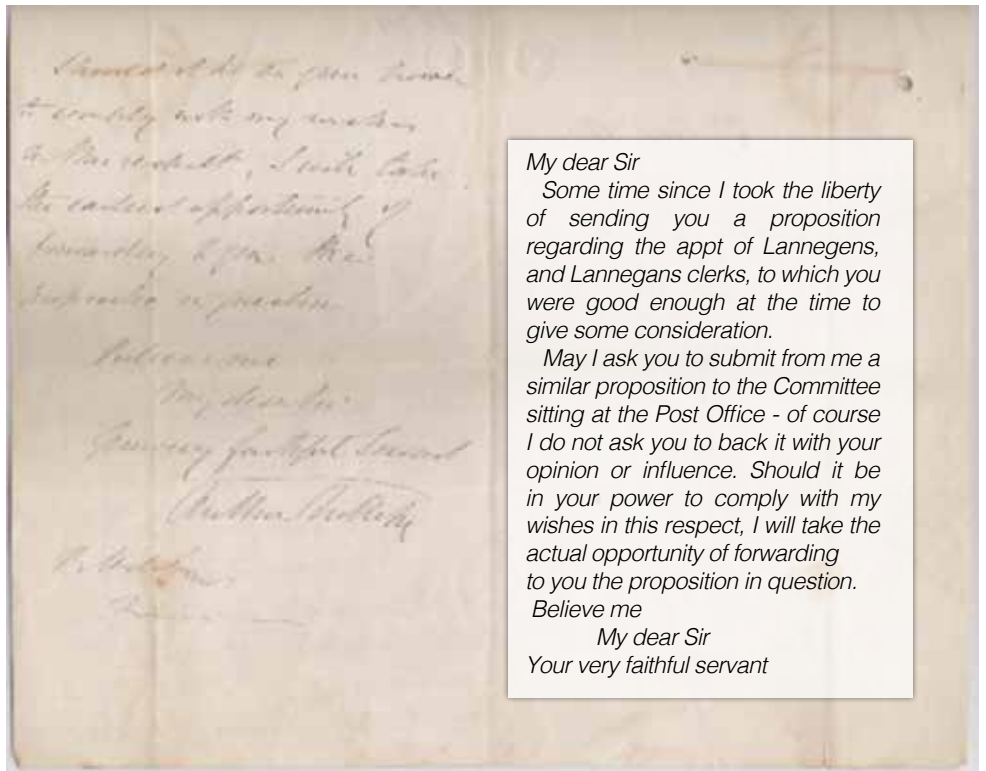
Fig.5: Trollope married Rose Heseltine, the Irish daughter of a bank manager in 1844. They had two sons.

Trollope won a reputation for energy and effectiveness in Ireland, which came to the attention of Rowland Hill, who was Secretary to the Postmaster General at the time. He seconded Trollope in 1859 to reorganise the rural posts in South-West England.

Trollope reached a fairly senior position in the Post Office but he developed a progressive dislike of Rowland Hill. An extract from Anthony Trollope's autobiography:

"My old friend Colonel Maberley had been, some time since, squeezed into, and his place was filled by Mr Rowland Hill, the originator of the penny post. With him I never had any sympathy, nor he with me. In facts and figures he was most accurate, but I never came across any one who so little understood the ways of men, - unless it was his brother Frederic. Rowland Hill was an industrious public servant, anxious for the good of his country, but he was a hard taskmaster"

As a senior officer in the Post Office, Trollope would frequently argue with Rowland Hill, whom he apparently hated, and relished their disagreements, describing their encounters as *"feuds - such delicious feuds"* and stating that *"It was a pleasure for me to differ from him on all occasions"*.



My dear Sir
 Some time since I took the liberty of sending you a proposition regarding the appt of Lannegens, and Lannegans clerks, to which you were good enough at the time to give some consideration.
 May I ask you to submit from me a similar proposition to the Committee sitting at the Post Office - of course I do not ask you to back it with your opinion or influence. Should it be in your power to comply with my wishes in this respect, I will take the actual opportunity of forwarding to you the proposition in question.
 Believe me
 My dear Sir
 Your very faithful servant

Fig.7: Rowland's archiving notes, this letter being number 8634.

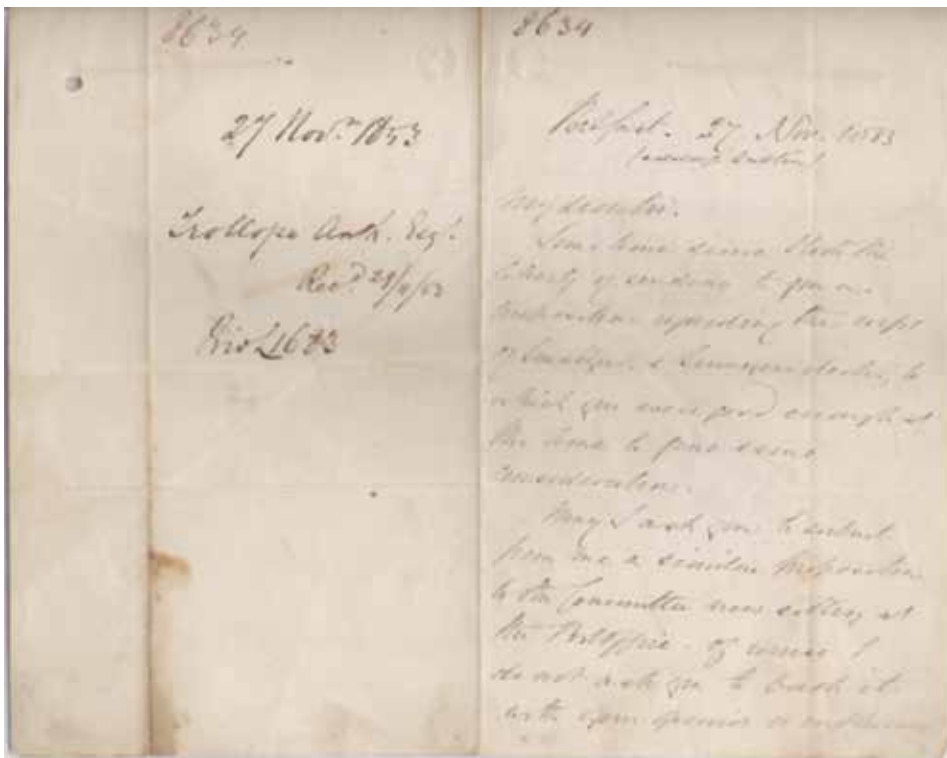


Fig.6: A letter from Anthony Trollope to Rowland Hill dated 27 November 1853, sent from Belfast.

The Pillar Box

On the recommendation of Anthony Trollope, who saw a similar idea on his European travels, the pillar box was first tried out in St Helier, Jersey in 1854 and was approved by the Post Office. In 1855 they were introduced in London where initially there were only five - Fleet Street, The Strand, Pall Mall, Piccadilly and Kensington. It was originally painted a sage green, the VR insignia appeared in the 1857 and the familiar red painted box in 1874.

Trollope apparently regretted introducing the pillar box, goes the story, because it allowed young women to correspond with men without having to take the letter to a male relative to have it franked and sent by post.

Hill left the Post Office in 1864 due to ill health and his position was taken by Trollope's brother-in-law, John Tilley. Trollope applied for Tilley's previous position as Under-Secretary to the Postmaster General but was passed over, and so in 1866 he resigned from the Post Office to continue his writing. Trollope and his wife travelled on the SS *Great Britain* in 1871 to Australia to visit their son Frederic. He wrote 'Lady Anna' on their voyage.



Fig.8: The original 1854 sage green pillar box depicted in the 2015 commemorative issue.



Figs. 9 & 10: Royal Mail stamps issued on 8th October 2002 for the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the Pillar Post Box into Great Britain by Anthony Trollope showing the 1857 VR green and the 1874 red pillar boxes.

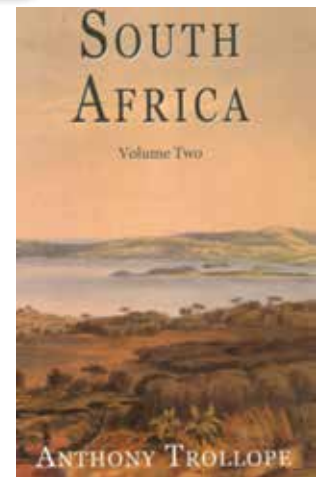
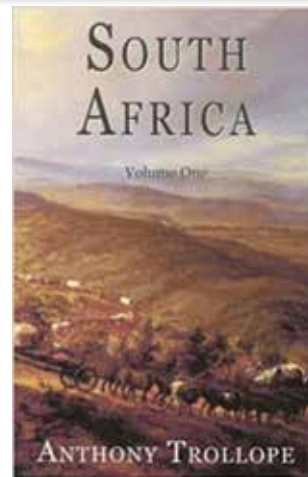
Fig.11: The launch of SS Great Britain on the 2015 commemorative issue



Anthony Trollope died aged 67 in Marylebone, London in 1882 and is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.



Fig.12: The SS Great Britain being fitted out in the Cumberland Basin, April 1844. This historic photograph by William Talbot is believed to be the first ever taken of a ship. When completed in 1845, SS Great Britain was a revolutionary vessel—the first ship to combine an iron hull with screw propulsion, more than 30m longer and 1,000 tons larger than any ship previously built.



The two volume 2005 reprint of the 1878 first edition of 'South Africa' by Anthony Trollope.

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Weird and Wonderful Stamps

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



weird and wonderful 1. *adjective* having an unusual or strange appearance or design, but ingenious, attractive, or desirable nonetheless. **2.** *noun* that which has such a strange likability.

Starting with the Penny Black, stamps have traditionally been produced on paper. This is a convenient and relatively easy to use medium. However, as digital messaging increases and volumes of mail shrink along with revenue, post offices have resorted to using gimmicks to promote the sale of postage stamps. One would expect such items to be issued by countries with dodgy reputations where stamps go straight from the printers to dealers, by-passing the issuing country. But no; even countries with credible issuing policies have resorted to issuing some of the strangest postage stamps which we highlight below. The one common feature with all these stamps is that not one has made use of paper!

Paperless stamps first appeared in 1969 (Fig.1) when the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan issued a set printed on a mix of silk and rayon showing religious prayer banners. This was followed in 1973 with the unique phonograph record postage stamp (Fig.2) which played folk songs and a short history of Bhutan. During the 1970s Bhutan produced a plethora of strange stamps, all designed to attract collector's attention. Stamps became Bhutan's greatest source of income! Not surprisingly, the Bhutan Stamp Agency was located in the Bahamas.

Fig.1: Imperforate Bhutan silk-rayon stamp (issued 30 September 1969) showing the sixth Buddha, the enlightener and illuminator; one of a set of five stamps showing religious prayer banners.



Fig.2: Bhutan phonograph stamp (issued 15 April 1973) on a registered cover together with a triangular Yeti (issued 10 October 1966) and a lenticular stamp showing ceremonial mask (issued 13 April 1976).

Plastic Stamps

Designed to promote recycling, the blue and green stamp of Liechtenstein shows a map of Western Europe with three leaves on the left-hand side. The stamp was made by embroidery company Hammerie & Vogel in Austria, using 75m of polyester yarn per stamp. The yarn was created from 3,100 PET (polyethylene terephthalate) 600ml bottles to produce 40,000 stamps.

The stamp measures 5 cm in diameter. Philately Liechtenstein say that if not used on mail, or put into your collection, you can always add it as a patch to some item of clothing to show your commitment to sustainability.



Fig.3: This Liechtenstein CHF 6.30 stamp (issued 7 September 2020) was made from recycled plastic bottles.

The next stamp was made from polyurethane, a type of plastic, for the 2008 UEFA Cup which was hosted by Austria, 7-29 June 2008, at the time being the largest sporting event ever hosted by the country. Produced by Cartor Security Printers in imperforate sheets of 70 with a print run of 490,000 copies, the stamps cost 20-times that of a paper-based version. The self-adhesive stamp was touted as being Austria's most sophisticated stamp in terms of typography and material. Within two weeks of being in circulation the stamp was withdrawn causing much embarrassment to the Austrian Post Office, simply because they would not stick to envelopes and had to be replaced. The stamp also promoted the Adidas Europass, the official match ball for UEFA Europe 2008.

Fig.4: Austrian stamp with a denomination of €3.75 (issued 12 March 2008), made from the same material as soccer balls.



Cork Stamp

The world's biggest producer of cork, Portugal, issued a mini-sheet with a single stamp made from a slice of self-adhesive cork just 0.35mm thick (Fig.5). While plastic and metal caps are replacing cork, its use in building materials and aeronautics are increasing, being light, impermeable and biodegradable. It was designed by artist João Machado. Due to the characteristics of the natural structure of cork, each stamp is unique. In addition

to the 230,000 stamps included in the philatelic plan, an extra 20,000 stamps were produced with a left hand tab bearing an Amorim Group promotional logo (Fig.6). Amorim make flooring and composites in addition to bottle stoppers from cork. The cork stamp has sold out, and there are no plans for a reprint.



Fig.5: The first stamp made from cork (issued 26 December 2009).



Fig.6: Commercially used copy of the limited print Portuguese cork stamp showing the Amorim logo as a tab.

Leather stamp

This stamp is in the shape of lederhosen, or leather pants, the traditional dress found in the Tyrolean region, a province of Austria and is printed on Alcantara leather. Alcantara is the brand name of a synthetic suede of a high quality and durability. Technically, Alcantara is a form of plastic, as it is composed of polyester and polyurethane. For the buttons, six crystals have been attached. The crystals were made by Swarovski, a company that specialises in high-quality crystals since 1895. The buttons on real lederhosen are usually made of buck horn and not Swarovski crystals. The combination of Swarovski crystals with leather pants is symbolic of the Alpine region and are often associated with Austria. A print run of 150,000 was also made by Swarovski.



Fig.7: This stamp, is known as an Alpine lederhosen leather stamp (issued 24 September 2015).

Glass stamp

This stamp uses the technique of the Sandlbilder which comes from the Upper Austrian municipality of Sandl which has a long tradition of glass painting using religious designs. The design is painted on the back of the glass so the front can be easily cleaned without damaging the painting. The design used in this stamp comes from the last quarter of the 19th Century



Fig.8: A glass stamp (issued 10 June 2016) with the image printed on the reverse of the glass, together with a non-glass version on right.

The painters are unknown as the work was a collaborative family effort. The stamp has been produced by the Viennese porcelain manufacturer Augarten, with each glass blank stamp handcrafted with the design screen printed on the back of each stamp and finally heat treated to allow the colours to bond with the glass. A total of 140,000 self-adhesive stamps were produced. The big question is, how does the PO cancel a glass stamp?

Wood paper stamp

To end this brief review of strange stamps we look at a hybrid issued by Spain which is the exception to being completely paperless. The stamp is dedicated to the seven ancient Elms in the town of Cabeza del Buey. These trees are believed to be the last examples in the region, the result of graphiosis, a serious disease of Elm trees. The trees are located next to the chapel of Our Lady of Belén. The stamp was released on 17 September 2020, to coincide with the annual Pilgrimage of Our Lady of Belén, which takes place on 27 September. Wood paper is a very thin wood veneer with a paper backing, giving each item a unique wood grain. The print run was limited to 160,000 examples.

Fig.9: This example by Correos España (issued 17 September 2020) represents a cut trunk showing the tree rings with a cut-out image of an elm tree.



There are a number of materials used for stamps that have not been included here, such as cloth, ceramics, embroidery, wood, lace and metal. All the stamps reviewed here are postally valid despite their curious and unusual nature. Austria, Liechtenstein and Spain appear to be in the forefront of innovations in stamp design. Whether these stamps will become classics in time or remain mere curiosities is another issue altogether.

Christmas Cards in support of the Paris Missionary Society in Barotseland

by Sean Burke, Rhodesian Study Circle



The Paris Missionary Society (PMS) work in Barotseland (North-western Rhodesia, now Zambia) was for many years sustained by a large number of support groups established throughout Europe. These groups, called 'Zambezas', were initially the idea of the explorer and hunter, Captain Alfred Bertrand (Fig.1) from Geneva in Switzerland. A great admirer and friend of the founder of PMS, the Reverend François Coillard, Bertrand travelled throughout Europe, often with Coillard, speaking on behalf of the mission.

Their aim was to raise awareness of the work, recruit missionaries and gather funds.

Bertrand was to visit Barotseland a number of times. In 1895, he spent several months there and was a witness to the work of the missionaries. He wrote:

What a wonderful lesson is given by these pioneers of the Gospel, forever hard at work and giving of themselves. How important it is for Europe to take an interest in and support these missionaries ...

By the start of 1898, there were already 18 'Zambezas': six in France, five in Alsace, seven in Switzerland, each linked through a secretariat in Geneva run by Eduard Favre. By 1904, the number of 'Zambezas' had grown to over one hundred – Germany, Italy, England, Scotland and the Cape of Good Hope were also to be represented. Much of the postal history from these early missionaries was to members of the various 'Zambezas' thanking them for their support. They provided provisions, books, medicines, printing machines and funds for buildings (housing, clinics, schools) and salaries.

We also have some available postal history from Bertrand including this postal stationery card (courtesy of Peter Hickman) (Fig.2A&B), penned whilst he was en route between Bulawayo and Kazungula on the banks of the Zambesi River. He was travelling with a party of new missionaries, many of whom were to die from illness in the next few months. A translation of the card gives one a glimpse of their journey (Bertrand is writing to Mr and Mrs Fatio. Fatio was a banker from Geneva and a supporter of the PMS):

It is with deep emotion that I pen you these lines as we have just this instant heard of the death of Mme Louis Jalla, and the evangelist who is going back to Lessouto will take this card to Bulawayo. We have been underway seven weeks, and we still have at least two weeks before we get to Kazungula... What can I tell you of our trip in so little space, apart from how the hand of God has guarded us and supported us everywhere.

6 wagons have turned over so far and ours has been the worst. With Burnier [Rev Theophile Burnier] we were right underneath; it turned over completely with the wheels in the air. It really is a miracle that we were not crushed further on when a wheel on one of the waggons belonging to the Mission broke. I was fortunate in having done a bit of wheel-wrighting in Geneva and with Reutter [Dr. Georges Reutter] we remade the wheel which should last. On Tuesday a native killed a giraffe; 16 oxen dragged it to the camp. It measured 8m. from head to toe. Lions have often wandered around



Fig.1: Captain Alfred Bertrand - explorer and hunter.

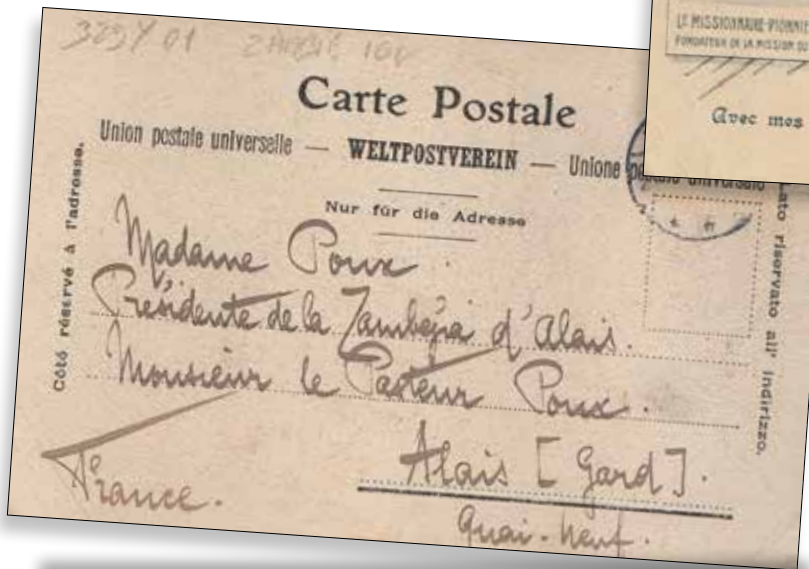


Fig.2A&B: postal stationery card (courtesy of Peter Hickman)

the camp, but none has done us the honour of a good roar. I hope we will have this pleasure at Deka. Elephant tracks are plentiful; today's camp is full of them. Hyenas give us a concert each night... All the expedition's members are in



Fig.3: Front and reverse



good health, and we spend our time in these great vastnesses, which don't lack a certain charm. Coillard is well...

[PS] When we get to Kazungula, I will write to you with all the details of the journey and travel times.

Bertrand also arranged to have his own Christmas cards printed in Geneva; he used these to write to the various supporters with greetings at the end of each year. The cards were printed with his signature and sometimes that of Eduoard Favre, on the front. Most have a Biblical quotation. Obtaining examples is extremely hard and only between one and four copies of each example have been reported.



Fig.4.

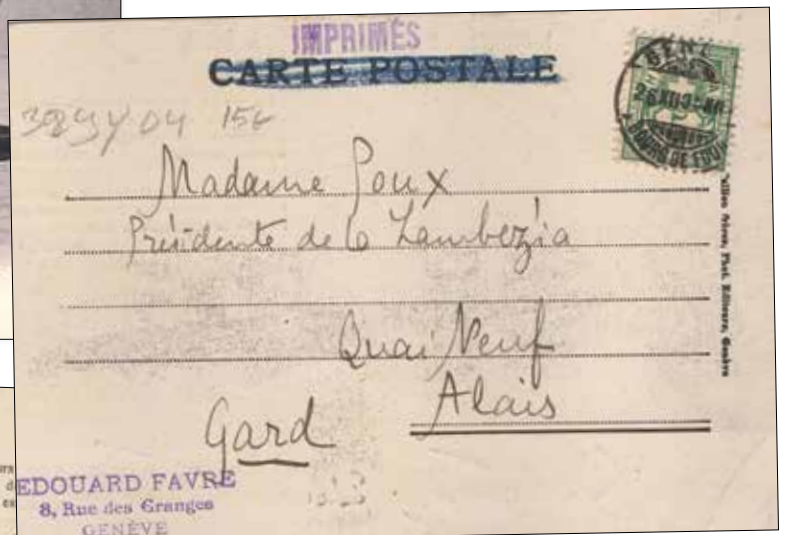


Fig.5. Front and reverse



To provide another window into the Cape Town 'Zambezia', I show (Fig.8) a copy of their donations to the PMS in 1904.

This is taken from *News from Barotsi-land* No. 22, May, 1904. Note the donations from the C.J. Rhodes Estate.

This is just another adjunct to the story of the Paris

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

With the restart of meetings, Zbigniew Kawecki was the auctioneer at
this lively event which attracted an attendance of 38 collectors and 3
new members who have joined the Natal Philatelic Society. We are
happy to report that this Philatelic Society is steering its way back to
relatively 'normal' activities, but carefully following Covid regulations.



Members studying material for the
monthly auction.



Cecil Smith is a regular member and is
seen here getting ready for the auction,
obeying all covid regulations.



The 2020 Committee of the Philatelic Society
of Kwa-Zulu Natal - L to R: Harald Deg,
Zbigniew Kawecki, Mile Immelman, Ed
Strydom, Fonda Sonitis (Chairman), Peter
Miller, George Dombai, Ian Robinson, Liz
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George Dombai, Mike Immelman and
Harald Deg discussing their collections of
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1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) STATE 1 AND STATE 2 (SM) 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) margins and cancelled for state 1 of the plate and c Matched with fine to very in state 2 (type AS42), all very large margins and is Cross. Stamp showing to FRAME LINES FROM PLA (Ref 124914) - £550.00

1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) HORIZONTAL STRIP OF SIX LETTERED AC AD AG AF AS AH. A good used HORIZONTAL strip of six 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) lettered AC AD AF AS AH, all with good to large margins and cancelled with Maltese Crosses. AD and AF both used. All vertical lines not a rare multiple (Ref 124721) - £200.00

1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) LITTELED SA AND SHOWING FINE PE-CENTURY IMP. AS41a) Very fine used 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) lettered SA with four fine margins and cancelled fine style red Maltese cross. Stamp shows FINE PE-CENTURY MARK DE L'OPPEN AND LETTER SQUARES (Spec. AS41a) (Ref 125) - £225.00

1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) HORIZONTAL STRIP OF THREE LITTELED RI ES EK. A fine used horizontal strip of three 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) lettered RI ES EK. four fine margins with cancelled several strikes red Maltese Cross. Small scissor cut between RI and ES to show double design. Attractive multiple (Ref 124916) - £950.00

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**PO Box 10494, Grantham, Lincolnshire,
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