

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 97:1. 964

www.stampssa.africa



The practice of exempting government officers from paying postage on all letters sent or received that were of an official, often of a highly confidential government matter



Virtual One Frame Exhibition
to be based in Bloemfontein
22 - 25 July 2021



Skeleton cancels on Double Heads,
Gothic Mine, 9 August 1912



Unissued proof of the 1994 stamp
advertising the Express Mail Service.

POSTMARKS

Skeletons in the closet: Double Head issue



ISSN 0038-2566



DOUBLE PRINTS... Twice as Nice!

What have you been missing? www.filat.ch



Filat AG

Always Free Shipping... Also to South Africa!

The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
www.stampssa.africa

REGULARS

- 3 Closing dates for future issues
- 6 Phun with Postmarks
- 24 Errors on Stamps
- 30 Society news

FEATURES

- 4 PFSA Update - Federation News
by C.O.O. André du Plessis
- 9 Chinese Zodiac Stamp: 2021
- 9 Fines for the late attendance of Post Office Officials - 1911
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 10 RDPSA - Signatures to the Roll signed at the 82nd PFSA Congress
André du Plessis and Chris Board (UK)
- 11 PFSA new Treasurer - Derek Roth
- 11 In Memoriam - R.I.P. - Japie De Vos. Bernard du Plessis
- 12 Postmarks – some skeletons in the closet and the question of rarity
by Sean Burke
- 14 Official Mail of the Colony of Natal
by Roger Porter RDPSA
- 18 More Weird and Wonderfuls
by Dr Alan Rose
- 20 The Functioning of the Postal System in the Republic of South Africa Since 1961
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 24 **ERRATA** - apologies to Dr Jim Findlay
- 25 Letters to Sir Rowland Hill
by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith
- 28 Wallace's War
by Andrew Briscoe
- 30 Durban Airmail Postmarks of 1925

ADVERTISERS

- 2 Filat AG
- 5 Bill Barrell Ltd
- 8 John & Mark Taylor
- 13 Doreen Royan and Associates
- 32 Spink

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.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
 André du Plessis: andredupfs@gmail.com
 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

All South African stamps are reproduced with the permission of SAPO



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**:

• **April** 2021 - Volume. 97: 2. 965. **9 March 2021** • **June** 2021 - Volume. 97 : 3. 966. **10 May 2021**



PFSA UPDATE: FEDERATION NEWS

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



MEMBERSHIP 2020: The face of the hobby was forced to change but most changes were progressive. One such change was a shift towards the electronic and social media. PFSA was establishing its footprint on those Platforms.

Feedback from our regional Vice-Presidents indicates that, due to circumstances, Societies are using more creative ways to stay in touch with their members. A clean up/update of the member database was performed in January 2020. During the year, updates as received from Societies/members were constantly performed. 2021 Membership lists were distributed to all Societies to confirm membership numbers and payment of the annual affiliation fees, due by February 2021.

Membership/Distribution of *The SA Philatelist*:

	31 Dec 2019	Total 2019	31 Dec 2020	Total 2020	SAP Hard copy	SAP Electronic
Foreign Society Affiliation	2		7		2	5
Free subscription	32		44		22	22
Library Public	1		2		2	0
Library State	5		4		4	0
Museums	1		1		1	0
Direct subscribers	47		59		32	27
SAPDA	2		2		2	0
Societies	33		31		17	14
Society members	534		584		292	292
Youth Societies	3		4		4	0
Total	660		Total 738		378	360

Previous Annual Totals

2018 - 828;
2017 - 868;
2016 - 1005;
2015 - 1015.

All societies have been co-operative in paying affiliation fees for which I thank the Society Treasurers and Secretaries.

EXHIBITIONS:

• SAVPEX 2020 - planned to run concurrently with the Bloemfontein Hobby Expo on 22 August 2020. Sadly, due to the Covid-19 restrictions the Expo was cancelled.

The **Virtual Exhibition** went ahead with 80 entries, of which 63 International. Exhibits were virtually judged by 25 National and International judges. Exhibits and results are on the PFSA website:- <https://stampssa.africa/exhibits/#savpex> The event received positive feedback locally as well as Internationally.

• JUNASS, also planned to run with the Hobby Expo; cancelled for the same reason.

• ALGOAPEX 2020 was well set to take off from 14 to 17 October 2020 in Port Elizabeth. Again, the Covid-19 situation, with accompanying uncertainty, forced the Organising Committee to cancel the National.

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS: We have seen a great deal of interest not only in our official website but also on the two Social Media platforms, Facebook, and Twitter. Management meetings via 'Zoom' are becoming more popular and the virtual SAVPEX 2020 attracted positive attention from across the globe.

WEBSITE: Most important is the name change **from** sapa.africa **to** stampssa.africa

Improvement of the website continues with the implementation of the website's security 'Wall' which was delayed, but now with the software installed. An exciting feature to look forward to is the creation of a Reference Library displaying top class exhibits, a Chat Board, and Offering of a sub-domain (website) for Societies to stampssa.africa, e.g. Societyname.stampssa.africa The website is open to everyone but items behind the 'Wall' would only be available to PFSA members who would have automatic access.

It is important to mention the support received for scanning of previously published copies of *The SA Philatelist*, by the Librarian department of the University of Pretoria. It was foreseen that the scans would be available by May 2020, but this was harshly influenced by the Covid-19 restrictions and will commence again in 2021.

According to AV statistics on the website a comparison of performance for 2019 and 2020 are as follows: 2019 - Unique Visitors: 1,724 (total number of visits - 3,886)

2020 - Unique Visitors: 11,831 (total number of visits - 18,388)

FACEBOOK: PFSA's *Facebook* and *Twitter* pages generated much interest. The PFSA Facebook page has grown from just less than 200 members in January 2020 to 930 on 31 December 2020. Unfortunately, as is the situation in other societies/collector clubs, only about 25% of these members show regular activity on the page. *Twitter:* The Twitter page was started in June 2020 and currently has 451 followers. During this time 249 posts. On both platforms, daily posts of Union and RSA stamps issued on that day, are posted. This is complimented with posts of stamps of SWA, SA Postal slogans, covers and SA postcards. Activities on both pages provided a communication medium for collectors and have broadened PFSA's scope to include collectors across the globe.

PUBLICATIONS: No books were published in 2020. Technical problems experienced with the manuscript of the Derrick Byrom listing of the *Zimbabwe Post Office* for the first two decades from independence in 1980. Seemingly much of the material had been published previously and publishing was cancelled. **Publications for sale are advertised on the PFSA website.**

HERITAGE: Holland donation of Transvaal stamps currently remained in storage with Gawie van der Walt RDP SA who is happy with the arrangement.

Please turn to page 8 for the remaining part of this report

DISCLAIMER:

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.

EDITORIAL POLICY:

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

Annual subscription and circulation;

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.

For SADC countries;

the subscription is R750.00 per year.

For International;

Overseas R1,100.00 per year. These prices all include postage via airmail.

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 SA Philatelist* 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 53100, Weirda Park, 1049 or email the Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za

BILL BARRELL LTD

Our latest list, no 160 is now available!, 156 pages packed with interesting offers of GB Postal history and postage stamps from 1657-1998. This list offers over 700 items ranging from good early pre-stamp material, 1d backs, 2d blues, Mulreadys, Caricatures, an excellent selection 1d red issues, commercial mail from most reigns and much more for the collector. All items illustrated with accurate descriptions and priced as competitively as possible. Please contact us to receive your copy in the mail.



BILL BARRELL Ltd

SPECIALISTS IN THE POSTAL HISTORY AND
POSTAGE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.



LIST 160 GREAT BRITAIN.



1. 1841 1D PL. ELEVEN ON DICKINSON SILK THREAD PAPER (SG16) HORIZONTAL PAIR. A very fine horizontal pair 1841 1d plate eleven in red printed on DICKINSON SILK-THREAD PAPER without watermark, imperforate (SG16). Pair lettered KE KF and with very fine four margins and excellent colour. Both clearly show the vertical silk threads running through the paper and also the 7 o'clock ray flaw NE square. BPA cert. 12726, rare item of exhibition quality. Cat £9,500.00 (Ref 123106). £7500.00

2. 1880 ½D DEEP GREEN ERROR IMPERFORATE HORIZONTAL PAIR (SG164a). A fine horizontal pair ERROR IMPERFORATE 1880 ½d deep green (SG164a) with excellent margins and large part original gum. Right stamp vertical crease but one of only two pairs believed to exist. This ½d error imperforate only exists in the deep green shade (see article by Douglas Latta GBJ vol. 6 no. 8 where this piece is illustrated). A major surface printed rarity. (Ref 125510). £5750.00



3. 1883 3D LILAC CORNER MARGINAL ERROR IMPERFORATE (SG191a). A quite superb lower right corner marginal example ERROR IMPERFORATE 1883 3d lilac (SG191a) lettered TL with very fine original gum and excellent colour. A major surface printed rarity, see article by Douglas Latta GBJ vol. 6 no. 8 where he records surface printed imperforates and on this issue notes the existence of a lower marginal strip of three lettered TA-TC (now split) and this exceptional corner marginal example. (Ref 125509). £5000.00



The PTS, The International Society for
Philatelic Professionals.



BILL BARRELL LTD
PO BOX 10494, GRANTHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE, NG31 0HS
UNITED KINGDOM

TEL: (+44) 01476 594698



E-mail: bill@barrell.co.uk Website: www.barrell.co.uk

PO Box 10494, Grantham, Lincolnshire,
NG31 0HS, United Kingdom
01476 594698

e-mail: bill@barrell.co.uk website: www.barrell.co.uk

Phun with postmarks

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



Cape Town and 'Underground*' cancellers

At the outset I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance received from Bas Payne in initiating this study, and his and Morgan Farrell's significant contributions in sorting through their collections.

Goldblatt identified two Cape Town 'Underground' cancellers, DDS02 and DDS03; Frescura only one. Putzel described Put 377 (April 1900) with two complete half-moons, Put 377a (May 1900) with a break in the upper half-moon, which he clearly thought was a damaged Put 377, and Put 378 (Dec 1899) already with breaks in both half-moons and therefore evidently not the same canceller as Put 377/377a.

With more material at our disposal - about 130 reasonably complete and clear strikes, dating between August 1898 and June 1902 and many showing different breaks in the horizontal bars of the two half-moons, we carried out an analysis following the same kind of reasoning as Putzel, which has led us to the conclusion that there were at least 9 different cancellers of this type. Besides the damage differentiating cancellers, there are also differences in lettering height, length of CAPE, as well as the position of the letters C and N relative to the lower bridge.

Unfortunately more sophisticated measuring instruments are required to be able to measure the scans.

Table 1 summarises this analysis. The first column is a type number for the benefit of this article and future use in the Putzel electronic addendum. The second column is a drawing of the half-moons, so as to easily distinguish the types, and the third column shows an actual impression. The last five columns show the time line with earliest and latest recorded date of use. The numbers in curly brackets {} indicated the number of items seen during the year. Dates in square brackets suggest that the cancellation could have been made by more than one of the instruments that have been identified: thus, for instance, the last cancellation listed under Put 377.3 could also have been made by Put 377.4 or Put 377.5 as a result of later wear or damage. Although this is possible, the more impressions we receive the less likely this appears to have happened.

There are two alternative underlying explanations. The first is that all these cancellers started with unbroken half-moons, and that they only became clearly separable when breaks happened as a result of wear. The second is that many of the breaks were made deliberately, probably to distinguish the cancellers. We are unable to determine which of these explanations is correct.

Table 1. Analysis of Cape Town GPO 'Underground' date stamps. →

It is not unexpected that Cape Town required a number of date stamps, and in order to distinguish identical instruments, different types of damage were inflicted. This deduction may not be far-fetched as Cape Town at this time was a busy office. In the period of use of the 'Underground' date stamps there were about 15 other date stamps used for mail. Compare this with the double circle with numeral enclosed by curved bars which was introduced from about 1901 with numbers from 1 to 35. It is thus likely that even more 'Underground' cancellers were used, which can only be confirmed by studying an even larger number of examples. So we have another SOS, please let us have copies or scans with legible dates of the variations to extend this table. This exercise may also have application to the 'Underground' style used in the ZAR and OFS, where there may also be multiple date stamps. The practice of making multiple identical instruments is not something from history. Queenstown had four identical date stamps of the Y2K type issued in the year 2000.

Contributions to this study would be greatly appreciated. Please send scans with an indication of the item number to Alex. My mentor, David Allison, many times emphasised the importance of documenting current postal history, as doing it a 100 years later is an enormous challenge as was demonstrated in this article.

			1898	1899	1900	1901	1902
Put 377.0			10AUG {6}	{12}	20 JUN {6}		
Put 377.1					6 MAY {6}		11 MAR {1}
Put 377.2						8 DEC {1}	* FEB {3}
Put 377.3				10NOV {2}	{5}	{5}	[* APR] {3}
Put 377.4				* DEC {2}	{7}		* DEC {1}

			1898	1899	1900	1901	1902
Put 377.5				30 OCT {4}	{6}	[26 AUG] {3}	
Put 377.6				11 OCT {+1}	{6}	{7}	[28 JUN] {3}
Put 377.7				* OCT {1}	{1}	* JUL {2}	
Put 377.8				3 AUG {1}	{17}	[23 AUG] {4}	
Put 377.9			* NOV {2}	{11}	29 JAN {1}		

Om historiese inligting te versamel is nogal 'n uitdaging, soos in hierdie rubriek weereens bewys word. Sou dit nie lekker gewees het indien ons spekulasie deur iemand van daardie tyd bevestig kon word nie. Die bewyse is dat daar wel 'n reeks 'Underground' stempels in die Kaap in gebruik was. Ons moedig ons lesers aan om bykomende inligting te verskaf sodat ons nader aan die waarheid kan kom. Dit is verder ook interessant dat daar reeds in vroeë Unie twee-talige datum stempels was, alhoewel die tweede taal Nederlands was. Hierdie reeks blyk ook relatief skaars te wees soos in die tabel aangetoon.

Of interest is that the only common element in the date stamps are the bilingual 'S.AFRICA' above date and 'Z.AFRIKA' below date. The outer diameter is variable, some have a cross at the base enclosed by curved bars and the inner circle is complete or divided. The Musgrave Road date stamp has 'DURBAN' at the base. Two instances, namely Irene (from 1924) and Mount Edgecombe (from 1925), had the bilingual country excised, and saw further service. Information provided by Chris Cordes is gratefully acknowledged.

The table below confirms the earliest use of 1913 given by Berry, but the latest is only 1937 and we are missing the 1952 date. All contributions to the information in this table are welcome.

The first bi-lingual date stamp of the Union

In the Dec 2020 Phun column I highlighted a date stamp similar to the Cape and Natal date stamps with a date in three lines, but issued during Union. Figure 1 shows the different styles of a date stamp which is inscribed 'S.AFRICA' and in Dutch (Afrikaans) 'Z.AFRIKA' inside the inner circle. According to Berry 'South African Postmarks' issued about 1966 by the PFSA, this bilingual date stamp was recorded in use in March 1913 and in July 1952. It was only when I tried to compile a listing did I discover that this date stamp is scarce.

A start of a listing is given in Table 2. This is termed 'a start' as it is a mammoth task to wade through an estimated 160,000 postmarks!

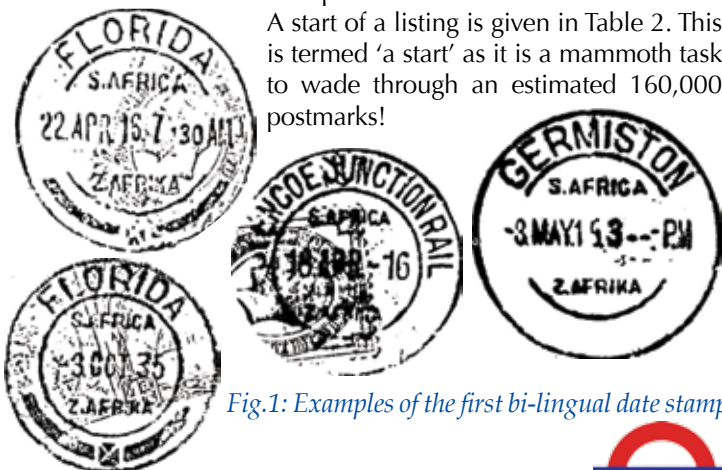


Fig.1: Examples of the first bi-lingual date stamp.

Post office	Province	Earliest recorded date	Latest recorded date
Belmont	Cape	8 Jan 1918	2 Sep 1937
Butterworth	Cape	19 Mar 1913	14 Dec 1918
Eastleigh Rail	Tvl	26 Apr 1921	
Florida Put 5	Tvl	22 Apr 1916	8 Feb 1925
Florida Put 6	Tvl	14 Jun 1935	3 Oct 1935
Germiston	Tvl	3 May 1915	
Glencoe Junction Rail	Natal	22 Jul 1915	16 Apr 1916
Irene	Tvl	8 Jan 1923	24 Jan 1923
Marquard	OFS	5 Mar 1916	11 Jan 1923
Mount Edgecombe	Natal	2 Apr 1917	20 Apr 1922
Musgrave Road	Natal	* Jul 1915	
Ottawa	Natal	24 Jun 1916	28 Sep 1916
Reddersburg	OFS	28 Mar 1915	
Walvis Bay	Cape	22 Aug 1916	6 Jun 1926
Westleigh Rail	OFS	* Feb 1920	12 Apr 1937

Table 2. Listing of bi-lingual date stamps.

* just in case you were wondering... An 'underground' type



Sandton Library: Mr Du Plessis and Mr Carr will compile an article for the SAP and would Visit Museum Africa by mid-2021 to review the condition of the Curle and Harvey Pirie collections, plus any other collections.

Benoni storeroom: Much of the paperwork could be discarded and would be attended to during 2021.

EXPERT COMMITTEE: The Committee has not functioned most of the year due to travel and meeting restrictions, as well as health ramifications to members and their families. At the time of lockdown, the certification work was fully up to date.

FIP/FIAP: No Juror exchange accord nor any International Exhibitions were participated in due to the Covid-19 Virus pandemic.

Three International Exhibitions are planned to be held in 2021: Japan in August, Notos 2021 in Athens in November, and Cape Town in November.

The SA PHILATELIST: The electronic copy decided upon in late 2019 and was available in time and posted on the website. Advertising income reduced significantly during lockdown, and page count was reduced with four pages to reduce costs. The October 2020 issue marked the 100th issue compiled by the Production Editor, Mrs J Botes, a milestone of which members were justly proud.

Mrs M Bleazard stood down from the Editorial Board and PFSA are grateful for the significant contribution she had made over several years.

Also, in the October 2020 issue, Dr Gerhard Kamffer reached a milestone of 50 articles published in *The SA Philatelist* since 2010. Well done!

PHILATELIC SERVICES, SAPO: 2020 was supposed to be the year of plenty but, because of Covid-19, mostly complaints and queries were received. Philatelic Services struggled with new stamps. Mr Wigston is on the New Issues Liaison sub-Committee and cooperation with Prof. Alex Visser RDPSA, remains on a very good and positive level.

Much stock remained of the Mandela order and a large order for Mandela booklets at a cheap price was awaited. *Setempe* and *What's News* have not been printed due to a lack of news, high printing costs and it was rather opted for electronic copies.

SAPDA: Membership continued to decline, in line with all philatelic organisations, but 2020 was above average. Covid-19 had given stamp collecting a huge boost as collectors returned to the hobby and with the restrictions in place, buying material from Europe was not easy and local dealers benefited.

Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis. 



South African National Exhibitions in 2021



Please diarise 22-25 July 2021.

Under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, the NATIONAL, JUNASS and SAVPEX 2021 exhibitions will take place in Bloemfontein.

For more information: (IREX) and entry forms, contact: Joof van der Merwe <jnc1@vodamail.co.za> or visit the Federation website <https://www.stampssa.africa>

More specific and up-to-date news will be shared with the Philatelic Societies in due course.



JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

NATAL
1881 £5 Telegraph
S.G. T1
with full original gum

One of the rarest in the Empire



Address: P.O. Box 37324, London N1 - 2YQ.
Tel: 020 7226 1503 Fax: 020 7359 7456
email address: markjtaylor@btinternet.com

Chinese Zodiac Stamp: The 2021 Ox collection a hit among stamp lovers



China Post released annual Zodiac Stamps for the year 2021 featuring the Ox on Tuesday 5 January. Braving the extreme cold weather, stamp lovers thronged to post offices early in the morning to get their hands on the Chinese Zodiac Stamps of 2021.

One consumer at the front of the line said he came as early as 4 a.m. to purchase the newly released stamps.

The ox on the stamp is in a traditional Chinese painting style, but what are the cultural implications behind it?

"In the image of traditional Chinese culture, there are diligent oxen and brave oxen," explained 81-year-old artist Yao Zhonghua who created the ox image for this year's stamp.

"I wanted to create the oxen in the stamps with a spirit of courage. I think this is also the wish of many people to have a brand new year with their situation getting better and better," Yao said.

The history of releasing Zodiac Stamps can be traced back to 1980 when China Post issued a stamp with a Golden Monkey. As the first of its kind, the monkey stamps were highly sought after, but only a few were printed, meaning the price of each stamp skyrocketed to tens of thousands times their original value.

Yao believes tremendous changes have taken place in Chinese society since then, which is also reflected in the stamps. "Design is a very important element for a stamp, but since no one sends letters as we did in the past, the practical value of stamps has become weaker, which means the design of the stamps requires higher aesthetic standards," Yao said.

In this modern world, Yao said the stamps' role has changed for permanently in the country, and they will no longer hold the place they did in the past. It is true that stamps are gradually losing their functional value and are turned into pure art. But on the flip side, the change is also an indication of the speed of technological innovation.

ITEM OF INTEREST

Fines for the late attendance of Post Office Officials - 1911

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Return of fines for late attendance Kroonstad

Date	Name	Rank	Hours	Penalty	Fine	Remarks
Sept 25	A.M. Bach	Inspector	9 hrs	2000	4/0	Subscribed postage stamps 40 262/10/11
1924						
July 25	Wells T.G.	Postman	15	2		
Aug 22	D.	"	10	2		
Dec 1924	Khampapa A	Inspector	2 hrs	6d		
29 th	"	"	1 hr	6d		
30 th	"	"	40 mins	3d		

An unusual document with Union King's Head postage stamps affixed that I recently obtained was very confusing (Fig.1). After some research, the answer was provided in a Supplement to Post Office Circular No. 14 dated 1 September 1911 where the following was stated: "62. Late attendance (Transvaal and Natal) - Fines and Returns for. From the 1st September 1911 fines for late attendance must be accounted for in stamps attached to the Quarterly Return, and cancelled with a clear impression of the office date stamp. The forms for the Return now on hand should be made obsolete and a supply of form P.323 (new print) obtained." Stamps were cancelled by a clear impression of the Kroonstad Post Office as directed in the Post Office regulations. This is a very unusual Official usage of postage stamps to account for the payment of a fine.

Fig.1: Return of Fines document for the late attendance of postal officials at the Kroonstad Post Office accounted for in postage stamps over the period 17 October 1924 to 31 December 1924.



Signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa

Following the recent PFSA Congress 2020, two new nominations were added to the list of all previous recipients.

Introduced 1932

*Deceased

1932	* Gilbert J Allis	1972	* S J (Fanie) Vermaak	2000	Michael Wigmore
1932	* A J Cohen	1973	* Dr H J (Henry) Raubenheimer	2000	Peter Van Der Molen
1932	* Sir Edmond Howard Lacam Gorges	1974	* Rudi Jeidel	2001	Chris Mobsby
1932	* Saul Aaron Klagsbrun	1976	* Hilda Jeidel	2002	* John Sandilands
1932	* George Blockey	1977	* Dr Hasso O H F Reisener	2002	* Wikus Van Heerden
1932	* William Charles James Hand	1979	* IR (Bob) Goldblatt	2003	* Mary Bromfield
1932	* George J Houbert	1980	* Joh Groenewald	2003	* John Wannerton
1932	* Jerome Ritchie	1980	* Arie J Bakker	2004	* Des Hyland
1932	* Emil Carl Christiaan Tamsen	1981	* Archie GM Batten	2004	Richard Johnson
1932	* Louis Simenhof	1982	* Natie Becker	2005	Dr Ian Matheson
1933	* J Herbert Curle	1982	* Harry Birkhead	2005	Danie Scheepers
1934	* Major Walter John Harrington	1985	* Stan P Naylor	2006	* Jan Bakker
1938	* Leonard A Wyndham	1986	* David G Crocker	2006	Neville Polakow
1938	* G N Gilbert (Gillie)	1986	* Harold M Criddle	2007	George Cafetzoglou
1939	* Charles H Thornton	1987	* M J (Thys) Rall	2009	* John Cheminais
1939	* William L Ashmead	1987	* Danny T Swart	2008	Emil Minnaar
1948	* Albert Edward Basden	1988	* Ernest Cecil Wright	2008	Patrick Flanagan
1948	* Adrian Albert Jurgens	1988	* Richard Cave Knight	2010	Hugh Amooore
1948	* Percy C Bishop	1988	* N C (Nico) Combrink	2011	Gawie Van Der Walt
1948	* James Hunter Harvey Pirie	1988	* H R Holmes	2011	Herbie Schaffler
1948	* William M Redford	1989	* André Bezuidenhout	2012	Emil Bührmann
1948	* Archibald Hylton Sydow	1989	* Mike J Nethersole (USA)	2012	Bob Allison (UK)
1948	* J Norman Welsford	1990	* Coen Slagt	2013	Dr Jim Findlay
1949	* Karl Freund	1990	* Robson Lowe	2013	Pauw Steyl
1949	* Alec Kaplan	1991	* Ralph F Putzel	2014	Dr Neil Conjé
1951	* George K Forbes	1991	* George van den Hurk	2014	Herwig Kussing
1951	Sam Legator	1992	Dr Cedric Roché	2015	Mike Tonking
1952	* Ernest Hunt	1992	Gunter Von Schumann (Namibia)	2015	Richard Stroud (UK)
1952	* Andrew Watson	1993	* Dr Gerrit H Jonkers	2016	Prof Alex Visser
1953	* Bertram R L Fox	1993	Howard Green	2016	Paul van Zeyl
1954	* William N Sheffield	1994	* Wilhelm Grütter	2018	Dr Nic Zerbst
1955	* John H H Chamberlain	1994	Dr JR (Achi) Frank (UK)	2018	Lars Jørgenson (Belgium)
1956	* William (Willie) Newlands	1995	* Dr Alan Drysdall (UK)	2019	Roger Porter
1956	* Thomas B Davie	1996	* David Stern	2020	Dr Chris Board (UK) (who is yet to sign)
1957	* S J (Jack) Hagger	1997	* Philippa McIntosh	2020	André du Plessis
1958	* Leo Buchen *	1997	Colin M Hoffman (UK)		
1959	* Thomas (Tom) Butland Berry	1998	Jill D Redmond		
1959	* Cdr Cyril Emil Delgado Enoch	1998	Dr Gerhard Kamffer		
1960	* Milton Frederick Stern				
1963	* I H Charles Godfrey				
1965	* Jonas M Michelson				
1966	Max Peisach (Israel)				
1967	* Jack Emil Crewell				
1968	* W G Combrink				
1968	* Jesse Manfred Weinstein				
1969	* A Leslie Leon				
1970	* Gustav Bülbring				
1970	* Ken EW Lydall				
1971	* Albert (Bert) L Meyburgh				
1971	* Vivian F Ellenberger				
1972	* John T (Jack) Burrell				



2020 CONGRESS

Newly Appointed Treasurer of Federation Derek Roth



With the Congress announcement of the appointment of a new PFSA Treasurer, we welcome Derek Roth who has succeeded Andrew Fisher.

Derek is also the Treasurer of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society and has been a member of that Society for over 11 years.

For the many years that Andrew Fischer served as the PFSA Treasurer, our heartfelt thanks are extended to him for his services to Federation.

We wish both every success with their new responsibilities.



National Philatelic Exhibition
Exposition Philatélique Nationale

CANPEX 2021 National Virtual One Frame Philatelic Exhibition Canada. April 7-30, 2021

from David McLaughlin.

david.mclaughlin@rogers.com

Organised by the CANPEX Exhibition organisation and hosted by the Middlesex Stamp Club, London, Ontario Canada, this exhibition will be held on-line at www.canpex.ca from 7-30 April 2021 and is open to individual collectors both from Canada and other countries.

Exhibitors from the South African Philatelic Federation have been invited to participate in the CANPEX 2021 National Virtual One Frame Virtual Exhibition. The regulations and the on-line entry form are both on the www.canpex.ca website. The deadline for applications is 8 March 2021 and the deadline for exhibit scan submissions is 29 March 2021. Inquiries, applications and submission of exhibit scans and fees should be made directly with CANPEX as outlined in the exhibition prospectus, however, David McLaughlin, RPSC International Liaison Officer is also prepared to answer any questions that you may have.

IN MEMORIAM

JAPIE DE VOS

16.9.1945 – 25.12.2020



Dit is met groot hartseer dat *Die Posboom Filatelie Vereniging van Mosselbaai* afskeid neem van ons voorsitter, Japie de Vos, wat op 25 Desember 2020 weens Covid-19-verwante oorsake, gesterf het.

Japie is 'n oud-Bloemfonteiner wat in sy jong dae saam met sy identiese tweeling broer, Francois, vir Vrystaat rugby gepeel het. Hy was 'n dosent in Bybelkunde aan die destydse Bloemfonteinse Onderwyskollege en was vir geruime tyd 'n omroeper by 'n plaaslike radiostasie in Bloemfontein. In 2000 het hy saam met sy vrou, Minda, na Hartenbos verhuis en het hy later by *Die Posboom Filatelie Vereniging* aangesluit.

Japie sal nie net as gematigde leier en voorsitter van *Die Posboom Filatelie Vereniging* onthou word nie, maar ook as toegewyde gelowige en entoesiastiese filatelis. Hy het die wêreld van filatelie aan sy kleinseun, Shaun Boshoff, bekend gestel. Dit het daartoe gelei dat Shaun 'n Junior lid van ons vereniging geword het wat met groot sukses aan JUNASS deelgeneem het. Japie het verskeie filateliese temas versamel en het in die laaste maande ywerig gewerk aan 'n uitstalling oor Bybelse verhale van die Ou Testament. Hy was vir ons as lede 'n lojale vriend, sy heengaan is vir ons 'n groot verlies. Ons innige meegevoel gaan aan sy vrou Minda, Shaun, sy kinders en die res van sy familie.

Sy plek in *Die Posboom Vereniging* sal leeg wees, ons gaan hom mis.

- Gerrie Conradie

TOTSIENS DUP!



Ons neem met 'n swaar hart afskeid van Bernard du Plessis lid van die Port Elizabeth en Stilbaai Filatelie Verenigings wat op 18.12. 2020 oolede is.

Bernard Leigh du Plessis, 'n gebore Vrystater, het sy regsopleiding aan die Universiteit van Natal voltooi. Daarna praktiseer hy as Prokureur, Notaris en Akteutmaker in Betlehem en Alberton. In 1996 het hy en sy eggenote in Stilbaai afgetree.

Op tienjarige ouderdom het hy 'n skoolseun-versameling van seëls as 'n projek by die 'Boy Scouts' gemaak. Dit het stadig begin en geleidelik het hy hom begin toespits op Kaapse Driehoek en 'n baie volledige versameling as erfenis aan sy kinders nagelaat.

Later het sy perspektief verskif na Boereoorlog filatelie. Hy het die verloop van die oorlog aan beide kante deur middel van posgeskiedenis uitgebeeld met 'n versameling van sowat 5 900 items. In 2012 het hy man-alleen 353 rame in die Kasteel in Kaapstad uitgestal. Altesaam 26 Boeke van sy versameling is in privaat en beperkte formaat gepubliseer waarvan die laaste name van 35 919 Boerekrygsgevangenes bevat, ge-illustreer met die koeverte van krygsgevangenes.

Toe die Stilbaai Filatelie-vereniging in 2018 gestig is, het ons nie besef watter uiters kundige en legendariese persoon ons hier in Stilbaai gehad het nie. Ons het hom mettertyd leer ken en hy het telkens ons asem weggeslaan as hy ons een van sy versamelings gewys het.

Benewens die Kaapse driehoek, oorblyfsels van sy Boere-oorlog versameling, die Zeppelins was hy ook trots op sy '*Land of our Forefathers*' (Israel) en '*From Persia with Love*' (Iran/ Irak omgewing) – beide twee kosbare versamelings.

Dup, ons groet jou met heimwee, respek en spyt dat ons nie meer van jou geleer het nie! Dankie vir die voorbeeld van uitnemendheid en nederigheid wat jy vir ons nagelaat het!

Ons innige meegevoel gaan aan sy kinders, familie en vriende. Rus in vrede.

- Karel Nel

Postmarks – some skeletons in the closet and the question of rarity

by Sean Burke, Rhodesian Study Circle



Many philatelists are drawn to the collection and study of postmarks. A mint stamp has a 'story'; a stamp with a postmark or cancel (whichever is your term) has that story and much more. It takes us into the romance that surrounds the postal history of the particular country in question. *The South African Philatelist* is blessed with the regular contributions that are made by Alex Visser RDPSA. They are endlessly interesting and demonstrate the almost never-ending possibilities to study. My contribution here is but a small token of appreciation for all who, like Alex, encourage us to wander in this space.

I operate in the Rhodesia and Nyasaland (now Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe) area. Early on I became enchanted by that most beautiful of issues, the 1910 - 1913 Double Head issue. However, it did not take me long to realise that collecting in this field was well beyond my pocket!

'Why not try the postmarks on the issue?', I was asked, and so I did. Although the prices commanded for postmarks in the area now have reached levels which are frightening. A few years ago, a postcard with a rare cancel realised over €3,000!

As my interest grew, I was drawn into the postmarks on the next Rhodesian issue, the 1913-1925 Admirals. I was also very fortunate to collaborate with some most knowledgeable philatelists: Paul Peggie (Australia), Jenifer Barry (now South Africa, formerly from Zimbabwe), Stephen Reah-Johnson (USA), Bob Gibbs (USA) and Arnie Brickman (USA), in publishing three books on the postmarks on these issues.

Concurrently, I also came together with the late Don Napier (Australia) and Ronnie Winchester (Australia) to produce a book on Double Head bi-colours (2d value and above) on cover. In this particular article, I just want to reflect a bit on the so-called 'Skeleton' cancels on the Double Head issue.

The late Don Mitchell from KwaZulu Natal was the pre-eminent authority on this subject. He tells us that these datestamps were for temporary use while new post offices were awaiting the arrival of their 'postal requisites', or waiting for existing datestamps to be repaired, replaced or superseded. They were issued on request by the Post Office in Salisbury with the proviso that they were to be returned when no longer needed.

These skeletons came with a limited supply of type, twelve spaces for the town name, one space for a code letter, two spaces for each of the day, month and year and S. RHODESIA at the foot.

Thus we find 'Beatrice Mine' making use of its full allocation of spaces as one word while other longer names like Bulawayo Station, North Melssetter and Victoria Falls required abbreviation. In the cases of Antelope and Shamrock each

elected to use M as an initial for Mine and so on.

The limitations and durability of these datestamps and the many problems associated therewith are amply illustrated in this issue; we hasten to add that these difficulties were not confined to the skeletons and can be found in several other single circle datestamps, noteworthy examples being the problems of the smaller SC (Single Circle Cancellor) of Figtree and the outlandish adventures of the Shangani SC! A good case in point would be the REGD BULAWAYO skeleton which reveals numerous problems and disputes relative to its use. Firstly there is the question of the initial date of use of this datestamp; both Mitchell and Hoyte state this to be 11 AP 13 whereas we have seen no evidence of its use prior to August and rather suspect that the date should be 11 AU and not 11 AP. This canceller appears to have started life in its dm (day/month) setting which was

short-lived and therefore considerably more rare than its subsequent md (month/day) setting; in this regard we have had an unusual piece of luck! We have a fine strike on a 3d dated 3 SE/13 and another fine strike on a 6d dated SE 4/13 clearly establishing the date of the transition from dm to md which was to remain unaltered thereafter. Mitchell gives the final date of use as DE 13/13 and Hoyte has it at DE 19/13. There is reason to believe that this skeleton may well have endured a more arduous life at the Bulawayo Registration Counter than those at the more obscure outposts.

The defective Y was problematic from the outset and the datestamp seemed to hold up through late October and into early November but the subsequent wear and tear led to serious

degradation and illegible dates and even apparently missing dates. Despite this, two philatelic covers to a German dealer dated NO 28/13 show the datestamp to be in good order at a late date.

A few thoughts about rarity

Now a word about rarity which can generate a bit of passion and certainly drives the market. The issue of rarity is fraught with complexities, variables and so many unknowns that Donald Rumsfeld immediately comes to mind: "...reports that say that something hasn't happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know there are some things we do not know".

A cancel or post mark might be rare because a particular canceller was only in use for a short period of time or because that post office or postal agency was only open for a short period of time. When you consider rarity on a particular issue (say for example this Double



Fig.1: Some examples of the Skeleton cancels on Double Heads: Antelope Mine and Gothic Mine.



Fig.2: Examples of the Registered Bulawayo Skeleton - month/day, day/ month and missing 'Y' in BULAWAYO (Top Left).

Head Issue) you introduce a yet another time factor. For example, the 'Marandellas' Double Circle canceller only came into existence in 1914, so is relatively more scarce on Double Heads, but much more common on later issues. And there are other factors that collectors consider when talking about rarity: the use of different coloured ink, errors caused by postal officials (dates or lettering upside down or missing) and so forth. I have even seen on Rhodesian cancels the postal official using MEI instead of MAY - someone with a Dutch/Afrikaans background. Rare cancels on covers or card have increased value. I am conscious that I am only scratching the surface, but I hope you get

some idea. H.C. Dann in 1940 first published *Romance of the Posts of Rhodesia, British Central Africa and Nyasaland*. It is indeed a 'romance'.

Thanks: Over the years many members of the Rhodesian Study Circle have shared their collections so that we have been able to development a fuller picture of this particular area of study.

References:

- Proud, E.B., *The Postal History of Southern Rhodesia*.
- Smith, R.C., *Rhodesia, A Postal History*.
- Dann, H., *Romance of the Posts of Rhodesia, British Central Africa and Nyasaland and the Cancellations of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland*.
- Barry, Jon and Jenifer, *The Postmarks of Rhodesia 1888 – 1980*.
- Hoyte, H., and Lashbrook, J., *South of the Zambesi*.
- *Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*.
- Calder, W. F., *Rhodesian Post Offices*.
- Gibbs, R.M., Brickman, A., Burke, S., *Postmarks on the 1910-1913 Double Head Issue*
- Gibbs, R.M., Barry, Jenifer, Reah-Johnson, S., Burke, S., *Postmarks on the Rhodesia 1913-1925 'Admiral' Issue*.
- Napier, D.M., Winchester, R., Burke, S., *Rhodesia 1910-1913 'Double Heads' on Cover – the 2d value and above*.
- Burke, S., Reah-Johnson, S., Barry, J., *Memoir 16: Postmarks on the 1910-1913 Double-heads and their rarity*.

VISIT DOREEN ROYAN & ASSOCIATES AT THE 2021 *VIRTUAL* INTERNATIONAL STAMP SHOW

STAMPEX[®]

INTERNATIONAL

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION 2021

25 - 27 MARCH 2021

BUY | SELL | LEARN

EXPLORE | NETWORK | SHOWCASE

Sign up for the show at

www.stampex.vfairs.com

@ptsandstampex

presented by

Philatelic Traders' SOCIETY LTD

Doreen Royan & Associates (Pty) Ltd
Fine Postage Stamps (Established 1982)

Tel: + 27 11 706 1920
www.doreenroyan.com
royan@icon.co.za

SPECIALIST IN RARITIES, ERRORS AND VARIETIES

OFFICIAL MAIL OF THE COLONY OF NATAL

by Roger Porter RDPSA, Cape and Natal Study Circle



The practice of exempting government officers from paying postage on all letters sent or received that were of an official, often of a highly confidential government matter, had been authorised in the Cape Colony from September 1795 (Goldblatt 1984). The exemption also applied to letters from military and naval officials. To distinguish such mail from ordinary mail sent by private citizens it was usually marked 'On His/Her Majesty's Service'. It is suggested that the marking of official mail in this way was to highlight the importance of such mail to the postal authorities so that it would not be taxed, receive priority over all other mail, and possibly that they would take greater care in the handling and transmitting such correspondence.

of circa 1851-1857 period from Ladysmith to Pietermaritzburg endorsed 'On Her Majesty's Service'. It is apparent that postage was not paid. However postage of 7d was prepaid on a 1852 - 1857 'On Her Majesty's Service' wrapper (undated) from Pietermaritzburg addressed to Cape Town (Fig.2) endorsed 'Official / MH' [MH = initials of M Hine], Colonial Secretary and with the seal of that office. Thus official mail was free of postage charges within the Colony of Natal (Fig.3) but postage had to be prepaid on mail sent to the Cape Colony.

The 1863 Post Office Regulations

The Post Office Regulations of 1863 included 26 officials occupying posts in several departments who were authorised to send and receive letters free of postage (Natal Almanac, 1864). The Notice took the form of a published list of official departmental posts where the incumbent occupying the post was granted authorisation by the Postmaster General and would therefore not be charged postage.

To ensure that the system would not be abused it was required by the 1865 Regulations that official letters which may be written or printed were to be inscribed with 'On Her Majesty's Service' (Fig.4) and signed by the authorised official.

It was therefore considered necessary to certify official government mail. Government departments provided envelopes with 'ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE' printed on the front.



Fig.1: 1851-1857 'On Her Majesty's Service' undated wrapper cancelled POST OFFICE / LADYSMITH to the Surveyor General, Pietermaritzburg.



Fig.2: (at left) 1852 - 1857 undated wrapper addressed to Cape Town, with PREPAID cachet, endorsed '7' and 'Official / MH'. The cover carries the seal of the Colonial Secretary, Natal, M. Hine, and is cancelled POST OFFICE / P M BURG (ex Klugman).

However, it became necessary to restrict the privilege of free postage. People other than authorised officials often thought that they were entitled, when writing letters to a government official, to endorse it 'O.H.M.S.' and send it unfranked.

The Cape Colony's system of administering official government mail was adopted by the Natal postal authorities from the earliest times of its establishment in the 1850s. Figure 1 is of an undated wrapper



Fig.3: Entire dated Nov 12 1860 at Ladysmith written by Alfred Simons, Agent, to the Master Supreme Court, Pietermaritzburg, on a matter of a deceased estate. The cover is endorsed 'On H. M. Service'.



Fig.4: 1865 entire dated at the Surveyor General's Office, December 6th 1865' to Durban endorsed 'OHMS' and signed at bottom left 'R J Fennimore / SG. Office'. Cancelled Pietermaritzburg DEC 6 1865 and on arrival DEC 7 1865.

Usually the British Coat of Arms was embossed or printed on the flap. Some departments notably the Treasury Department, Master of the Supreme Court, Postal, and Natal Government Railways had such stationery with the name of the department printed at the bottom left of the envelope (Fig.5).

The Postal Convention of 1 January 1898.

The two British Colonies and two Boer Republics (referred to as the Postal Union) agreed to various measures to rationalise the postal system operating within the Postal Union. In Article 14 they agreed that official letters and documents emanating from civil or military departments of any country in the union should, when duly franked by an authorised officer, of such department as on public service, be transmitted to any place within the Union free of charge.



Fig.5: 1888 A 'printed notice to creditors' with ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE and Master, Supreme Court printed on the front, and certified by the sender. Cancelled G P O 28 11 88 and arrival Colenso 9 11 [88].

Given the agreements contained in the Postal Convention as well as the growth and increase in size of the public service it became necessary to put in place revised postal regulations. The approach of the Post Office was to define four categories of officials who would be entitled to the free-franking privilege. The categories and extensive lists of the posts and the departments were published in the 1899 Post Office Regulations. The categories were:

- (i) Governor of Natal. The Natal Governor could send and receive any letter, including personal correspondence, free of postage. This privilege had been in effect from at least 1872 (Fig.6).

- (ii) Ministers and high ranking officials of Departments. Selected Ministers, Heads of Departments, selected military officers, and some senior officials could send and receive letters on government matters on the service of Her Majesty the Queen free of postage (Fig.7).

- (iii) Other officials of Departments. Selected senior officials were restricted to only send letters on government matters on the service of Her Majesty the Queen free of postage (Fig.8).

- (iv) Natal Government Gazette. The regulations required that the gazette be enclosed in an O.H.M.S. cover, open at both ends, with the title and imprint of the printer (Fig.9).



Fig.6: 1910 unstamped cover cancelled Durban MY 13 10 with initials of Lord Methuen, Governor of Natal, addressed to his wife in Cape Town and received 17 MY 10.



Fig.7: 1901 cover cancelled Ladysmith 25 JY 1901 with cachet of 'Staff Officer' for Prisoners of War, Ladysmith' dated 24 JUL 1901, endorsed 'FREE', with initials G J W.

Mail having no stamps and endorsed O.H.M.S. that was not in compliance with the regulations was treated as unpaid by the Post Office and was taxed accordingly. The unstamped cover illustrated in Fig.10 to Pietermaritzburg was from a member of the Natal Police who was not authorised by the P M G to use the free franking privilege.

Edward VII stamps overprinted 'OFFICIAL'

By 1903 the free-franking system had grown too large and the Post Office could no longer operate it effectively. A proposal to overprint 'OFFICIAL' on the 1904 King Edward VII stamps was adopted in March 1904 (Trotter 2004). De La Rue Co. overprinted the ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d and 1s stamps (Fig.11). Heads of Departments were made responsible for the control, distribution and use of the overprinted stamps. To obtain a supply they were required to make application for the stamps to the Chief Accountant GPO and were to only issue these to authorised persons. Such authority to frank letters with the overprinted stamps was restricted to the Governor and staff, ministers, judges, some Legislative



Fig.8: 1904 Natal Government Railways / O. H. M. S. cover endorsed by the Station Master Noodsberg Road Rail, cancelled FE 1 04.

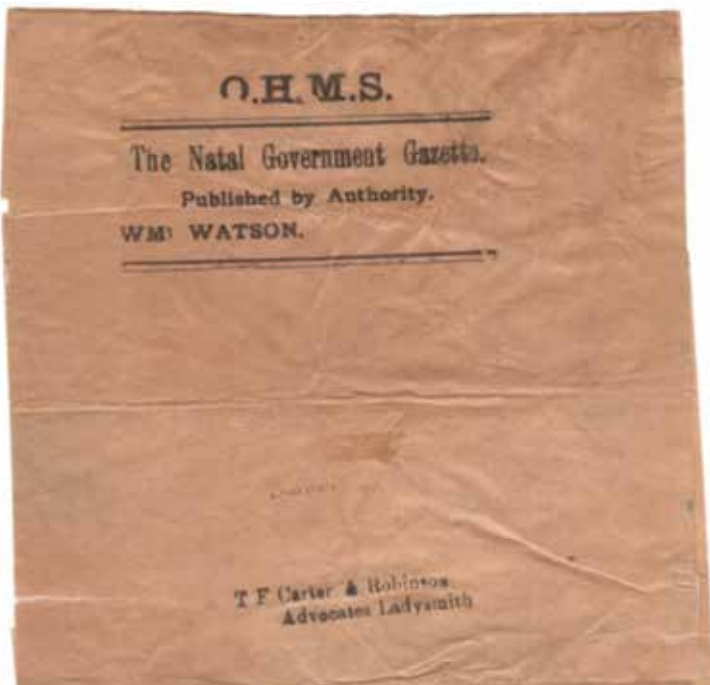


Fig.9: 1900 wrapper printed O.H.M.S. / The Natal Government Gazette. Published by Authority, WM Watson., addressed to Ladysmith.

Council members, Heads of civil and military Departments. The use of hand-stamps with the designation of the department or official was to continue. Officials travelling on duty were to take with them franked O.H.M.S. envelopes; plain envelopes were to be discontinued. These regulations became effective in January 1905 (Fig.12).

However fourteen months later, C. Bird, the Principal Under Secretary informed Heads of Departments that the supply of 'Official' postage stamps was to be discontinued as a result of abuse that had come to the attention of the Post Office.



Fig.10: 1896 O.H.M.S. cover without stamps cancelled Charlestown, signed at bottom left by a sergeant in the Natal Police, addressed to a private business in Pietermaritzburg was not in compliance with the regulations and was taxed 2d.



Fig.11: Piece with 1d to 1s 'OFFICIAL' overprinted stamps cancelled Registered Durban JA 26 ?.

Given the government's rigorous control measures, private persons could not obtain unused copies of these overprinted stamps. But mint stamps including multiples had leaked out (Fig.13).

What ensued was an investigation involving the Agent General for Natal in London, the police, and the firm Colonial Stamp Market Ltd., London. The Natal Postmaster General confirmed that no stamps overprinted OFFICIAL had ever been sold. Therefore unused stamps in private possession must have been stolen (Trotter 2004). The Agent General placed an advert in philatelic journals circulating to stamp dealers and collectors in Britain, informing them that the mint overprinted Edward stamps of Natal had been stolen, and they were warned against dealing in them.

Criminal Investigation undertaken

The Criminal Investigation Officer in his report to the Natal Treasurer General found that in many cases government officials had substituted ordinary stamps for the Official stamps and had disposed of the overprinted stamps to some dealers. The principal buyer in England had worked through an agent in Durban. Thus, the Natal Government had not suffered a monetary loss.

Although these official stamps had been issued to subordinate



All remaining stocks of these stamps held by the Post Office were used up by the Natal Government Railways (Fig.14) until at least May 1907 (Trotter 2004).

When the stock of these stamps was almost exhausted the Natal Government Railways perforated ordinary stamps 'NGR' as a measure to stop pilfering. However it is ironic that unused quantities of these perfin stamps including multiples came onto the market and found their way into privately owned stamp collections (Fig.15). There is no evidence of any investigation, criminal or otherwise, of this matter.

Fig.12: 1905 O.H.M.S. cover with embossed British Coat of Arms being stationery from Government House, Natal, and 1d OFFICIAL overprinted stamp cancelled Durban FE 23 05.

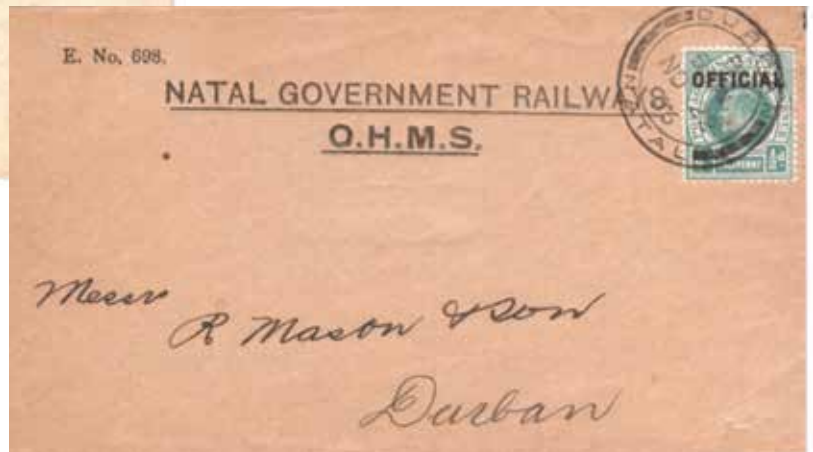


Fig.14: 1906 Natal Government Railways O.H.M.S. cover cancelled Durban NO 22 06, addressed locally.

staff and leakages were quite possible, the chance of detection was considered to be very slight. In December 1907 and in view that the system of official stamps had failed, the Natal Government decided not to pursue the matter any further and also that it would no longer issue official stamps in future. Collectors may owe at least some small debt to those officials for supplying unused stamps to the market (Trotter 2004).



Fig.15: Block of mint stamps with perfin 'N G R' and 'N G R' reversed.



Fig.13: Mint 6d and 1s blocks of the OFFICIAL overprinted stamps of the 1904 King Edward VII issue.

References.

- Goldblatt R. 1984. *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*. Reijger Publishers, Cape Town.
- Hart WR, BA Kantey & A Leslie Leon 1970. *The Postal Markings of Natal*. Creda Press.
- Trotter B. 2004. *The Edwardian Stamps of the South African Colonies*. James Bendon, Limasol, Cyprus.

AN EDITORIAL MENTION

You are invited to request a copy of the BILL BARRELL Ltd latest list, number '159 or the new 160' - "We would be happy to send copies to any of your readers whom may request one". The 159 list offers an exceptional selection of GB covers and stamps from 1574 to 1996, all items accurately described and illustrated in colour. The list includes very fine early postal history, pre stamp hand stamps and rates, and details about an exceptional study of 1d black plate 6 now available to collectors. Also on offer is an excellent section of the Mulready envelope and wrapper, excellent 2d blues, all aspects of the well known GB 1d red, commercial usages from all reigns, cancellations, rarities and much to interest the collector. Prices from £1.50 to £7500.00.



Remember to visit us at the UK Virtual Stampex this March (25-27)

Please also review the advertised details for number 160 on page 5.

A SUPERB LIST OFFERING AN EXTRAORDINARY VARIETY OF GB ITEMS 1574 to 1996 priced from £5.00 to £7500.00

Bill Barrell Ltd.
Dealer in the postage stamps and postal history of Great Britain
www.barrell.co.uk



MORE *Weird and* Wonderfuls

by Alan Rose, 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.

Reading the article by David Wigston in *The SAP*, December 2020 issue, on stamps made from alternative materials reminded me that stamps are not the only everyday items which have appeared in different guises. At the height of their popularity in the first decades of the 20th century, picture postcards also appeared in a variety of unusual materials. Keen competition encouraged publishers to look beyond the normal selection of views, pretty girls, flowers, animals and celebrities for their subject matter, and to find a little extra something to make their cards more unusual and attractive to the buying public. The result was a plethora of novelty cards of one form or another. These included appliqué, mechanical, hold-to-light, gramophone, crossword and squeaking cards, extra large and very small ones, and a whole variety of other amusing concoctions. Among these were inevitably cards of alternative materials. However, like most gimmicks, many were short lived novelties limited either by practical considerations or Post Office regulations.

Leather cards of deer hide, were a singular American innovation appearing from 1903 - 1907, Fig.1. They never appealed to the European market. Designs were simple, often comic, and produced initially by pyrography (poker-work with added colouring). Most had undivided backs with little facility for messages. By 1907, leather cards were banned by the USPS as stamp adhesion was not good and the inherent flexibility made handling slow and difficult. By contrast they were very popular with the ladies as they could be sewn together with slim leather thongs to make excellent, hard-wearing cushion covers.



Fig.1.

Again from America, **wooden cards** made an appearance at the 1904 St Louis World Fair, Fig.2. Thin veneers, 0.5mm, of Cyprus or maple wood were commonly used. Early European cards had the address side format applied by a rubber stamp, but later cards were paperbacked and printed normally. Use is world-wide with publishers in Russia, Germany and Japan as well as the USA.

Celluloid materials, compounds of nitro-cellulose and camphor, appeared in the late 19th century and were promoted initially as an alternative to ivory for billiard



Fig.2.



Fig.2.

balls, dressing table accessories and other applications. For postcards, translucent sheets were given hand-painted designs, typically flowers and birds, often enhanced with appliqué additions, Fig.3.

Unfortunately some grades were subject to ageing by ultraviolet light and became brittle.

Further, surfaces were difficult to write on necessitating a backing paper on the reverse. The high degree of flammability with the possibility of self-ignition at temperatures above 150° was a major drawback. (Think of the flammability of celluloid movie film prior to the advent of acrylics in the 1950s.)

Fig.3.





Fig.4.

A peculiarly Irish novelty is the manufacture of cards from **peat, or bog moss**, Fig.4. The early cards of 1904, published by the Callendar Paper Mills from peat extracted from the Bog of Allen, west of Dublin.

Unfortunately the colour is dark brown and when printed with black line illustrations, the results are not attractive. Though cards may be coloured, writing and addresses are not easy to read, and the cards are really only of novelty value for the tourist trade.

With modern technology, white peat paper is available but is used primarily for business stationery: wedding invitations, Christmas and business cards. No postcards have been reported.



Fig.4.



Fig.5. Portugal, as the principal producer of **cork** worldwide, has expanded the use of this material into many domestic applications, including postcards, Fig.5. Italy is another producer. Initial designs were monotone and decidedly unexciting, being confined to local rural scenes. Modern cards are available in full colour and compete well with conventional cards particularly in tourist resorts.

Metallic cards, notably **aluminium**, were made of 0.05mm foil and offered in a smooth or brushed aluminium finish, Fig.6. Images were often applied photographically. Though popular with the public, the life of these cards was short as postal authorities claimed that they marked and damaged other mail.



Fig.6.

Consequently, all such cards carried an admonition that 'THIS CARD MUST BE SENT UNDER COVER ONLY' necessitating the use of the 1d letter rate. With further restrictions limiting correspondence to 'complimentary terms only', the whole *raison d'être* of the postcard as a cheaper means of communication than the letter was defeated. Publishers responded by offering silver-finish cards such as Tuck's Silverette and Palatine's Alumina series which resembled the metallic finish.

Although not strictly an alternative material, the **woven silk cards** which followed the hand embroidered cards so popular in WWI, were a significant improvement on the original woven cards from Krefeld, Germany in 1898.



Fig.7.

Improved technology produced fine, high-quality pictures suitable for use on postcards, Fig.7. War scenes were popular, particularly with French publishers, but realistic and detailed illustrations of more conventional topics from British sources followed.

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1961

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society



Part 1: An Overview of all the Elements as Part of the Post Office System

When paging through the 25th Anniversary Issue of the RSA Stamp Study Group Newsletter published in 2007, one realises that the RSA Post Office is providing an opportunity for a wide range of fields of collecting. This was also the experience of the author in collecting, especially the postal history and related material of the RSA over the last 40 years. In articles to follow, the Post Office system will be explored from a philatelic point of view.

Introduction

The Republic of South Africa (RSA) was formed on 31 May 1961, superceded Colonial administrations, this had a huge impact on the stamps and other related philatelic material issued.

Within the fields of philately, South Africa is one of the most interesting modern countries to collect. The various Post Office Guides issued over the years confirm that South Africa had a very sophisticated and up to standard postal system. The Post Office also provided a variety of services to the public (see diagram illustrated as Table 1).

In an article published in *The Springbok* magazine in August 2017, Hugh Amoore RDPSA of Cape Town wrote an article about the 2nd RSA 'De Jongh' Definitive Series, confirming what an exciting field of collecting the stamps of the RSA could be. He indicated that this series issued on 20 November 1974 and replaced on the 27 May 1977 by the 3rd definitive series may be the least studied. Despite also being the least collected, the designs are attractive, the production processes are of considerable interest, the stamps being well produced and the series offering some philatelic challenges for the serious collector. This indicates that the RSA has numerous unexplored areas of collecting.

Further from an Open Philately point of view where this category seeks to broaden the range of exhibiting, and to allow philatelists to include items from other collecting fields in support of, and in order to develop an understanding of the philatelic material shown, the RSA is providing the perfect opportunity to potential collectors.

In a series of articles planned for the rest of the year about the RSA Post Office, the focus will be on Postal History and the implementation of the different regulations of the PO systems in the RSA since 1961. The author will also attempt to focus on a number of the RSA's unusual potential philatelic fields.

The different elements of the postal system in the RSA under control of the Postmaster General

- *Administration Control and Functioning*: The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications is the political head of the Department. He is responsible to report back to

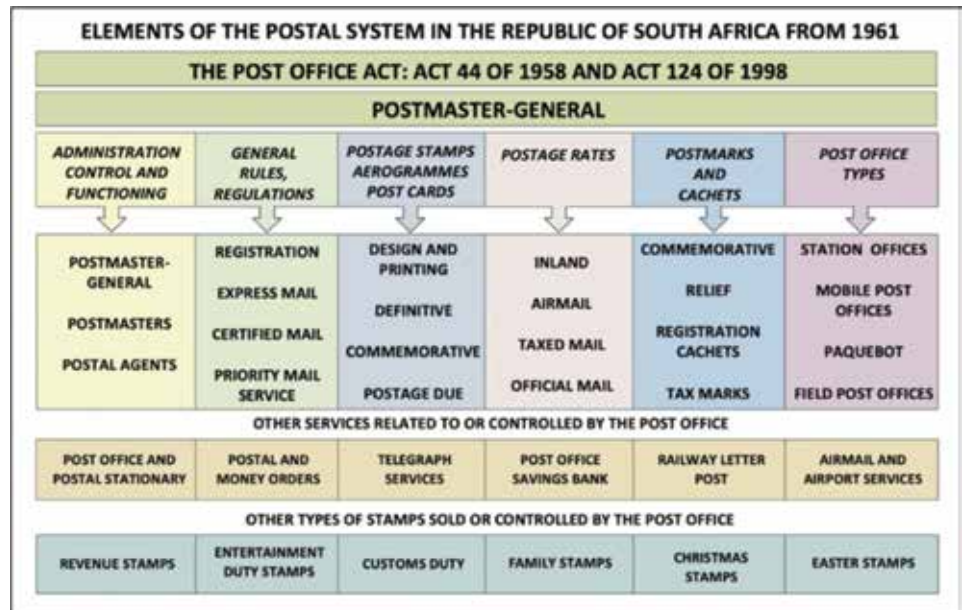


Table.1: Diagram summarising some of the functions performed as part of the South African Post Office. This diagram is also indicative of the potential fields of collecting in the RSA from a philatelic point of view.

Parliament on an annual basis on the performance of the Post Office. The Minister appoints a Postmaster General (PMG) who reports directly to him (Fig.1).

Under Section 7 of the Post Office Act the PMG has the exclusive privilege of receiving, collecting, dispatching, conveying and delivering letters and performing all incidental services relating thereto.

To achieve this goal, the PMG appoints postmasters all over the country to act on his behalf. Postmasters were appointed on a decentralised basis to take responsibility to provide postal services in a specific city, town or region (Fig.2). Postal agencies are established in certain rural areas or newly developed areas where there is a requirement to provide postal services. Postal Agents report back to their specific Head Office postmaster.

- *General Rules and Regulations*: Based on information provided in the Post Office Guides that are issued on an annual basis, provision is made for a number of interesting aspects that can be collected as part of the post office system (Table 1). For example, under general rules and regulations one could considerate on mail matter for delivery at hotels and clubs, the treatment of insufficiently prepaid postal items and the use of labels or stickers on postal items. Furthermore, the different types of services provided by the Post Office are also described for example: Registered Mail, Express Mail Service (Fig.3), Business Reply Service,



Fig.1: Official cover addressed in 1979 to the 'Minister van Pos en Telekommunikasie' Mr H.H. Smit. Agricultural Parcel Post, Cash on Delivery Service, Insured Parcel Service and Rail Letter Post, etc. The Post Office even issued a set of stamps during the National Stamp Week in 1994 to advertise some of its services (Fig.4).

• *Postage Stamps, Aerogrammes and Postcards:* Since 1961, the RSA has issued a number of stamps starting with the First Definitive Series, which was in use from 1961 to 1974. Various commemorative stamps have also been issued throughout the years. These are issued with special commemorative covers and specially designed datestamps. All of these has been studied and are well documented in catalogues and various publications.



Fig.2: Back of a cheque signed by the Postmaster of Greylingstad in Mpumalanga with the Post Office cachet as well as the Greylingstad datestamp 17 September 1963.

What makes all of this very exciting from a philatelic point of view, is that various kinds of imported paper have been used for the printing of these stamps. The initial stamps were printed on paper with the Coat of Arms watermark. Subsequently, paper without the watermark was used, followed by watermarked paper with the letters RSA arranged in a triangular frame. The same watermark later appeared in a tête bêche form in the stamp paper (Fig.5).

With the interest also in postal stationery (aerogrammes and post cards) from a collectors point of view, Danie van Zyl recently published a series of books of which 'The Easy Guide to the Aerogrammes of the Republic of South Africa' and 'The Easy Guide to the Postcards of the Republic of South Africa' are very helpful guides for non-specialist collectors.

Postage rates

A characteristic of the postal rates of the RSA is the fact that the rates stayed the same from 14 February 1961 to 1 April 1971. The reasons for the change were that the Post Office changed over to the metric system on 1 April 1971 and the adoption of a new Universal Postal Union Convention on 1 July 1972. From this period onwards the rates have normally been changed on 1 April every year, which is the beginning of the financial year.

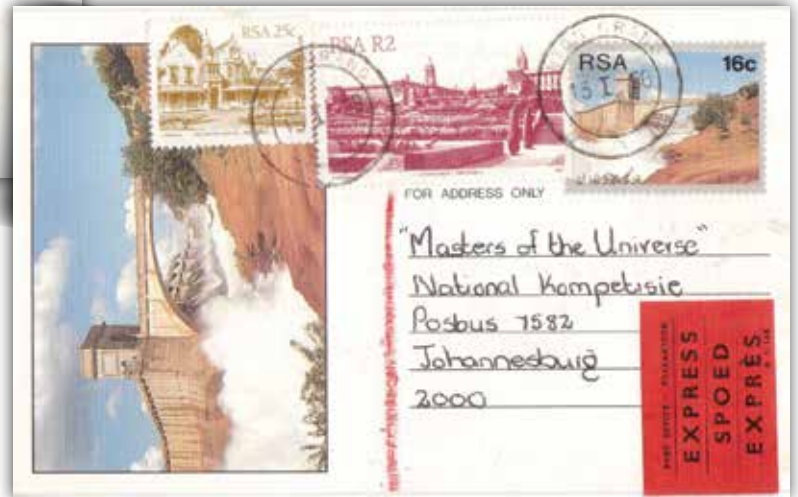


Fig.3: Postcard posted from Linton Grange to Johannesburg on 13 January 1988 using the Express Mail Service; The R2-41 postage pays the Express Mail fee of R2-25 introduced on 1 July 1987 plus the 16c postcard rate applicable at that time.



Fig.4: Proof of a stamp (left) with the issued stamp with R1-15 value (right) advertising the Express Mail Service. The airmail rate for letters per 10g to Canada, Hong Kong, Pakistan, USA, Japan and India was R1-15 introduced on 1 April 1994.

An interesting exception to the rule were the changes in postal rates in 1994. It was announced by the Post Office in March 1994 that the postage on standard mail would not be increased before August 1994. That was the South African Post Office's contribution to communication during South Africa's first democratic election. Therefore, the increase for standard mail only became effective from Monday 1 August 1994 from 45c to 50c.

• *Postmarks and Cachets:* As indicated by Dr. T.B. Berry: "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."

As Hasso Reisener stated, postmarks or cancellations serve several important purposes. One is to mark or cancel a stamp affixed to a letter to prevent re-usage to the detriment of Post

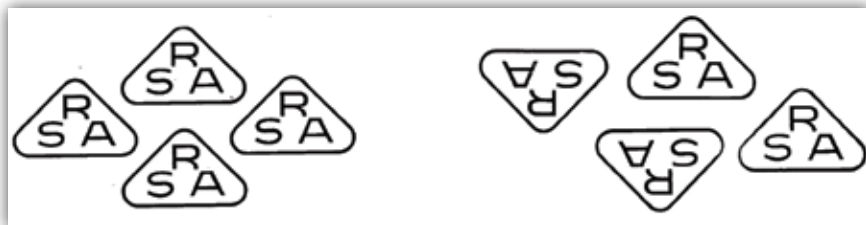


Fig.5: Examples of some of the watermarks in the paper used for the printing of the first Definitive series.

Office revenue. Postmarks with place names have been used for centuries, and in the case of the RSA the variety of postmarks and cachets used provides Postal History collectors with an exciting field of collecting.

• **Post Office Types:** A variety of different types of Post Offices are also in operation in the RSA, for example: Mobile Post Offices, Field Post Offices and Shipping Postmasters Offices. All this provides an opportunity to build an interesting collection (Figs.6 & 7).



Fig.6: Registered cover posted from Mobile Post Office no. 24 located in the Strand in the Cape, dated 1 December 1971.

Other services related to or controlled by the Post Office

• **Post Office Savings Bank:** The Post Office Savings Bank transacts business at money order offices in the RSA, and encourages the public to save Loan Certificates where National Savings Stamps could be applied and were issued. This was later extended to School Savings Clubs where savings stamps could be applied to stamp cards (Fig.8).

• **Railway Letter Post:** Articles having postage stamps affixed to them to the value of the postage payable under the General Regulations of the Post Office and additional stamps to pay for the rail-letter fee, are accepted at any railway station within the RSA for conveyance by the next available passenger or mixed train to any railway station in the RSA, Botswana or SWA (Fig.9).

• **Airport Services or Aerodrome Mail:** This was a unique service provided to the public at some of the main airports whereby letters could be handed in to the Airport Post Office on the payment of an additional fee 2 hours before departure of the flight. The airport fee was in addition to the normal postage fee. The additional fee was introduced on 14 February 1961 and this service is still applicable (Fig.10).

Other types of stamps sold or controlled by the Post Office

• **Family, Christmas and Easter Stamps:** Although not valid for prepayment of postage, all these so called 'charity stamps' or 'cinderellas' have some relation to postage stamps and to the

Post Office system as indicated in the Table 1.

The public was encouraged to use these stamps in addition to postage on envelopes to spread the message. Some of these stamps, for example Christmas Stamps, were even printed by the Government Printer and handled officially by the Post Office.

• **Family Stamps:** In the P.O. Circular of 15 May 1962: The 'Suid-Afrikaanse Vrouefederasie' was authorised to produce a 'Family Stamp' and to offer it for sale during the last week of June or the first week of July (Fig.11). The Post Office would not participate in the sales campaign, but sellers could sell stamps to the public within the precinct of the Post Office. Posters advertising the stamps could also be exhibited.

• **Christmas Stamps:** New designs of Christmas stamps were issued on an annual basis. It was for example announced in a P.O. Circular dated 4 October 1965 that: "Christmas Stamps of a new design will be issued during October by the Controller of Stamps (Stamp Section) for sale at all Money Order Offices and Postal Agencies during the period 8 November 1965 to 24 December 1965. Postmasters should note that stamps may be removed from the booklets and sold loose in cases where members of the public require less stamps than the quantities contained in the booklets".



Fig.7: Registered cover posted on 26 November 1963 from the Shipping Postmaster's office at the Docks in Cape Town to the United Kingdom. The 17½c pays: 5c Registration fee plus 12½c Airmail fee to the United Kingdom.

• **Easter Stamps:** The Postmaster-General granted permission to the National Council for the Care of Cripples in South Africa to sell Easter Stamps, once a year, to assist funding the rehabilitation of cripples (Fig.12).

• **Revenue Stamps:** All the values of revenue stamps were obtainable at the majority of Money Order Offices. It must be remembered that the ½c and 1c postage stamps were also revenue stamps (Fig.13).

• **Cape Entertainment Duty Labels:** According to the Post Office Guides from 1961-1966, the Post Office was authorised to sell Cape Entertainment Duty Stamps in the Cape Province. These stamps were used to indicate that tax was paid, and they were attached to tickets sold at mainly bioscopes and theatres. The values were: 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 10c, 20c and 50c (Fig.14).

• **Cigarette Stamp Labels:** 4c, 8c, 12c, 16c and 20c. These were on hand at certain post offices for sale to manufacturers.



Fig. 8: The first type of savings stamps that were issued after 1961. This particular savings card was used at the High School in Humansdorp during 1972. This card represented cash value of R1-00 when completed.

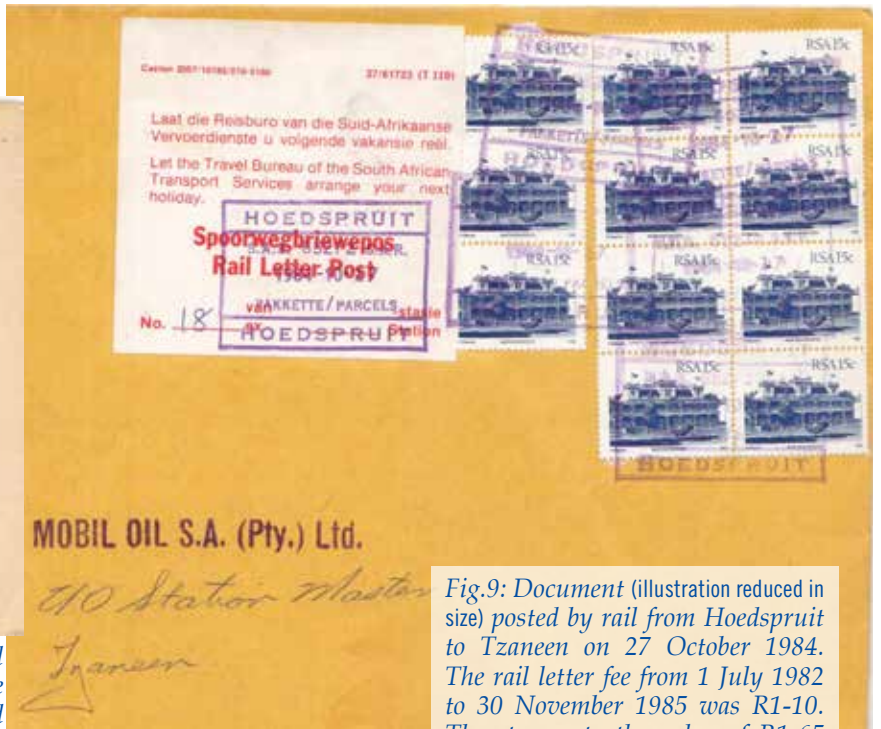


Fig. 9: Document (illustration reduced in size) posted by rail from Hoedspruit to Tzaneen on 27 October 1984. The rail letter fee from 1 July 1982 to 30 November 1985 was R1-10. The stamps to the value of R1-65 paid postage of 55c plus the rail fee of R1-10. Note the Rail Letter Post label applied when the item was handed in at the Railway Station.



Fig. 10: Air Letter posted at George Airport on 27 March 1965 with the 5c additional airport fee and the following message written on the inside: "Ma missed the airmail at the Post Office so Pa had to write this and squander 5 extra cents and put it right on the plane". Very scarce usage of this type of service provided by the Post Office at an airport.



Fig. 11: Family stamp applied on a registered cover in 1969.

Sources:

- Amoores, Hugh, *Draft document on the postal rates of the RSA*, Cape Town, 2006.
- Amoores, Hugh, *Working Notes on the 2nd RSA 'De Jongh' Definitive Series*, *The Springbok*, Volume 65, No. 3, August 2017.
- Berry, T.B., *South African Postmarks: A synopsis of the routine handstruck cancellations, 1910-1966*, Johannesburg.
- Carpendale Glen and Slagt Coen, *Atlas Catalogue of the RSA, 1983/1984*.
- Hagen H.S. and Naylor S.P., *Railway Postal History of South Africa*, Johannesburg, 1998.
- Reisener, Hasso, *The special and commemorative postmarks, cachets and covers of South Africa, 1892-1975*, Pretoria, 1975.
- Republic of South Africa: *Post Office Guides: 1961-1994*



Fig. 12: Easter stamp applied on a postcard posted from Jeffreys Bay in 1963.

CONTINUED ON p24



Summary:

It is obvious from the length and breadth of perspectives provided here, that the South African Post Office has developed very sophisticated systems from 1961 onwards. The variety of services it provides will be highlighted in the articles that are to follow.

The RSA Post Office offers exciting and insightful opportunities for philatelic collectors to research and explore.

Fig.13: Revenue stamps overprinted

Penalty/Boete of one on the later series of the RSA issues available from 1978 to 2008. Note the date that is indicated on the stamps in the lower right corner.



Fig.14: Examples of the 5c Entertainment Duty stamps only applicable in the Cape and sold by the Post Office.

Comic Corner

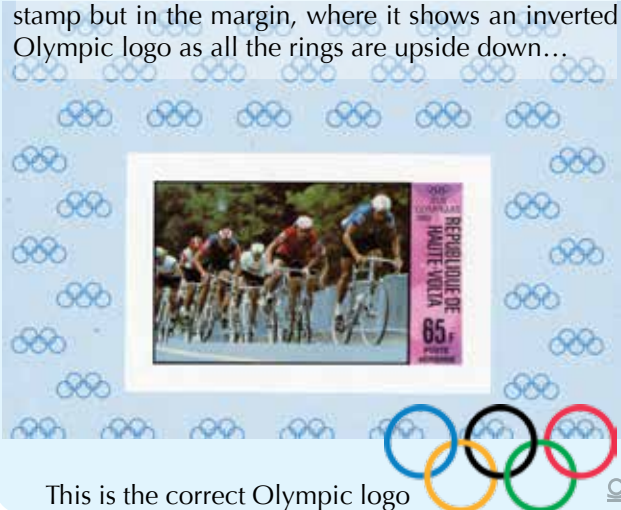
Stamps that make you **SMILE**

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 62 **Errors on Stamps...**

'OLYMPIC LOGO INVERTED'

This miniature sheet showing a cycle race was issued for the Olympic Games 1980 in Moscow by the Republic of Haute Volta, now known as Burkina Faso. The error on this commemorative block is not in the stamp but in the margin, where it shows an inverted Olympic logo as all the rings are upside down...



This is the correct Olympic logo

AEROPHILATELY

Material from the files of the late Jan Bakker RDPSA - edited by Alan Rose

The first airmail stamp, or rather airmail label, was issued in 1877 by 'Professor' Samuel King for use on mail carried by the balloon 'Buffalo' in Nashville Tennessee, USA. This was followed in 1898 by the Great Barrier Reef Pigeongram Service which used a blue one shilling stamp showing a dove with a letter in its beak. A strong contender for the first stamp on mail by an aeroplane were the 'Gelber Hund' stamps of Germany in 1913. From then on many more airmail stamps/labels were issued, though not by postal services, but by private organisations to raise finance for their aviation events.

The first official airmail stamp issued by a Post Office is generally credited to Italy which in May 1917 overprinted 25c Express Delivery stamps for use on flights on the Rome / Turin service. As this was during the height of the First World War there was not much mail carried. The first definitive airmail stamp was a 24c stamp from the USA in May 1918 which featured the 'Flying Jenny'. (A Sheet of these showing the plane inverted became the first airmail error, the 'inverted Jenny').



ERRATA: In our rush to release the December issue of The SAP after Congress, the photo of the Congress delegates on p190 has a 'mystery' person - in front of Herman van Niekerk and behind Marnus Steyn and Neil Cronjé. If you were wondering who this is... Dr Jim Findlay RDPSA



Also omitted was the proposer for RDPSA Citation for André du Plessis. The proposer was Jim Findlay and seconder Herbie Schaffler.



Letters to Sir Rowland Hill

by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith, Highway Philatelic Society

In this series of articles, I have been 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 series appeared in the August 2020 issue - Vol 96:4 Whole No 961, the 2nd in October 2020, Vol.96:5 Whole No 962 and in December 2020, Vol 96,6 Whole number 963.

4. Sir Henry Cole

15 July 1808 – 18 April 1882; Henry Cole was a British civil servant and inventor who facilitated many innovations in commerce and education in 19th century in Great Britain. Cole worked as Rowland Hill's aide in the Postal Reform process during 1837 - 40, and in 1838 organised the Mercantile Committee on Postage, which rallied merchants and bankers in the fight for postal reform.

The Treasury Competition of 1839

Rowland Hill and Henry Cole were unsure as to what the most cost effective way was to introduce postal reform and so they invited the public to suggest the best plan for 'covers'. Some 2,600 entries were submitted, most of which have not survived. Several included samples of ideas for prepayment; some of these were from names already well-known such as James Chalmers. Charles Whiting the printer of material for the Mercantile Committee, also produced a number of designs printed by the Congreve bi-colour method.

The competition was judged by Hill and Cole - awarding prizes to Francis Coffin and James Bogardus, Benjamin Cheverton, Charles Whiting and Henry Cole himself.



Fig.1: The 1990 Postal History Museum postcard featuring Henry Cole. He has never appeared on any postage stamp or commemorative cover whilst Rowland Hill has featured on many.



Fig.2: Cole's winning submission. Hill used the idea but thought the design was too intricate and would be expensive to produce.

Cole, under Rowland Hill's supervision, was in charge of the daily negotiations and organisation of the artists and printers for the adhesive stamps and Mulready envelope.

Hill was fully occupied with the task of implementing the reform of the postal system in the meantime.



Fig.3: Cole's famous drawing which appeared in the Post Circular magazine in 1839. It depicts the problem of the postal system at the time with large bags of newspapers, franks and parcels going free and a small bag of letters paying its way.



Fig.4: L to R: Henry Courbould, artist of the Penny Black; William Mulready, artist of the Mulready envelope; Charles Heath, engraver and Jacob Perkins the printer.

Cole is also credited with the concept of sending greetings cards at Christmas time, introducing the world's first commercial Christmas card in 1843. John Callcott Horsley was the artist. It caused some controversy because it depicted a small child drinking wine. People were concerned that the card's central illustration focused on the merriment of the season, rather than more charitable endeavours such as clothing the poor and feeding the hungry. By the 1880s, objections to joyful holiday greetings had vanished, and the custom of sending Christmas cards was well established in Britain. One thousand cards were lithographed, and of those just a dozen are known to have survived.



Fig.5: A Cole - Horsley Card which sold for a record £22,500 at auction. The 1843 print was expected to fetch up to £12,000 at a sale in Wiltshire, on 24 November 2001. The card was especially sought after because it was sent and signed by Sir Henry Cole to his grandmother and aunt.



Fig.7: Sir Edwin Chadwick (L) and Mr Henry Hyde Clarke (R) - two of Rowland Hill's closest friends.

exhibitions for 1850 and 1851 could be adapted into a larger international exhibition, and he secured the backing of Queen Victoria to establish in 1850 the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 to manage the new exhibition, under the Presidency of Prince Albert who became a close friend of Cole's.

The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations was held in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London, from 1 May to 15 October 1851, and was an enormous popular and financial success, partially due to the astute management of Henry Cole.

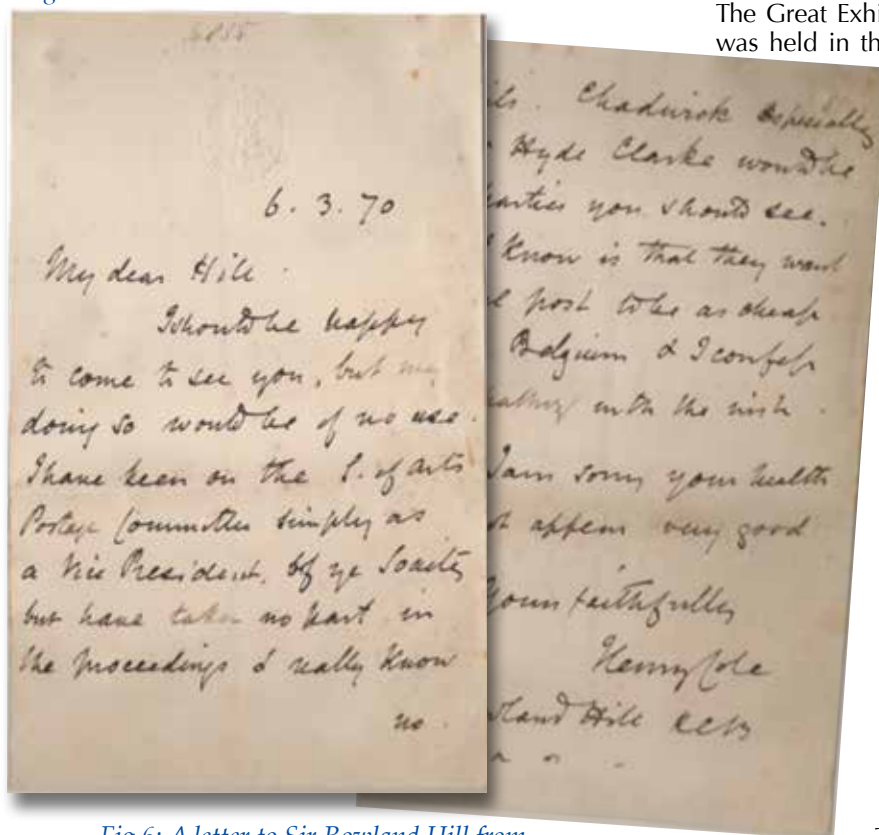


Fig.6: A letter to Sir Rowland Hill from Henry Cole dated 6th March 1870

My dear Hill
I would be happy to come to see you, but my doing so would be of no use. I have been on the S. of Arts Postage Committee simply as a Vice President of the Society but have taken no part in the proceedings I really know no details. Chadwick especially and Mr Hyde Clarke would be the parties you should see. All I know is that they want parcel post to be as cheap as in Belgium & I confess I sympathise with the wish.

I am sorry your health does not appear very good.

Yours faithfully

Henry Cole.

Sir Rowland Hill KCB...

The Great Exhibition of 1851

Cole visited the 1849 11th Quinquennial Paris Exhibition and noticed the lack of an exhibition open to international participants. He saw that the Royal Society for Arts's planned

The Exhibition building was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton in ten days and was a huge iron construction with over a million square feet of glass. The building was divided into a series of courts depicting the history of art and architecture from Ancient Egypt to the Renaissance, as well as exhibits from industry and the natural world. Major concerts were held in the huge Centre Transept, which also contained the world's largest organ. Over 13,000 exhibits from all over the world were displayed and viewed by 6.2 million visitors. After the Great Exhibition closed, the Crystal Palace was dismantled and reconstructed in Sydenham Hill, South London. In 1934 it became the studio of the Baird Television Company but the building was destroyed by fire in 1936. Today the park and the area in which it was situated, are better known for the Crystal Palace Football team and the Athletics Club.

There are four known Great Exhibition of 1851 envelope/lettersheet designs:

1. Day & Son, Lithographers to the Queen, lettersheet;
2. James Valentine's 'Industry of All Nations' envelope;
3. McGee's Registered Exhibition Envelope lettersheet;
4. The Elstone Brothers envelope.



Fig.8: The Crystal Palace appearing on the 18p stamp of the Victorian Britain 1987 series.

The rare envelope illustrated in Fig.9 is unrecorded in Bodily, Jarvis and Hahn's Pictorial Envelopes of the 19th Century. It depicts Crystal Palace and bears a 1d rose-red tied by a London E.C. duplex of 15 July 1858.



Fig.9: The Elstone Brothers 1851 Great Exhibition Envelope.

Printed by James Valentine of Dundee, the 'Industry of All Nations' envelope (Fig.10) exists in six different states varying only with the added imprints of the publisher and distributor. They were printed in paper varying from greyish to azure. This example is state 1 with the left imprint of Johnston & Hunter and Ackermann & Co on the right. It was sent on 9 July 1884 from Wellington to Bridgworth bearing a 1d Red plate, 149, cancelled by a Wellington duplex.

Cole decided that the £186,000 surplus from the Great Exhibition would be used for improving science and art education in the United Kingdom. He was instrumental in the development of the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) which had begun as the Museum of Ornamental Art in Marlborough House. Henry Cole oversaw its move to its current site, and became first director of what was called South Kensington Museum from 1857 to 1873. The Museum was the first to be lit by gaslight to extend opening hours, as well as attempting to lure people away from the gin palaces of the day. It was also the first Museum to have a public restaurant.

In 1974 a part of the museum that was once known as the Huxley Building was renamed the Henry Cole Building; today it forms the Henry Cole Wing of the V&A.



Fig.10: Valentine's 1851 Great Exhibition Envelope.

THE 1862 LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

Henry Cole was appointed 'General Adviser' to this Exhibition which was an attempt to upstage the hugely successful 1851 and the much less so 1855 Paris Industrial Exhibition.

It was built in South Kensington and occupied 16.1 acres on the site that now houses the Natural History and Science Museums. It was hugely expensive and widely criticised, having two domes, labelled 'colossal soup bowls' and 'a national disgrace', each with a diameter greater than either St Paul's in London or St. Peter's in Rome.

The number of exhibits was twice that of 1851 but with only a small increase in the numbers of visitors (6 million). After the exhibition, Parliament declined to purchase the building

and the materials were sold and used for the construction of Alexandra Palace. The Exhibition envelope (Fig.11) was sent from London to Birmingham on 10 May 1862 with a 1d Red 'Stars', a London duplex cancellation and a Birmingham CDS for the same day on the rear. This is the only known surviving example.



Fig.11: The unique 1862 Exhibition envelope - 'Arthur Granger's in Lilac'.



Fig.12: Cole as he was caricatured in Vanity Fair 1871, alongside his dog Jim. His small stature compared to his dog is clear to see, as was his renowned wild hair and beard, baggy trousers and bulging waistcoat.

His faithful canine companions were Tycho and particularly Jim who apparently never left their master's side. and are commemorated by a plaque in the V&A museum.

Henry Cole was decorated with the Companion of the Order of the Bath for his work on the Great Exhibition 1851 and

was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1875. He was often referred to in the press as 'Old King Cole' and was known to have a close backing from Queen Victoria and especially Prince Albert, who when he needed a facilitator on one of his projects, would remark: "We must have steam, get Cole"

He wrote Children's books under the name 'Felix Summerly' and invented a type of teapot. Cole's influence extended into education when he was asked by the government to reorganise the Schools of Design. Retirement didn't stifle his efforts and he went on to set up a Cookery School. Cole never slowed down, even with his known heart condition, and in 1881 wrote his memoirs with the help of his daughter. On Monday 17 April 1882 he sat for a portrait with the famous painter Whistler. That night his condition worsened and he died the following evening. He lies buried in Kensall Green Cemetery in London.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION
Cape Town 2021. 9-13 November

Road to Democracy

Website: www.capetown2021.org

Wallace's War

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



Edgar Wallace was a prolific British novelist and writer whose career was forged in the Anglo Boer War of 1899-1902. Wallace was born in London in 1875, the illegitimate son of an actress and was adopted by a fish-porter and his wife. He left school at the age of 12 and spent his teenage years working a succession of jobs as a newspaper seller, milk roundsman, cook on a trawler and plasterer's labourer.

At the age of 18, Wallace joined the Royal West Kent Regiment as an enlisted private; in July, 1896, he sailed on a troopship to South Africa. After three years of military service as a hospital orderly, he bought his own discharge to work as a Reuters war correspondent. Wallace took great pride in his colourful stories that were mailed through the post, rather than utilising the 'shilling-a-word' censored cables that most correspondents relied upon. In 1900, a muddle-headed typist in Cape Town, whose job it was to send Wallace's pieces to Reuters, posted some to the *Daily Mail* in London. This was apparently a mistake, but it led Wallace to change allegiance to the *Daily Mail*.

Although Wallace was fiercely patriotic to the British cause in the war, he had frequent battles with the military authorities and their press censors. In Wallace's evaluation, *"The war correspondent is the pest of the Army. They do not want war correspondents in South Africa. I don't know whether 'they' ever wanted them."* In an early comment upon the progress - or lack of it - by the British forces in the war, Wallace wrote that correspondents were tasked with *"retouching the spotty negatives of disasters and making quite pretty pictures of them."* According to Wallace, most of the military mismanagement could be traced back to London. He asserted that *"It is against those in authority... rather than those in command at the front that we shall continue to direct our criticism."*

Wallace was a success in writing jingoistic popular journalism. In 1901, Hutchinson & Company published 41 of his reports under the title *Unofficial Dispatches of the Anglo-Boer War*. The complete text of this book can now be found on the internet.

Also in 1901, Wallace married his South African sweetheart, Ivy, the daughter of a minister who vigorously opposed the marriage. The couple had three children before they divorced in 1919. The censored cover, illustrated on the following page, was sent by Wallace to Ivy from Pretoria on 30 January 1902, and bears the censor cachet of Major J.M. Walter in Pretoria, as well as a faint cachet of the press censor in Cape Town.



A contemporary caricature of Edgar Wallace

It was at the conclusion of the war that Wallace landed his biggest 'scoop'. All correspondents had been excluded from the Vereeniging peace talks, mainly at the insistence of Lord Kitchener who disliked journalists and whose censors were under instructions to deal strictly with all cables from journalists. A friend, Harry Cohen, offered to be the link between Wallace and his *Daily Mail* editor. Wallace and Harry

Cohen devised a simple plan. Wallace would encode his messages in stock-market jargon and hand them to Harry who would cable them to his brother Caesar in London. Caesar would then relay them to the newsroom of the Mail for decoding. The higher the price of the share and the more ordered, the closer the negotiators were to signing the peace treaty. On the first trial run, in which Wallace asked Caesar to purchase a further 1000 Rand Colliery shares, the censors immediately challenged Wallace to explain the cable. Wallace, however, was able to produce a broker's note that showed he had indeed purchased 1000 Rand Collieries shares. From then on, the cables went unnoticed.

As the peace talks continued, Wallace travelled each day by train from Pretoria to Vereeniging to keep an eye on the progress.

The train track carried him past the barbed-wire fencing and heavy security of the peace talks' compound. Wallace had a mole at the talks, a guard at the entrance of the marquee in which the talks were taking place. Explaining that he wanted to stretch his legs, the guard took out a handkerchief and blew his nose as the train carrying Wallace went by each day. A red handkerchief signalled 'nothing happened', a blue one said 'making progress' and a white one indicated 'treaty to be signed'.

On the evening of 3 May 1902, the Boer and British negotiators finally agreed to the terms for peace. As Wallace's train passed by, the guard vigorously blew his nose with a white handkerchief. The time had come, the treaty was imminent. Upon receiving Wallace's telegram which read *'Have bought you 1,000 Rand Collieries 40s 6d.'* - the code that the treaty was signed - the *Daily Mail* locked every door to its building. The entire staff, from teaboy to editor, was forced to spend the night in the office to ensure the news wasn't leaked. Twenty-four hours before the British House of Commons was officially informed that the Treaty of Vereeniging had been concluded, the *Daily Mail* broke the story.

Johannesburg Censor's Office stating that *"in consequence*

of your having evaded the rules of censorship" by continuing to sneak information on the Vereeniging peace talks back to the *Mail* after a warning was issued, "you will not in future be allowed to act as a War Correspondent, and further, that you will not be recommended for a medal." A disheartened Wallace submitted the correspondence for publication in the *Mail* along with a letter to the editor in which he lamented, "One scarcely knows whether to be amused or saddened by the puerility of the War Office. Or perhaps one ought to experience a glow of pride for this great national department which, while engaged in questions of vital importance, can turn aside to notice so humble an individual as myself."

Upon his return to London, the *Mail* touted his guest-of-honour appearance at the Savoy Hotel, where more than fifty journalists and wealthy backers of the newspaper gathered to laud Wallace for his honesty and ability to skirt repressive censorship laws.

Whilst Wallace was in London, his South African friend Cohen bought the dying *Standard and Diggers News* in Johannesburg and three months later launched a newspaper, the *Rand Daily Mail*. Wallace accepted the editorship at a salary of £2,000 a year, compared with his £340 *Daily Mail* salary. Unfortunately, he proved a spendthrift editor and within nine months drove the *Rand Daily Mail* into near-bankruptcy.

Plagued by debts left unpaid in South Africa and new bills accumulating in London, Wallace began writing plays and short stories while serving as correspondent for various newspapers. His lifelong love of gambling at horse racing led him to write and edit several racing sheets, but his losses at the tracks continually added to his debts. His first novel, the self-published *Four Just Men*, was a financial disaster because of a costly prize contest he ran to advertise it.

In the years that followed, he wrote feverishly to support a flamboyant life-style; he had written 28 thriller novels by the early 1920s, and then quickened the pace to write 34 novels by 1929. He ended with a lifetime total of some 170 works of fiction, 15 plays, and countless articles and review sketches. Wallace dictated novels to a secretary or into a Dictaphone with incredible speed, fortified by half-hourly cups of tea. He once dictated an 80,000-word

novel between Friday night and Monday morning. His last work was part-authorship of the film script for *King Kong*, which was finished shortly before his death in 1932. He smoked between 80 and 100 cigarettes a day when he was working: an elongated cigarette holder was his trademark. Some of his books were made into movies and he died in Hollywood.



A cover 'From Edgar Wallace, 'Daily Mail' addressed 'To Mrs Edgar Wallace' at Rondebosch.

Acknowledgements

- Clark, Neil, *Stranger than Fiction: The Life of Edgar Wallace, the Man Who Created King Kong*, The History Press, Gloucestershire, 2014.
- Lane, Margaret, *Edgar Wallace, The Biography of a Phenomenon*, W. Heinemann, London, 1938.



Copyright to BAWMS Collection/ArenaPAL

The *Daily Mail's* Boer War correspondent went on to become Britain's most popular author.

AEROPHILATIC OBSERVATION

An interesting observation from Nicholas Arrow **DURBAN AIRMAIL POSTMARKS OF 1925**

In 1925, an experiment was undertaken to establish the usefulness of an airmail service from Cape Town, via Oudtshoorn, Port Elizabeth and East London, to Durban. Over the period from March to June, the service worked, extremely consistently, but it was discontinued, largely because it was financially unviable.

In Cape Town and Durban, a special roller postmark was introduced advertising the service, with the wording 'Air-Mail Saves Time - Lugpos Bespaart Tyd' and an illustration of a biplane below the wording. Reisener SMC 2 - Vermaak 10. Both authorities giving various subdivisions, mainly depending on whether the postmark was applied in Cape Town or Durban.

The relevant postmark concerned for the purpose of this short article is Reisener SMC2.5 / Vermaak 10e (or 10f, which is the same but using red ink). Copies of the relevant mark are shown below, on the left side.



However, Peter Wingent, my guru in most things aerophilatelic, has referred my attention to the lower postmark shown, which obviously differs, in that the word 'DURBAN' is composed in a complete semicircle, the letters 'D' and 'N' lying completely on their respective sides. In the other example, 'DURBAN', is in a narrower arc, 'D' and 'N' being at a slight angle, very slightly raised on the 'inside' and more substantially so on the 'outside'. He has not seen this before, and, truth to tell, neither have I.

By way of general comment, both Reisener and Vermaak give the same scarcity rating to these postmarks, although I would expect that that from Durban is slightly scarcer. It also stands to reason that Durban would have at least 2 roller cancels - Cape Town had at least 3, all mentioned by both authorities, with various different layouts - and, if Durban was provided with a second instrument which had been assembled slightly differently, this could account for the variations. What is of interest is that neither Peter nor I have seen this mark and neither, it would seem, have Reisener or Vermaak

- at least neither comments about this slight difference.

Can anyone add to this discussion?

This comment from Prof. Alex Visser's...

"This is an interesting observation. Usually slogan collectors only look at the slogan, and not at the circular date stamp (cds). Slogans are produced by a machine canceller, and in the case of Cape Town presented by Vermaak the cds's are clearly different. For the Durban postmark the difference in design is less obvious. I have both cds's for Durban in my small collection used during the period 1925 to 1932. This suggests that there were at least two machines in use in Durban, which makes sense as Durban was a busy major centre. This useful note has highlighted the need for an in-depth study of all the elements of the machine cancellers used in South Africa".

Alex Visser [@](#)

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Rd, Bluff, Durban - on 2nd Saturday of the month
President: Fonda Sonitus
074 347 1388

Vice President: Zbigniew Kawecki
082 968 6888 or email the Secretary at philatelicsocietykzn@gmail.com

for details about meetings, auctions, sales packets and membership. Everyone is welcome and committee members are always on hand to give advice about evaluations and philately.



THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Vibrant and active group - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. Group Leader: Helena Snyman
Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za

'SMALLS' CORNER

WANTED: A 44 year old teacher and Mongolian Philatelic Union member who has collected for over 30 years is looking for good philatelic friends from South Africa. Can offer for exchange Mongolian mint stamps 1960-1991 against mint stamps from your country. Condition of exchanged :1. Please, write in English or Russian. If you do not speak these languages, please use # in the 'Scott' or 'Michel' catalogue". Jigjid Gantsogt. P.O.Box-314. UlaanBaatar-38. Mongolia.

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

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

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.

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

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

This society has been amalgamated with the EDENVALE Society.

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

The SA Philatelist, February 2021.

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

It is important to note that not all Societies have returned to having their regular meetings during this time of lockdown, they do, however, welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website

Reinstatement of Philatelic Meetings of The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The modified Coronavirus regulations have allowed the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society meetings to be reinstated, subject to the wearing of masks, sanitising, social distancing and other precautions.

Meetings always on a Wednesday at 18h00 (please confirm time prior to meeting. At this stage, it is unknown whether the time as outlined will continue going forward)



contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA for further information 082 722 7604.

- 10 Feb 2021 Second Competitive Evening
- 10 Mar 2021 Annual General Meeting
- 14 Apr 2021 Workshop Evening on use of Pointpoint presentation
- 12 May 2021 First Competitive Evening
- 9 June 2021 Favourite Cover/s
- 14 July 2021 Grand Challenge Match

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

This study group is now meeting again please send all communication to haschaff@iafrica.com

Next Meeting: Wed. 24 Feb 2021 start at 18h00 and ending at 19h30

If you would come for supper, meet in the members' restaurant at 17h00, where the chairman for the evening will welcome all. These meetings provide a superb learning experience. Bring along a few philatelic items and be surprised at how much additional information can be gained from comments received from other attendees.

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 Herman van Niekerk en Sekretaris is Nico Rust. Kontak: Herman by hinvesta@gmail.com

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG



President: Clive Carr, Tel: 011 789 6357

All PSoJ 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 curfew is in place and the risks of infection remain. Members will be kept informed.

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

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: royalphilt@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>

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.

Meetings for 2021 held in the daytime - 10h30/11h00 to 13h00 at same venue: dates: 1.3; 12.4; 3.5; 7.6; 5.7; 2.8; 6.9; 4.10; 4.11; No meeting for Dec. - reserved for President's Christmas party.

STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING



Kontak:

stellenboschstamp@gmail.com

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>](mailto: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



David Wigston - Acting President

email: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com

Secretary: Paul Hammerton

hampaul@ananzi.co.za

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

HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN

German Restaurant open for lunch. The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join and get involved in this 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

1. **Secretary:** Aubrey Bowles 082 316 3308, 083 239 2136 36 Amberfield, Private Bag X010, Howick 3290 E-mails: [<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.



CONSIGN NOW

THE GLOBAL COLLECTABLES AUCTION HOUSE

LONDON | NEW YORK | HONG KONG | SINGAPORE | SWITZERLAND

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

Follow us #SPINK_AUCTIONS



Tel: +44(0)20 7563 4000
Email: concierge@spink.com

WWW.SPINK.COM

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps

THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932



volume 97:2. 965

www.stampssa.africa



Letter from Port Lockroy - Antarctica - southernmost post office in the world, seen in the International Space Station in orbit



A six pence rate January 1892 from Macloutsie to England.



A genuine inverted overprint is always set high, sometime touching the perforations at the top of the stamp.



The impact of decimalisation from 14 February 1961.

COVID-19

Moving the mail during a global pandemic



ISSN 0038-2566

South Africa

Fine Stamps, Proofs, Varieties & Covers



www.filat.ch

What have you been missing?

Filat AG



Always Free Shipping... Worldwide!

The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
www.stampssa.africa

REGULARS

- 35 Closing dates for future issues
- 37 Letter to the Editorial Board
- 38 Phun with Postmarks
- 66 Society news
- 67 Errors on Stamps

FEATURES

- 36 PFSA Update - Federation News
by C.O.O. André du Plessis
- 36 *The four-part Event in Bloemfontein*
- 22 to the 24 July 2021: the 83rd PFSA Congress, Vrijstaat 2021
National Philatelic Exhibition, Junass & the Savpex 2021 Virtual Exhibition results
by Joof van der Merwe
- 37 2021 Cape Town International Exhibition - set of ten postcards
by Emil Minnaar RDPSA
- 40 To Space and Back: Letter from the World's Southernmost
Post Office to the International Space Station
by Gerhard Freund, Italy. Southtyrol
- 42 Protea Definitive Series: the Key to the Five Types of the 20c Stamp
by Dr Vic Sorour
- 43 Postal Rates Valid From 1st April 2021
- 44 Straying off the topic – again
by Sean Burke
- 46 Revisiting the SWA Type 1 Forged inverted Overprints
by Mike Tonking RDPSA
- 48 The Laingsburg Flood: 25 January 1981
by Johan Joubert
- 52 The Post Office at Macloutsi
by Andrew Briscoe
- 55 Going Nowhere, Slowly
by David Wigston
- 56 The Functioning of the Postal System - Part 2: The impact of
decimalisation in 1961 on the postal rates of the RSA
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 59 Obituary - Wim Hardijzer
- 60 The Development of Postal Services in the Schoonberg & Kammanassie Region
by ds.Pauw Steyl RDPSA
- 63 Practical One Frame Class Exhibiting
by Neil Cronjé RDPSA and André du Plessis RDPSA
- 64 Bechuanaland
by Chris Mobsby RDPSA FRPSL, RNCP

ADVERTISERS

- 34 Filat AG
- 50 Bill Barrell Ltd
- 54 John & Mark Taylor
- 64 Spink

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.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

- Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
- André du Plessis: andredupfs@gmail.com
- 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

All South African stamps
are reproduced with the
permission of SAPO



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** 2021 - Volume. 97 : 3. 966. **10 May 2021** • **August** 2021 - Volume. 97: 4. 967. **9 July 2021**



FEDERATION NEWS

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



As we adjust to the Level 1 restrictions of the Covid lockdown and look forward with a greater respect for the events that 2021 promises, the impact of what these last months highlights, is the importance of 'keeping in touch'.

Philately has a way of bringing events to life. Changes that are brought about by political events, wars or disasters - all impact on what interests us and what we collect. In this issue the natural disaster of Laingsburg in 1981 may not offer a typical collecting subject, but if we begin to view natural disasters in a similar way to 'crash covers' the subject becomes more interesting and may attract an opportunity to expand it. Consider the Merriespruit Slimes Dam disaster 27 years ago, when on 22 February 1994 disaster struck the people of a small mining town. There must be philatelic material and communication around these events such as the postcards created to illustrate the Tulbach earthquake or the floods in Natal. Elements that remind us of the lives lost and their impact on communities, who would need a manageable way of communicating their loss. If you can add to and expand on these events, make us aware of your material.

On a more uplifting note - please participate in this years' exciting events and offer feedback for the new communication 'STAMPS SOUTH AFRICA', under the auspices of the PFSA, that is encouraging communication between all collectors.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

PUBLICATION:

The South African Philatelist, a bi-monthly stamp magazine, is published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA). This is one of the oldest running stamp magazines in the world and was founded in 1920.

Annual Subscription:

- Electronic copy:
- RSA and Worldwide - R70.00
- Printed copy:
- South Africa - R300.00 (Including local postage)
 - SADC countries - R750.00 (Include International postage via airmail)
 - Foreign countries - R1,100.00 (Include International postage via airmail)

PLEASE NOTE:

Subscription for a printed copy is for six issues per year and automatically include access to an electronic copy. The 2021 rates are also available on the PFSA official website under 'CONTACT/JOIN': www.stampssa.africa



Enquiries regarding **subscriptions and PFSA membership** can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis at andredups@gmail.com Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

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 C.O.O. André du Plessis, Box 53100, Wierda Park, 1049 or email the Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za

DON'T MISS the four-part event in Bloemfontein - 22 to the 24 July 2021

- The 83 PFSA Congress • Vrijstaat 2021 National Philatelic Exhibition
- Junass and the Savpex 2021 Virtual Exhibition results.

VRIJSTAAT 2021 and CONGRESS NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 22 - 24 JULY 2021

The 2021 National Philatelic Exhibition will be held in Bloemfontein from 22 to 24 July 2021 at the Kopano Nokeng Conference venue.

First entries have been received, and the Chairman of the Jury, Michael Wigmore RDPSA is appointing the jury members, to be announced in due course and will announced in the June 2021 issue of **The SA Philatelist**.

For the first time, three National exhibitions supported by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, will be hosted at the same time - namely the National Exhibition, SAVPEX and JUNASS together with the 83rd PFSA Congress.

We feel it necessary to have the support of Dealers and we are currently negotiating with SAPDA members to be present.

Last, but most important – **Please remember to enter!** We are looking forward receiving your entries. For more information such as exhibition guidelines, entry forms and prospectuses of the three exhibitions, please visit www.stampssa.africa or scan the QR code.



Preliminary Programme of events:

- Thursday 22 July: 13:00 - 19:00: Judging and Arrival of Dealers
- Friday 23 July: 09:00 - 17:00: Judging
13:00 - 18:00: Exhibition open to the public
19:00: Welcoming delegates and Jury/Dealer Dinner
- Saturday 24 July: 09:00 - 18:00: Exhibition open to the public
09:00: 83rd National Philatelic Congress
14:00 - 17:00: Jury critique at the exhibition frames
19:00: Palmares



The organising committee is set to give you a wonderful stamp show and an experience to remember. We look forward to seeing you at **Vrijstaat 2021**.

Contact person: **Joof van der Merwe**, jnc1@vodamail.co.za cell +27 82 824 6350
The preferred way of communication is via e-mail.



Virtual One Frame Exhibition

Once the SAVPEX Virtual is judged, results will be made public and be available on the PFSA website: www.stampssa.africa



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 writing gift.

IS THIS A FLAW?

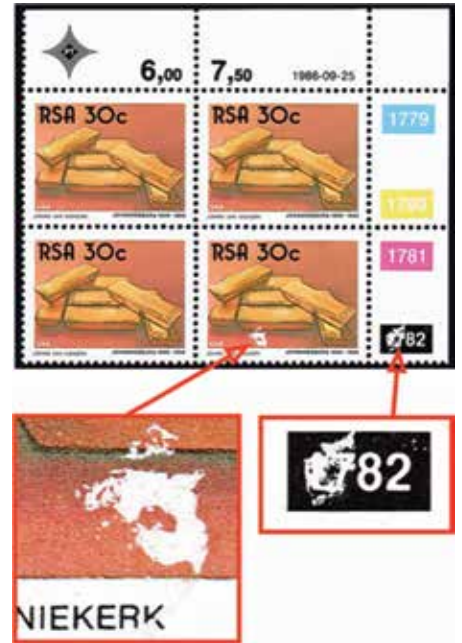
The control block show at right was issued in 1986 for the centenary of Johannesburg and is one of a set of four stamps. At first the white mark in the bottom right-hand stamp appears as if it was a splatter of Tippex.

If this were the case it should have a tactile feel like that of an embossed stamp. It doesn't. The enlargement also shows no shadow. It is not limited to the black colour as suggested by the plate number. This leads to the assumption that there must have been a piece of fluff on the paper as it passed through the printer.

The question that arises is this a flaw or a variety?

Can anyone shed some light on this matter?

David Wigston <speedbird.imperial@gmail.com>



Cape Town 2021 International Stamp Exhibition 9th - 13th November 2021

Dear Readers,

In order to raise funds for the planned 2021 Cape Town International Exhibition, a set of ten postcards depicting original artworks by Mrs. Julia Birkhead (wife of the late Harry Birkhead RDPSA) have been produced for sale to collectors.

These official Postal Stationery cards issued by the Post Office, the fourth in the series, will be sold in a packet of 10 designs, depicting indigenous birds. Orders may be placed with Emil Minnaar. Tel. 063 803 3536 or by email: Emil@Minnaar.org

The cards will also be on sale at Cape Town 2021 International Exhibition in November. The selling price will be US \$17 plus Postage and Packaging of US \$8. (Local is R230 plus pp R20).

Payment may be made by EFT to the account of:

Philatelic Federation of SA
Standard Bank
Swift Code: SB ZAZAJJ
Branch Code: 012 442
Account Number: 023 304 669

or to PAYPAL account: Emil@Minnaar.org

Please support our endeavour.

Kind regards, Emil Minnaar



Olive Woodpeckers

Males have a red cap, and both sexes show a red rump that is conspicuous in flight. Some populations show a red patch at the center of the belly and others a completely white belly. Found in forest and dense woodlands. Restricted to middle and high elevations, though found down to sea level in South Africa. They forage in the upper canopies of trees, probing and pecking branches for insects and taking them up with their barbed tongue. Both sexes excavate the nest, which is an oval shaped hole in the trunk of a tree.



Phun with postmarks

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



The Post Office Savings Bank

Out of the blue I received an email from Vincent Kalkhoven requesting assistance with the identification of Fig.1.

SAVINGS BANK DEPT is inscribed at the top and at the base GPO CAPE TOWN. The date appears to be 1897. Putzel had not recorded any Savings Bank date stamps pre-1900 for Cape Town, nor had Frescura or Goldblatt. This was intriguing and with the assistance of Gerhard Kamffer, RDPSA, we managed to unravel the history of the Savings Bank, which is the subject of this column.

Fig.1: A Cape Town Savings Bank Dept date stamp of 1897, on a Cape of Good Hope 5/- stamp.



On the SA Post Office website it states that in 1884, the first Savings Bank was founded in Cape Town and by the end of that year 125 Post Office Savings Bank offices had been opened. In the Transvaal Almanac of 1897 statistics are presented on the deposits and pay-outs of the ZAR Savings Bank, from 1893. Fig.2 shows a cover which was dispatched to the Controller of the Savings Bank at the GPO Pretoria. Interestingly, the Savings Bank was established to foster a culture of saving (what's new?). The Orange Free State had issued Law No. 9 of 1897 to govern a Savings Bank. In 1901 the Postal Department of the Orange River Colony adopted the Regulations contained in the Law. Although no evidence was found regarding the situation in Natal, it is evident that there were Savings Banks in the provinces prior to 1900. In a GPO publication 'The Post Office 1910 – 1935' it was confirmed that prior to Union, each of the capital towns of the provinces was the head office of each provincial Post Office Savings Bank, with the exception of Johannesburg. At the formation of the Union Post Office Administration changes were gradually made until 1923 when the head office was in Pretoria and a subsidiary office in Cape Town for the southern region. It is not yet clear when the head office moved to Bloemfontein. The system also operated in South West Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland Protectorates.

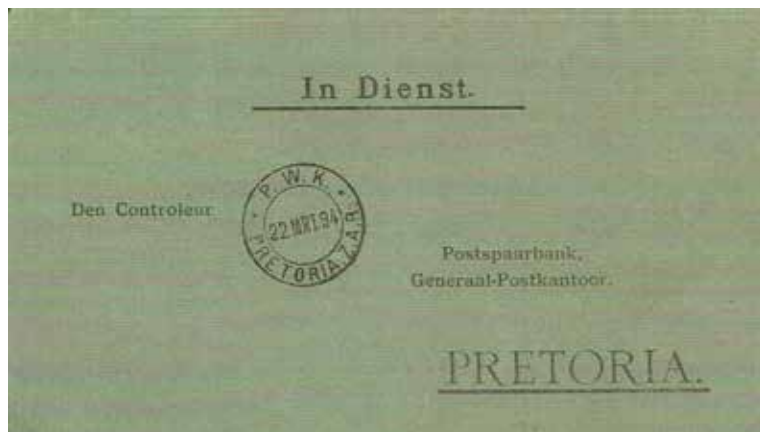


Fig.2: Early correspondence to the Savings Bank Head Office in Pretoria (ex-Kamffer collection. reduced to 75%).

Most readers are familiar with the Post Office Savings Bank books. Figure 3 shows an early example of a saving book issued in Lijdenburg. It was serviced by the ZAR Administration in 1897, and after the war in 1906 it was audited at 'S.B. DEPT' at GPO Transvaal (Pretoria) and serviced in Lydenburg in 1907. This shows that the different administrations honoured the deposits and balances.



Fig.3: Pre- and post-War use of a savings book (ex-Kamffer collection).

Johannesburg used five different S.B. date stamps. Besides the one shown in Fig.4, the earliest recorded was 1935, and the latest 1978. Pietermaritzburg used two S.B. (1977) or S/BANK (1990) date stamps. Most of the Post Office Savings Bank date stamps are found in the savings books, which were sent to Pretoria or Cape Town, and later to Bloemfontein annually for auditing. In Bloemfontein a total of 18 numbered date stamps were used, although all the numbers have not yet been seen. The earliest recorded date is 1952, and the latest 1990, although a Savings Bank cachet of 1991 has been recorded.

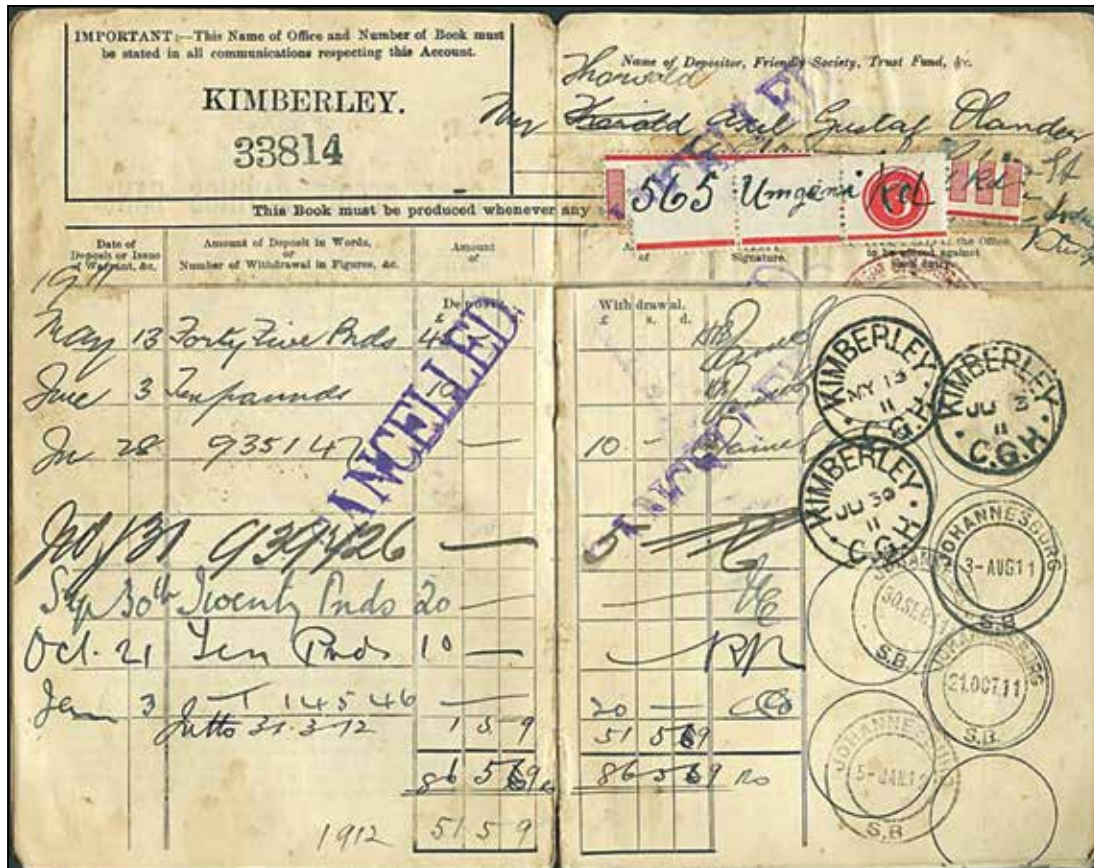


Fig.4: Interprovincial use of a savings book with savings bank counter date stamps of Kimberley and Johannesburg (A. du Plessis).



Fig.5: Transactions in South Africa and South West Africa audited in Bloemfontein in 1980s (S. Marsh).

When South West Africa was administered by South Africa prior to independence, the savings bank functioned as part of the South African Post Office. Fig.5 shows the audit in Bloemfontein, and transactions in Irene, Cullinan and Klein Windhoek. After independence (1990) a Namibian Savings bank was established. Fig.6a and 6b show the date stamps used prior to (5 examples) and after the year 2000 (9 examples).



Fig.6 (a&b): Examples of Namibian Savings Bank date stamp after independence

Min versamelaars beseft dat die Posspaarbank reeds sedert 1884 bestaan. Aangesien die stempels selde op posseëls gebruik is, was daar geen motivering om die boekies te bewaar nie. Veral vroeë voorbeelde word selde gesien. Die rapportering van sulke materiaal sal bydra om die fynere detail van ons posgeskiedenis te boekstaaf.



TO SPACE AND BACK

by Gerhard Freund, Southtyrol - Italy

Letter from the World's Southernmost Post Office to the International Space Station (ISS)

Next to the postmark of Port Lockroy (Fig.1 & 2) you can see the postmark of the ISS on the left side (MOCKBA=Moscow and MKC=ISS) with date 09.04.20.

The letters were sent from Port Lockroy on the 14.01.20 and arrived in Moscow at the beginning of March during the Corona pandemic. There the letters were handed over to the cosmonauts.

In total there were four covers, which started from the cosmodrome of Baikonur in Kazakhstan with the spacecraft Soyuz MS-16 and docked at the ISS on 9 April 2020.

The crew consisted of the Russian cosmonauts Ivanishin Anatoli Alekseyevich, Vagner Ivan Viktorovich and an American astronaut Cassidy Christopher John.

After undocking, the ISS on 21.10.2020, the letters had travelled 135,541,000 kilometres on board the ISS.

*** Skuas (*Stercorariidae*) Birds**
The skuas are a group of predatory seabirds with seven species forming the *genus Stercorarius*, the only genus in the family *Stercorariidae*. The three smaller skuas are called jaegers in American English (Fig.4).

The southernmost civil post office on earth is located in Port Lockroy on Goudier Island in a natural harbour on the Antarctic Peninsula (Fig.7). To be precise, the building is located at 64 ° 49 'S and 63 ° 30' W.



Fig.1: Registered cover from the Antarctic, the reverse is shown in Fig.2.

Port Lockroy (Fig.6) was initially a whaling base and later, a weather and radio station which was closed in 1962. Over the following decades the buildings were left to wind, ice and snow. In 1996 and over the next few years, the buildings were listed, catalogued and renovated.

Today it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Antarctica and includes a museum, gift shop and post office (Fig.5). The station is managed by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Numerous cruise ships stop in Port Lockroy. In addition to the Port Lockroy Post Officer, there are also three scientists at the station who are researching the behaviour of Gentoo Penguins and the effects of visiting tourists.

As a precautionary measure, tourists are only allowed to enter a certain part of the island and must use the designated paths. It seems that visiting tourists have had a positive effect on the penguins, as the Skuas* (see bottom of blue side-bar, Fig.4) stay away due to the presence of people. The station is manned during the Antarctic summer from November to the end of February. Only British Antarctic Territory (BAT) stamps are used in the post office. A dedicated postmark is also used.

In December 2019, I had the idea to send a special kind of envelope/letter on the trip. The start and finish of the journey had one thing in common: they are outposts of humanity where a normal life is not possible due to the inhuman environment.

I wanted to send a letter from Port



Fig.2: Reverse of cover in Fig. 1.



Fig.3: Four covers arrive at Goudier Island harbour on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Lockroy to the ISS (International Space Station). It took a lot of organising for my project to be successful. I had made contact with an employee of the UKAHT (The United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust) in Great Britain years ago, who had been of great help to me in the past. Now, through direct contact with employees in Port Lockroy, and with the procurement of envelopes and postcards, I also needed a contact person in Russia for the forwarding to the ISS.

Igor Rodin, a well-known collector and examiner of space philately, who had direct contact with cosmonauts, helped me with this. So we began our joint project. The team in Port Lockroy wrote the letter, provided the envelope with stamps of the BAT (Fig.5), registration label, cachet of the station with the date and postmark Port Lockroy 14 January 2020. In total there were four letters that started the extraordinary journey via the Falkland Islands (Fig.3).

At the beginning of March, the letters arrived in Russia during the corona pandemic and were handed over to the cosmonauts. The 62nd ISS expedition started on 9 April 2020 from the Cosmodrome in Baikonur (Kazakhstan) with the Soyuz 2.1a launcher and a Soyuz MS-16 spacecraft that took the letters with it to the ISS. The envelopes and also the letters were postmarked on the ISS with the postmark and the two on-board cachets. The ISS is at an altitude of 400 kilometres and orbits the earth at 28,900 km/h.

The un-docking from the ISS took place on 21 October 2020 and the crew returned to Earth safely.



Fig.5: Royal Mail postbox.



Laura MacNeil (photographer)

Fig.6: a view of the Port Lockroy station.



Photographer Rachel Morris - Port Lockroy.

Fig.7: Goudier Island in a natural harbour on the Antarctic Peninsula.



Fig.8: One of three photos of my covers in the ISS cupola with earth in the background.

My letters travelled 135,541,000 kilometres on board the ISS. It is the first time that a letter was sent from Antarctica to the ISS. Polar and space philately are united on the envelope.

Follow this link where you can see different photos of space covers and also photos of the covers in the ISS cupola (Fig.8): http://astrophilatelist.com/news/space_mail/1-0-3.

PS: Readers may like to know that my main collecting interest is postal history of Southtyrol, occupied by Italian troops after WWI and later by German troops during WWII. Until the end of WWI, Southtyrol was a part of Austria.



Fig.4: The skuas are a group of predatory seabirds.



PROTEA DEFINITIVE SERIES: THE KEY TO THE FIVE TYPES OF THE 20c STAMP

by Dr Vic Sorour, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The Protea Definitive Series were issued on 27 May 1977. The series consisted of seventeen stamps. Nine values (1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c, 15c and 20c) were printed by rotogravure. Eight values (6c, 7c, 9c, 25c, 30c, 50c, R1 and R2) were printed by lithography. Two values (3c and 20c) were subsequently also printed by lithography.

A Very Basic Explanation of Groups, Issues and Printings

When the postal authorities produce a new stamp issue, an artist is commissioned to design the stamp(s). Dick Findlay was the artist chosen to design the Protea Definitive Series. After the design has been approved, printing cylinders are made to produce the stamps.

Group 1. Issue 1. Print 1.

The number of sheets printed is determined by the expected demand for the stamp.

If after the passage of time, more stamps are needed, the same set of cylinders is used. This stamp would be:

Group 1. Issue 1. Print 2.

This is the second printing (Print 2) of Issue 1. The next time the cylinders are used results in Print 3. The term Print is related to the issue.

If for some reason the same set of cylinders cannot be used (one or more of the cylinders is damaged) a new cylinder is made. This results in a new Issue.

This stamp would be:

Group 1. Issue 2. Print 1.

Note that the Print reverts to 1.

This is the first printing of Issue 2

When the design of the stamp is altered, a new Group results. This stamp would be:

Group 2. Issue 3. Print 1

Note that the Issue does not revert to one but increases by one. This is the third Issue of the 20c stamp.

The Five Types of the 20c stamp (Table 1)

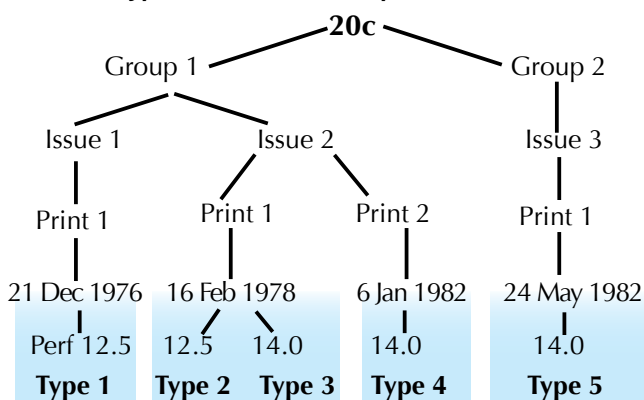


Table 1. Summary of the five types of the 20c Protea Stamp

There are two Groups of the twenty-cent stamp. The first printed by rotogravure, the second printed by lithography. There are two Issues in Group 1. The first was printed on 21 December 1976, perforated 12.5, Issue 1. (Type 1).

Although the same five cylinder numbers (722, 735 - 738) were used for Issue 2, new plates had been prepared as

can be identified by the marginal bars (Fig.4). There are two printings in 'Issue 2', printed on 16 February 1978 and 6 January 1982, respectively. The first printing is perforated 12.5 (Type 2) or 14.0 (Type 3). The second printing is perforated 14.0 (Type 4). Issue 3 (Group 2) was printed on 24 May 1982 and is perforated 14.0. (Type 5)

THE KEY

Step 1:

Q: Does the stamp belong to Group 1 or Group 2?

A: Look just above the inscription on the bottom margin (Fig.1).



Group 1



Group 2

Fig.1. The different design. Small gaps and large gaps.

In Group 1 the leaves are nearly flush with the bottom frame line, in Group 2 there are large gaps between the two. This is best seen just above the 'ea' of 'Protea' and above '1977'.

If the stamp belongs to Group 1 go to Step 2.

If the stamp belongs to Group 2 then it is Issue 3 or Type 5

There are other features that identify the Groups:

• The Arrows, Fig.2.

The arrows are similar in design, size and colour in the two Groups, but in Group 1 they are 7 mm from the stamp and 3mm in Group 2.

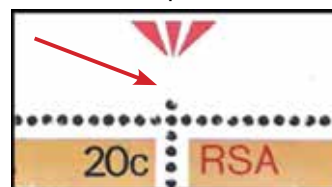
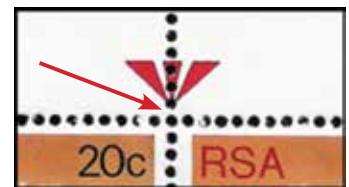


Fig.2. Group 1. 7mm



Group 2. 3mm.

• Marginal Bars or Values and Numerals, Fig.3, on the margins Marginal bars and coloured lines are present on the margins of Group 1.

Values and numerals are present on the margins of Group 2.

• The Perforation

Group 1 stamps are perforated 12.5 or 14.0. Group 2 stamps are perforated 14.0. Thus, stamps perforated 12.5 belong to Group 1. The reverse does not hold true. Stamps perforated 14.0 can belong to either Group 1 or 2.



Fig.3: Marginal bars in Group 1. Values or numerals in Group 2.

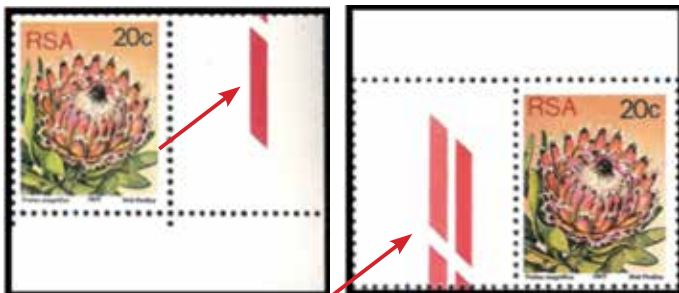
• **The Margins**

All four margins are perforated through in Group 2. In Group 1, the margin may be imperforate, have a single perforation or be perforated through. Thus, any margin that is not perforated through belongs to Group 1. The reverse does not hold true. A perforated margin may belong to either Group 1 or 2.

Step 2: The stamp belongs to Group 1

Q: Does the stamp belong to Issue 1 or Issue 2?

A: Look at the marginal bars on the LM (left margin) of Pane A or the RM (right margin) of Pane B.



Issue 1. Single Marginal Bar

Issue 2. Two Marginal Bars

Fig. 4. The Marginal Bars

If there is a single marginal bar, this is Issue 1. Type 1
If there are two marginal bars, this is Issue 2. Go to Step 3.

Step 3: The stamp belongs to Issue 2

Q: What is the perforation?

A: If the perforation is 12.5, the stamp belongs to Issue 2, Print 1. Type 2.

If the perforation is 14.0, the stamp belongs to Issue 2, Print 1, or Print 2.
Go to step 4.

Step 4: The stamp belongs to Issue 2, Perforation 14.0

Q: Is the top/bottom margin perforated?

A: The top and bottom margins are not perforated.
This is Issue 2, Print 1. Type 3.

The top/bottom margin is perforated.

This is Issue 2, Print 2. Type 4.

POSTAL RATES - VALID FROM 1 APRIL 2021

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

Domestic Letter	New Rate R c	Old Rate R c	Increase %
Small DL	5.34	4.90	8.98
Medium B5	10.75	9.85	9.14
Large B4	13.15	12.05	9.13

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 R214.10 (previously R196.40, an increase of 9.01 %).

Small DL	(5.34 + 32.11)	37.45	34.35	9.02
Medium B5	(10.75 + 32.10)	42.85	39.30	9.03
Large B4	(13.15 + 31.95)	45.10	41.35	9.07

International

Registration fee 50.75 46.55 9.02
There is no insurance option for international letter post.

Aerograms	8.00	7.35	8.84
Postcards – Airmail	10.85	9.95	9.05
Postcards – Surface	6.60	6.05	9.09

Airmail letters – Southern Africa

Small DL	9.75	8.95	8.94
Medium B5	35.45	32.50	9.08
Large B4	55.05	50.50	9.01
Small packets (per 100 g)	31.20	28.60	9.09

Airmail letters – Rest of the world

Small DL	12.65	11.60	9.05
Medium B5	42.85	39.30	9.03
Large B4	72.55	66.55	9.02
Small packets (per 100 g)	54.90	50.35	9.04

New rates taken from *Government Gazette*, No. 44117 (28 January 2021).



South African National Exhibitions in 2021

Please diarise 22-24 July 2021.

Under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, the NATIONAL, JUNASS and SAVPEX 2021 exhibitions will take place in Bloemfontein.



For more information: (IREX) and entry forms, contact: Joof van der Merwe <jnc1@vodamail.co.za> or visit the Federation website <https://www.stampssa.africa>

More specific and up-to-date news will be shared with the Philatelic Societies in due course.



Straying off the topic – again by Sean Burke, Rhodesian Study Circle



In the last edition of *The South African Philatelist*, I dipped a small toe into the world of postmarks, and, in particular, the so-called ‘Skeleton’ postmarks of Southern Rhodesia. My focus, albeit limited, was to look at these postmarks on the 1910-1913 ‘Double Head’ Issue. However, I chanced upon a much later use of this type of postmark when I acquired from eBay, a copy of the magazine of the Initial Training Wing (ITW) situated near Bulawayo in WWII.

This ‘in-house’ sixteen-page magazine was aptly called *Fledgling* (Fig.1). The copy I acquired had been taped together and mailed to the UK. Published fortnightly by the ITW, Hillside Camp, Bulawayo, it was printed by the Rhodesian Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd. This particular issue, dated 2 July 1943, had been sent via mail by 1684998, A. Haselgrove to his parents, Mr and Mrs Haselgrove at 366 Kingsway, Manchester. A 1d Southern Rhodesia definitive was affixed and cancelled with the ITW Bulawayo canceller (Fig.2).

I did a little research. The Initial Training Wing - Bulawayo, was established to train cadet pilots in all the ground subjects required before their flying training. (Fig.3). This was part of the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) set up to prepare pilots for war service. The Rhodesia Air Training Group (RATG) grew to be, after Canada, the largest such programme in WWII within the EATS. The ITW was based at RAF Hillside camp, Bulawayo. This was an assortment of temporary and existing buildings on the Bulawayo Agricultural Show grounds.

In his book, *Two Air Forces*, Jock Cassels explains that the main subjects were: Navigation, Theory of Flight, Meteorology, Aircraft Engines, Aircraft Recognition, Airmanship and other Service related subjects. But there were opportunities for other pursuits: [It was] *arranged for us to spend our two weeks’ leave on a farm well out in the bush where the farmer showed us how to hunt local buck, (something like a Springbok), and what isolated life was like in the Rhodesian bush. I should mention that it was at ITW that I had my first taste of alcohol when my more worldly colleagues persuaded me to have a bottle of beer in the camp canteen.* After passing the course at the ITW, Cassels was posted to the Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS) in Salisbury where he started on Tiger Moths.

Glossary:

- ANS - Air Navigation School
- ARU - Aircraft Repair Unit
- BGTS - Bombing and Gunnery Training School
- CFS - Central Flying School
- EFTS - Elementary Flying Training School
- FIS - Flying Instructors School
- SFTS - Service Flying Training School
- SRAF - Southern Rhodesia Air Force

Table of the units that formed the Rhodesia Air Training Group during WWII

Unit Name/No.	Base	Major types of aircraft	Role	Notes
No. 25	Belvedere, Salisbury	Tiger Moth, Cornell & Harvard	EFTS	
No. 20	Cranborne, Salisbury	Harvard 1, 2, 2a, 3 and Oxford	SFTS	
No. 27	Induna, Bulawayo	Tiger Moth & Cornell	EFTS	
No. 23	Heany, Bulawayo	Oxford	SFTS	
No. 21	Kumalo, Bulawayo	Oxford	SFTS	
No. 26	Guinea Fowl, Gwelo	Tiger Moth & Cornell	EFTS	
No. 22	Thornhill, Gwelo	Harvard 1, 2, 2a, 3	SFTS	
No. 24 Bombing, Gunnery and Navigation	Moffat, Gwelo	Battle, Oxford and Anson	BGTS	
No. 24 Combined Air Observation School	Moffat, Gwelo	Battle, Oxford and Anson	BGTS	Split into 24 BGTS & 29 EANS
No. 29 Elementary Navigation School[4]	Moffat, Gwelo	Battle, Oxford and Anson	ANS	
No. 28	Mount Hampden	Tiger Moth, Cornell & Harvard	EFTS	
No. 31	Cranborne	Harvard (for Comms)	ARU	
No. 32	Heany	Harvard (for Comms)	ARU	
Rhodesian Central Flying School	Norton	All types used in Group	CFS	Renamed 33 FIS
No. 33	Norton	All types used in Group	FIS	Renamed CFS (SR)
Central Flying School (Southern Rhodesia)	Norton	All types used in Group	CFS	
Communications Flight	Belvedere	Tiger Moths, Cornells & Harvards	Comms Flt	SRAF unit



Fig.1: The cover of the magazine 'Fledgling'.

Now a return to my copy of *Fledgling*, and, more importantly for this exercise and this publication, the postmark. It is 'skeleton' cancel ITW BULAWAYO / S. RHODESIA. To spice things up, the day, month and year – JY 2 / 43 - are inverted! See Fig.2.

A comment in the *Rhodesian Study Journal* in 1991: reflects that of all the camp Post Offices, ITW has the most prolific range of skeletons with misspellings and varieties. With some guidance from fellow RSC member, Mike Hughes, it has been possible to track some unusual errors/omissions and downright poor spelling. Mike's research shows various spellings of Bulawayo:

JU 5 42 BULAAWYO

OC 8 42 BULAWAOY

JA 14 44 BOULAWAYO

(S)P 6 44 BULAWA O

Missing 'Y' and missing 'S' in 'SP'

JY 20 44 BUALWAY

Missing 'O' and the whole date is inverted

And there are combinations - where we have the spelling of Bulawayo correct and the date incorrect and vice versa; then we have cancels when ITW is shown before and after BULAWAYO, and on it continues.



Fig.2: ITW Bulawayo cancel.



Fig.3: RAF cadets arriving at the Initial Training Wing, Bulawayo, (Ex Air Ministry Second World War Official Collection)

So a whim purchase of *Fledgling*, late at night, yielded the chance to learn a bit more. And that is part of our daily bread.

VISIT CAPE TOWN!

Visit 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



Revisiting The SWA Type 1 Forged Inverted Overprints

by Mike Tonking RDPSA, SA Study Group UK

Union King's Head stamps bearing the type 1 overprint setting I applied by the Government Printing Works were issued in South West Africa on 1 January 1923. Three duties, namely the 1d., 2d., and 1/3, were found with the overprint inverted during 1923. There was much discussion at the time, chronicled in *The South African Philatelist (SAP)* as to the origin of the inverted overprints and it is worth quoting from an article by H. Mallet-Veale, a keen collector, which appeared in *The SAP* of July 1925:

- 1d. (SG 2a)
One complete pane: received by a Paris firm of repute ... directly from Windhoek.
- 2d. (SG 3a)
Three complete sheets: one sold over the counter at Usakos; a second over the counter at Windhoek; and a third received by a London dealer of repute from Windhoek in a parcel of stamps ordered!
- 1/3 (SG 8a)
Issuing office unknown, but undoubtedly emanated from SWA.

It is considered that there was probably a complete sheet consisting of four panes (120 pairs) of the 1d. value with the inverted overprint. Naturally there was keen collector demand for the inverted overprints and it must be supposed, because of the scarcity, it was not long before they attracted the attention of the forger. As early as 1923 there were rumours of forgeries and *The SAP* of October 1931 made reference to the forged inverted overprint on the 1d. value and alerted collectors to the means of identification of the forgery (Fig.1).

Quantities of genuine Inverted Overprints

Value	SG Number	Printing Requisition	Sheets	Pairs	Remarks
1d.	SG 2a	396	1	120	Thought to be one sheet
2d.	SG 3a	396	3	360	
1/3	SG 8a	491	2	240	Natie Becker aware of two sheets

As far as can be ascertained the numbers quoted above are correct. It is recorded that there may have been an inverted overprint applied to the 1/2d. value, but if indeed true, it probably emanated from printer's waste and was not sold over a Post Office counter.

The overprinting of the Type 1 setting was a miserable effort for it contained no end of discrete overprint flaws by which the majority of the 240 individual stamps may be positioned in the four-pane sheet. This of course would have presented a very real problem to the forger who would not necessarily have been aware of these flaws. In any event, even had he known of the flaws he would have had greatest difficulty in replicating them.

At the same time the forger had to ensure that the typographed lettering, spacing, as well as the dimensions of the overprints were exactly the same as for the genuine inverted overprints.

Furthermore, it was important to ensure that the position of the forged overprint in relation to the stamp frame was correct. Apart from these technicalities it was essential to make sure that the forgery was applied to a stamp of the correct colour shade.

It is fortunate that the forger chose to ignore these points and managed to produce, on the 1d., 2d., and 1/3 values, perfectly centred inverted overprints with incorrect dimensions on stamps of the wrong shade of colour. We will never know how many forgeries of these and other values were manufactured and how many collectors had been fooled into believing that they possessed a genuine rarity. It is not known with certainty where the forgeries were made although there is reference to the U.K. in *The SAP* of January 1928. The notorious *Callard Trial* of August 1928 may point to the production of forgeries inside or out of The Government Printing Works. Sufficient to say it would have been convenient to use the readily available typeset.

Since it was accepted that the genuine inverted overprints existed on the 1d., 2d., and 1/3 values, the forger may have concentrated on these values.

However, forgeries of the 1/2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1/- values also exist (Fig.2). Doubtless the market for these values would not have been as brisk as for the 1d., 2d., and 1/3 values.

Forgery Identification

a. Measurement of the overprint

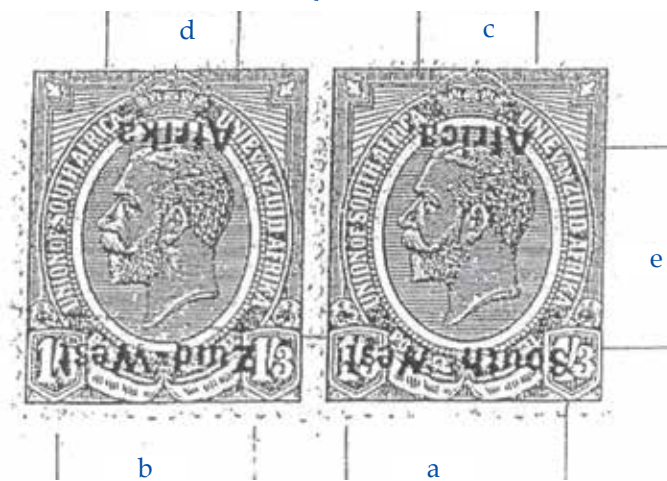


Fig.1.

The measurements have been made using a graduated 9x magnifying toolmakers glass measuring to 0.1 mm.

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	South West	Zuid-West	Africa	Afrika	Distance between overprints*
Genuine	14.5mm	12.8mm	8.5mm	8.5mm	14.0mm
Forgery	15.1mm	13.5mm	8.5mm	8.8mm	13.5mm

* Measured from the top of the last 'a' in Africa / Afrika to the bottom of the right arm of the 'W' in West.

Despite the small variations, careful measurement of the overprints will immediately alert the collector to the forgery.



Fig.2

b. Overprint position relative to the King's Head in the upright position

1d. Value (Fig.3)

The genuine inverted overprint is always found to be set high, touching or almost touching the perforations at the top of the stamp. The forgery presents a perfectly centred inverted overprint fit to grace any album page.

2d. Value (Fig.4)

In this case the genuine inverted overprint is misplaced to the left as compared with the perfectly centred forgery.

1/3 Value (Fig.5)

As in the case of the 1d. value the genuine inverted overprint is set high and almost touching the perforations at the top of the frame line. The exact position of 'Africa' depends upon the stamp position in the sheet. The spacing becomes progressively larger towards the bottom of the sheet.

c. Colour

Since the shades of colour are subjective in the eye of the beholder it is always best to compare against a stamp with a genuine inverted overprint.

Value	Genuine	Forgery
1d. (SG 2a)	Pale rose	Scarlet
2d. (SG 3a)	Grey lilac	Dull mauve
1/3 (SG 8a)	Violet	Pale violet

d. Overprint Characteristics

As already noted, the genuine inverted overprint will, more often than not, exhibit discrete flaws which together with the other means of identification described above will enable the collector to make a positive identification. It should be noted that the position of these flaws will be reversed when compared with the normal sheet with the normal upright overprint.

Illustrations of the Genuine and Forged Inverted Overprints

Figure 2 illustrates a complete set of the values to 1/3 all with forged inverted overprints. It would appear that the same overprint type was applied to each value. The 1/2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1/- values are seldom seen with the forged inverted overprint.

Figures 3,4 and 5 illustrate the 1d., 2d. and 1/3 values with genuine and forged inverted overprints. The well centred forged overprints are an immediate give away.



Fig.3: Genuine Overprint. Overprint set to top of stamp.



Forged Overprint.

Fig. 4: Genuine Overprint. Overprint misplaced to the left.



Forged Overprint.



Fig. 5. Genuine Overprint. Overprint set to top of stamp.

Forged Overprint.

References for this article appear on p67.

The Laingsburg Flood: 25 January 1981

by Johan Joubert, Pretoria Philatelic Society - email<johanjoubert66@gmail.com>



The aim of this article is to describe the impact of a tragic day in the history and the aftermath on the community of Laingsburg - relevant philatelic material seems non-existent but perhaps this article may help to identify such items.

The town of Laingsburg, is located in the Western Cape province in South Africa. It is known as the second capital of the Karoo, situated on the main railway line and the National Road, 274km from Cape Town to Johannesburg.

Following the arrival of the early Dutch, German and Huguenot pioneer settlers in 1727-1728, the area was settled by 18 Trekboer (farmer) families who trekked up from Stilbaai and Swellendam to establish sheep and orange farms in the area.

Railway origins

In the 1870s, the government of Prime Minister John Molteno oversaw a massive expansion of the Cape Colony's railway system. The route ran past a farm named *Vischkuil-aan-de-Buffelsrivier* (fishing pond on the Buffalo River) which a man called Stephanus Greeff then bought for the purpose of development.

Name changes

The line was completed in 1878 and a small siding named 'Buffelsrivier' was built at the farm. With railway access, a town soon began developing. It was renamed 'Nassau' to avoid confusion with Buffalo River in East London, and finally changed to the name Laingsburg, after John Laing who was Commissioner of Crown Lands at the time and eventually acquired municipal status in 1906.

River and swept away everything it encountered in its way. Animals, humans and their possessions were swept along and later dumped under metres of silt. Hydrologists estimate that a flood in Laingsburg of this magnitude has a recurrence interval of once, on average, every 100 years.



Fig.2: Registered Cover posted at Laingsburg, dated 8.4.1987.

Before the flood, rain had initially started with a light drizzle - welcomed by farmers in the area, since it doesn't often rain here. The soil of the area doesn't absorb much water, with the consequence that rain water drains directly into the rivers. Water built up in both the Baviaans and Buffels Rivers at their confluence in the little town. The rivers quickly grew from normally small streams to a roaring wall of water almost six metres high. Within hours the whole town was under water and residents had to fight for their lives. Trapped by the fast running and swiftly rising water, the only course of action



Fig.1: The Laingsburg Post Office - fortunately no Postal material was damaged during the flood of 1981.

The Post Office

It was renamed on 1.7.1888 from 'Buffels River Station' to Laingsburg. In the *Post Office Guide* dated January 1892, it indicates that Laingsburg was a Money Order Office under the division of Worcester. It was declared as a Post Office in 1894 and continued as such since then (Figs.1 & 2).

The Laingsburg Flood 25 January 1981

On this day in Laingsburg's centennial year, the larger part of the town was swept away within minutes by one of the strongest floods ever experienced in the Great Karoo. After a cloud burst in the north-eastern hinterland, south of the Komsberg, a massive wall of water rushed down the Buffels



was for people to seek refuge on the rooftops of their houses until these too were swept away by the flood; 425mm of rain fell in two days on 24 and 25 January 1981. The average annual rainfall is 175mm (Figs.3&4).

Figs.3 & 4: Two postcards issued by Laingsburg Tourism. These postcards show the intensity and devastation that the flood created within a couple of hours.



Only on 29 January 1981 could police release a complete list of 125 persons reported missing, all presumed drowned.

Fig.5: A memorial plaque identifies the flood victims and the 184 houses that were destroyed - only 21 houses in the village survived the flood. Swallowed by the silt of the Floriskraal dam, 56 of the 125 victims were never found.



Fig.6: After the flood the town was restored and today the only sign of the 'Day of the Buffalo', is the Laingsburg Flood Museum which is dedicated to capturing the essence of the town and its people, and conveying the mammoth effect of this disaster.

Memorabilia, artefacts and information continue to be gathered for an accurate, exhibition that speaks to the hearts and minds of those who visit (Fig.5).

The iron rubble found after the flood was used to make the burglar bars for the museum, and those form an artistic tour of their own (Fig.6). 'The memories will remain with those who witnessed and experienced this disaster' (Figs.7 - 11).

Fig.7: Mrs. (J. A.) Johanna Alida Le Roux, a retired teacher and stamp collector, owner of many philatelic relics discovered in the aftermath when the rescue workers cleaned the town. She was not in town when the flood happened.



Fig.8: Although these items may not be suitable for a philatelic exhibition, they can be regarded as similar to 'disaster-covers'.

References:

1. Putzel, R.F. 1987. *The Encyclopaedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies*. Vol.2 (F-M). Cape Town: Hale & Putzel.
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laingsburg,_Western_Cape. Date downloaded 6.1.2021.
3. Steenkamp, Klasie, *Die Dorp in die Dam*. 2016, Printers Q4 Digital, Somerset-West
4. Laingsburg Museum & Tourist Info. Centre.



Fig.9: This souvenir cover was recovered, still with a Christmas card inside. The stamp was washed off the cover, cancelled with date stamp 23 December 1938.

Fig.10: The house in Swartberg Street where many Philatelic items were recovered - it was built in 1896 and was rebuilt after the flood.



Fig.11: (at left) The house has a plaque in black which indicates the flood line of that day.

Fig.12 & 13: Postmaster (P.F.R) Pieter Koen (51), and probably his last signature in his capacity of Postmaster of the Laingsburg Post Office, dated 24 January 1981.



Mr. Pieter Koen was the Postmaster at the time of the flood (Fig.12 & 13). He is one of the unsung heroes of that day. Having received the alarming news from his daughter Jeanette, of the water that was on its way, he made his way to his amateur radio (ZS1UN), as this was his hobby, and sent out the first 'Mayday' call for help, and also warned people by telephone about the flood. After a number of heroic deeds, he too must have died in the flood as his body has never been found.

The 'Flood Covers' tell the story of a tragedy when many people died in a natural disaster.

I am indebted to the people who consented to be interviewed:

- Mrs. Francis van Wyk from Laingsburg, a survivor of the flood.
- Lisinda, daughter of the late Mr. Pieter Koen.

BILL BARRELL LTD

'FLYING SEAHORSES'

The GB Seahorse issue is a global classic, widely admired and collected. We have recently acquired an exceptional collection of usages and have pleasure in offering a selection subject unsold and would be pleased to hear from interested collectors. Most Seahorse covers are to South America, not this lot, included are fine and attractive usages to the USA, Australasia, Asia (incl. Siam), India, Africa, Europe and others including a surely unique usage to The Gilbert and Ellice Islands....



1931 'Around the World' post card Isleworth and back again via Russia, China, Japan and Canada etc. £350.00



Circa 1930 Parcel Post card London to Copenhagen. £225.00



1931 Parcel Post card Bradford to Vienna. £225.00



1915 Parcel Label London to New York. £300.00



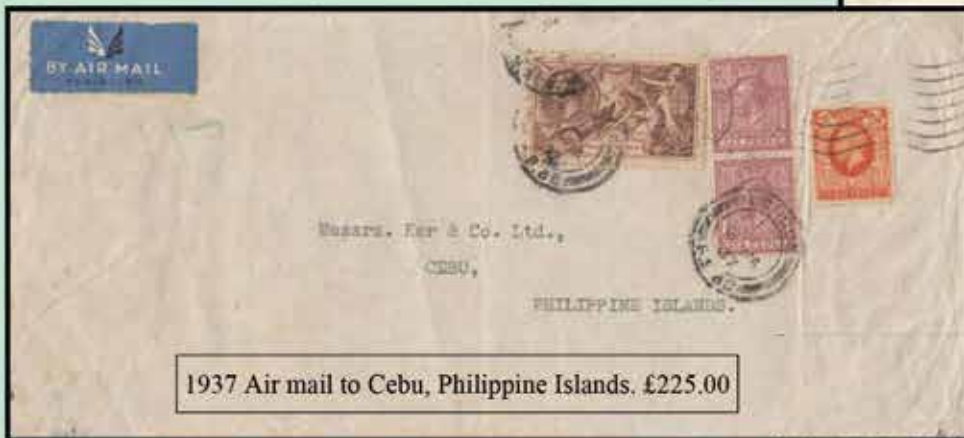
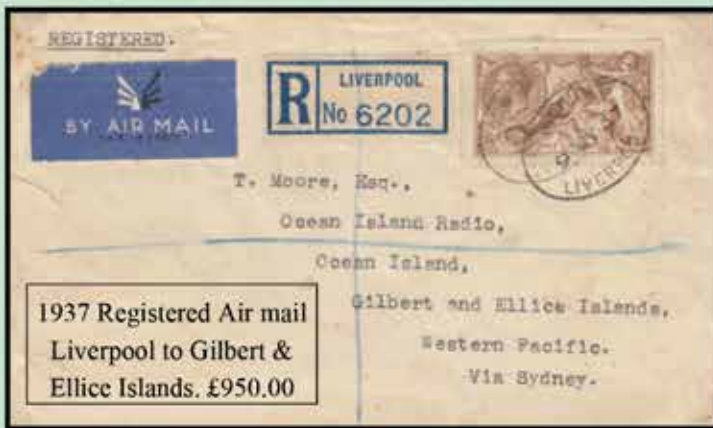
1935 Parcel tag Insured mail Enfield to Bermuda. £300.00

PO Box 10494, Grantham, Lincolnshire,
NG31 0HS, United Kingdom
01476 594698

e-mail: bill@barrell.co.uk website: www.barrell.co.uk

BILL BARRELL LTD

'FLYING SEAHORSES'



1939 'Continental Parcels Post' address tag Stoke on Trent to Belgium. £150.00

Many other unusual usages available.

1937 Set of the three re-engraved Seahorses on Air mail cover London to Brazil. £375.00

PO Box 10494, Grantham, Lincolnshire,
NG31 0HS, United Kingdom
01476 594698

e-mail: bill@barrell.co.uk website: www.barrell.co.uk



The Post Office at Macloutsie, Bechuanaland

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

In June 1891 Macloutsie, located in the far north east of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, became the Protectorate's first fully fledged Post Office. Little more than a year earlier, in April 1890, the Bechuanaland Border Police had established a camp on the Matlaputla River, near its junction with the Motloutse River. The site had a flat based summit suitable for construction of a fort, and there was a spring of clear water nearby. More water was available by digging in the sandy bed of the Matlaputla. The place was given the Scottish name of Macloutsie. The ruins of the fort, situated near the town of Bobonong, remain to this day.

The significance of Macloutsie arose because Cecil Rhodes and his newly chartered British South Africa Company were preparing for the imminent invasion of Mashonaland. A 'Pioneer Column' and a supporting police force was assembled at Macloutsie in May and June 1890. The column comprised some 200 pioneers, 350 mounted police and 400 ancillaries. The settlement at Macloutsie became the communication centre for the pioneers, and created an immediate need for a postal service.

The first official postal facility in Macloutsie was a sub-agency established in June 1890. The office was staffed by members of the Bechuanaland Border Police, and served by a weekly cart from Palachwe.

In February 1891 Major Grey, commander of the police fort at Macloutsie, petitioned the Postmaster-General in Vryburg that 'a properly qualified postal official be stationed at Macloutsie and special accommodation be provided for postal work, as Macloutsie is now the office of exchange between this department and the British South Africa Company system, and is also the terminus of the new mail cart service The work is at present dealt with by a non-commissioned officer of the Border Police. The postal material however passing to and from Mashonaland has increased so considerably during the past few months it now requires a named officer [of the postal department] to deal with it

The Appointment of J. E. Symons

In April 1891, a professional postal official was deployed, and in June 1891, the postal sub-agency was upgraded to the status of a post office. J.E. Symons, an experienced and dedicated officer, had previously served at the Mafeking Post Office in British Bechuanaland. He also provided his colleagues in England with a detailed account of his work at the Macloutsie Post Office. In a letter published in a Post Office journal, Symons described his initial impressions of Macloutsie.

He reported the office to be 'a busy office on mail days, as the whole of the mail going into British South African Company's territory is dealt with here; and the manner in which letters, papers, parcels, mail bags, &c., were strewn over the floor was thoroughly distracting. This has, however, been altered, and Macloutsie now boasts a very decent post office, with pigeon-holes, sorting table, and necessary office gear. It is a longish, roomy hut; and for the place and the times it is sufficient. A money order branch will, I think, be opened here before this reaches you.....'

The office is a large hut, 30 feet by 14, and is rather well built; the walls being of strong poles smeared over with clay and cow-dung; the roof is of dried grass. The windows are small wooden frames covered with canvas, as glass is scarce up here owing to the great distance it has to be transported by ox-wagon over a rough road. The telegraph instrument is on a small, roughly-made table in the one corner, alongside of which is the safe, and next to that my office table, under which is arranged the Daniell's battery, so that I have to be careful with my feet. On the other side is the sorting table, about 10 feet in length and two feet wide; and 20 feet from the front door are arranged the pigeon-holes running nearly across the room, leaving just space enough for a small doorway leading into my chamber beyond. For the public there is a space inside about six feet square, the barrier consisting of boxes piled to a convenient height, and a small light table which I can move on one side to allow a passage to and from the public entrance; a very primitive letter box, four shelves, and two chairs complete the furniture and adornments of the office, barring some



Fig.1: A cover of January 1892 from Macolutsie to England at the six pence rate

lengths of limbo from one rafter to another, arranged as a ceiling to keep the dust and straw from the roof from falling on the tables.'

Symons also described the routine at the Post Office: 'The mail from Vryburg, including English and Colonial mails, arrives once a week, and up to the end of July brought me a large amount of work, as all the Mashonaland mails were made up in this office; running from 8 to 13 bags, and containing some 3,000 to 4,000 items, including letters 2d per ½ ounce, papers 1d per 4ozs.; parcels and book-packets 3d. per lb. The letter bills carried the total debits, and all the items had to be checked to avoid errors I used to empty all the mail bags on the floor, placing the papers, parcels, and book-parcels in distinct heaps, and the letters on the table The mail for Tati and Gubuluwayo (Lobengula's Kraal, Matabeleland) leaves here on Mondays at 3p.m. It is carried by native runners, who do not boast of much raiment; one carries the bag for Tati, and another the Buluwayo bag. They arrange the mail bag on the one end of a stick, and on the other end they fasten their blanket, sandals, 'tin billy' for cooking a piece of meat (sometimes), and some mealie-meal tied in a piece of cloth; the stick is put on the shoulder, they bid me 'Dumela' (good day), and the mail leaves. Tati is about 120 miles from here, and they do the journey in from 3 to 4 days. Other runners are engaged from Tati to Buluwayo, which is about 120 miles further.'

Fig.2: A pen and ink satirical hand drawn cover from Macloutsie to England in December 1892. Six pence was the correct rate to Great Britain for letters at the single rate: presumably this was a double rate letter, hence the '1/-' hand stamp being double the deficit.



In March 1892, a Board of Enquiry was appointed by the Postmaster-General to investigate the causes of inefficiency in the management of the Postal and Telegraph Administration in Bechuanaland. The Board's report was delivered in the following month and focused upon financial inefficiencies. In particular, it found that 'much confusion appears to have originated with the opening of the Post Office at Macloutsie, the officer at which station was not provided with the necessary office accommodation and account forms and did not receive any proper instructions as to the discharge of his duties. It further appears that much confusion occurred in the treatment of remittances made to the Postmaster General by the Postmaster at Macloutsie on account of his collections, each remittance being partly in cash, sometimes consisting of cheques not always negotiable and partly in receipts for letters sent beyond Macloutsie, the post on which is payable by the British South Africa Company and paid by the Company to the Postmaster General on the receipts being sent to their Cape Town office.'



Fig.3: A sketch of the Macloutsie Post Office.

But for the moment, Macloutsie remained the most significant postal establishment in the country. All sub-postmasters in the Protectorate were salaried, and each was issued with a credit stock of postage stamps that reflected the anticipated turnover of the sub-office. In 1893, the most highly paid was sub-postmaster Lance Corporal Pearson at

Macloutsie, who received £50 per annum, with a credit stock of stamps to the value of £75. Other sub-postmasters received an annual salary of £10, and a credit of stamps ranging in value from £10 at Gaborone Village to £50 at Palapye.

In early 1893, the Cape Colony took over responsibility for the Bechuanaland mail services and in August 1894, as part of a contract renewal with the Wirsing Brothers, the end-terminal for the main mail was changed from Macloutsie to Bulawayo. Macloutsie then ceased to be a staging post on the Matabeleland mail route, although it continued to receive a small mail from Palapye.



Fig.4: A cover from Macloutsie to England in September 1899 at the fourpence rate. By this date, Macloutsie had been downgraded from a Post Office to a Postal Agency.

The telegraph line had reached Macloutsie in May 1891, and a line from Macloutsie to Bulawayo was completed in 1893. Macloutsie thereafter remained a fairly important telegraph office despite the decline of its postal significance.

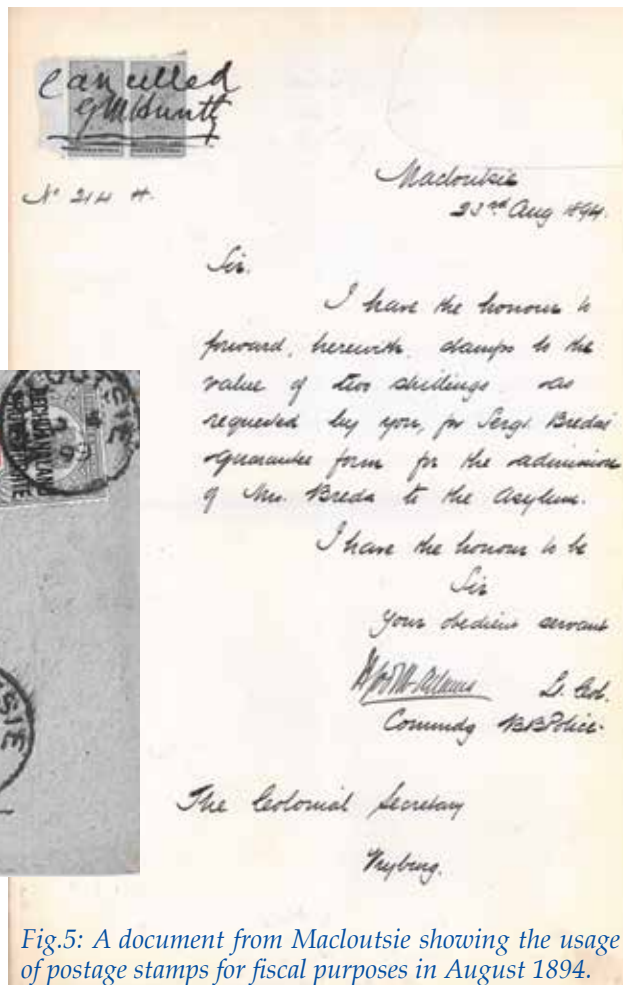


Fig.5: A document from Macloutsie showing the usage of postage stamps for fiscal purposes in August 1894.

Reference:

- Symons, J.E; *The Macloutsie Post Office and its Postmaster, 1892*, edited by Peter Thy, Krone Publications, 2002, Davis, California.

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR



ORANGE FREE COLONY

1907 1d. Scarlet
punctured 'CS / AR'
(S.G. R016)

A rare multiple from a specialised stick

Address: P.O. Box 37324, London N1 - 2YQ.

Tel: 020 7226 1503 Fax: 020 7359 7456 email address: markjtaylor@btinternet.com

GOING NOWHERE, SLOWLY

You've got mail. Somewhere. Probably.*

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



One area where the Covid-19 pandemic has had a serious knock-on effect on a global scale during the past year is the movement of mail. Post offices worldwide have found themselves in a Catch-22 situation.

As most countries introduced lockdown restrictions to curtail the movement of people and spread of the virus, home shopping and on-line purchases showed a dramatic increase. These purchases are largely shipped via the post office. Yet, post offices were also subject to restrictions. This meant a significantly reduced work force had to deal with an increased volume of mail. The result: a major backup and delay in processing mail (Figs.3&4).



Fig.1: A pre-paid South African registered airmail cover from Port Elizabeth to Germany, returned to sender with a 'NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE' sticker applied. Interesting to note that no blue cross, to signify registration, has been added to the envelope. Can the sender reclaim the cost of R58.15 from the Post Office?

At the same time, many countries closed their borders. This meant ships were tied up in harbours and airlines were sending 90% of their fleets to desert storage. Capacity was slashed to a fraction of pre-Covid-19 days while costs have increased by 27%. The bottom line then; getting letters and parcels delivered has become significantly difficult (Fig.1).

Many countries have even suspended their mail service altogether. The cover illustrated in Fig.2 is such an example. This item, destined for South Africa never left Italy. It is an unnerving view of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the world economy. And currently there's still no end in sight.

If readers have covers with Covid-19 related cachets or stickers, we would welcome a copy of the item. Please scan at 300dpi and save as a JPG file. Send the file as an e-mail attachment to the Production Editor at janice@gdb.co.za.

* Headline from US National Public Radio, 22 January 2021



Fig.2: An item posted in Italy, July 2020, returned to sender, February 2021, as undeliverable.



Fig.3: The delivery of local mail was disrupted as much as international mail as Post Offices also had to adhere to restrictions with a reduced work force and social distancing. Note the absence of workers in this picture.



Fig.4: December 2020 saw Royal Mail flooded with millions of parcels which could not be processed or delivered.

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1961

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society



Part 2: The impact of decimalisation in 1961 on the postal rates of the RSA

The year 1961 was one of the most interesting years in modern South African philately. On 14 February 1961 the Union of South Africa changed to the decimal currency meaning a new set of postal rates and stamps and on 31 May 1961 South Africa became a Republic with the same implications. This year it has been 60 years since decimalisation on 14.2. 2021.

Introduction

Although the Republic of South Africa was formed on 31 May 1961, it is useful to start a study of the postal rates of the RSA on 14 February 1961 because South Africa converted to the decimal system of currency on that date. From a philatelic point of view these events provide collectors with an exciting opportunity to build up a worthwhile collection.

A characteristic of the postal rates of the RSA is the fact that the rates stayed the same from 14 February 1961 to 1 April 1971. The reason for the changes in 1971 was the fact that the Post Office changed over to the metric system on 1 April 1971 and with the entry into force of a new Universal Postal Union Convention on 1 July 1972.

From 1971 onwards the rates were normally changed on 1 April of every year, which was the beginning of the financial year. The exceptions to the rule were the following dates, resulting sometimes in more than one change of postal rates in one calendar year:

1 January 1981, 1 July 1984, 1 January 1986 (when only foreign postage rates were changed), 1 July 1987, 30 September 1991, 2 May 1992, 1 July 1995, 1 July 1996, 7 April 1997, and 14 April 1998.

The aim of this article is to illustrate selected items to explain the impact of the events of 14 February 1961 and 31 May 1961 on the postal system of South Africa. This impact was applicable to the postage stamps, postage due stamps, postal stationery, revenue stamps, savings bank stamps etc. printed, surcharged and overprinted by the Government Printer during the period 1960-1961 and the postal rates introduced on 14 February 1961.

The year 1961 can be divided up in the following three periods from a philatelic point of view:

	Union of South Africa	Union of South Africa	Republic of South Africa
	Period 1 January 1961 up to 13 February 1961	Period from 14 February to 30 May 1961	Period after 31 May 1961
Currency	Sterling	Decimal	Decimal

The interesting story behind decimalisation and the impact it had on the stamp designs and values as well as postal rates in the RSA was first highlighted by Hugh Amooore RDPSA from Cape Town in an article published in *The South African Philatelist* in December 1989 with the title: 'The 3½c stamp of the 1961 interim definitive'. It was actually

this article that motivated me to start with a collection of the postal rates of the RSA.

The designs for the interim issue were drawn from the animal set (1954 - 1961) and the Union Jubilee Commemoratives of 1960 (Fig.1). The interim issue contained a 3½c value (Fig.2) and as Amooore stated that the story behind this is part of South Africa's interesting postal history where there was no 3½c value in the Republican definitive issue some three months later.



Fig.1: Cover posted from Johannesburg on 21 March 1961 to Argentina illustrating the 22½c airmail rate to South America: franking includes two 10c Jubilee interim issue stamps.

The conversion of postal rates and charges from sterling to a decimal currency was a considerable undertaking. Some rates had an exact equivalent: the inland letter rate of 3d for the first ounce became 2½c (Figs.3 - 6) and the 1/- rates became 10c, but 1c represented a 20% increase in rates. The new decimal rates were gazetted on 11 November 1960 to take effect on 14 February 1961.

Amooore also stated that: "The white voters of the Union of South Africa had voted in favour of a Republic, and as this was to come about on 31 May 1961 the Post Office decided to delay a new definitive issue until then and issue interim definitives for decimal day, 14 February 1961."

The conversion of the rates from sterling to decimal currency

The issue of decimalisation was also debated in parliament on 13 May 1960 when the Member of Parliament for Kensington, Mr P.A. Moore, wanted to know from the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Dr. Albert Hertzog, what the decimal rates would be after the conversion. He said that the Minister of Finance, Dr. T.E. Dönges, had already mentioned that with the 1d stamps converted to 1c

there was no possibility of undue benefit to the public. He appealed to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications to have a serious look at the 2d, 4d, 7d and 9d rates in order to meet the public half-way, and to set as an objective a policy that rounding up would be matched by rounding down. He specifically requested that the 4d inland airletter rate should be converted down to 3c.

Amoore also indicated that there was a public outcry as most, if not all rates, were to have been rounded up to the nearest half cent. One such rate reduced at this time was the inland airmail letter rate. This had been 4d for the first ounce and 2d for each additional half ounce. The decimal equivalents of 3.333c and 1.667c had been rounded to 3½c and 1½c respectively in the gazetted rates of 11 November 1960. Because the airmail letter rate was in common use, the interim definitive issue therefore included a 3½c stamp.

The conversion from the sterling postage rates formed the basis for the development of the postal rates introduced on the 31 May 1961. As indicated in the table below a selection of the various rates will be illustrated. (Figs.9, 10 & 11).

The inland airmail, postcard and surface letter rates: 1954 to 1961

	1 July 1954	1 April 1959	14 Feb 1961	31 May 1961
Air Mail rate	3d for the first oz and 2d per oz	4d for the first oz and 2d per oz	3c for the first oz and 1½c for each additional oz	3c for the first oz and 1½c for each additional oz
1st step surface letter rate	2d	3d	2½c	2½c
Airmail postcard rate	2d	2½d	2c	2c

The development of the surface letter rate from Sterling to the Decimal Currency of 2½c in 1961

The 2d first step surface letter rate introduced on the 1 July 1954.



Fig.2: The proposed Inland Air Mail letter rate was 3½c and the revised rate 3c. It was too late to issue a 3c stamp. Cover franked with the 3½c stamp cancelled on the day of decimalisation on 14 February 1961 in Isipingo.

The compromise reached between the Postmaster General (PMG) and the Decimalisation Board on 8 February 1961 reduced this rate to 3c for the first ounce and 1½c per additional ounce. It was, at that stage, less than a week before Decimal Day, 14 February 1961, and too late to issue a 3c stamp and inland air mail users had to make up the 3c by using other stamps (Fig. 9).

The conversion from sterling to decimal coinage on 14 February 1961 necessitated the production of a new series of stamps with values expressed in the new currency. There were 13 values in the new series, merely re-denominated designs which had been utilised for previous issues. For nine values, designs of the 1954 animal series were used, the alterations being: ½c for ½d, 1c for 1d, 1½c for 1½d, 2c for 2d, 5c for 6d, 12½c for 1/3, 20c for 2/-, 50c for 5/- and R1 for 10/- (Figs.7 & 8)

For the remaining four values, 1960 commemorative issue designs were used: 2½c for 3d (Union Day issue of 31 May) and three values of the Union Golden Jubilee issue of 2 May, 3½c for 4d, 7½c for 6d and 10c for 1/-. This series had a life of only 3½ months. It was superseded by the first Republic definitive series which appeared on 31 May 1961.



Fig.3: Unfranked cover posted from Hidcote Rail on 27 November 1958 to Port Elizabeth via surface mail and taxed 4d. The surface letter rate at that stage was 2d and therefore the cover was taxed double the deficiency. Postage due stamp applied in Port Elizabeth on 2 December 1958, however the cachet applied indicates that the tax was 'Unpaid'.

The 3d first step surface letter rate introduced on the 1 April 1959.



Fig.4: Cover posted from Cape Town on 21 June 1960 via surface mail franked with only a 1d stamp instead of 3d and taxed 4d. The cover was taxed because of the shortfall of 2d. Note the 'Refused' in manuscript on the cover indicating that the addressee refused to accept the item and pay the tax of 4d.

The 2½c inland surface letter rate introduced on 14 February 1961.



Fig.5: Cover posted from Westdene in Bloemfontein on the day that the inland surface letter rate of 2½c was introduced..

The 2½c inland surface letter rate applied after the 31 May 1961.

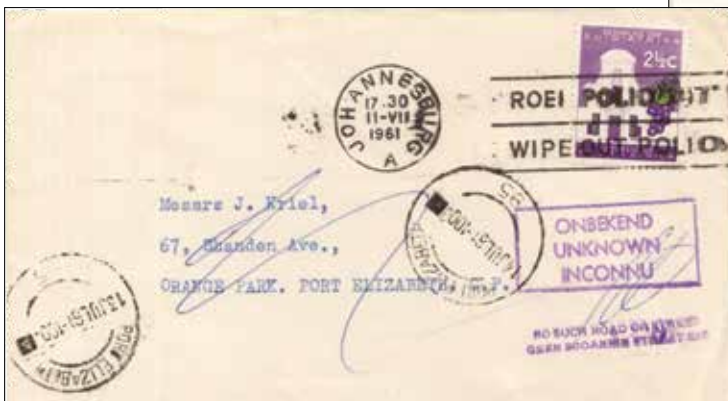


Fig.6: Cover posted from Johannesburg 11 July 1961 illustrating the 2½c rate introduced on 14 February 1961. Cachet applied to indicate that 'NO SUCH ROAD OR STREET' exists in Orange Park in Port Elizabeth and therefore the recipient is unknown to the Post Office.

The 1s6d stamp design used for the 20c interim definitive issue



Fig.7: Cover posted from Cape Town on the 21 November 1955 to Germany with the 1/6 stamp affixed to pay the ½ oz rate to Europe. There was no 15c value in the interim definitive set.



Fig.8: Cover posted from Keurboomsrivier on 14 February 1961 to Lagos in Nigeria with a 20c stamp illustrating the double letter rate of 10c per ½ oz to African countries. Used on the first day of decimalisation.



Fig.9: Cover posted from Cape Town on 22 February 1961 with the 3c Inland Air Mail rate also illustrating the use of the 2c decimal stamp converted from the 2d sterling value.

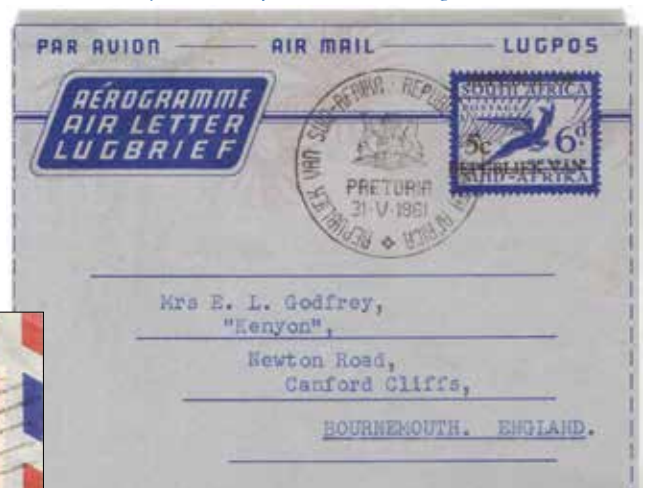


Fig.10: Aerogramme illustrating the impact of decimalisation on 14 February 1961 and on the formation of the Republic on 31 May 1961. The imprinted stamp is overprinted with '5c' on '6d', and with 'Republic of' and 'Republiek van'. Cancelled with Commemorative datestamp prepared for the 31 May 1961.

Meter Franking Machines

Collectors interested in this period of the postal history in South Africa should take note that decimalisation also had an impact on the rates of the meter franking machines. Meter Frank Postage Stamps were 'stamps' printed by means of a franking machine directly on to envelopes or



Fig.11: Cover posted from the Rissik Street post office on 30 May 1961, the day before South Africa became a Republic, to Trinidad and franked with stamps to the value of 22½c which was the air mail rate set for South America on the 14 February 1961.

labels to be posted. They were used by firms or individuals licensed by the Postmaster-General. Between 14 February 1961 and the 30 May 1961, the last day of Union, meter franking machines previously in use with values in pence continued in operation until they could be converted to decimal currency. Relatively few machines were converted during this period. Mercury 'X' machines were never converted. Specimen marks of some of the machines that were converted are illustrated (Fig.12).

Conclusion

The year 1961 can indeed be regarded as one of the most fascinating periods in South Africa to collect from a philatelic point of view. The change on 14 February 1961 in the Union of South Africa to the decimal currency laid the foundation for the postal rates applicable in the RSA up to 1971. Besides all the different printings, overprints, surcharges and hand stamps applied, to try and get commercially used examples of each of the different items during the different periods is also an exciting challenge.

• **With Thanks:** The author would like to thank Hugh Amoore RDPSA from Cape Town for his assistance with this article. [🌐](#)



Fig.12: Sample proof with a Cape Town die dated 18 January 1961 that was done in anticipation of decimalisation on 14 February 1961.

Sources:

- Hugh Amoore, *The 3½c Stamp of the 1961 Interim Definitive* in *The SA Philatelist* December 1989.
- *Post Office Guide*, Number 1 December 1963.
- *RSA Stamp Study Group*, 25th Anniversary Issue, Dec 2007.
- *Stamps of South Africa*, Handbook Catalogue, 2nd Revised Edition, Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, Bergvliet, 1979.
- *Unie van Suid-Afrika, Debatte van die Volksraad* (Handsard) 13 Januarie tot 20 Mei 1960, Nasionale Handelsdrukkery Beperk, Elsiesrivier, 1960.

OBITUARY

WIM HARDIJZER

8 December 1933 - 18 November 2020

Wim Hardijzer, an Honorary member of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, passed away on Wednesday evening 18 November 2020. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Frauke, children, family, and friends.

He joined the Pretoria Philatelic Society in 1979 and was a stalwart at meetings, serving in many posts, including President and Exchange Superintendent.

He also ran some of the children's groups associated with the PPS and had a regular monthly table at the Menlyn Shopping Centre where he promoted philately and the Pretoria Philatelic Society.



In addition to his contributions to PPS, Wim was an active member of the AFP and AFV.

He was a prolific contributor of books to the exchange section and even in the leaner years did not reduce his contributions which continued well into 2020, despite exhibiting growing signs of dementia.

Wim was elected an Honorary Member of PPS before leaving to live in Langebaan in the Cape. Wim and Frauke had moved to a retirement complex in George with frail care facilities. Unfortunately, his condition rapidly deteriorated after the move and he did not get to enjoy his new surroundings. Wim loved stamps and was a gentleman whom we mourn and sadly miss. [🌐](#)



The Development of Postal Services in the Schoonberg and Kammanassie Region

by ds. Pauw Steyl RDPSA, George Philatelic Society

By 1835/1836 the loan farm Schoonberg, today known as Louvain in the Upper Long Kloof, was owned by Peregrine Bertie Richardson. He arrived in the Long Kloof from Mossel Bay where he owned a whaling station. In course of time this small and remote community at Schoonberg developed a need for postal services. Richardson had about seventy personnel on his farm. Luckily Schoonberg was not far from the main postal route between Cape Town, via George, to the Eastern Cape.

she was no longer the Postmaster and Richardson lived on his other farm, Matjies Drift in the Kammanassie Area about four miles from Schoonberg. From there he again handled the postal affairs.

The official post office at Schoonberg became redundant. Mr J. W. Groenewald of Ezeljagt made a strong statement that the community felt deeply grieved about the state of the handling of the postal affairs in the area. *"The appointed postmaster for Schoonberg lived on the farm Matjies Drift about 45 minutes from Schoonberg. No one was sure where to post their letters. Sometimes Richardson did his postmaster duties at Schoonberg and other times at his other farm, Matjies River, in the Kammanassie area."*

According to Putzel the Almanac of 1807/1808 lists Ezeljacht as a post office. There was no closing down date.



Fig.1

At the end of 1856 the Schoonberg Postal Agency was established with P.B. Richardson as the first postal agent. He did not receive any remuneration and this was a big problem for him. He took up his case with Postmaster General Le Seuer in Cape Town. Richardson's representations were successful and he was appointed as Deputy-Postmaster with a salary of £6 per year.

The mutual discontent about the handling of the postal affairs in this area contains very interesting comments.

Richardson *inter alia* told the PMG that the Postal Agency served the whole area and that he had to fetch the mailbag six times a week at his own cost on the main road. The distance was more than a mile and that the post cart driver hung the bag on a pole next to the road.

Postmaster James Searle of Blanco also explained to the PMG the problem of hanging a mailbag on a pole along the main postal route: *"As the bag is only hung on a nail it is very liable to be blown away. I have also observed that some of the leather straps had been eaten by cattle. The bag ought to be hung a little higher so as to be out of their reach."*

When he became elected as member of the George Divisional Council, Richardson resigned as postmaster on 11 October 1862. He was succeeded by his daughter Caroline. By 1875



Fig.2: Wrapper, endorsed OHM Service and P.B. Richardson Schoonberg to indicate the official status of the letter.

I am of the opinion that this information is not correct. By 1806 there were two postal routes via the Attaquaskloof Pass, over the Outeniqua Mountains north of Mossel Bay, to Uitenhage and Graaff Reinet. The Uitenhage route went through the Long Kloof and one of the stopping places on the way was at Ezeljagt. It was a post station for changing horses on the main postal route to the Eastern Cape. A Telephone Office (Tto) was opened in 1921 and closed on 14 March 1949.

On 2 February 1874 six inhabitants of the neighbourhood asked the PMG to move the postal agency to the farm Ezeljagt.

They told the PMG that a James Richardson lived about 20 yards from the main postal route and he would be the ideal person to be appointed as Postal Agent. However, nobody at Ezeljagt was interested in handling the postal affairs and the *status quo* was maintained. As a matter of interest Ezeljagt is the farm of the late Joh Groenewald's ancestors. His father was born at Ezeljagt and later moved to George.

Research shows that the Schoonberg Post Office made use of two mailbags, labelled: Schoonberg/George and Schoonberg/Wolvekraal. These mailbags were hung on a pole along the main postal route more than a mile from the post office. From there they were picked up by the post driver on his way to George or Wolvekraal.

Although Richardson still did official postal correspondence as 'postal agent of Schoonberg', by December 1877 the government regarded the Schoonberg Postal Agency closed with the resignation of Caroline Richardson. Richardson died on his farm Matjies Drift on 1 May 1882. I think postal history should honour Peregrine Bertie Richardson for his pioneer work regarding postal services in the Upper Long Kloof Area as well as for the seeds that he planted in the Kammanassie Area.

The Post Office/Postal Agency at Schoonberg continued to exist. It's not sure who Richardson's successor was, probably his son P. B. Richardson. The office closed on 1 June 1886.

This wrapper, (Fig.2), ended up in the Wolvekraal mailbag instead of in the Cape Town one. At Wolvekraal it received the rare Wolvekraal DTO transit handstamp (DE 29 1857) and arrived in Cape Town on DE 31 1857.

FARMS IN THE KAMMANASSIE REGION OBTAIN POST OFFICE FACILITIES:

The highest peak of the Kammanassie Mountain Range is called Mannetjiesberg, 1955m (6545ft) above sea level.

The Kammanassie River flows from east to west south of the Kammanassie Mountains in the Little Karoo. It rises between the Kouga and the Outeniqua Mountains about 16km east of Uniondale and joins the Olifants River about 2km east of Oudtshoorn. It is the most important source of water for the Olifants River basin.

According to tender details a field cornet post existed in 1884 and 1885 between Schoonberg and the Kammanassie area: "*Post Office Schoonberg to Matjies Drift (residence of Field-cornet G. A. le Roux) 1 hour each way once a week on horseback.*"

The tender details for the 1886 field cornet post were: "*Between junction of Matjies Drift with Lange Kloof road and residence of F/c Matjies Drift (Kamnassie), once a week and once a fortnight on horseback 1 hour each way, on foot two hours.*"

From 1889 to 1898 a weekly field cornet post on horseback existed between Molen River (Long Kloof) and Vogelstruisfontein (Kammanassie). On account of the Anglo Boer War in 1898 the service was terminated until the end of the war in 1902. According to my records the field cornet post resumed in 1902 and was terminated in 1910. The contractor was a Mr J. Richardson. A Divisional Post on horseback was introduced on 16 October 1910, twice weekly, between Molen River (Long Kloof) and Spielmanskraal (Kammanassie). The contractor was D. Keyter.

Through the years there were quite a few farm postal agencies in the Kammanassie region.

Kamnassie: (1893-1901) On 1 March 1893 a Postal Agency was established known as Kammanassie/Kamnassie. The name means 'river that always has water'. From 1 May 1895 it was known as Kamnassie Postal Agency (Fig.3). A postal item from Mossel Bay (20 November 1897) was addressed: Mr C. J. Meyer, Buffelsdrift via Uniondale.



Fig.3.



Fig.4: 20 November 1897 - Letter from General Merchants Matare, Bruns & Co. in Mossel Bay to Kamnassie Postal Agency via Uniondale.



The cover (Fig.4) shows the Uniondale receiving date stamp (21 November 1897) as well as the receiving Kamnassie CDS (26 November 1897). The Kamnassie strike could be regarded as very rare. The one recorded here is to the best of my knowledge the only date stamp yet recorded for this agency.

It is very difficult to locate the situation of the first Kamnassie Postal Agency, 1893-1901 (Head Office Uniondale). In my search for the possible location, I spoke to the Rev. Petrus Carstens of Uniondale. He told me that in the farming area between Uniondale and Buffelsdrift, the road goes through a deep valley known as the Kamnassie Valley. We both believe that the Kamnassie Postal Agency was run from a remote farm shop along the road through this valley.

The fact that the letter was received at the Kamnassie Postal Agency five days after it was received at the Uniondale Post Office suggests that there was probably only one mail bag per week along this route.

The Kamnassie Agency, which closed on 1 May 1901, is not related to the Kammanassie Agency which opened 1 April 1920. Situated much nearer to Outdtshoorn, this office was renamed Kammanassie Dam on 15 October 1945.

Spielmanskraal: A postal agency opened on this farm on 1 November 1910. It was promoted to a Post and Telegraph Agency on 17 September 1923 and renamed **Speelmanskraal** in the early 1930s. The datestamp, Fig.5, has a cross flanked by two bars at the bottom. The day appears before the month and there is no time code. The Speelmanskraal Post and Telegraph Agency was opened on 8 February 1932, but closed temporarily 18 June to 2 July 1934. Post and Telegraph Agency 1937; Postal Agency 20 April 1970. Office closed on 5 September 1972.



Fig.5: 26mm circle.

Buffelsdrift: a farm about 50 km from Uniondale in the Kammanassie region of the Little Karoo, received its mail from 1 February to 31 December 1908 by field cornet mail from Molens River. The Postal Agency there opened 1 March 1911, closed temporarily 1 April to 1 September 1912 and was elevated to a Post and Telegraph Agency on 9 March 1931 (Fig.6). It closed on 29 April 1980 (Fig.7).



Fig.6.



Fig.7: 18 November 1941 – OHMS cover used by the lady principal at Buffelsdrift Primary School to the Secretary, School Board, George with oval Official Free cachet. As it was during WWII, paper was scarce. This envelope was re-used by the Department to Mr A. Botha at Outeniqua on 5 March 1943.

Rustoord: A Postal Agency opened on 26 October 1925 on the farm Vogelstruisfontein. On 9 February 1931 it became a Post and Telegraph Agency and was renamed **Rusoord** in 1953. The Postal Agency closed on 26 April 1954 although the Telegraph and Telephone office continued. The office reopened as a Post and Telegraph Agency in 1956 and closed on 21 July 1958. No postmark has been seen.

Daskop: A Postal Agency opened on the farm Daskop on 22 August 1927. On 9 February 1931 it became a Post and Telegraph Agency which closed on 2 October 1972 (Fig.8 & 9).

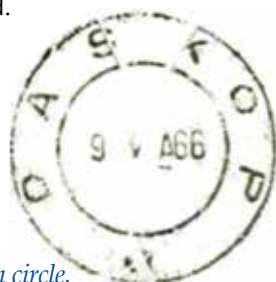


Fig.8: 31 mm circle. Cross at base. Full date with time code letter.



Fig.9: 10 February 1972 – Letter sent from Daskop to Bredell. (Arrival backstamp 16.02.72)

This information gives us an interesting view on how postal affairs were handled by the people in the Kammanassie.

- With the establishment of the Postal Agency at Daskop in 1927 there were three Postal Agencies in the Kammanassie : Buffelsdrift, Rustoord and Daskop.
- Buffelsdrift and Rustoord together had postal agencies for 31 years. Buffelsdrift and Daskop together had postal agencies for 45 years.
- Daskop and Rustoord together had postal agencies for 29 years.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

LITERATURE:

- Putzel, Ralph F. – *Encyclopaedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies*.
- Cape Town, 1986 (Volume 1), 1987 (Volume 2), 1989 (Volume 3).
- Putzel, Ralph F – *The Postmarks of South Africa and former States and Colonies*.
- Cape Town, 1992 (Volume 1); 2002 (Volume 9).
- Visser, Alex - <http://upnet.up.ac.za/services/it/documentation/docs/004167.pdf>
- Van Huyssteen, Anista: *Die Storie van die Langkloof*. Melkbosstrand, 2008.
- Steyl, Pauw: - *With the Post Cart through Houtteniqualandt, Kannaland and the Lange Kloof*

Cape Archives:

GPO 1 – Incoming letters from the Country Postmasters to the Postmaster General 1814-1880. Volumes: 1/19-1/50(1856); 1/58-1/61(1859); 1/70-1/73(1864); 1/114-116(1874); 1/117-1/121(1875); 1/132 (1877-1879)

Library George Museum:

George Herald (1883-1891): 1883.11.28; 1884.10.22; 1885.10.14; 1886.10.27; 1887.10.12; 1888.11.21; 1889.11.13; 1890.10.15; 1891.10.14

Photo material:

Pauw Steyl Postal History collection and photos.



Practical One Frame Class Exhibiting

by Dr. Neil Cronjé RDPSA - Chairman M.C. and André du Plessis, RDPSA - PFSA C.O.O.

The One Frame Class is the only exhibit class based on size rather than subject. It is composed of exhibits that tell a complete story in one frame. All subsections of the normal classes are suitable subjects for inclusion within the One Frame Class except Picture Postcard exhibits. However, they may be entered into the Picture Post Card class as a One Frame exhibit.

Process:

TITLE

- Selection of a suitable name to describe the exhibit.
A catchy name will be more highly rated than a generic subject.
- Do not add this to the top of every page but rather only name the first page.
- Say what you show and show what you say.

WRITE UP

- The exhibit elements for the One Frame Class are identical to those of the General Classes.
- Write up should be concise, crisp and convey only the essential information. Do not write a book.
- It must tell a story with a beginning, a middle, as well as an end.
 - A One Framer should not be a selection of pages from a larger exhibit but should tell a complete story in One Frame (16 A4 pages).
 - One should not be able to expand the topic to a multi-frame exhibit.
- The write-up of some pages does take longer than others.
 - Give yourself enough time and plan your process accordingly.

SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT OF MATERIAL

- This includes the documenting of philatelic knowledge that will earn points.
- Rule of thumb is *'Only the best is good enough'*; know your subject and material.
- Avoid being sentimental. Do not show an item if it is not relevant, even if this item is rare and expensive.
- Items and covers should be distributed throughout the exhibit i.e. the materials should be distributed evenly throughout the exhibit.
- Do not over crowd certain types of items and covers.

AVOID

- Open and white spaces on the various pages.
- 'Padding' - the duplication of various items in order to fill the page.
- The repeating of words in the 'write-up'.

HIGHLIGHTING OF RARE ITEMS.

- Find an attractive colour that suits you and try to avoid the use of red or dark colours, rather use subtle pastel colours.



What information should feature on the title page.

- A plan of the contents is essential.
 - An index must be concise and complete.
- Purpose and scope of the exhibit (what is expected).
 - This must be explained, i.e. from 1910 - 1913 etc.
 - Should not be open-ended.
 - Do not extend the exhibit beyond your end point.
- If a topic is mentioned on the first page, it should be shown in the exhibit. If not, points will be deducted.
- Applicable information for understanding the exhibit.
 - If the information exceeds the first page, it may be carried over to the next page.
- A short introduction per subject is preferred, but do not write too much. The shorter, the better.
- Short Bibliography on page one or the last page must be included.

JUDGING GUIDELINES.

- One Frame Class exhibits are evaluated using the same guidelines as in the normal classes.

TREATMENT

Space consideration is particularly critical in one-frame exhibits. An appropriately limited subject well fitted to the space available is imperative. The inherent constraints on space in one-frame exhibits will narrow subjects but it must be comprehensively treated.

Given the extremely limited space available, it is important that every item exhibited is related, and advances the exhibit's development (story line).

IMPORTANCE

Philatelic importance is considering the inherent restrictions of the one frame of the chosen topic and defined scope.

A superbly treated subject of moderate importance will be more successful than an incredibly important topic that is too much for one frame and therefore suffering inadequate treatment due to simple space limitations.

All other criteria should be taken from the appropriate section for the exhibit subject. (see Exhibition Prospectus for details).



BECHUANALAND

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



While rifling through some of the older files that I had saved on my computer, I came across a set of articles that I had written in and around 2014 for the *Stamp Corner*, a feature of the *Wild News*, the local newspaper at that time here in Wilderness. Amongst them was one headed 'British Bechuanaland' (Fig.1) which included interesting quotations from Cecil Rhodes and Sir Charles Warren and that I thought might well be worth submitting to *The SA Philatelist*.

By good fortune, I found that I was able to illustrate the article with the reproduction of a page from my collection of *Issuing Authorities of the World*, a collection of which I retained a scanned copy when I sold the original albums at auction in London a couple of years ago. (This was page number 277 of a total of 344). Where appropriate, I have highlighted the different phases in the development of Botswana while, in addition on my album page, there may be seen representative stamps the Tati Concessions (Fig.4) of 1895 and for the Internal Self-Government of 1965 (Fig.6)

Bechuanaland a country that attained its independence as the Republic of Botswana in 1966, was referred to by Cecil John Rhodes in 1883 as 'The Suez Canal of this country, the key of its road to the interior'.

Rhodes, who was in fact for a brief period the Deputy Commissioner for Bechuanaland, recognised the strategic importance of the country being bounded as it was on the west by German South West Africa and on the east by President Kruger's Transvaal Republic while to the south the Cape Colony was eager to extend its borders. The presence of two self-styled independent provinces in the Northern Cape, Goshen and Stellaland (Fig.3) of which, incidentally, the latter went so far as to produce its own postage stamps, served to complicate relationships. Although British Sovereignty over the territory had been proclaimed in the name of Queen Victoria in 1884, a military expedition under General Sir Charles Warren was despatched in the following year "to remove the filibusters, to pacificate the country, to reinstate the natives in their land, to take such measures as are necessary to prevent further depredations and, finally, to hold the country until its further destiny is known". Thus it was that in September, 1885, the vast expanse to the north of the Malopo River became the Protectorate of Bechuanaland while the area to the south, including Stellaland, was constituted as the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland. This state of affairs

persisted until November 1895 when the Colony was annexed by the then independent Cape of Good Hope Regular postage stamps of the Cape of Good Hope in values from a halfpenny (½d) to one shilling (1/-) and with a suitable overprint were put on sale in the Colony in December 1885 and in January 1888 they were supplemented by the current ½d vermilion Queen Victoria definitive stamp of Great Britain, again with the overprint reading 'British Bechuanaland'. Also at that time stamps were issued in values from 1d up to £5 in a design that had been produced originally for British fiscal stamps but with the added inscription of 'British Bechuanaland Postage & Revenue'. Pre-stamped post cards had been introduced in Great Britain in 1870 and a quantity of the Penny Red card of 1892 were also overprinted for the Colony.

The imprinted 1d stamp on the card shown here was exceptional in that it incorporated a full-length portrait of the Queen rather than her head in profile as it had appeared on the iconic *Penny Black* of 1840 and all other British stamps of the 19th Century.

The imprint of the stamp was surcharged with the wording 'Three Half Pence', i.e. 1½d, to suit the local rate for post cards that had been introduced in 1891. Although after 1895 no more stamps were printed in the name of British Bechuanaland, those that were already in

circulation remained valid until 1897 as witness the card illustrated. In this case the ½d vermilion was added to cover delivery beyond the country's borders. It was posted from the border village of Ramoutsa on 14 February 1897 and was addressed to Hermannsburg near Greytown in Natal. The village of Hermannsburg had been established in 1854 as a German Lutheran Mission Station. It was also the site of a boy's school that could number amongst its alumni no less a personage than General Louis Botha, the son of a German Voortrekker, who was destined to become, in 1907, the first Prime Minister both of the Transvaal and, three years later, of the Union of South Africa.

In 1882, Stellaland, with its capital of Vryburg, was declared a republic by the Boers living on the 416 farms which constituted the area. It was named after a comet (Latin: *stella* = star) that was visible at the time (Fig.3). Stamps were issued in 1884 but withdrawn in the following year after the territory



Fig.1: British Bechuanaland was proclaimed a Crown Colony in 1885 and annexed to the Cape in 1895. From 1890 until 1897, stamps of the colony were valid in the Protectorate. The 1892 GB penny postcard with the full-length portrait of Queen Victoria was overprinted and surcharged 1½d and was supplemented with an overprinted GB ½d vermilion for delivery from Ramoutsa to the German Mission at Hermannsburg near Greytown in Natal.



Fig.3.

Feedback through the back door of a SAVPEX experience from an exhibitor's point of view

by Darcy Hickson, Manitoba Canada

(The article appears on the PFSA website - please take the time to read the entire link as - space restrictions here, offer only a snippet of this experience.)

This feedback (shortened) from an exhibitor to last years SAVPEX - the annual virtual one-frame competition organised by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

"After looking at the Prospectus and Entry Form, I submitted an entry for my one-frame exhibit: *International Stamp Cancelling Machines at Brandon, Manitoba 1907-1919*.

The entry fee was US \$30 which is higher than most fees paid to show a one-frame exhibit in Canada, but the fee is a bargain due to the elimination of shipping costs (and risk) to freight the physical exhibit to and from the show.

The entry fee granted access to an international jury pool of accredited judges, receipt of a judges score sheet with written comments and a medal of participation. (Fig.1). Successful entrants would have their exhibits uploaded to the Philatelic Federation S.A. website for public display and accessed with this link: <https://sapa.africa/exhibits/#savpex>

Preparing the exhibit for submission required numbering the pages on the lower right side and scanning them at 300 dpi in jpg or pdf formats.

The saved files were carefully named using SAVPEX instructions: Surname space, Initial space, first 3 letters of your exhibit title and 2 digit page number. Using this numbering system my Title Page was HICKSON D INT01.pdf. As you can see, every precaution was taken to ensure that pages were placed in the proper sequence in the frame once submitted to SAVPEX organisers.

My 16 exhibit pages and 2 page synopsis created a 35mb digital file to upload. Too big to email, the file was passed along to the organisers using 'OneDrive' file sharing. While I was fearing blowback for poor scans or missing information, instead I got same day service with my 'optimised and consolidated' exhibit attached to an email, ready for proofing.

Fig.1: SAVPEX participant medal



Wow! I was advised that SAVPEX was very responsive and eager to work with contributors to ensure success for all. No kidding!

Worth noting that the deliberate optimising, consolidating and compressing of the exhibit by SAVPEX 2020 reduced the file size to a mere 5mb (for checking). As the exhibits were forwarded in either JPG or PDF format, Emil used the program 'PDElement 6' to generate one or the other into both formats. Those wishing to work improvements into their craft will lament the lack of a formal judges critique session or a frame side visit with a first responder judge.

That is a fair criticism of any virtual stamp show, but SAVPEX judges provided a thorough and balanced written critique, generous with praise but also gently suggesting areas that need shoring up.

In fact, SAVPEX 2020 set a pretty high bar for prompt and courteous contact with exhibitors not in attendance, a concept that could be embraced and adopted at some of our 'live' events".

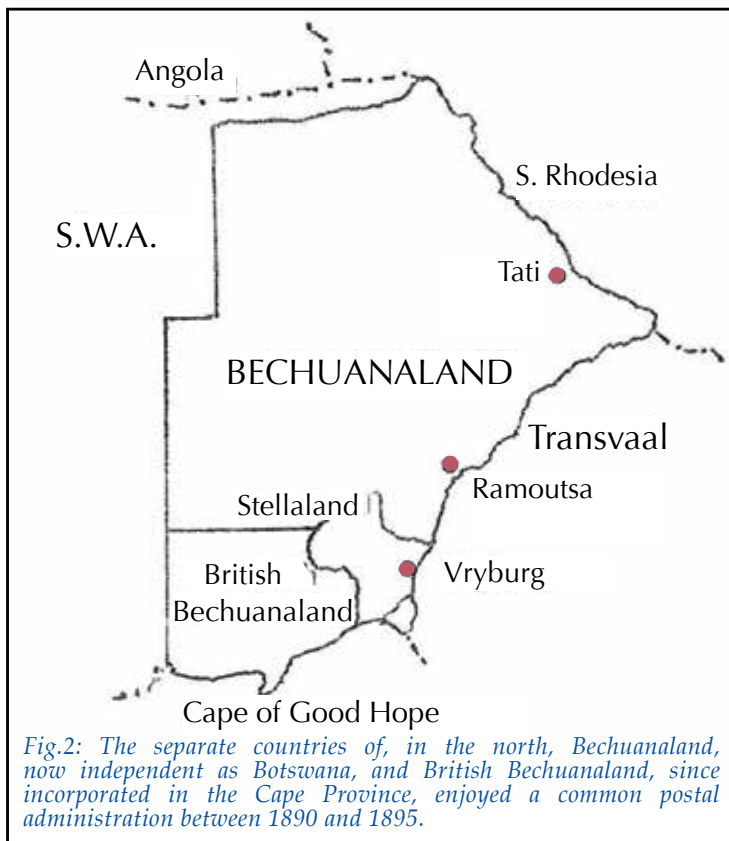


Fig.2: The separate countries of, in the north, Bechuanaland, now independent as Botswana, and British Bechuanaland, since incorporated in the Cape Province, enjoyed a common postal administration between 1890 and 1895.

had been placed, initially but briefly under the protection of the Transvaal, and then annexed to British Bechuanaland by Sir Charles Warren.



Fig.4.

The Tati Concessions was a gold mining company which was granted the right to mine by Lobengula, King of the Matabele, in 1887. The town of Tati was 18 miles from both railway and mail services. Stamps were printed by De La Rue & Co. and issued, primarily for fiscal purposes, in 1895.

The lower values of the set, of which the one shilling, shown and are known to have been used to frank post from the mine to the distant railhead, while the top value, the £5, may well have been used for the transmission of gold as 'specie' (Fig.4).



Fig.5.

As British influence extended north of the Malopo, stamps were created for the Bechuanaland Protectorate by adding the word 'Protectorate' to G.B. issues already overprinted for British Bechuanaland (Fig.5). The inverted 1890 overprint is a known variety.

Internal Self-Government was granted in 1965. A set depicting the Gaborones Dam marked the occasion. The Queen's head remained on the stamps (Fig.6) until the Republican status was achieved 19 months later. With independence in 1966, the Tswana name of Botswana was resurrected (Fig.7).



Fig.6.



Fig.7.

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

It is important to note that not all Societies have returned to having their regular meetings during this time of lockdown, they do, however, welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website www.stampssa.africa

**Philatelic Meetings of
The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society**

The modified Coronavirus regulations have allowed the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society meetings to be reinstated, subject to the wearing of masks, sanitising, social distancing and other precautions.

Meetings always on a Wednesday at 18h00
(please confirm time prior to meeting, at this stage, it is unknown whether the time as outlined will continue going forward)



contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA for further information 082 722 7604.

- 14 Apr 2021** Workshop Evening on use of Powerpoint presentation
- 12 May 2021** First Competitive Evening
- 9 June 2021** Favourite Cover/s
- 14 July 2021** Grand Challenge Match
- 11 August 2021** Invitation to another Society

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

This study group is now meeting again please send all communication to haschaff@iafrica.com

Next Meeting: Wed. 28 April 2021 start at 18h00 and ending at 19h30

If you would come for supper, meet in the members' restaurant at 17h00, where the chairman for the evening will welcome all. These meetings provide a superb learning experience. Bring along a few philatelic items and be surprised at how much additional information can be gained from comments received from other attendees.

**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 and 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 Herman van Niekerk en Sekretaris is Nico Rust. Kontak: Herman by hinvesta@gmail.com

**PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF
JOHANNESBURG**



President: Clive Carr, Tel: 011 789 6357

All PSoJ 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 curfew is in place and the risks of infection remain. Members will be kept informed.

**DIE POSBOOM
FILATELIE VERENIGING**



Sekretaresse: Gerrie Conradie 082 952 6700. Tel / Faks 044 698 1074. epos: gajcon@gmail.com

**BELLVILLE
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

President: Werner Barnard; [email: president@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za](mailto:president@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za)
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 0825670353 (a.h.); [email: secretary@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za](mailto:secretary@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za)
Website: <http://bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za>
Contact the Secretary for Programme details.

**THE ROYAL PHILATELIC
SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN**



Email: royalphilct@gmail.com
President: Ida Potgieter [email: samizdat@telkomsa.net](mailto:samizdat@telkomsa.net)
cell: 074 333 4646
Secretary: Victor Millard 0828028882 or [email: millardvg@gmail.com](mailto:millardvg@gmail.com)

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

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Meetings for 2021 held in the daytime - 10h30/11h00 to 13h00 at same venue: dates: 12.4; 3.5; 7.6; 5.7; 2.8; 6.9; 4.10; 4.11; No meeting for December reserved for President's Christmas party.

**STELLENBOSCH
FILATELISTEVERENIGING**



Kontak: stellenboschstamp@gmail.com

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909

**EAST LONDON
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

President: David Preston 082 7742090. [email: prestee@telkomsa.net](mailto: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>](mailto:akatzef@mweb.co.za) +27 (21) 4615134 President of CASPIP.

ZIMBABWE - BULAWAYO

Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe [email: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com](mailto: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**



David Wigston - Acting President [email: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com](mailto:speedbird.imperial@gmail.com)
Secretary: Paul Hammerton hampaul@ananzi.co.za

**WEST RAND
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374. Chairman or Secretary Ian Walker. Tel: 011 472 1161 [email: ianwalker@vodamail.co.za](mailto: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](mailto:OsthoffG@ufs.ac.za)

**HIGHWAY
PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN**

The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join and get involved in this social hobby of Kings. German Restaurant open for lunch. 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

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Rd, Bluff, Durban every 2nd Saturday of the month
President: Fonda Sonitus
 074 347 1388



Vice President: Zbigniew Kawecki
 082 968 6888 or email the Secretary at philatelicocietykzn@gmail.com

for details about meetings, auctions, sales packets and membership. Everyone is welcome and committee members are always on hand to give advice about evaluations and philately.

THEMATICS SOUTH AFRICA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Vibrant and active group - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. **Group Leader:** Helena Snyman Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za



Established in 1924

MARITZBURG

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

- Secretary:** Aubrey Bowles 082 316 3308, 033 239 2136
 36 Amberfield, Private Bag X010, Howick 3290
 E-mail: [<burncree21@telkomsa.net>](mailto:burncree21@telkomsa.net)
[<aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com>](mailto:aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com)
- President:** Dave Wyllie.
- Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
 Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

Revisiting The SWA Type 1 Forged Inverted Overprints

References:

For the article by Mike Tonking RDPSA, p46.

- Becker, N. RDPSA. 1990. *The Overprinted Stamps of South West Africa to 1930.*
- Eichele, M. 1979. *The De La Rue Georgians overprinted for use in South West Africa.*
- Lobdell, HE. *The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa.*
- Mallet-Veal, H. 1928. *South West Africa, A Check List.*

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

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.

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 South African 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



SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

This society has been amalgamated with the EDENVALE Society.

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

THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall. Usually first Saturday every month (09:00 - 12:30)
Contact: Ken Joseph. 072 597 1287 email: ken@philatelicfriends.com

Smalls' Corner

WANTED Boxed set SA stamp replicas silver/goldplated, George (011) 782-6985. gccstamps@telkomsa.net

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

WANTED: A 44 year old teacher and Mongolian Philatelic Union member who has collected for over 30 years is looking for good philatelic friends from South Africa. Can offer for exchange Mongolian mint stamps 1960-1991 against mint stamps from your country. Condition of exchanged :1. Please, write in English or Russian. If you do not speak these languages, please use # in the 'Scott' or 'Michel' catalogues. Jigjid Gantsogt. P.O.Box-314. UlaanBaatar-38. Mongolia.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION Cape Town 2021. 9-13 November



Website: www.capetown2021.org

Comic Corner

Stamps that make you SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town



Episode 63 Errors on Stamps... 'DEGRADED FIELD MARSHAL'

To honour the French Field Marshal de Lattre de Tassigny, France issued a commemorative stamp on 8. May 1952. This was also the 7th anniversary of the German capitulation which he signed in 1945.

In 1948 he became Commander of the West-European Army and from 1950 - 1952 he was Supreme Commander of the French troops in Indochina.

The error on the stamp shows him with only 5 stars on his uniform shoulder, while a Marshal should have seven stars. The accidental demotion probably happened because an old photograph was used.

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

RHODESIA DOUBLE HEAD ISSUE THE COTTONWOOD COLLECTION

ROBERT M. GIBBS TRUSTEE

SPINK are delighted to announce the sale of The Cottonwood Collection; a magnificent holding of the Rhodesia Double Head Issue, to be sold on June 3rd 2021.



Waterlow 10d. imperforate
printer's sample



Error; Scarlet and reddish mauve
showing sheet number



Perf 15 RSC "F" Red-brown and
(deep) greenish slate, the so-called
"Venetian", Hook printing



Lake-brown and green



Bright carmine imperforate
between

Formed over decades by a master of the subject; Robert M. Gibbs, this important offering contains unique and exceptionally important items that will certainly crown even the finest of collections.

For further information please contact

Nick Startup | nstartup@spink.com | +44 207 563 4073

David Parsons | dparsons@spink.com

Ian Shapiro | ishapiro@spink.com

SPINK LONDON
67-69 Southampton Row | WC1B 4ET

Follow us #SPINK_AUCTIONS

 WWW.SPINK.COM

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 97:3. 966

www.stampssa.africa



OHMS a 1901 'Natal Carbineers' cover Pietermaritzburg 29 AP 1901 to the Cape.



Unique entire from Cape Town addressed to the Treasurer General, Natal franked with 4d Cape triangular.



Onderstepoort cancellation is inscribed PARCELS at the base, but was applied on a postcard to the USA.

SA AIRMAILS

The Functioning of the Postal System: Part 3



9 771812 164020

ISSN 0038-2566

South Africa

Fine Stamps, Proofs, Varieties & Covers



www.filat.ch

What have you been missing?

Filat AG



Always Free Shipping... Worldwide!

The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
www.stampssa.africa

REGULARS

- 71 Closing dates for future issues
- 73 Letters to the Editorial Board
- 74 Phun with Postmarks
- 78 New Stamp issue
- 98 Society news
- 99 Errors on Stamps

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

- 72 PFSA Update - Federation News
by C.O.O. André du Plessis
- 72 *NOTE changes to the event in Bloemfontein: now postponed the 83rd PFSA Congress, Vrijstaat 2021 National Philatelic Exhibition & Junass. The Savpex 2021 Virtual Exhibition results in July*
by Joof van der Merwe
- 75 Obituary: Pierre Erasmus
- 75 New International Exhibition Dates: Cape Town and London
- 76 Protea Definitive Series: Reversed Perforations on the 4c Stamp
by Dr Vic Sorour
- 77 Tapling Medal of the Royal Philatelic PS of J Newsletter
- 77 South African exhibitors at CANPEX 2021 Virtual One Frame Exhibition
- 80 Official Mail Sent by or Received in Natal from 'Overseas Countries'
by Roger Porter RDPSA
- 85 Collectors Save St Helena Archives Press release ABPS
- 86 Suid Afrikaanse Poskantoor Interne Takposgeleibrief
(Branch Post Office Waybill) deur Johan Joubert
- 88 House Numbering with thanks to 'The Archive Team at The Postal Museum, London
- 89 In Memoriam: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke Of Edinburgh
- 90 The Functioning of the Postal System - Part 3: Airmail postal services
and postal rates applicable over the period 1961 - 1971
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 94 Stopped by Censor by Andrew Briscoe
- 96 Error Corrected Material from the files of the late Jan Bakker RDPSA
- 97 The King is dead, long live the Queen by Sean Burke

ADVERTISERS

- 70 Filat AG
- 77 John & Mark Taylor
- 79 Johnson Philatelic
- 89 Doreen Royan & Associates
- 100 Spink

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

André du Plessis RDPSA: andredupfs@gmail.com
Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL: molens@pixie.co.za
David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Robin Messenger: messenger.robin@gmail.com
Janice Botes Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za
Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

Alex Visser RDPSA : 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 RDPSA: andredupfs@gmail.com
Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

Janice Botes: janice@gdb.co.za
Tel: +27 (0) 11 454 5940
All South African stamps
are reproduced with the
permission of SAPO



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** 2021 - Volume. 97: 4. 967. **9 July 2021** • **OCTOBER** 2021 - Volume. 97 : 3. 966. **9 Sept 2021**



FEDERATION NEWS

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



Following the Management Meeting of 29 April 2021, the following points of interest were noted:

- **Treasury:** The handover between the previous and current Treasurer of PFSA accounts has not been finalised as yet. The matter is being attended to by the current Treasurer.
- **Website:** Woo-commerce software was installed and launched. All PFSA members can now access information on the 'resources' tab after signing on.
- **Newsletter:** The bi-monthly newsletter, STAMPS SOUTH AFRICA, has been well received and will continue.
- **Honorary Life Vice-President:** There are two vacant positions. To date, two citations have been received as well as an enquiry for another nomination.
- **Exhibitions:** Cape Town International and VRIJSTAAT 2021 have been postponed to November 2022 and October 2021, respectively. Please see the notices in this issue. The Virtual SAVPEX 2021 has received good response - results will be uploaded to the PFSA website by 25 July 2021.
- **Expert Committee:** A slight increase in assignments have been received.
- **International Exhibitions:** The Philanippon Stamp Exhibition, scheduled for August 2021 in Japan: It has been decided to withdraw entries/support for this event.
- **The SA Philatelist:** Despite the low number of advertisers, the 2021 issues are being released on time. The University of Pretoria is in the process of scanning back copies.
- **General:** Although COVID 19 restrictions have been partially lifted, not much face-to-face activity has occurred. However, more Societies are starting to move in this direction.

Trending news in South Africa is the court matter regarding PostNet, supported by the South African Express Parcel Association (SAEPA). Now challenging the ruling by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) in 2019, which holds that PostNet has contravened the Postal Services Act by transporting and delivering packages under 1kg. PostNet has secured an interdict which has allowed them to continue to deliver these packages until the full challenge is heard in the Gauteng High Court. This ruling prohibits Postnet (and other courier companies) from delivering such items. According to the regulations, only a licensed postal services operator may render services defined as "reserved postal services." As the only operator of this kind in South Africa, the Post Office has exclusivity to provide delivery services for all letters, postcards, printed matter, small parcels, and other postal articles up to and including 1kg. SAEPA represents SA Courier companies such as FedEx, DHL, UPS, CourierIT, RAM, and Globeflight etc.

The HAWID company in Berlin will cease business operations on 30 June 2021 and the supply of HAWID products will be discontinued from that date. The reason given by the current owner, Mrs Widmaier, is that the number of collectors is reducing and as she is now 80 years old she wants to retire. Following this announcement both Prinz Verlag and Lindner in Germany offer collectors reassurance of continuation thereof in their product ranges. Please contact your stamp dealer for more information on such products from other companies.



Please note - the SAVPEX 2021 one-frame Virtual Exhibition results will be uploaded to the Federation website by 25 July 2021.



NEW dates: South African National Exhibitions

This includes the 83rd PFSA Congress

The NATIONAL and JUNASS 2021 exhibitions will take place in Bloemfontein

the new dates are 21-23 OCTOBER 2021.

For more information: (IREX) and entry forms,

contact: Joof van der Merwe

<jnc1@vodamail.co.za>

or visit the Federation website

<https://www.stampssa.africa>

Entries close on 1 September 2021



DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

PUBLICATION:

The South African Philatelist, a bi-monthly stamp magazine, is published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA). This is one of the oldest running stamp magazines in the world and was founded in 1920.

Annual Subscription:

Electronic copy:

- RSA and Worldwide - R70.00

Printed copy:

- South Africa - R300.00 (Including local postage)
- SADC countries - R750.00 (Include International postage via airmail)
- Foreign countries - R1,100.00 (Include International postage via airmail)

PLEASE NOTE:

Subscription for a printed copy is for six issues per year and automatically include access to an electronic copy. The 2021 rates are also available on the PFSA official website under 'CONTACT/JOIN': www.stampssa.africa



Enquiries regarding **subscriptions and PFSA membership** can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis at andredups@gmail.com Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

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 C.O.O. André du Plessis, PO Box 53100, Wierda Park, 0149 or email the Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za



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 writing gift.

Dear Readers,
as part of fund raising for the planned Cape Town International Exhibition, (now in 2022) a set of ten postcards depicting original artworks by Mrs. Julia Birkhead (wife of the late Harry Birkhead RDPSA) have been produced for sale to collectors. These official Postal Stationery cards issued by the Post Office, and are the fourth in the series, will be sold in a packet of 10 designs, depicting indigenous birds.

Orders may be placed with Emil Minnaar. Tel. 063 803 3536 or by email: Emil@Minnaar.org The selling price will be US \$17 plus Postage and Packaging of US \$8. (Local is R230 plus pp R20). Payment may be made by EFT to the account of: Philatelica 2021NPC ABSA Wealth Account. Branch Code: 632 005 Account Number: 40 9528 4108 or to PYPAL account: Emil@Minnaar.org Please support our endeavour.



THE APRIL ISSUE

What a tour de force the April issue is. But what about putting the e-mail address next to the name of each author, so a reader may correspond directly with him/her? David Mordant.

Ed comment: We will request permission from the authors to do just that.

The Covid effect continues...



As per the request in *The SA Philatelist*, (p55 of the April 2021 issue) please see the above postal item returned to me due to there not being any flights available. Mervyn Elliott (29.3.21)

Poor Mary

O Mary found a little stamp,
A rarity, conceded.
In fact 'twas just the very one
Her dear old daddy needed.
It also chanced, this wondrous stamp,
That Mary did discover a
Rare Patriotic Cover
Now, Mary knowing that her dad
Liked stamps found in a garret,
Made haste to yank from envelope
Said stamp, as well as tear it.
And thus she brought it to her dad
In ecstasy to show him,
But, from his look of seething rage,
She found she didn't know him.
A fortune he had won and lost
Through his beloved daughter,
Because to leave old stamp intact
He ne'er before had taught her.
And thou, O stamps - collecting sire,
Take this advice from me:
While in their youth, and ere too late,
Teach kids Philately.

- G. M. McCracken, "Poor Mary,"
Originally appeared in the
Washington Post 1933

The Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition Organising Committee have secured new dates with FIP from 8 to 12 November 2022.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION - CAPE TOWN 8-12 November 2022



Website: www.capetown2021.org

Phun with postmarks

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



What is a beautiful date stamp or cancellation?

Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder. Traditionally, collectors wanted nice partial strikes on a stamp to be considered fine used. Other collectors prefer the Socked-on-the-Nose (SON) where a clear impression is centrally placed on the stamp. But this would still be a circular date stamp. I only realised the importance of circular date stamps when the post office introduced rectangular date stamps and collectors started moaning.

Most collectors seek a clear and light impression. The problem with most parcel cancellations is that they are heavy and often smudged, and stamps on parcels are often damaged in transit, so most get discarded; they are also usually large and undated, which makes them harder to study. Fortunately there is a group of collectors who study parcel cancellations, and a completely new world opens up. My correspondent Bas Payne has suggested that most parcel cancellations can be classified into the following groups (examples are mainly out of Bas' collection):

- Dated steel cancellations (including dated hand roller cancellations) (Fig.1a and b);
- Cork cancellations (Fig.1c);
- Undated hand roller cancellations (Fig.1d);
- Undated circular cancellations (Fig.1e);
- Undated barred cancellations (Fig.1f).

It was found that steel date stamps damaged the packing material of parcels, whereas cork or rubber was softer and did not cause damage (Goldblatt). However cork or rubber degrades fairly rapidly, so a large number of different cancellers of this type were used at the larger post offices. Parcel cancellers were sometimes used on letters and postcards, presumably because they came to hand: the Onderstepoort cancellation in Fig.1a is inscribed PARCELS at the base, but was applied on a postcard to the USA.



Fig.1(a-f): Examples of broad classification of different parcel cancellations.



1.d



1.f

Because of the size of parcel cancellers it is a challenge to find complete impressions. Fig.2a shows the only recorded complete Cape Town registered cancellation, presumed for parcels. Durban had large registered cancellers with No. 1 (not shown) and No. 2 (Fig.2b); only one example of each has been reported. These items have intrigued collectors, and correspondence during 1993 between Putzel and Slater-Kinghorn indicated that neither had seen the Durban impressions, and they concluded that it must have been used for bulk registration. Information to clarify the use would be welcomed.



Fig.2: Large registration marks from Cape Town and Durban.

The 58 mm registration mark from Durban complete on piece is clearly an item of beauty. How long will we enjoy the pleasure of such postmarks? In a recent weekly Newsletter by an Australian dealer it was reported that the German post office started issuing stamps that you can track, even on normal letter mail. Every stamp is sold with a printed unique Matrix Code. All German mail centres and post offices have moved to pale blue ink cancellations from 4 February 2021 (Fig.3), so that the code can be machine-read. Interestingly the machine cancel is in light blue, but the weak hand stamp impression at the bottom of the stamp is still in black ink.

Does this spell the end of postmarks as we have known them, even the beautiful parcel cancellers?

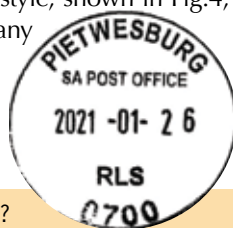


Fig.3: New blue machine cancellation used in Germany at top the slogan reads 'United Against Corona'.

The Pietersburg plot thickens

In the December 2020 column in *The SA Philatelist*, I reported that Polokwane unexpectedly introduced Pietersburg (the old name) self-inking date stamps. To date counters 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 14 have been recorded. Intriguingly a RLS (Registered Letter Section) date stamp of the same style, shown in Fig.4, recently appeared. Note that the name is scrambled. If any readers can add information as to what is happening in Polokwane/Pietersburg, I would be very happy.

Fig.4: New Pietersburg RLS self-inking date stamp used at Polokwane.



Is dit moontlik dat pakketpos stempels mooi kan wees?

Dit word toegegee dat sommige stempels doeltreffend is maar hoegenaamd nie as mooi beskou kan word nie. Daar is egter uitsonderings soos wat getoon word in die rubriek. Hoe lank sal stempels nog leesbaar wees, soos deur die verwickelinge by die Duitse poskantoor getoon? En dan het ons die interessantheid in Pietersburg/Polokwane. Daar is geen beheerstelsel wat die kwaliteit van 'n datumstempel instrument evalueer nie, en om die rede vind ons 'n verskeidenheid spellings, en nie slegs in Pietersburg nie!

OBITUARY

R.I.P. Pierre Erasmus 1952 - 2021



On 16 April 2021, Oilfilat (Sasolburg Philatelic Society) and philately in general, lost a dedicated and well-loved 69 year old stalwart and long serving Committee member, Pierre Erasmus. Pierre acted as both Secretary and Treasurer for the last eight years and served his club with honour. He leaves behind his wife, Meisie, his son Lourens, and his daughter Sarina. Pierre died of renal failure after an extended period of illness.

Pierre regularly exhibited at local and inter-club level and specialised inter alia in the postal history and stamps of South Africa's Homeland countries. He acted as main contact person between the Philatelic Federation of South Africa and various other Philatelic Societies in the country. All members of Oilfilat were regularly provided with news from other societies and informed about stamp auctions.

As a club, we mourn the death of Pierre. His dedication and enthusiasm with Meisie at his side, were much appreciated and he will be sincerely missed.

RIP Pierre

Johan van Wyk (Sasolburg Oilfilat)

The Cape Town 2021 International Exhibition has been postponed and now scheduled to be held from the 8-12 November 2022.

– Organising Committee of the Cape Town International Exhibition.



Website: www.capetown2021.org

The new IREX has been finalised and approved by the FIP. A Social Media presence on both Facebook and Twitter has been created. The latest London 2022 newsletter is now available at www.london2022.co/news.
19 to 26 February 2022

Frank Walton RDP FRPSL
Chairman, London 2022 Organising Committee



INTERNATIONAL
STAMP EXHIBITION



**PROTEA DEFINITIVE SERIES:
Reversed Perforations on the 4c stamp**
by Dr Vic Sorour, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society
email <vsorour@wol.co.za>



The Protea Definitive Series is the Republic of South Africa's third definitive series, issued in 1977. Nine values were printed by photogravure and eight values by lithography. Two values, the 3c and the 20c, initially printed by photogravure were subsequently printed by lithography.

Stamps printed by photogravure were initially perforated by the internal rotary perforator of the De La Rue Giori printing machine. The side margins were perforated through and there was a single extra perforation at the end of each vertical row of perforations. However, perforation was slow and delayed the production of the stamps. In an attempt to speed up production the Walter Kroll and Grover perforators were used. The stamps were still produced by the De La Rue printer on a continuous roll of paper. This was guillotined into sheets of two panes (the B and A panes) of 200 stamps. These sheets were then fed into the perforator with the left margin of the B pane first. This resulted in an imperforate left margin of the B pane, the other three vertical margins were perforated through.

It follows that stamps printed by photogravure always have the right margin of the A pane perforated through.

I recently came across pieces of the 4c Protea stamp, Pane A, Issue 2 with an imperforate right margin (Fig.1). There are also two nibble perforations at the extreme right edge of the sheet in line with each horizontal row of perforations.

Fig.1: 4c: Pane A, Issue 2 with imperforate right margin = Reversed Perforation.

The only way to explain this, is if the guillotined sheets were reversed prior to being fed into the perforator. This would result in the right margin of the A pane being fed into the perforator and thus be imperforate.

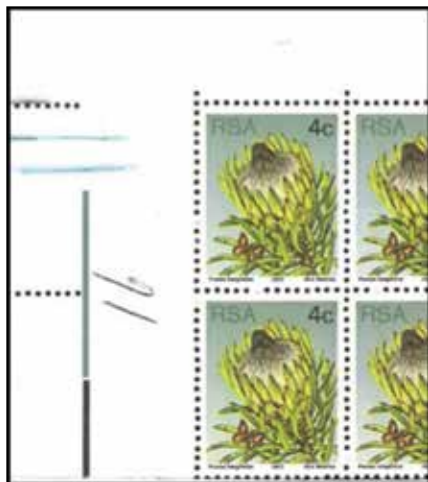


Fig.2: Normal top left corner of Pane B. Issue 2 Imperforate left margin and nibble perforations.

This is the first example of this variety that I have seen in the Protea Definitive Series. Perhaps there are many more lying unnoticed in other collections. Please look at your material and let me know if you find any.

Fig.3: Pane A, rotated 180°. Perfs exactly match Fig.2.



by David Wigston,
East Rand PS



Le Philatéliste

While art and artists are a common theme found on stamps, paintings featuring philatelists or philately are not easy to find.

*Google Image suggests that paintings of philatelists (a somewhat specialised genre, admittedly) are mostly chocolate-box academic renditions of eccentric old geezers squinting through magnifying glasses. (Not that there isn't an undeniable element of truth there, as anyone will know who has ever visited a stamp fair and studied the demography.)**

An exception has featured on a 4€ stamp issued by Spain, 2 October 2020, to honour the hobby of stamp collecting.



Special odd-shaped stamp printed on cardstock with a plastic magnifying glass attached. (One needs to asks if this can be placed on a letter?)

The stamp shows *Le Philatéliste*, painted by François Barraud in 1929. It's a self-portrait with his wife Marie. During 1922 Barraud moved from Switzerland to Reims in France where he married Marie, a French woman, in 1924. He died of tuberculosis in Geneva in 1934 at the age of 34.

* Richard Warren *The artist as philatelist.*
www.richardwarren.wordpress.com

SOCIETY NEWS

Tapling Medal of the Royal Philatelic Society of London

Congratulations to Keith Klugman who was recently awarded the 100th anniversary Tapling Medal of the Royal Philatelic Society, London for 2020, for his articles on embossed Natal stamps published last year in the London Philatelist. This medal has been awarded annually since 1920 for the best article.



Keith joined the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg in September 1973, while he was still in matric. He has remained a member ever

since even though he left South Africa to reside in the U.S.A. over 20 years ago.

Today knowledge of the philately of early Colonial Natal has grown exponentially, which is partly due to Keith's substantial contribution of numerous articles published in lead journals, presentations at prestigious stamp events, and his stamp displays at international exhibitions. Keith's Victorian Natal stamp exhibit, since it won the Grand Prix National at Joburg in 2010, has won 3 Large Gold Awards at International FIP exhibitions and will be the first Natal exhibit ever to be shown in the Championship Class when it is shown at London 2022.



The three 'faces' of the prestigious Tapling Medal in solid silver with the deep bas-relief, and personalised engraving around the edge of the medal.

'Thank you for supporting the first Canadian Virtual exhibition'

The 65 competitive exhibits came from 16 countries and five continents, with 27 exhibits in the postal history class and another 15 in traditional philately.



National Philatelic Exhibition
Exposition Philatélique Nationale

South African exhibitors did very well at CANPEX 2021 Virtual One Frame Exhibition:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| • Jan Hofmeyr won the Reserve Grand Award and the Philatelic Society of Canada Research Award for his exhibit " <i>The Philatelic Inventions of Henry Loewenberg</i> " | 93 Large Gold |
| • Jan van Beukering , " <i>Early Union of South Africa Roll Stamp Production</i> " | 91 Large Gold |
| • Joof Van Der Merwe , " <i>A Study of the 1/2d Warthog of the Union of South Africa</i> " | 84 Large Vermeil |
| • Emil Minnaar , " <i>Israel - 1949 Flag Issue</i> " | 83 Large Vermeil |

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

SCHWEIZER-RENEKE



An important collection of autograph letters, documents and more, from the records of Leopold Stern, relating to the siege.

For further details please contact us

email address: markjtaylor@btinternet.com

Address: P.O. Box 37324, London N1 - 2YQ.

Tel: 020 7226 1503 Fax: 020 7359 7456

NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUE - 2021 - part 1

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



NOTE: The following stamp issue became available from Philatelic Services 20 April 2021. The issue date shown below is that appearing on the sheet margin and on the canceller.

10 September 2020 – SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE 2020

Denominations: 10 x Standard Postage Rate (R5.34)

Designer: Thea Clemons, from photographs supplied by the South African Air Force Museum, Swartkops

Printer: Cartor Security Print, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 41 x 24mm

Sheetlet size: 138 x 200mm, comprising the ten different designs in five rows of two

Quantity: 250,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8709 (cyan), 8710 (magenta), 8711 (yellow) and 8712 (black)

Paper: 247gsm 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 in 3 mm wide frame around each stamp

Printing sheet size: Not yet seen

First Day Covers: Nos. 8.134 and 8.135 of standard size (190 x 101mm) each of which 1,000 will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.129 – 'THABA TSHWANE' / '10.9.2020'



Acknowledgement:

The above information was collated from SAPO's Philatelic e-mailed newsletter **WHAT'S NEWS**, dated April 2021 and personal observation.



Febr. 19th 02

Sept 12th 01.



Dupl.

June 18 240 leads 6 extra. 6 experimental
 July 17 240 leads
 July 18 240 leads
 July Dupl. 240 leads 240 leads 240 leads
 These 5 plates not used. 6 leads extra from each die superseded by Single Colour plates
 Aug 26. 02



July 27 240 leads
 July 24 240 leads
 July 20 240 leads
 6 leads extra from each die
 Aug 28. 02



THE BEAUTIFUL.
 THE EXCEPTIONAL.

Rare Stamps, Proofs,
 Varieties & Covers

 www.johnson.co.za
 YOUR DEALER PARTNER?

OFFICIAL MAIL, SENT BY OR RECEIVED IN, NATAL FROM 'OVERSEAS COUNTRIES'

by Roger Porter RDPSA, Cape and Natal Study Circle



The infant Colony of Natal was annexed as a District of the Cape of Good Hope on 31 May 1844. The Cape laws and ordinances therefore were applied to Natal 'to meet the peace, order and good government of the district'. The absence of a means of regular communication between Natal and Cape Town led to considerable frustration in Natal at the lack of independent legislative power. Following protracted negotiations, 'Letters Patent' and instructions were received in July 1848. The effect was to create a legislative council for the purpose of promulgating legislation locally. Natal continued to be a District of the CGH but the responsibility of the Cape Governor for Natal had not been diminished; this to the dissatisfaction of the residents of Natal. In 1874 a formal request was made for responsible government to be granted to Natal. The matter was delayed for political reasons that arose both locally and externally. Sir John Robinson, leader of the 'Forward Party', with a small majority in the Legislative Council, successfully got the Responsible Government Bill passed. Royal assent was received in September 1893.

The Legislative Council dealt with the matters of establishing the functions of a government and the roll-out of an administration that gave effect to the laws and regulations for trade, defence, policing, finance, land allocation, postal, commercial development, etc. Therefore much official correspondence would have flowed from and to Natal from the Cape and England during these early times.

Generally Official 'OHMS' mail is scarce as it rarely came into private hands, if it did it was usually discarded. It was also less attractive to collectors as it bore no stamps and therefore was rarely collected. Official Mail that has survived is relatively more frequently found as local or inland mail. However, Natal Official Mail to or from overseas countries is amongst the most difficult to source and few items are to be found. For these reasons the postal history of OHMS mail has been a neglected field and little studied. Such Official Mail is of considerable philatelic importance in gaining an understanding of how the Natal government was able to engage with other government officials stationed overseas in Cape Town and London.

Official Mail To or From The Cape Colony and United Kingdom Conveyed By Ship

Natal government officials needed to correspond frequently with their overseas counterparts in the Cape of Good Hope and the United Kingdom on government matters. Official communiqués, authorisations and or approvals on various legal, policy, political, or procedural matters also had to be obtained from the British Government or the Crown Agents in London before any action or implementation could be undertaken. Procurement of goods from suppliers in the UK by the Natal Government was through corresponding with Sir Walter Peace, the Natal Agent General in London (Fig.1). Such communication with overseas countries was significantly constrained by the infrequent arrival of ships at Port Natal resulting in long delays, often of several months, before replies were received. This significantly hampered development of the Colony.



Fig.1: Crest and cachet of the Agent General for Natal used on official stationery.

Official 'OHMS' correspondence was carried by vessels between Port Natal, Cape Town, and England. Whether postage was required to be paid on outward OHMS mail depended on the conditions contained in the many and different seamaile contracts entered into over the years by the UK, Cape, or Natal authorities with a succession of various shipping companies. The complexity of postage charges for sending and receiving OHMS mail during the Natal colonial period was directly related to the country that paid the seamaile contract fees to the shipping company. Therefore, if Natal, Cape or UK postal authorities were paying the agreed contract fee then their Official Mail was conveyed free of postage to its destination. On the other hand if Natal, Cape or Britain were not contributing financially to the shipping company in terms of the seamaile contract, postage had to be prepaid on all such Official Mail.

Postage paid on the earliest official mail sent overseas

The article 'Official Mail of the Colony of Natal' (*The SA Philatelist* February 2021) covered the OHMS mail sent within Natal by authorised government officials. The matter of OHMS mail sent by Natal or received in Natal from places beyond the seas was not included, other than the item illustrated as Fig.2 (ex Klugman 2011). This item from Natal to Cape Town was endorsed 'Official / MH' (MH = initials of M Hine, Colonial Secretary) and with the seal of that office, addressed to Cape Town. Postage of 7d was however prepaid on this wrapper from the 1852 - 1857 period. As there was no special provision in law made for official government mail, it was treated as ordinary mail receiving the PREPAID mark in red and the red ink '7' mark being the inland postage from Pietermaritzburg (3d) + sea mail cost (4d) to Cape Town. This was in accordance with the Natal Government instructions dated 30 January 1852 (issued to facilitate the coming into effect of Post Office Ordinance No. 4 of 1851) which required that postmasters charge 'all letters transmitted beyond the seas' at the letter rate of 4d, plus the additional postage on an inland letter of 3d. This item was conveyed



Fig.2: OHMS entire from Natal Colonial Secretary to Cape Town sent during the period 1852-1857 with PREPAID cachet and red ink '7' being the postage from Pietermaritzburg (3d) plus the sea mail charge (4d) to Cape Town.



Fig.3: 1856 Entire cancelled POST OFFICE P M BURG to Post Master General, Cape Town from Post Office, PM Burg, Natal with red seal POST OFFICE NATAL (only recorded example). No postal charges were applied either in Natal or at the Cape. Taken by the ship 'Admiral' and backstamped Cape Town 17 MY 1856.

in terms of a seamaile contract between the General Screw Steam Ship Company (GSSS Co) and the British Admiralty dated 10 August 1852 which required that the seamaile service between Cape Town and D'Urban was to commence on 1 October 1852. The 1852 postage rate was reduced by Governor Pine in Government Notice dated 30 November 1853 for "letters posted for transmission to ports beyond the seas or received from such ports" to be charged 3d per half ounce plus the inland charge of 3d. The contract with the GSSS Co came to an end in May 1855. However vessels of the GSSS Co continued to provide a service between Cape Town and Natal in a private capacity for a further eight months, thereafter Natal was without a contract mail service from 3 January 1855 (Dickson 1999).

Official Mail from Natal sent free of postage to Cape Town

From January 1855 to January 1857 the small vessels *Rosebud* and *Gitana* provided a seamaile service between Port Natal and Cape Town (but some other vessels also made occasional trips). The Masters of these ships were paid a gratuity by the Natal Government, and therefore Official Mail from Natal addressed to Cape Town was sent free of postage charges (Fig.3). However Official Mail from Cape Colony to Natal was subject to the Cape Town port charge of 4d (Fig.4).

Official Mail conveyed free of postage to the Cape Colony

With no seamaile, contract Natal struggled to find a shipping



Fig.4: Unique entire from Cape Town addressed to the Treasurer General, Natal with 4d stamp and backstamped Cape Town AU 10 1855. Taken by the 'Therese' which arrived at Port Natal on 5 SP 1855 where it was endorsed 'FREE' and signed by WM Collins (Natal PMG) thereby authorising its official status and free transmission from Durban to Pietermaritzburg.

company that would provide a mail service from Port Natal to Cape Town and return until J.T. Rennie engaged with the Natal government. The Cape also had no contract mail service with UK; the last packet ship had sailed from Table Bay on 26 July 1854. In August 1856 the Lindsay Line established a very unsatisfactory seamaile service that soon failed. Mail was conveyed by private vessels at the ship letter rate of 8d per 1/2 oz.

The Natal Colonial Government (represented by the Colonial Secretary) entered into a contract with J.T. Rennie on 31 January 1857. Natal was to pay £1500 per annum in quarterly



Fig.5: 1862 Official entire cancelled Pietermaritzburg MAY 26 1862 addressed to 'The Postmaster at the Post Office at Cape Town' sent from Elandsvalley, via Greytown, Natal; taken by the Rennie vessel *Waldensian* which sailed on 3 June 1862 arriving at Cape Town on 11 June. There are no postage charge markings indicating that the item was carried free of postage.

instalments for the monthly conveyance of the mails from Port Natal to Cape Town and return to Natal with the English and Cape mails. This was followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement on 21 September 1857 (Dickson J. 2000). Clause 6 of the agreement stated that all mails dispatched upon the service of the Government (i.e. Official Mail) "shall be received and delivered free of charge at Natal". Delivery was to be to the officer authorised to receive the same at the place of delivery, and that the Government was to pay £50 to the agents (acting on behalf of Rennie) for each monthly voyage to and from Cape Town and Natal (Clause 8). In effect there would be no payment of postage on official mail sent from Natal to the Cape (Fig.5).

Postage paid on Official Mail conveyed by the Union Steam Ship Company

The Union Steam Ship Company had been providing a monthly seamaile service between Devonport and Cape Town since 1857. Commissioners of the British Treasury, by way of a Treasury Warrant dated 19 May 1857, directed that every letter transmitted by post between Britain and Natal be charged at the British postage rate of 6d per ½ oz (Fig.6). All mail delivered by a packet ship at a UK port was to be charged 6d per ½ oz.



Fig.6: 1861 Cover without stamps (i.e. Official) cancelled Manchester JY 5 61 addressed to the Post Office, Durban with endorsement 'Paid' and '6' (Manchester Paid Letter mark). Taken by the Union ship 'Celt' to Cape Town sailed 6 July, then the Rennie vessel 'Waldensian' to Durban arriving 50 days later on 24 August. Backstamped Devonport JY 6 61.

The seamaile service provided by J.T. Rennie came to an abrupt end following the loss of his two ships. The first was the *Madagascar* which was wrecked on 3 December 1858 followed by the *Waldensian* which was wrecked on 13 October 1862. Arrangements were made for replacement vessels to convey the seamaile until January 1863, allowing time for a contract for the conveyance of the mails between Port Natal and Cape Town to be negotiated with the Union Steam Ship Company.

The Union Steam Ship Company had obtained a five year contract with the Cape (Cape Packet Service) and sailings

were inaugurated in September 1857. The postage rate on letters to Britain was reduced from 1s per ½oz to 6d per ½oz. This arrangement ended in February and was followed in March 1863 by a new contract between the General Post Office, London and the Union Company; this was the second Union Packet Service. The service commenced on 6 March 1863 and came to an end in June 1868. The service was extended from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth in March 1863 (Dickson 2002).

Postage paid on official mail conveyed from Cape Town to Port Natal

From January 1863 and at the expense of the Natal government, the Union Company provided a monthly coastal service between Cape Town and Natal that connected with their Atlantic service to Britain at Cape Town. The Treasury Warrant of 16 March 1863 required that postage had to be paid on all letters to and from the UK to Cape and Natal destinations. The postage rate on letters was increased to 1s per ½ oz from 1 April 1863. For letters from Natal to Britain the 10d accrued to the GPO London. The accountancy fee on letters to Natal was 2d (Fig.7). (Dickson 2002).



Fig.8: 1866 Official wrapper cancelled Pietermaritzburg NOV 6 1866, addressed to Postmaster, Cape Town transmitted free of postage charges (ex Johnson).

Mail from Natal to Cape Town was transmitted free of postage charges (Fig.5). Official Mail associated with the Union Company's Mauritius service via Cape Town that also called at Natal on the out- and inward voyages from England from October 1864 (Dickson 2005), or their Mauritius - Galle (Ceylon) service June 1866 to May 1868, has not been seen.

Official Mail conveyed free of postage by the Union Steam Ship Company

The matter of Official Mail sent to or received from Britain by the Cape or Natal had not been addressed in the 3rd 1868 - 1876 Contract between the Union Company and the GPO, London dated 24 June 1868. The Contract came into effect in July 1868. The matter was addressed in the 'Articles of 19th October 1869, regarding official correspondence'. The arrangement was for a subsidy that would cover the conveyance of official mail which would be paid to the Union Company by the GPO.

This was backdated to 1 July 1868. A cover from London and a cover from Pietermaritzburg to the Cape are official items without adhesive stamps that also



Fig.7: OHMS entire from the Inland Revenue Office, London to Natal cancelled Official Paid London NO 8 64 with authorizing cachet signature, backstamped Devonport No 9 64. A manuscript red '2' applied being an accountancy fee of 2d that accrued to Natal. This portion of the postage was intended to compensate Natal for the costs of the coastal service that were paid by the Colony (Dickson 2001).

have no postage markings which indicates that no postage was paid (Figs.8 & 9).

negotiated separate contracts with the Union and Castle Companies.

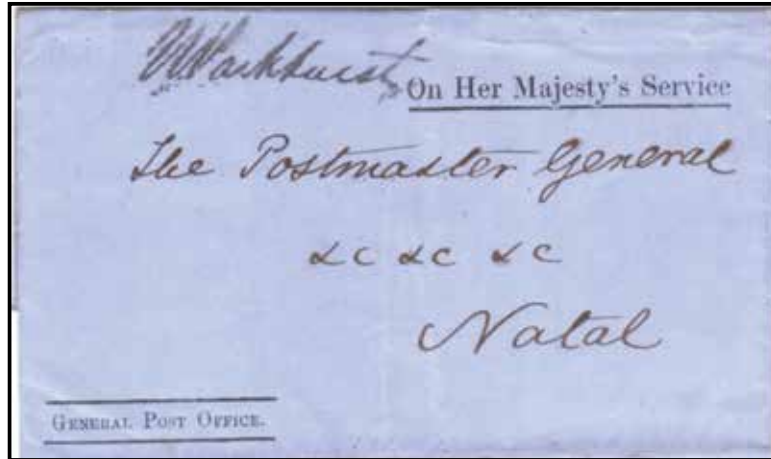


Fig.9: 'On Her Majesty's Service' General Post Office wrapper addressed to the Postmaster General, Natal with facsimile signature 'N Parkhurst'. Backstamped with baggage mark 'D' 6 8 68 [applied in London] and Cape Packet Devonport AU 7 1868. Taken by the Norseman that sailed on 11 August, arriving at Port Elizabeth on 16 September 1868.

Postage paid on Official Mail from Britain to Natal conveyed by the Union Steam Ship Company, and Official from Natal conveyed free of postage by ship

The General Post Office, London, offered the Union Line an eight year seamaile contract to convey the mails to and from the Cape and Natal in 1872. The offer became a source of dispute and controversy due to a challenge by Sir Donald Currie and the Castle Line. The British House of Commons refused to ratify the proposed contract, therefore leaving the 1868 - 1876

From October 1876 there were alternate weekly sailings to Cape Town from Southampton by the Union and the Castle companies. The contracts were in operation from October 1876 to September 1883. The contracts also forbade the two companies amalgamating. The postage rate was reduced to 6d per 1/2oz. This letter rate continued to be applied during the next contracts (1883-1888) and into the following contracts (1888-1893) until January 1891 when the postage rate to the UK was reduced to 2 1/2d per 1/2 oz. Natal joined the UPU in July 1892 and the postage rate to UPU countries was set at 2 1/2d per 1/2oz. The postage rate to British Empire countries was reduced to 1d per 1/2oz in December 1898. The competition was fierce and marketing was aggressive between the Union and the Castle lines as the century drew to a close. The companies were forbidden to amalgamate except with the approval of the Cape Government.

Each successive contract had produced improved service and facilities, and given that a new contract was due in 1900, the Cape Government announced that it would not



Fig.11: 1900 Official cover to Edinburgh cancelled P O A 83 (Washbank) with boxed LADYSMITH NATAL / OFFICIAL cachet, endorsed 'Free' and signed by Major Bethune's Mounted Infantry. Back stamped Ladysmith JU 21 00, London PAID 14 JY 00, Sorting Tender Edinburgh JY 16 00.



Fig.10: 1871 Cover marked 'Service' and signed by D Erskine, Col Sec. cancelled G.P.O. 3 10 1871 addressed to the Colonial Secretary, Cape Town and cancelled on arrival OC 12 71.

seamaile contract with the Union Company to run its course. Currie competed against the Union Company from March 1875 to September 1876 and undercut the packet postage rate of 1s per 1/2oz given the application of seamaile postage rate of 4d per 1/2oz (Dickson 2009 & 2010). With the contract coming to an end, the Cape Colonial Government took the initiative and

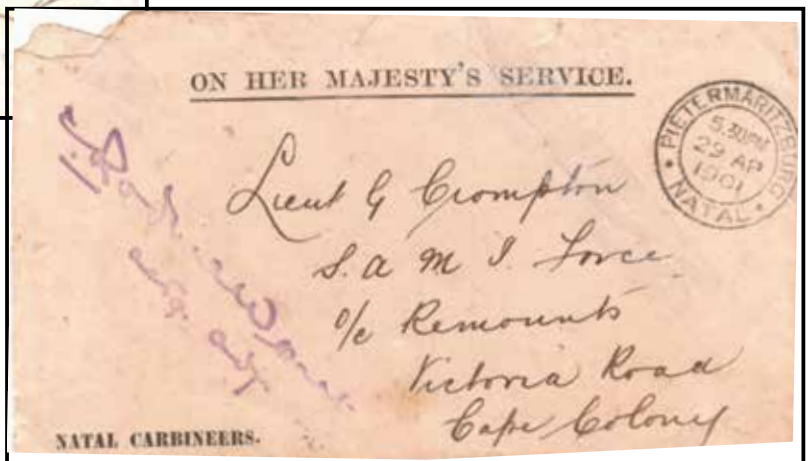


Fig.12: 1901 OHMS 'Natal Carbineers' cover Pietermaritzburg 29 AP 1901 to Cape with facsimile signature and back stamped Durban AP 30 1901. Conveyed free of postage.

be divided between the two companies but would be put up to public tender. No company submitted a tender to the Cape Postmaster General; the Union and Castle companies simply did not want to compete against one another. The Cape Government fell back on these two companies and an agreement was reached that opened up the possibility of them amalgamating. Sir Donald Currie took the initiative and made proposals to the directors of the Union Company. In February 1900 shareholders gave their approval, amalgamation was achieved and on 8 March 1900 the new company, Union Castle Mail Steamship Company was registered (Harris & Ingpen 1994).

Official Mail from Natal to the Cape Colony and the UK was sent free of postage (Figs.10,11) whereas postage was paid on Official Mail from the UK to the Cape Colony and Natal (Figs.12,13).



Fig.13: 1900 postage paid OHMS entire with cachet WAR OFFICE from London to Pietermaritzburg cancelled London E.C. Official Paid DE 17 00.

Official mail to foreign countries and the unique Type t.1 Mark

Hart et al. (1977) illustrate as Type T.1 (Fig.15), a circular mark OFFICIAL PAID G.P.O. NATAL. This illustration was taken from a cancellation on a Queen Victoria 1d stamp (late Dr. Mark Chutter, personal communication), and has been seen on three postal items (Figs.16, 17 & 18). However the text under the heading 'TYPE T.1.' on page 42 of Hart's article is of a very different mark. He writes:

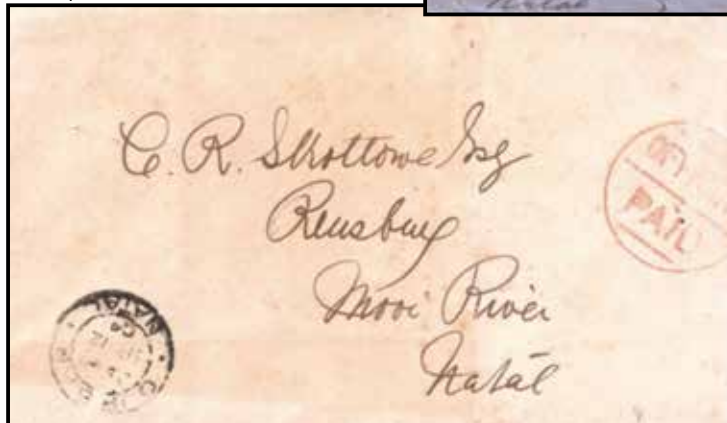


Fig.14: 1904 Cover from U K to Mooi River with Official / Paid cachet cancelled Durban SP 12 C4 and Mooi River SP 13 1904.

"To indicate that the article did not require payment of postage, various hand stamps were used. The first that naturally falls to mind is one which must have been a forerunner of the O.H.M.S. type cover and is a strike of OFFICIAL PAID. Dated in 1886 at Durban, it is struck in red in a single circle of 29mm diameter. The wording is in two lines between three straight lines". Unfortunately this text is confusing, speculative and inaccurate; there is no indication where the date '1886 at Durban' originated. The part of the description beginning with the words "The wording is in two lines..." conforms to the mark on Figure 14 below, and was probably taken from a cover in the Hurst collection held at the Killie Campbell Library, Durban.



Fig.15.

The Type T.1 mark has not been seen on either local or official mail addressed to the UK.

Indeed the mark is very scarce and has to date been found on only three items; an 1889 official cover to Austria (Fig.16), and an 1896 returned letter addressed to the USA (Fig.17), and on a 1902 cover to Italy (Fig.18).

Acknowledgements

Professor K Klugman and Mr. R Johnson are thanked for the illustrations used in Figures 2 and 9, respectively.

References

- Dickson J. 1999. Natal Sea Mails during 1855 and 1856. N&ZP 3(3) 70- 99.
- Dickson J. 2000. Rennie's Steamer Service between Cape Town & Natal, 1857 to 1862. N&ZP 4(4) 130-141.

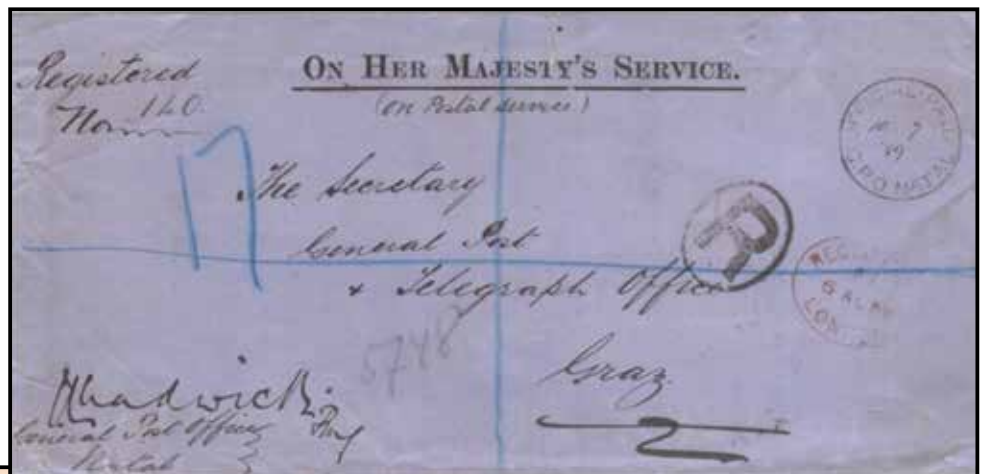


Fig.16: 1889 Registered OHMS cover Pietermaritzburg 10 7 89 to Austria (Graz 2 [8] 89. Marked 'On Postal Service', signed by P M G with dated manuscript OFFICIAL PAID G.P.O. NATAL. Transit cancellation; Registered London 6 AU 89.

- Dickson J. 2001. The Union Steam Ship Company's packet service to the Cape; the first contract, 1857-1862, and its extension into 1863. N&ZP 5(2): 41-54.
- Dickson J. 2002. The Union Steam Ship Company's packet service to the Cape; the second contract 1863-1868. N&ZP 6 (4): 107-119.
- Dickson J. 2003. The Union Union Steam Ship Company's packet service to the Cape; the second contract, 1863-1868. N&ZP 6(4): 107-119.
- Dickson J. 2004. The sea-borne mails of Natal, 1863

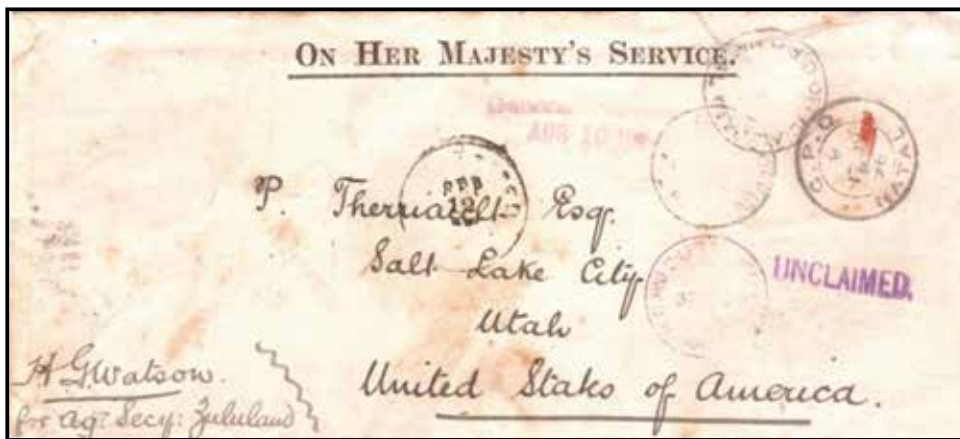


Fig.17: 1896 On Her Majesty's Service Government House cover with mark OFFICIAL PAID G.P.O. NATAL and crested seal of Governor's Office, Natal (on reverse). Addressed to the U S A, cancelled GPO 17 My 96, London AU 8 96, New York AUG 15 96, Salt Lake City AUG 19. Also UNCLAIMED cachet, Dead Letter Office OCT 5 96 and Returned Letter Office Natal 30 11 96, cancellations.



- to 1868; Part 2. N&ZP 8(3): 81-104.
- Dickson J. 2009. The Union Company's Atlantic Service 1872-1876. Parts 1 to 3. C&NPJ 13(2-4).
- Dickson J. 2010. The Union Company's Atlantic Service 1872-1876. Parts 4 to 6. C&NPJ 14(1-3)
- Harris CJ & BD Ingpen. 1994. Mail ships of the Union Castle Line. Fernwood Press, South Africa.
- Hart WR, BA Kantey & A Leslie Leon. 1977. The Postal Markings of Natal. Creda Press Ltd.
- Klugman K. 2011. Classic Victorian Natal (1836-1899). David Feldman SA, Geneva.
- * N&ZP - Natal and Zululand Philatelic Journal
- * C&NPJ - Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal

Fig.18: 1902 OHMS cover Pietermaritzburg 1 FE 1902 to Italy with red mark OFFICIAL PAID G.P.O. NATAL. A GB 2½d stamp added and cancelled London FE 22 02, blue manuscript '6' and postage due stamp of France cancelled 23...02 (covering the Natal T.1 mark in red).

PRESS RELEASE

Collectors Save St Helena Archives

Acknowledgement to both <https://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/news> and The Sentinel (Newspaper), South Atlantic Services Ltd. (SAMS)

For the first time in its history the ABPS Congress Medal in 2021 has been awarded jointly to two collectors who worked as a team. Barry Burns and Bernard Mabbett visited St Helena on two occasions to preserve the philatelic records and stamps of the island.

Barry Burns and Bernard Mabbett visited St Helena to research the island's postal history and stamps but after three weeks had found very little new information on the stamps or workings of the St Helena Post Office.

Before they left the island, they were shown a cellar containing a large selection of boxes and folders of paperwork that was in need of being properly archived.

With no resources on the island to do this work, Barry and Bernard agreed to return and create the archive themselves.



In 2013, after hearing that the St Helena Government was planning to remove and destroy the files, Barry and Bernard and two fellow philatelists travelled to St Helena and spent five weeks sorting the paperwork and ledgers and putting them into archive boxes.

Due to the size of the task, Barry and Bernard returned to the island to complete the job, and to write up the Government stamp

collection consisting of Ascension, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha stamps. The collection had been kept in very poor conditions on old non-acid-free card but by the end of four and a half weeks 996 album pages had been written up and mounted. There is now a permanent philatelic display in the museum which is changed on a regular basis.



ABPS

The Association of British Philatelic Societies Ltd

Suid Afrikaanse Poskantoor Interne Takposgeleibrief (Branch Post Office Waybill) P13/122

deur Johan Joubert, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria - epos <johanjoubert66@gmail.com>

The electronic track and trace system, currently utilized by the post office, was done by hand before 1994. All documents were to be completed by hand, making it a tiresome process. A handwritten Internal Branch Post Office Waybill (P 13/122) from the 1970's illustrates the procedure followed.



Die vervoer van pos het deur die jare baie aandag geniet en is alles in die stryd gewerp om die aflewering daarvan te beveilig en te beskerm. Hierdie nougesetheit het aanleiding gegee tot 'n handstelsel om die aflewering van posstukke te volg en na te speur. Die Poskantoor se interne vorm P13/122 is spesifiek vir hierdie doel ontwerp.

Die alombekende elektroniese skanderings metode van 'Trek en Volg' (Track and Trace), wat in 1994 deur die Poskantoor in gebruik geneem is, is gegrond op die ondervinding wat opgedoen is met die handstelsel.

Hoewel dit beslis meer tyd in beslag geneem het, word die doeltreffendheid daarvan aan die hand van 'n Takposgeleibrief uit die 1970s geïllustreer. Die geleibrief is op die roete vanaf Mamre na Milnerton en terug na Mamre gebruik (Figs.1 en 2).

Wikipedia beskryf 'n Geleibrief (Waybill) as 'n "dokument wat uitgereik is deur die kontrakinstansie wat besonderhede uitreik en voorskryf instruksies gee vir die vervoer van die besending van goedere. 'n Geleibrief is soortgelyk aan n koerier se gedetailleerde bewys van die versender, die ontvanger, punt van vertrek en aankoms by die eindbestemming".

Posregulasies rakende die Takposgeleibrief P13/122 en motorpos vervoerstelsel

Die volgende regulasies is as riglyn in die poskantoorgids vervat:

"1110. Possakke wat per poskar of motorvoertuig vervoer word, moet op so wyse opgepak word dat die inhoud veilig is en die sakke nie kan afval nie. As hulle aan die kante van of bo-op 'n rytuig, of op die agterskot, wat aan alle poskarre moet wees, gepak word, moet boksele oor die possakke getrek en aan die voertuig vasgemaak word. Drywers moet die sakke voortdurend nagaan om seker te maak dat hulle nie kan verloor of dat daar nie aan gepeuter kan word nie. Sakke moet nie van die voertuig afgegooi word nie en daar mag nie op hulle getrap of gesit word nie."

"1111. Daar word van 'n Posmeester verwag om dikwels op te let hoedat posstukke op n voertuig gelaai word ten einde seker te maak dat die sakke versigtig gehanteer en behoorlik gepak word; nogtans moet hy hom hoegenaamd nie bemoei met possakke wat in die sorg van 'n kontrakteur is nie, tensy dit in belang van hulle veiligheid is, of as instruksies ontvang is dat die sakke van die voertuig afgelaai en die pos opnuut opgemaak moet word."

"1112. Daar moet gesorg word dat die juiste tyd van aankoms by en vertrektyd van elke Poskantoor deur die Posmeester op die posgeleibrief ingeskryf word. Tydsverlies moet op die posgeleibrief aangeteken word en die oorsaak daarvan verduidelik word. As n poskontrakteur meer as 15 minute laat by sy bestemming aankom, moet die geval deur die posmeester, wat vir die nagaan en liaseer van die geleibrief verantwoordelik is, aan die streeksbeheerbeampte gerapporteer word. Die posgeleibrief moet saam met die rapport aangestuur word."

"1113. As 'n posbesending nie 'n poskar haal nie, moet die Poskantoor van bestemming per dienstetelegram daarvan verwittig word as so n kantoor 'n telegraafkantoor is."

"1114. Die Poswet maak voorsiening vir strawwe in gevalle waar persone hulle met die vervoer van pos inmeng of dit belemmer en wanneer n drywer of enigeen wat vir 'n posbesending verantwoordelik is, beskonke is of onnodig sloer. Daar word van elke amptenaar van die Departement vereis om sulke gevalle wat onder sy aandag kom, spesiaal aan sy senior beampte te rapporteer."

'n Takposgeleibrief moet deur die Poskantoor van vertrek voorberei word waarin die hoeveelheid possakke en hul bestemmings aangedui word. Die tyd en vertrek moet op die Takposgeleibrief aangebring word met die bestemmings Poskantoor se datumstempel asook die handtekening van die posbeampte. Dit volg dat die possakke dienooreenkomstig genommer is.

Possakke bestem vir Poskantore op die terugreis is by die possentrum, in hierdie geval Milnerton, opgelaai. Besonderhede daarvan is op die voorgeskrewe wyse op die keersy van die takposgeleibrief aangebring.

Met beide die heen en terugreis is daar slegs by Poskantore aangedoen waar possakke afgelewer moes word. (Fig.3)

Poskantoor	HEEN			TERUG			
	Aan komstyd	Tyd	Km	Poskantoor	Aan komstyd	Tyd	Km
Mamre	07:15			Milnerton	9:00		
Katzenberg	07:30	15minute	8.4	Melkbosstrand	09:30	30minute	27
Philadelphia	07:55	25minute	25	Philadelphia	10:10	40minute	19
Melkbosstrand	08:05	15minute	19	Katzenberg	10:50	20minute	25
Bloubergstrand	08:40	45minute	12	Mamre	11:05	15minute	8.4
Milnerton	09:00	20minute	11				

Fig.4: Beide Mamre en Katzenberg is Morawiese sendingstasies, elk met sy eie poskantoor

Die bostaande tabel toon die aankoms- en vertrektye asook die afstand tussen die verskillende Poskantore op die roete aan: (Fig.4)

Die reis is gedoen met 'n posbakkie wat deur die SA Poskantoor gekontrakteer is. Die rit vanaf Mamre na Milnerton en weer terug na Mamre, 'n totaal van 154,8km, het 4 uur en 10 minute geneem om te voltooi.

Alles dui daarop dat die handstelsel, met slaafse nakoming van voorgeskrewe reëls, baie effektief en doeltreffend toegepas is en kompeteer dit baie goed met die hedendaagse elektroniese stelsel.

Die afdruk in Fig.5 is gemanipuleer en verbeter om die datumstempels beter aan te toon.

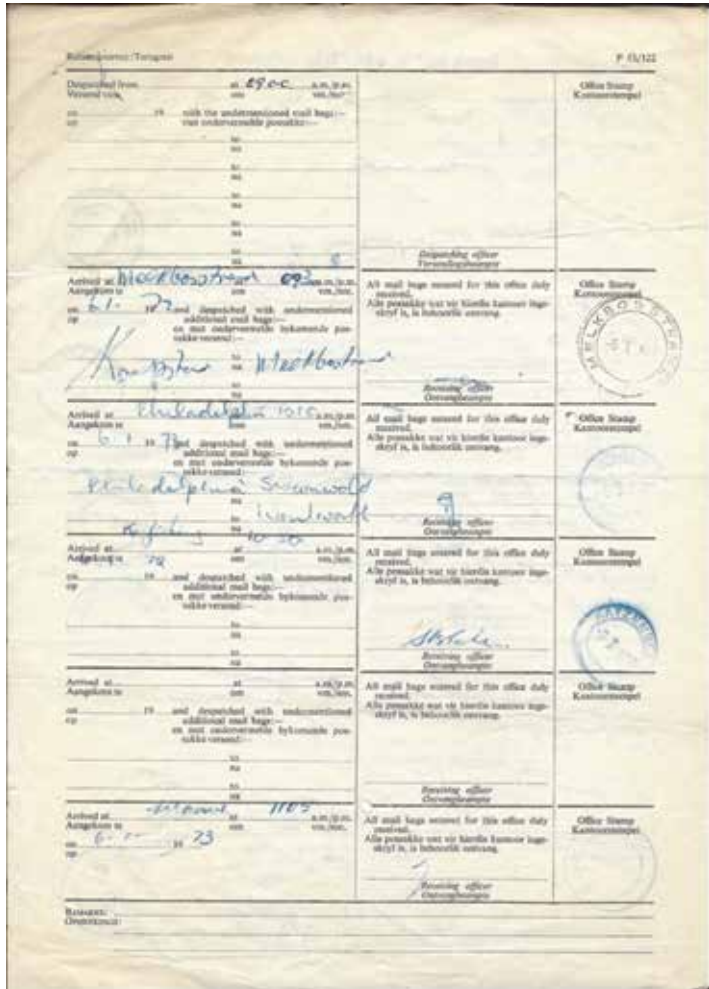
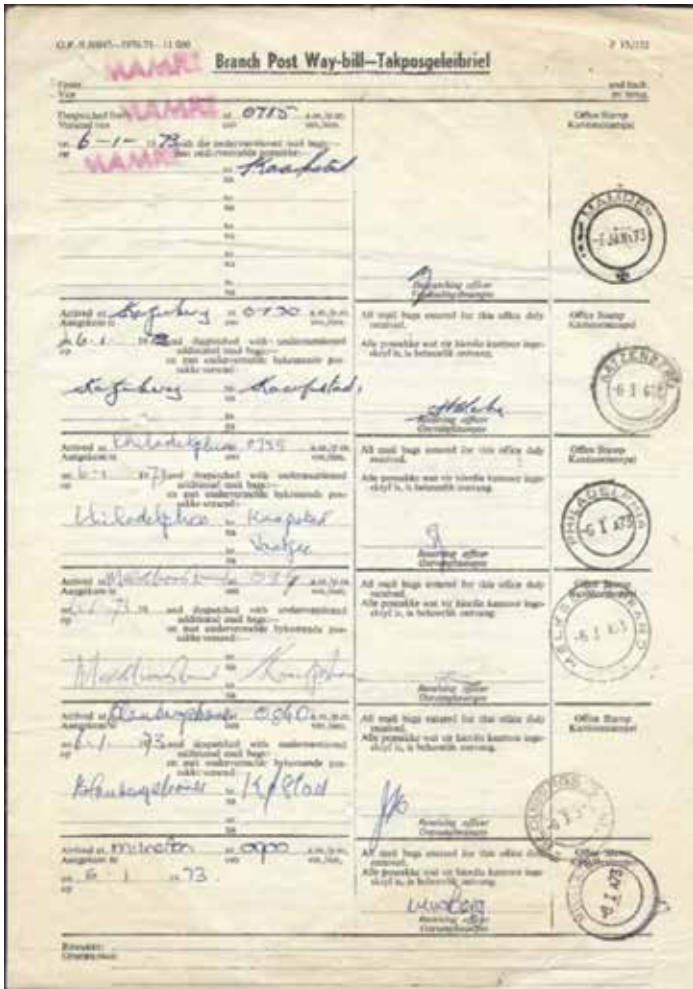


Fig.1: SA Poskantoor Pospapier Takposgeleibrief P13/122. Begin van posroete afwaarts, vanaf Mamre tot in Milnerton en weer terug. Begintyd 07:05 met elke Poskantoor se vertrektyd.

Fig.3: Keersy van die takposgeleibrief (P13/122). Let op dat Milnerton nie hul datumstempel aangebring het nie. Bloubergstrand se datumstempel verskyn ook nie bloot omdat daar geen porsakke vir die Poskantoor bestem was nie.

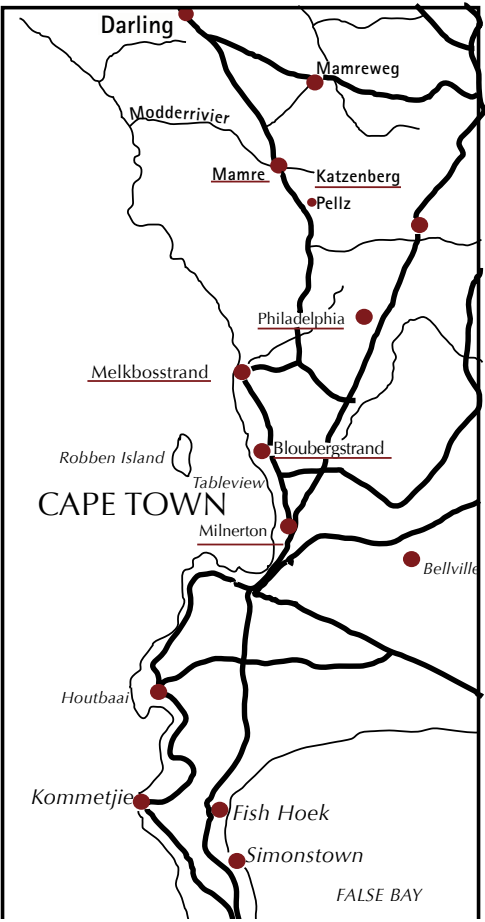


Fig.5: Al die datumstempels bevat die syfer 'A' voor die jaartal wat beteken dat die transaksie in die oggend (A-Advance Midday) plaasgevind het

Bronne:
 1. wikipedia.org › wiki › Waybill 2021-03-24.
 2. Poskantoor Handboek, Deel II, Voorskrif aan Posmeesters met opgedatteerde regulasies tot 1984, Staatsdrukker 1952.



Fig.2: Kaart met die Poskantore wat bedien is op die roete van Mamre na Milnerton.

House Numbering

with thanks to 'The Archive Team at The Postal Museum, London'

A house number is essential to deliver mail but it wasn't easy for the posties of the past. Explore the history of house numbering in the UK.

In the Archive, we often get asked, 'I'm researching the history of my house. I know the house number changed in the past, can you tell me more?'

The short answer is, the Post Office was never in charge of house numbering. Local authorities are responsible for house numbering, so a local archive might be able to help. However, the Post Office has always had a great interest in house numbers because it makes the job of delivering letters and parcels so much easier. So, here is the longer answer to this question of house numbers.

Before house numbers, businesses used illustrated signs to show people where they were, for example, a dragon for an apothecary (the equivalent of a pharmacy today). However, when sending post people had to rely on describing the address as best they could. Over time, the need for house numbers became increasingly clear. In London, one of the first recorded instances of a street being numbered is Prescott Street in Goodman's Fields in 1708. By the end of the century, the numbering of houses had become well established and seems to have been done on the consecutive, rather than the odd and even principle which we know now.



Cover showing address with no house number, 21 February 1848 (2019-0043/1) © The Postal Museum.

None of this was regulated and numbering systems varied even in the same street. For example, about 1780, Craven Street in the Strand had three sets of numbers. Street names were also confusing, in 1853 London had 25 Albert and 25 Victoria Streets, 35 King and 27 Queen Streets, 22 Princess and 17 Dukes Streets. There were irregularities everywhere, and the naming of streets and parts of streets was left to the idiosyncrasy or whim of the owner.

Just imagine the difficulties for the postmen trying to deliver letters! It didn't help that there was also no standard way of addressing a letter, so posties would also have to deal with addresses like this:

'To my sister Jean Up the Canongate, Down a Close, Edinburgh. She has a wooden leg.'

Postman's work rules included the instruction to make every effort to find the correct address by asking people on their route. When delivery was not possible, letters were returned to the so-called 'Dead Letter Office', where staff would try to decipher the letters and find the correct address. This still happens today, in a huge warehouse in Belfast (the office now goes by a different name!).

There was no regulation of house numbers until 1855 with the passing of the Metropolitan Management Act. For the first time,

the power to control and regulate the naming and numbering of streets and houses were set out in law and given to the new Board of Works. Under pressure from the Post Office, the Board started work in 1857 on the simplification of house numbering and street names by working through a hit list of the most confusing streets given to the Board by the Post Office. In the same year, London was split into ten districts giving each a code, for example, EC (Eastern Central), WC (Western Central). This was the very early beginnings of what became the postcode. However, postcodes, as we know them, were not introduced until the 1960s-1970s.

There was some public resistance to changing street names and numbers but, by 1871, 4,800 street names had been changed and 100,000 houses renumbered in London. Even so, it took some time for the use of house numbers to become established with the public. Postal reformer, Rowland Hill, wrote that:

'On arriving at a house in the middle of a street, I observed a brass number 95 on the door, the houses on each side being numbered respectively 14 and 16. A woman came to the door, when I requested to be informed why 95 should appear between 14 and 16; she said it was the number of a house she formerly lived at in another street, and it (meaning the brass plate) being a very good one, she thought it would do for her present residence.'

The mammoth task of renumbering and renaming streets continued into the 20th century. Although house numbering is still decided by local authorities across the UK, there is a booklet here in the archive called 'GPO Notes on Street Naming and Numbering of Premises' (January 1966, POST 17/159), which says: *'The Post Office has no power to insist upon the use of house numbers and street names in postal addresses but once Local Authorities, in fulfilling their statutory authority, complete the task of naming of streets, numbering of premises and insisting upon the exhibition of numbers, a great deal can be done by the Post Office in persuading users of the post to help.'*

The Post Office certainly lived up to this aim, running numerous publicity campaigns over the years, persuading people to address their post correctly. The archive contains many posters and leaflets on this subject.

House numbers have transformed the job of delivering our post, especially with all the online shopping we do now. Just imagine being a postie these days without house numbers!

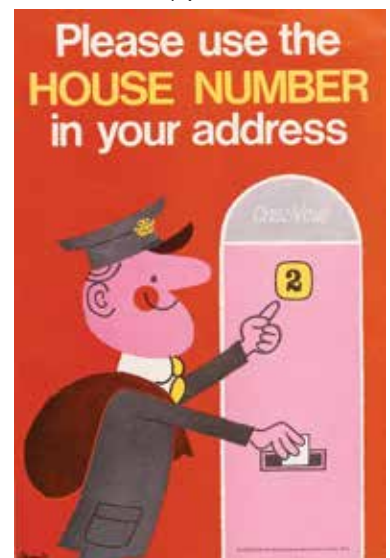
If you'd like to find out more about the work of a postie have a look at this blog. Or if you're curious about the story of postcodes, have a read here www.postalmuseum.org – The Archive Team at The Postal Museum

© The Postal Museum.



Oxford – Postman on delivery' photograph, 1936 (POST 118/552)

© The Postal Museum



IN MEMORIAM

HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Royal Mail reveal images of four new portrait stamps in memory of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. The stamps are on sale from 24 June 2021.

The four black and white images of The Duke are presented in a miniature sheet. Born on 10 June, 1921, The Duke of Edinburgh died on 9 April, 2021, aged 99.

The Duke of Edinburgh dedicated himself to the service of this country, the Commonwealth and to the many causes he was involved with. His passing is a key moment in our history which we mark with this set of commemorative stamps.

Born in Corfu, Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark was the only son and youngest child of Prince Andrew of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenburg. Like HM The Queen, he was also a great-great-grandchild of Queen Victoria, descended from her second daughter, Princess Alice. Following the abdication of his uncle, King Constantine I, during a turbulent period in Greece's history, his family fled the country to exile in France when the Prince was 18 months old.

After education at Cheam Preparatory School and Gordonstoun, in 1939 the 18-year-old Prince joined the Royal Navy as a 'Special Entry' Cadet, where he excelled in his training. In July 1947 the engagement of Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten to Princess Elizabeth was announced, and four months later their wedding at Westminster Abbey was the first great State Occasion since the end of World War II. In addition to supporting HM The Queen, Prince Philip became patron or president of some 800 organisations

The stamps and a range of collectible products are available to pre-order from www.royalmail.com/dukeofedinburgh.



The black and white images feature Prince Philip through the years:

- 2nd Class stamp: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh taken by the photographer Baron.
- 1st Class: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh attending the passing out parade of Prince Andrew at Dartmouth Naval College, Devon.
- £1.70: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.
- £2.55: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh taken by the photographer Terry O'Neill.





Doreen Royan & Associates (Pty) Ltd
Fine Postage Stamps (Established 1982)

If you're looking to buy or sell exclusive Southern Africa material we specialise in South Africa; Boer War; Basutoland; Rhodesia; Southern Rhodesia; South West Africa; Bechuanaland; Swaziland; Nyasaland; Northern Rhodesia; Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika.

www.doreenroyan.com

Tel: +27 (0)11 706 1920
www.doreenroyan.com
royan@icon.co.za

SPECIALIST IN RARITIES, ERRORS AND VARIETIES



Historic Map: Undblad Pictorial Map of Africa, 1955, Vintage Wall Art - Undblad Pictorial Map of Africa, 1955

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1961

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society

Part 3: Air mail postal services and postal rates applicable over the period 1961 - 1971

Introduction

A characteristic of the postal rates of the Republic of South Africa, is the fact that the rates stayed the same from 14 February 1961 to 01 April 1971. The reason for the change was the fact that the Post Office changed over to the metric system on 01 April 1971, and with the entry into force of a new Universal Postal Union Convention on 01 July 1972.

The focus in this article will be on the air mail services provided by the Post Office in the Republic of South Africa over the period 1961 to 1971 in terms of inland and African Postal Union as well as international air mail services.

Letters, letter packets, postcards, aerogrammes and other classes of mail were transmissible by air. The conditions of acceptance were the same as those governing ordinary inland and foreign mail, except that articles weighing more than eight ounces, other than *bona fide* letters and commercial papers, could not be sent at the air mail letter rate of postage to destinations in the Republic of South Africa and South West Africa or by airmail to other countries of the African Postal Union. It was also indicated that a blue air mail label must be affixed to each air mail item immediately above and to the left of the address alternatively the indication 'BY AIR MAIL' and additionally 'PAR AVION' in the case of mail for abroad.

Air mail correspondence could also be registered subject to the usual charge of the service. The express delivery service was confined to certain countries (Fig.1).



Fig.1: Registered cover posted by air mail from Paulpietersburg in South Africa to Germany on 20 December 1966. At that stage, the air mail rate to Germany was 15c per ½oz. therefore the 95c fee pays for: 6 x 15c for a 3oz letter = 90c plus the 5c registration fee. All three values of the Verwoerd commemorative stamps are used to make up the postage fee.



Fig.2: (below) Posted from Johannesburg to Rhodesia on 15 February 1967 illustrating the 3c air mail rate to that country.



Fig.3: Posted by air mail from Johannesburg on 31 September 1965 to the Congo and franked with 12½ cover the postage. The Leopoldville backstamp has an illegible date. The air mail letter rate to Congo was 3c for the first oz and 1½c for each additional oz. The 12½c pays for an 8oz letter.

Inland and African Postal Union Air Mail Services: Postal Rates

The Air mail rates of postage to destinations within the Republic of South Africa and to African Postal Union countries viz Angola, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Rwanda, Southern Rhodesia, Swaziland, Tanganyika and Uganda:

Letters or letter packets: 3c for the first oz. and 1½c for each additional oz (Figs.2 & 3)

Aerogrammes: 2½c each

Postcards: 2c each

Airport Mail:

Late fee letters were also accepted at airports (Fig.4) under the following conditions:

- The facility is limited to conveyance by aircraft of South African Airways operating within the Republic of South Africa and South West Africa.
- Letters must bear postage at the prescribed rates plus additional stamps to the value of 5c. They must not exceed 2oz. in weight.
- Letters must be handed in at airports to accredited representatives of South African Airways at least twenty minutes prior to the scheduled departure of the aircraft by which it is intended the letters should be conveyed.
- Letters will be conveyed by air within the Republic of South Africa and South West Africa to the place from which delivery or onward transmission can be effected most expeditiously.

Air mail Services: Foreign Rates

One of the most exciting facets of the postal history of the Republic of South Africa to collect is the Air Mail Services to foreign countries. Letters posted to the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States are not difficult to find but covers posted to Africa, South America, the Middle East, Far East, Japan and Australasia are difficult to come by.

It was indicated in the Post Office Bulletin that letters, letter packets, postcards, aerogrammes and other classes of mail are transmissible by air. Parcels may be sent by air only to places in the Republic of South Africa, South West Africa and the United Kingdom.

A selection of foreign air mail postal rates are indicated in the table at right:

Country of Destination	Letters per ½oz	Post Cards each	Aero-gramme each	Second-Class Mail per ½ oz
Africa: Excluding the Republic of South Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, South West Africa, Swaziland and other countries of the African Postal Union	10c	5c	5c	4c
Europe: United Kingdom, Northern Island and the Republic of Ireland (Fig.5).	12½c	7c	5c	5c
All other countries including the Soviet Russia and the islands in the Mediterranean Sea except Cyprus and Malta (Fig.6).	15c	7½c	5c	6c
Cyprus and Malta (Fig.7).	12½c	5c	5c	5c
Near East Bahrain, Dubai, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia	12½c	7c	5c	5c
America Canada, USA, Central and South America (Fig.8).	22½c	12c	10c	10c
India Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, India, Pakistan	17½c	9c	5c	7½c
Far East Brunei, China, Cocos Islands, Formosa, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Macao, Malaya, Manchuria, North Borneo, Philippines (Fig.9).	22½c	12c	10c	10c
Japan	25c	12½c	10c	10c
Australasia Australia, New Zealand (Fig.10).	25c	12½c	10c	10c

Fig.4: (below) Cover posted at George Airport on 15 February 1968 with an additional 5c airport fee plus the normal air mail rate of 3c making up the total postage fee of 8c.



Fig.5: Registered cover posted from Mobile Post Office No. 9 in Johannesburg on 23 September 1963. The 17½c pays: 5c registration fee plus 12½c air mail fee to the United Kingdom.



Fig.6: Cover posted by Air Mail from Johannesburg on 04 April 1964 to Germany and franked with the 15c rate that was introduced on 14 February 1961. Note the Hotel Rose Wiesbaden label applied over the address to re-route the cover to the next destination of the guest that stayed in the hotel.



Fig.9: Letter posted from Potchefstroom (17 May 1966) to Hong Kong with postage stamps to the value of 32½c. The 32½c pays for: 22½c per ½oz air mail rate to Hong Kong introduced on 14 February 1961 plus the 10c express fee. (5c express fee + 5c for street delivery). (Collection: Gawie van der Walt RDPSA, Potchefstroom).



Fig.7: Registered cover posted from Sunnyside in Pretoria to Valetta in Malta on 26 June 1963. The 17½c pays the 12½c letter fee per ½oz since 14 February 1961 plus the 5c registration fee. It is interesting to note that the postage fee to Cyprus and Malta differed from the fee to the rest of Europe.



Fig.10: Cover posted to New Zealand from Queenstown on 28 February and franked by only 12½c which was the air mail rate to the UK instead of 25c to Australasia. Cover re-routed by surface mail which was 5c for the first oz. Cachet applied to indicate that the cover was insufficiently franked for air mail to New Zealand.



Fig.8: Cover posted from Johannesburg on 11 June 1968 to Canada illustrating the 22½c air mail rate applicable to countries in North America.

A Second-Class Mail service was also introduced

The nature of the contents of such items namely Printed Paper, Commercial Paper or Sample should be indicated in the upper left-hand corner of the cover. Second-Class Mail may not contain anything in the nature of a letter or personal correspondence and must be made up in a manner that permits ease of examination of the contents (Fig.11).

Insufficiently prepaid articles

The post office regulations stipulated that articles on which at least 75 per cent of the appropriate air mail postage rate is prepaid will be taxed double the deficiency and forwarded by air mail. Other articles will be forwarded by surface mail (Figs.12 & 13).

STOPPED BY CENSOR

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



During the Anglo-Boer War, Britain introduced extensive censorship measures through the application of martial law. In this article, we focus upon the censorship of private correspondence. Perhaps surprisingly, it was not until May 1901 (some 19 months after the outbreak of hostilities) that a comprehensive set of 'Rules for the Guidance of Press Censors in South Africa' was published. These rules contained important provisions to guide both press censorship and the censorship of civilian mail.

Following the invasion by Boer forces of Natal and the north western Cape Colony on 11 October 1899, martial law was proclaimed over the invaded territories and bordering areas on 16 October, and throughout Natal soon thereafter. The censorship methods for handling private mail distinguished three categories of correspondence: letters addressed within British controlled South Africa, those addressed to the Orange Free State, Transvaal and Lourenço Marques, and those addressed to other foreign countries. Initially, censoring was effected by opening sealed letters and then sealing the envelope by the use of a censor seal or label.

As a general rule, letters deemed inappropriate were stamped or otherwise marked for return to sender, but were in practice generally not so returned. Figure 1 is an example of mail which was so stamped but which bears no indication of having been returned to sender. It shows a cover addressed to Lourenço Marques bearing the boxed STOPPED BY CENSOR / RETURN TO SENDER applied in Durban, together with the censor's explanation 'Enclosures for the Z.A.R.'

The Rules for the Guidance of Press Censors

These Rules were issued on 29 May 1901 by Major J.M. Walter, Acting Censor, Army Headquarters, under the authority of the Director of Military Intelligence, Pretoria.

The general principle was that all letters were liable to censorship. However, by Rule 19, "Letters addressed to Officers, Soldiers, Army Nurses, recognised Government Officials, and Foreign Consuls are for the present



Fig.1: STOPPED BY CENSOR / RETURN TO SENDER.



Fig.2: DELAYED BY / CENSOR, applied at Paarl. The only known example of this handstamp.

exempted as a general rule

Rule 20 recognised that "The proportion of letters that can be opened depends on the strength of the Staff at an office. The larger the proportion, the less the chance of obnoxious and dangerous matter getting through" This rule implies that although an envelope may bear a censor's cachet or handstamp, the contents were not necessarily scrutinised, as confirmed by Rule 23: "every letter passing through a Censor's Office, whether opened or not, should bear a mark or stamp to show it had passed".

Although letters were frequently delayed because of insufficient available censors, there is only one known cover that bears an indicative handstamp, which is illustrated as Fig.2.

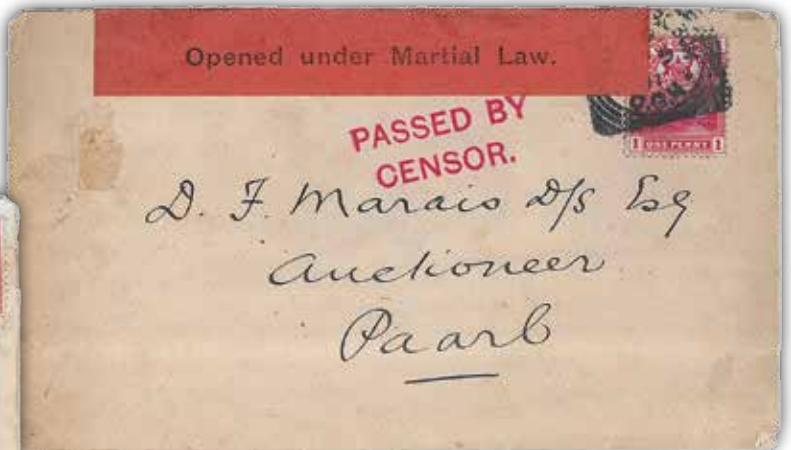


Fig.3: The handstamp PASSED BY / CENSOR, applied at Paarl

Rule 21 required censors to obtain from local military and civil authorities confidential lists of all persons living in their area who were suspected of being hostile, unfriendly, or dangerous. "Letters addressed to, or as far as possible coming from, such persons should be specifically attended to." Given the volumes of mail that were handled, this rule was invariably difficult to implement.

Rule 28 provided that letters containing undesirable matter

or information likely to be useful to the enemy, should be sent, with a note, to the local Intelligence Officer or Provost Marshall, as the case may require, as soon as possible. Figure 4 illustrates an envelope which the censor stopped and wrote at the left side "File for notification to Authorities".

Censors were instructed on no account to add to the text of a letter. But occasionally a message to the recipient was endorsed on the cover. Few such covers have survived but an example is illustrated in Figure 5. Here, the censor decided that the letter almost breached the rules, and wrote on the cover: – "If your correspondent is not more careful, he will get into serious trouble". Under Martial Law, the writer of an unacceptable letter was liable to be charged with an offence. The unacceptable included "Treasonable or seditious acts or words, or acts and words tending to excite disaffection, disloyalty or distrust of Government." The penalty for writing this type of letter was detention as a prisoner of war.

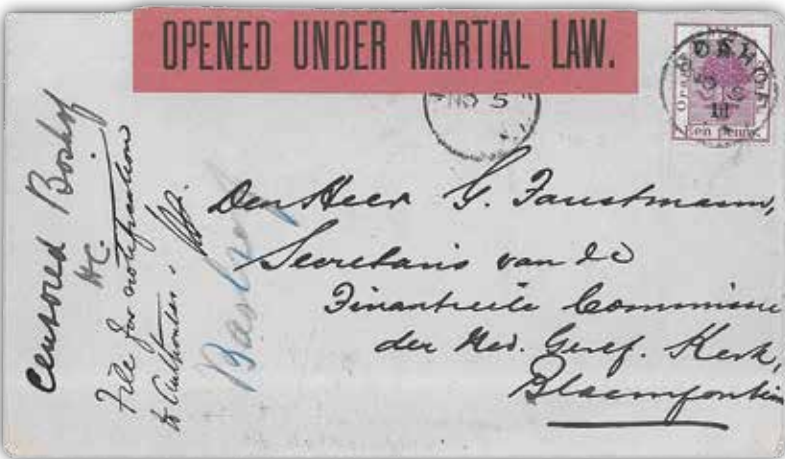


Fig. 4: "File for notification to Authorities".

What messages or information were stopped?

Rule 3 was directed to the Press Censors:

"No hard and fast rules can be laid down regarding the stoppage, detention, or elimination of any portion of a press message. In censoring, the following general principles should be borne in mind:-



Fig.5: "If your correspondent is not more careful, he will get into serious trouble"

Nothing regarding or indicating the movements of troops, important orders issued, state of Transport or Supply, future events, nor any matters likely to be of use to or encourage the enemy should be allowed to pass.

The publication of sensational matter or anything likely to excite political feeling is generally undesirable. Casualties must not be given by name without Official confirmation."

A letter written in a language other than Afrikaans or English was liable to be stopped. Letters written in code or shorthand would also not pass the censor. Figure 6 illustrates a postal stationery card that was stopped by the censor. The message itself appears unobjectionable, but each sentence is presented in separate quotation marks, and the suspicious censor probably thought that this represented a form of coded communication.

Censorship of Military Mail

By Rule 2, letters to the Press emanating from officers and soldiers must be stopped and sent to the Director of Military Intelligence. During the war, over 200,000 British and Empire troops were mobilised, and vast numbers of letters addressed to family or friends became available for publication. Many weekly newspapers had a regular feature of such 'Letters from the Front'. Sir Ernest Bennett in London considered it especially disgraceful that the English press should print letters from soldiers at the front criticising their leaders. 'Publicity of this sort strikes at the root of military discipline and fairness,' he claimed, 'for the public can scarcely expect a British General to reply in the public press to the letter of a private serving under him.'

Some soldiers were quite accustomed to seeing their letters published in the newspapers, and even breached the rules by writing directly to the editors on their own account. Many letters about the 'Black Week' of December 1899 were particularly vivid due to the scale and severity of the battles. Lance-Corporal W. E. Wicks of the Black Watch survived the decimation of the Highland regiments at Magersfontein, and wrote the following which was published in the Liverpool Post:

"We had to lie till about 3p.m., when we made another three successive dashes, but failed. By this time the guns had blown up the enemy's trenches and some of us got in and gave them the skewer, but had to fly for our lives on a flank party coming up. Of the awful sights and privation I won't speak, only I must say that we had no water for 32 hours, and dozens died through want thereof, wounded of course. I got through with my helmet knocked off, two bullets through the kilt, and one through my spats. Do what you like with this letter, it is all the truth."

Implementation of the Censorship Rules

Army officers were initially deployed to carry out censoring, but as the volume of mail increased, civilian assistants were employed. Rule 29 provided that local men should not be employed as interpreters more than was absolutely necessary, "as it is in their power to cause much social mischief". Where such men were unavoidably employed, the earliest opportunity was to be taken for arranging their

transfer to other stations further afield, after reference to the Director of Military Intelligence.

Afrikaner residents, by virtue of their ethnicity, were treated with suspicion when employed as censor assistants, as were those employed in the post office. It was feared that a Post Office employee had the opportunity to observe which letters were removed by the censor for scrutiny, whereupon they might inform the parties involved.

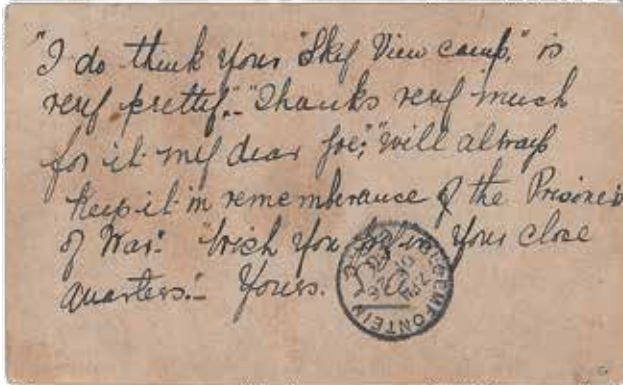


Fig.6: Why was this card stopped by the censor?

One way of evading censorship of a letter was to arrange for its despatch by hand. An example of such is the cover illustrated in Figure 7, which contains a letter complaining that previous correspondence had been stopped by the

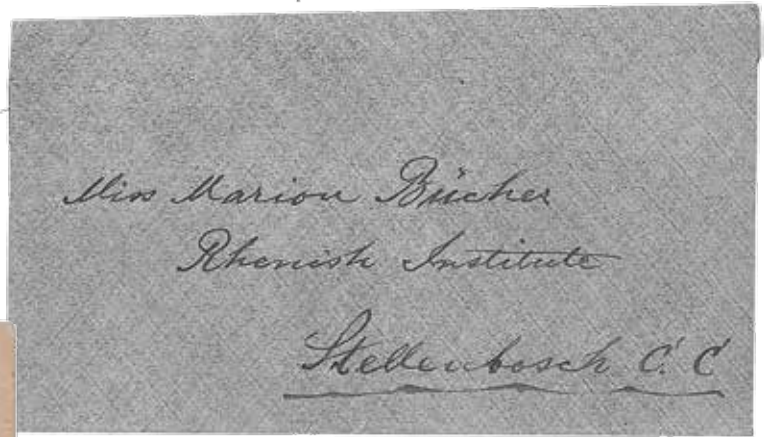


Fig.7: A letter despatched by hand in defiance of Martial Law censor: "I have submitted said letters to several people here of different nationalities and all agree that they cannot see why my letters should have been returned by the censors" A Martial Law notice issued in May 1901 forbade the practise of despatching letters by hand and provided that "Any person forwarding, carrying or receiving letters, papers or parcels not duly passed by the Press Censor will be dealt with under Martial Law."

References

- *Rules for the Guidance of Press Censors*, issued on 29 May 1901 by Major J.M. Walter, Army Headquarters, Pretoria.

RATES AND ROUTES

Material from the files of the late Jan Bakker RDPSA - edited by Alan Rose

ERROR CORRECTED

When travelling on big passenger ships, one could still write letters or postcards. Such ships usually had a postal agent on board who would carry a stock of stamps of the country from which the ship departed which covered the most popular postal rates. At each port of call, he would hand over a bag of mail to the company agent who in turn would hand it in to the local post office. Such mail would be considered to be from the country of origin of the ship. This could at times result in unusual but collectable covers with interesting cancellations.

The cover here was posted on a Dutch ship and franked according to Dutch postal rates with a Dutch stamp. It was classed and franked as printed matter and posted on the Dutch liner *Oranje* where the postal agent on board cancelled the stamp with the ship's date cachet '11IV 54, POST AGENT A/B M.S. ORANJE'

The *Oranje's* regular passage was between Holland and the Dutch East Indies / Indonesia with the first port of call being



Southampton to pick up British passengers for Egypt, Aden, Ceylon and Singapore. At Southampton all mail collected so far was bagged and handed in at a British post office.

As printed matter to a foreign destination, the cover was correctly franked with 5c. In Southampton the post office official obviously thought this was a letter which required a 12c

stamp and marked it with a cachet of a 'T' in a circle, as being under-franked. This was an alert to the office of destination that the item was under-franked and would require a Postage Due penalty.

(It is standard practice to add this cachet to an item to alert the office of destination which then decides what Postage Due, if any, is to be charged). In this instance, the postal office at Prestbury in Cheshire realised that the cover was printed matter and correctly franked and so did not charge Postage Due. It is good to know the Post Office can recognise and correct its own mistakes.

The King is dead, long live the Queen

by Sean Burke, Rhodesian Study Circle



This is a small look ahead to next year and a possible theme for philatelists who collect stamps from Commonwealth countries. The year 2022 brings with it the seventieth anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne. Following the death of her father, King George VI, Princess Elizabeth (born Elizabeth Alexandra Mary on 21 April, 1926) became Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February, 1952, at the age of twenty five.

No doubt philatelists will, amongst many other things, concern themselves with the first definitive issues bearing the portrait of Queen Elizabeth, the timing of their issue, and the overlap of use of stamps from the previous and the new reign.

It is interesting to briefly note the different approaches of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland to the first Queen Elizabeth definitive issue.

Both Northern Rhodesia (15 September, 1953) and Nyasaland (1 September, 1953) approached this issue in similar fashion. Their first QE issue was almost identical to the last GVI issue - merely a change in portrait. In the case of Northern Rhodesia, it was much the same as for the GV issue - albeit with some colour variations (Figs.1 and 2). In Southern Rhodesia on the other hand, the new issue featured a completely new designs (31 August, 1953) - for many future collectors this became a favourite issue (Fig.3).

All of these issues were not to last long. They were overtaken by the formation of the Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland and the first Federation issue in 1954. And there, yet another story begins (Fig.4).

Fig.1: Northern Rhodesian stamps from three reigns - much of the same.



Fig.3: Southern Rhodesian stamps from two reigns - a new approach.

In the early 20th Century, the British Prime Minister's wife, Margot Asquith, remarked that Lord Kitchener might not be a great man but at least he was a great poster. In the early 21st Century, we might argue that Elizabeth II is a great Queen and a good stamp!



Fig.2 Nyasaland stamps from two reigns – much of the same.



Fig.4: From the first Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland Issue.

LOCAL EVENTS & SOCIETY NEWS

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

It is important to note that not all Societies have returned to having their regular meetings during this time of lockdown, they do, however, welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website www.stampssa.africa

Philatelic Meetings of The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The modified Coronavirus regulations have allowed the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society meetings to be reinstated, subject to the wearing of masks, sanitising, social distancing and other precautions.

Meetings always on a Wednesday at 19h30



contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA for further information 082 722 7604.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9 June 2021 | Favourite Cover/s |
| 14 July 2021 | PowerPoint Presentation by Heinz Wirz |
| 11 August 2021 | Grand Challenge Match |
| 8 Sept 2021 | One-Frame Evening |
| 13 October 2021 | Second Competitive Evening |
| 10 November 2021 | Invited Exhibitor |

Persons dining before the meetings at both Auckland Park and Woodmead should meet in the restaurant at 18h30.

WOODMEAD Informal Study Group

This study group has changed its name and continues meeting - please send all communication to haschaff@iafrica.com
Next Meeting: Wed. 30th June 2021 starts at 19h30

These meetings provide a superb learning experience. Bring along a few philatelic items and be surprised at how much additional information can be gained from comments received from other attendees.

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 and Society Secretary: Alex Visser.
alex.visser@up.ac.za

Box 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927

DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING

Sekretaresse: Gerrie Conradie
082 952 6700.
Tel / Faks 044 698 1074.
epos: gajcon@gmail.com



AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Aangename en aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter: Dr. Louwrence Erasmus. Sekretaris: Ronel Erasmus. Kontak: Herman van Niekerk by hinvestasta@gmail.com of 072 446 2501

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr,
Tel: 011 789 6357

Until it is considered safe to gather indoors, the PSof will at hold monthly Zoom meetings. Anyone interested in joining these meetings should contact Clive Carr directly.



BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Werner Barnard;
email: president@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 0825670353 (a.h.);
email: secretary@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za
Website: <http://bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za>
Contact the Secretary for Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN



Email: royalphilict@gmail.com

President: Ida Potgieter

email: matheyc58@gmail.com

cell: 074 333 4646

Secretary: Victor Millard 0828028882

or email: millardvg@gmail.com

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

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



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 021 689 5050
email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



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.info



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.

Meetings for 2021 held in the daytime - 10h30/11h00 to 13h00 at same venue
dates: 7.6; 5.7; 2.8; 6.9; 4.10; 4.11; No meeting for December reserved for President's Christmas party.

STELLENBOSCH FILATELIEVERENIGING



Kontak: stellenboschstamp@gmail.com

CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE
ISRAEL PHILATELY

Contact for details: Aubrey Katzeff
<akatzef@mweb.co.za>
+27 (21) 4615134 President of CASPIP.

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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



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

David Wigston - Acting President
email: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Hammerton
hampaul@ananzi.co.za



WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374.
Chairman/Secretary Ian Walker. Tel:0114721161
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

HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN

The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join and get involved in this social hobby of Kings. German Restaurant open for lunch.
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

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings are held at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Rd, Bluff, Durban on every 2nd Saturday of each month. Contacts:

President: Fonda Sonitus 074 347 1388

Vice President: Zbigniew Kawecki 082 968 6888

Alternatively email The Secretary at philatelicsocietykzn@gmail.com for more details about meetings, auctions, sales packets and membership. Everyone is welcome and committee members are always on hand to give you advice about evaluations and philately. The club has begun a very successful Study Group focusing on specific topics. These meetings are held two weeks after the general meeting at 09h00 for 09h30. Please use the contacts above for more details of topics.



THEMATICS SOUTH AFRICA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Vibrant and active group - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. Group Leader: Helena Snyman
Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za



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: burncree21@telkomsa.net <aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com>

2. President: Dave Wyllie.

3. Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton

Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

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

Chairperson: Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com

Secretary: Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com

Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, corner 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.

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 South African representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

Now amalgamated with the EDENVALE Philatelic Society.

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: secretarypdmgs@gmail.com

THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall, Usually first Saturday of every month (09:00 - 12:30) Contact: Ken Joseph. 072 597 1287
email: ken@philatelicfriends.com

Smalls' Corner

Literature for sale (other titles also available). Contact Emil Minnaar 063 803 3536 Resident in Gordons Bay, Western Cape - Packaging and posting extra.

- **The Tete-Beche varieties of Transvaal.** Drysdall & Criddle - Hard cover 44 pages R350
- **Transvaal - the Provisional Issues of the 1st British Occupation.** Drysdall - Hard cover 86 pages - R400.
- **Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope.** Robert Goldblatt 1984. As new - with dust cover R350.
- **History of Medical & Hospital Services of the Anglo-Boer War.** - Peter Prime 1998 - Soft cover 182 pages - R450
- **Mount Currie Express.** T.M. Mullins 1982. As new R100. Occasional Paper 3 Post Mark Society.
- **The Branch Post Offices of Natal.** John Dickson 1996. Soft cover 18 pages R60.

WANTED Boxed set SA stamp replicas silver/goldplated, contact George (011) 782-6985. gccstamps@telkomsa.net

WANTED a young collector contacted the Wits PS via his father, Karim Mirak <mirak197725@gmail.com> If you are feeling generous and want to send a few local stamps for this 9 year old, this is his address: Boukerzaza yasser. Cité benboulaïd Bt D2 N°5 Montpensier. BLIDA 09000. ALGERIA

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

WANTED: A 44 year old teacher and Mongolian Philatelic Union member who has collected for over 30 years is looking for good philatelic friends from South Africa. Offering in exchange Mongolian mint stamps 1960-1991 against mint stamps from your country. Condition of exchanged :1. Please, write in English or Russian. If you do not speak these languages, please use # in the 'Scott' or 'Michel' catalogues. Jigjid Gantsogt. P.O.Box-314. UlaanBaatar-38. Mongolia.

Comic Corner

Stamps

that make you **SMILE**

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 64 **Errors on Stamps...**
'OLYMPIC TEN-PIN BOWLING ?'



This commemorative stamp is part of a set of six issued by Lesotho for the Olympic Games in Seoul / Korea in 1988.

Two major errors can be found on the stamp:

The first error is the Lesotho National Flag which was placed in the background.

This is the old flag design which hasn't been in use since the late 1970s.

The second mistake is the fact that tenpin bowling has never been an Olympic sport in the history of the Olympic Games.

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

RHODESIA DOUBLE HEAD ISSUE THE COTTONWOOD COLLECTION

ROBERT M. GIBBS TRUSTEE

SPINK are delighted to announce the sale of The Cottonwood Collection, a magnificent holding of the Rhodesia Double Head Issue, to be sold on June 3rd 2021.



Error, Scarlet and reddish mauve showing sheet number



Bright carmine imperforate between



Perf 15 RSC "F" Red-brown and (deep) greenish slate, the so-called "Venetian", Hook printing



Waterlow 10d. imperforate printer's sample



Lake-brown and green

Formed over decades by a master of the subject, Robert M. Gibbs, this important offering contains unique and exceptionally important items that will certainly crown even the finest of collections.

For further information please contact

Nick Startup | nstartup@spink.com | +44 207 563 4073

David Parsons | dparsons@spink.com

Ian Shapiro | ishapiro@spink.com

Andrew Kennedy | akennedy@spink.com | +27 83 560 4500

SPINK LONDON
67-69 Southampton Row | WC1B 4ET

Follow us #SPINK_AUCTIONS

 WWW.SPINK.COM

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 97:4. 967

www.stampssa.africa



Cover from Thomas Baines to his mother



A long stamp for a short day



An intriguing item previously unrecorded postmark - 1886
Griqualand West revenue stamp



Plating of Union King's Head low values

The SAPO since 1961

Part 4: Change to the Metric system



ISSN 0038-2566

South Africa

Fine Stamps, Proofs, Varieties & Covers



www.filat.ch

What have you been missing?

Filat AG



Always Free Shipping... Worldwide!

The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
www.stampssa.africa

REGULARS

- 103 Closing dates for future issues
- 104 Letters to the Editorial Board
- 106 Phun with Postmarks
- 119 New Stamp issue
- 130 Society news & 'Smalls'
- 131 Errors on Stamps

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

- 105 & 128 PFSA - Federation News - SAVPEX Results
by C.O.O. André du Plessis
- 108 Two Stories, a Connection, some Research and a little Imagination
by Sean Burke
- 109 The Postage Stamp
by David Wigston
- 110 The Functioning of the Postal System in the Republic of South Africa,
- Part 4. The impact of the changeover to the metric system ...
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA and Hugh Amoore RDPSA
- 115 Thomas Baines, Painter, Traveller, Writer
by Patrick Flanagan RDPSA
- 120 Determining Pitch and Leave Plates for the South African
Kings' Heads of 1913 to 1926
by Dr Louwrence Erasmus
- 122 Botswana's Official Runner Post
by Andrew Briscoe
- 125 The Long and the Short of It
by David Wigston
- 126 *Ceteris Parabis* Philately
by Paul van Zeyl RDPSA
- 127 Book Review: *Sol T. Platje: A Life in Letters*
by Brian William & Sabatu-mpho Mokae

ADVERTISERS

- 102 Filat AG
- 114 Bill Barrel Ltd.
- 121 John & Mark Taylor
- 125 Rhodesian Study Circle: new book
- 129 Johnson Philatelic
- 132 Spink

EXHIBITIONS

- 105: Savpex 2021
- 104: MonacoPhil 2022
- 107: Cape Town International Exhibition 2022
- 107: London International Exhibition 2022
- 109: REMINDER - Prospectus for Vrijstaat 2021
- 119: South Africa National Exhibition & Congress 2021
- 119: Junass 2021

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

André du Plessis RDPSA: andredupfs@gmail.com
 Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL: molens@pixie.co.za
 David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
 Robin Messenger: messenger.robin@gmail.com
 Janice Botes Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za
 Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

Alex Visser RDPSA : 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 RDPSA: andredupfs@gmail.com
 Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

Janice Botes: janice@gdb.co.za
 Tel: +27 (0) 11 454 5940
 All South African stamps
 are reproduced with the
 permission of SAPO



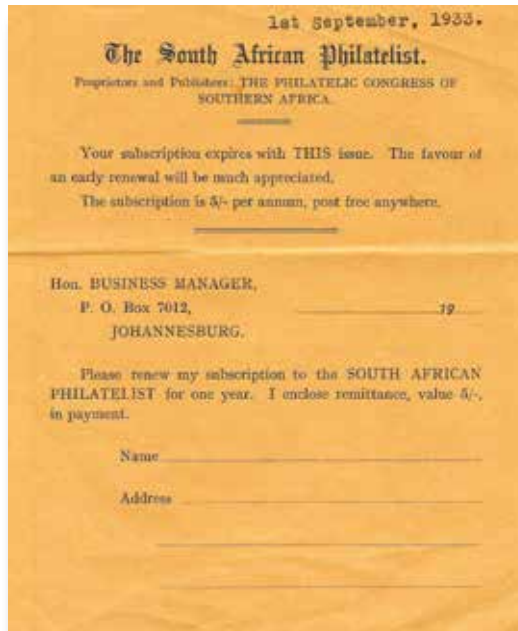
To avoid late delivery, please note; Publication closing dates for FINAL submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist*. ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

• **OCTOBER** 2021 - Volume. 97 : 5. 968. **9 Sept 2021** • **DECEMBER** 2021 - Volume. 97: 6. 969. **9 Nov 2021**



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 writing gift.

The more things change - the more they stay the same!




Weird and Wonderful Stamps

by David Collins, a member of the Edenvale Philatelic Society, lives in Colorado, USA.

It always feels like an accomplishment to remove a modern gimmick stamp from the scrap of envelope attached to it. In this case the dark blue is heat sensitive and reveals words when touched.

When wet it curls about twice over into a small tube. It was a process to flatten it out again. Fortunately it was not also self adhesive! Another Spanish gimmick: die cuts along the design features in the middle. If you don't notice them, the whole stamp breaks into pieces. Finally every Spanish stamp produced in the last few years has a die cut "ñ" in a bottom corner.



Cool feature as that accent only shows up in a few languages. 

Finally the dates for MonacoPhil 2022: from 24 to 26 November 2022

"We hope to welcome a large number of visitors in November next year"

- Patrick Maselis
General Commissioner
MonacoPhil 2022



PARTNERS



DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

PUBLICATION:

The South African Philatelist, a bi-monthly stamp magazine, is published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSa). This is one of the oldest running stamp magazines in the world and was founded in 1920.

Annual Subscription:

- Electronic copy:
 - RSA and Worldwide - R70.00
- Printed copy:
 - South Africa - R300.00 (Including local postage)
 - SADC countries - R750.00 (Include International postage via airmail)
 - Foreign countries - R1,100.00 (Include International postage via airmail)

PLEASE NOTE:

Subscription for a printed copy is for six issues per year and automatically include access to an electronic copy. The 2021 rates are also available on the PFSa official website under 'CONTACT/JOIN': www.stampssa.africa



Enquiries regarding subscriptions and PFSa membership can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis at andredupfs@gmail.com Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

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 C.O.O. André du Plessis, PO Box 53100, Wierda Park, 0149 or email the Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za



FEDERATION NEWS PARTICIPANTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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



EXPLORE THESE EXHIBITS THAT CAN BE SEEN ON THE PFSA WEBSITE



SAVPEX 2021

The challenging times of 2021, our sixth year of Virtual Stamp Exhibitions, caused uncertainty in the number of international and foreign participants. The world has seen the arrival of Virtual Exhibitions and successful ones have been held in Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and the United States, with many more to come. All FIP and FIAP affiliated countries were invited to participate in SAVPEX 2021 with excellent response. In May 2021, the total entries received amounted to 117 of which 98 from **22 Countries** from all five Continents. For the first time we have received entries from Belgium; Guatemala, Finland, India; Japan; Kuwait; Saudi Arabia and South Korea. These in addition to our 'usual' and most welcome participants from Australia, New Zealand United Kingdom and the United States of America. Support from the International Philately Federations has been phenomenal.

We would like to thank all Federations and Exhibitors for their support, and trust that SAVPEX will strengthen in years to come. Last, but certainly not least - the Organising Committee lead by Emil Minnaar, RDPSA and Joof van der Merwe.

TRADITIONAL

- BARIT, Dr Avi, Philatelic Federation of SA *Basutoland 1961 Decimal Overprints.*
- BARIT, Dr Lawrence, Philatelic Federation of SA *Bechuanaland: The 1961 Decimal Surcharges.*
- BARIT, Dr Simon, Philatelic Federation of SA *Great Britain: Queen Elizabeth II Head Errors.*
- BARTSHE, Mr Tim, American Philatelic Society *Orange Free State 1 Shilling Brown of 1896.*
- BENCHIMOL, Mr Jacques, Brazilian Federation of Philately. *American and Continental Bank Note Proofs on D. Pedro II 1866 – 1878 Stamps.*
- BENNINGHOFF, Mr Robert, American Philatelic Society. *The e Watermark Definitive Coil Stamps of Ireland 1940 – 1971.*
- CHEUNG, Dr Andrew, Hong Kong Philatelic Society. *The First Commemorative Stamp of Queen Elizabeth II.*
- DA FONSECA, Mr Carlos, Philatelic Federation of SA *1953 – Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.*
- FORBES, Mr John, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. *Forgeries, Fakes and Fantasies of the Stamps of Cyprus Issued between 1880 and 1902.*
- FRANKLIN, Mr Brian, Philatelic Federation of SA *Malta - The Cinderella Set. King George V 1926 - 1936 Shield Sets.*
- HOFMEYR, Dr Jan, Philatelic Federation of SA *The 'Grill' Essays of the United States: 1865 – 1868*
- HSIEN, Mr Yoong, Federation of Inter-Asian Philately. *HSBC – Perfins, Overprints and Security Markings.*
- KUSSING, Mr Herwig, Philatelic Federation of SA *Five South African Antelopes on Booklets and Postcard*
- LEE, Mr Soon Leong, Association of Singapore Philatelists. *A Study of the Stamps of the Reign of King Edward VIII.*
- LOWER, Mr Harry, Australian Philatelic Federation *The One Penny Green Letterpress Stamps of South Australia.*
- MCLAUGHLIN, Mr David, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. *Canada: The 1933 UPU Preparatory Commission Meeting.*
- SCHMIDT, Mr Eberhard, Bund Deutscher Philatelisten E.V. *The Paraguayan stamp issues (1932-1936) on the Gran Chaco".*
- SILVA, Mr Cesar, Federação Portuguesa de Filatelia. *Portuguese Perforated Stamps First Issue.*
- STELMACOVICH, Mr Mark, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. *The 'KLCs', KYIV's 'SOLUVENIR*

SHEET', and usage for both – 1992-1995.

- TAN, Mr Andrew, Federation of Inter-Asian Philately *The Green and Red 'Full Eagle' Sunburst Registry Seals of Mexico.*
- TIERNAN, Mr Jon, Australian Philatelic Federation *South Australia Railway Parcel/Freight Stamps Pre - Decimal Period 1885 - 1966.*
- TOOPS, Mr Earl, American Philatelic Society *The Trucial States Palm Trees and Dhow Series of 1961.*
- VADEBONCOEUR, Mr Guillaume, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. *Canada - The 10c small Queen of 1874 - 1897.*
- VAN BEUKERING, Mr Jan, Philatelic Federation of SA. *The First South West African Definitive Stamps - Archival Revelations.*
- VIJJOEN, Mr Diederik, Philatelic Federation of SA. *Dead Countries.*

POSTAL HISTORY

- ABDUL MUGHNI, Mr Khaled, Kuwait Philatelic & Numismatic Society. *Mail between Kuwait and Palestinian: Boycot 'Censorship' Nationalization.*
- BERMAN, Mr Genady, Israel Philatelic Federation *Taxi Post Labels of Israel.*
- BEZUIDENHOUT, Mr Johan, Philatelic Federation of SA. *King George V Silver Jubilee Road Trip.*
- BUFALO, Mr Almir, Brazilian Federation of Philately. *JUNDIAHY/ SP – Brazil: Early Postal History 1829 – 1888.*
- CALLAN, Dr Brian, Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland. *Electric Telegraph Company/ Electric & International Telegraph Company 1846 - 1870.*
- CURTIS, Mr Tony, Australian Philatelic Federation *Inscribed C.C.T, F.C.T. and Federal Territory – The Postmarks of Australia's Federal Capital and Jervis Bay Territories 1925 – 1940.*
- ELMSLIE, Ms Hazel, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. *Spain: Rueda De Carreta (Cartwheel) Cancellation.*
- GUERREIRO, Dr Antonio, Federação Portuguesa de Filatelia. *Portugal: Mail to Foreign Destinations with Stamps of the King Luis I – Straight Label Issue.*
- HARRIS, Mr Ray, UK National Philatelic Society *Northern Nigeria Manuscript Cancellations and the Lokoja Oval.*
- JOHNSON, Ms Kathryn, American Philatelic Society *British Telephone Campaign – The Slogan Postmarks.*
- JONES, Mr Julian, Hampshire Philatelic Federation *1948 Anglo-American Postal Treaty – US Exchange Office Accountancy Marks Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Portland (Maine) and Baltimore.*

- KENNAWAY, Mr Tim, Australian Philatelic Federation *Papua New Guinea Regular Postage Stamps Used as Postage Due: 6th December 1956 – 9th August 2001.*
- KHAITAN, Mr Piyush, Philatelic Congress of India. *The Postal Message Service of the Indian Red Cross Society during the Second World War.*
- KLIMLEY, Mr Ronald, American Philatelic Society. *The 1954 Liberty Series – Just the 1c George Washington.*
- KRAUSS, Mr Karlfried, Bund Deutscher Philatelisten E.V. *History of the Earliest Letters from New Zealand to Germany (1839-1841) – The Dieffenbach Story.*
- KUMAR, Mr Satish, Philatelic Congress of India *The Black, Blue and Red.*
- MASTROROSA, Mr Sergio, Brazilian Federation of Philately. *Postal Marks from Precursors to the Empire 1817 – 1843.*
- MCENTYRE, Mr John, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. *20th Century Study of Postcard Rates: Canada to the UK.*
- MIETUS, Prof Miroslaw, Polish Philatelists Union. *Correspondence from the Prussian Network of Rain Gauges in the Greater Poland 1919 – 1920.*
- MILLER, Mr Jerry, American Philatelic Society *America – England Ship Letters 1735 – 1796 ... Major British-Realm Ports of Entry.*
- MURPHY, Mr Brian, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. *Mail between and via Canada and Japan 1873 – 1898.*
- NESSEL, Mr Ingo, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. *Hong Kong 1945/6 – Post war Restoration of Postal Services.*
- PITON, Mr James, Brazilian Federation of Philately. *Esperanto under the Scrutiny of Postal Censorship.*
- PRESTON, Dr Dickson, American Philatelic Society *Greenland Mail during World War II.*
- REID, Dr Patrick, UK National Philatelic Society *The Denominated Tax Marks of Victoria, Australia 1947 – 1954.*
- RIVERA, Mr Carlos, Asociación Filatelica Guatemala. *Guatemala's Regions Mailbox Markings.*
- SABOO, Dr Narendar, Philatelic Congress of India. *Portuguese India – Postal Markings Prior to their First Stamp Issue.*
- SEITSONEN, Mr Esko, Suomen Filatelistiiliitto *Mail to and from Petsamo, Finland – 1940.*
- SHEFFIELD, Mr John, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. *Canada Two-Ring Numeral Cancels From The Maritime Post Offices.*

...continues on page 128

Phun with postmarks

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



The tumultuous Griqualand West

Paul van Zeyl's editorial with his 3 April 2021 auction listing opened an interesting piece of our history. A number of researchers/authors have discussed the Griqualand West period from 1860 to 1880, amongst whom is Putzel in the *Encyclopaedia* vol. 1 and 2, Goldblatt and Gilbert Allis ('Cape of Good Hope – Its postal history and postage stamps', Stanley Gibbons, 1930).

When diamonds were first discovered in the territory in 1866, Nicolas Waterboer, the Griqua Chief, attempted to lay claim to the territory. The Orange Free State already had a postal agent at Pniel and the Transvaal was trying to establish a presence on both sides of the Orange and Vaal Rivers. The British Government put the various claims out for arbitration and in the so-called 'Keate Award' the territory was awarded to Waterboer, despite the fact that the map of the area had been falsified. The diggers tried to establish a Republic shortly thereafter, but at the request from Waterboer British troops arrived at the diggings.

Since the Cape Parliament refused to have the territory incorporated, the British Government annexed the area as a Crown Colony. Mail had been handled via the Orange Free State agent, but the Cape Government established its first Post Office at Klip Drift, later Barkly in January 1871. The first dated oval (DO) date stamp was inscribed DIAMONDFIELDS (Fig.1 for early use) and DU TOIT'S PAN followed shortly after and remained in use until 1881 (Fig.2). Catalogues indicate that the first Griqualand postage stamps were issued in Sept 1874, which was a manuscript in red ink on a Cape stamp. This was followed by 'G W.' overprints on Cape stamps and in March 1877 by 17 different 'G' overprints. The first overprints are shown in Fig.3. Forgeries of these overprints exist, and one of the key indicators is that all the overprints were on Crown over CC watermarked Cape stamps. In 1880 the Cape Parliament finally agreed to a merger and Griqualand West was incorporated in the Cape Colony in Oct. 1880. After the merger the remaining stock of the overprinted stamps was used exclusively in GW until July 1881 (Allis), when the remainder was returned from Kimberley to Cape Town, and redistributed among a number of post offices in the Colony where they were used as ordinary Cape stamps. *The SA Colour Catalogue* indicates that the prices for used stamps after amalgamation are for ordinary used stamps which is interpreted as being the same as for the Cape stamps without overprint. The catalogues give no indication of numbers of stamps that were returned, but Allis gives the following numbers:

1/2d slate x127 000; 1d carmine x303 603; 4d blue x196 560; 6d mauve x79 200; 1/- green x124 320; & 5/- orange x7 560.

These numbers can be used to give an indication of relative scarcity, and thus value. A number of larger Cape offices used these returned stamps, such as Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, King Williams Town (catalogues give a more comprehensive listing). From the listing it is evident that a significant number of stamps were returned, and use can only be identified by clear dated postmarks.

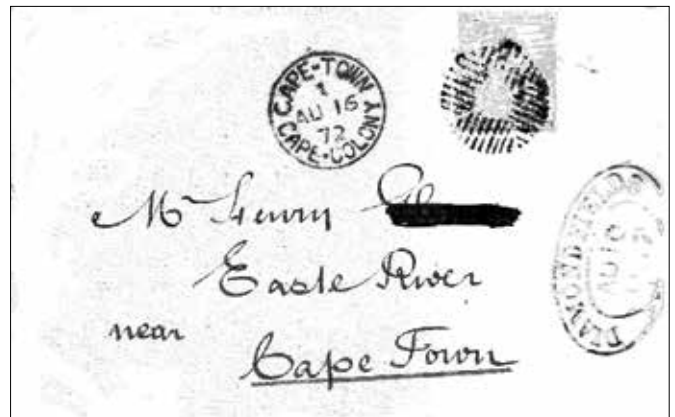


Fig.1: 1872 Diamondfields Dated Oval with dumb canceller before overprinted stamps were used. (Goldblatt).



Fig.2. 1881 Du Toit's Pan Dated Oval canceller with dumb canceller after amalgamation.



Fig.3: 1877 First overprint with upper case 'G'. (SA Colour Catalogue).

The first defacing stamps used by the post offices in Griqualand West (GW) were the Cape's Small and Large Triangle obliterators (Goldblatt), and in 1872 a Lined Circular Bar dumb defacer was introduced (Figs.1 & 2). Identification was only possible when applied together with a Diamondfields (seen from 15.3.1871 to 17.9.1873) or two types of Du Toit's Pan Dated Oval (DO) (seen from 29.2.1872 to 15.12.1881) on cover. In 1873 the Barred Diamond Numeral Cancellor (BDNC) was introduced, and numbers 1 to 11 were issued although the offices where some numbers were used are unknown. Fig.4 shows BDNC No. 6/9 used at Du Toit's Pan after amalgamation. No. 1 was issued to De Beers N.R. (New Rush) and after the town was renamed Kimberley it was used with the Kimberley date stamp (9.10.1873 to 1.7.1878). Double Arc (DA) date stamps (Fig.5a - e) were brought into service in GW from 1872 and five instruments were provided to three offices. The Junction R & M instrument was used at the office at the junction of the Riet and Modder Rivers in the Herbert district. In 1879 a single circle date stamp was introduced at the General Post Office at Kimberley (Fig.5f). A similar single circle date stamp was allocated to Barkly with GW at the base, seen used 16.10.1881 to 4.9.1888.

This Barkly date stamp thus could not have been used on GW overprinted stamps during the GW period.



Fig.4: 1883 Du Toit's Pan Barred Diamond Numeral Cancellation 6/9 and single circle date stamp. (Payne).

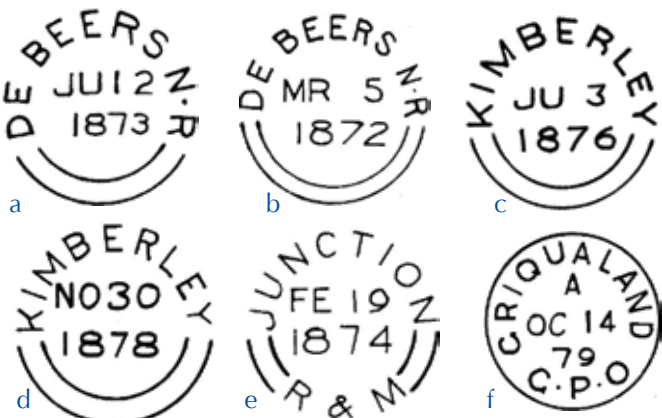


Fig.5: Examples of the five Double Arc date stamps used in GW as well as an example of a single circle date stamp (Goldblatt).

A correspondent provided the Griqualand West 5/- revenue stamp cancelled with a Griqua Town squared circle with 'Griq. West' at the base shown in Fig.6. The date is A/NO 8/86. This is an intriguing item as the postmark has not been previously recorded and the date is after 1881 when all surplus postage stamps were returned to Cape Town but it is unclear whether this also applied to revenue stamps. I trust that revenue specialists can clarify this situation.

Fig.6: 1886 Griqualand West revenue stamp with unknown squared circle date stamp.



The importance of a clear date stamp to ensure that the item originated from GW and not the Cape cannot be over-emphasised. Only BDNC, Double Arc and a single circle with Griqualand GPO are thus valid date stamps.

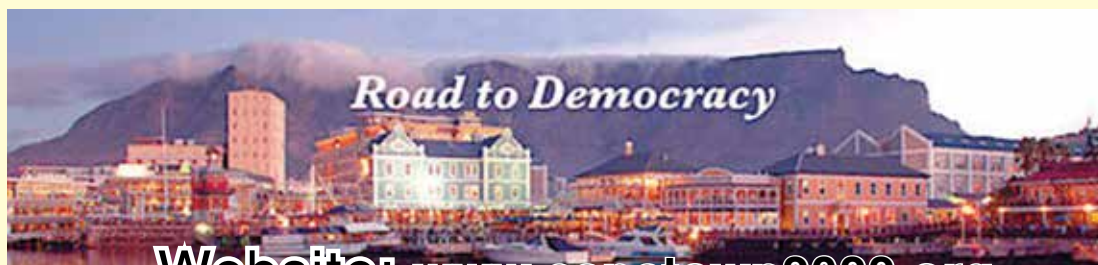
The exercise of identifying correct use of postage stamps is also true for the postage due stamps of the Transvaal issued in 1907. Prior to 1 June 1910 Transvaal postage due stamps could only have been used in the Transvaal. After the formation of the Union only the Transvaal had postage due stamps which were reprinted when needed, until 1914/15 when the first Union postage due stamps were issued. Note that the interprovincial period is later than for the postage stamps which were replaced from 1.10.1913. Stanley Gibbons lists interprovincial use, and as expected use by the smaller provinces, Natal and OFS, demand a premium. Looking through my Transvaal postage due stamps as a rough estimate about 10% or less have a legible place name and date, as shown in Fig.7.



Fig.7: Three examples of interprovincial use, (a) Pretoria 24AUGA10, (b) De Aar 12DE/12 and (c) Retreat JU 20/13.

Soos in hierdie rubriek getoon het Griekwaland Wes maar 'n kortstondige bestaan gehad en desnieteenstaande 'n fasinerende studieveld gevorm. Die vroeë tydperk was nou aan die OVS posgeskiedenis gekoppel vanweë die poskantoor by Pniel. Gedurende die tydperk van die Kroonkolonie is die poststelsel aan die gang gekry en eie seëls met 'n "G" oordruk het 'n verskeidenheid variasies tot gevolg gehad. Na amalgamasie is hierdie oorgedrukte seëls vryelik in die Kaap gebruik, slegs uitkenbaar deur die pleknaam en datum. 'n Inkomsteseël met 'n onbekende datumstempel het vir my aan die kopkrap gesit. Wie kan help? Identifikasie van datumstempel en datum is ook nodig vir Transvaalse boeteseëls om interprovinsiale gebruik te identifiseer.

The Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition from 8 to 12 November 2022.



Website: www.capetown2022.org



Two stories, a connection, some research and a little imagination

by Sean Burke, Rhodesian Study Circle



When we consider this hobby, which my wife sometimes refers to as an affliction, it is really all about the stories. Stories surrounding the stamps and postal history of countries. We examine the stamps – their design, their production, their use, forgeries etc. We write about the postal routes and rates, the post offices, the cancels and so forth. Then there are the people behind it all. And, in so many cases, when we let our imagination free, we find links that are endlessly fascinating. Here is but one tale.

I have been collecting Southern Rhodesia KGV1 advertising covers for a little while. This advertising cover from Strachan & Co, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia is possibly, to date, my favourite cover.



Fig.1.

It reminded me, once again, that early pharmacists were often the publishers of postcards. Did we not, until recent decades, entrust the developing of our photographs to pharmacists? (And, with respect to this cover, there were philatelists in the family!) What also makes this particular cover interesting to me is the use of a form of 'art deco' design in the production.

A little history...

In June 1891, the first commercial pharmacy, Lowenstein & Strachan was opened in Salisbury, Rhodesia, (now Harare, Zimbabwe) by Welshman, John Strachan. The initial fixed premises comprised a round pole and dagga hut in Pioneer Street. John Strachan was a qualified chemist and druggist, and also was trained at a dental hospital where he performed tooth extractions. Leopold Lowenstein was in charge of the Johannesburg branch while the Salisbury business was run by Strachan. Owing to an incident which the drivers of Strachan's supply wagon had with a lion on arrival in Salisbury, the chemist shop acquired the name Lion Dispensary. Towards the end of 1891 Strachan had a thatched hut built on the Causeway. A 'handsome' chemist shop under the name of Strachan and Co. was opened in Pioneer Street in December 1895 and later

a more modern establishment was built in Baker Avenue in the area known as Causeway. In 1902 Strachan sold out to Mr. James Dobie and Mr. George Drakes, who retained the name Strachan and Co. By 1910 the firm had premises at Causeway, Kopje and a branch on Manica Road. The Kopje establishment was closed in 1914.

But wait there is more!

When I attended the World Stamp Show in New York in 2016, there was a meeting of Rhodesian Study Circle members. There I met a fellow RSC member, Dr Robert Bell who resides in Arizona.

Robert Bell trained as a pharmacist in the UK at Portsmouth University in the 1950s where he met his wife Jeanette.

He emigrated to Rhodesia in 1957 and in 1961 was asked by Charles Holmes to take over the management of Strachan's Photo Pharmacy on Baker Avenue, Salisbury. Shortly after this, Robert with Ed Drakes, Peter Holland, and one other investor became joint owners of the business. In 1963, with Jeanette taking over the management at Strachan's, Robert enrolled as a medical student when Birmingham University in the UK started awarding its own medical degrees at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Shortly after graduation Robert joined the medical faculty of the same University undertaking lecturing in pharmacology.

Currently Strachan's is operating as a photographic business and is owned by David Dell who has devoted much of his free time to the *Friends of the Hwange Trust* that protects the animals in the Hwange National Park. <https://friendsofhwange.com/tag/dave-dell/>

The second part of the story. It started with a minor purchase on EBay a few years ago, of a used postcard.

This picture postcard was published by Strachan & Co., Salisbury, Rhodesia, around the beginning of the 20th Century.



Fig.2.



We are three months away from Stampshow **VRIJSTAAT 2021**.

Although there is no miniature sheet available this year, a canceller will be available. Thea Clemons, Graphic Designer at Philatelic Services, created the design.

The Organising committee would like to invite and remind collectors to enter before 1 September 2021.

To encourage first time exhibitors, Federation will sponsor their entry fee. The Jury Chairman, Michael Wigmore RDPSA, will put together the jury, which will be published in the October 2021 of *The SA Philatelist*.

We look forward to seeing you at the Vrijstaat Stampshow 2021

Accommodation enquiries / entries should be addressed to Joof van der Merwe, jnc1@vodamail.co.za

Entry forms and the Prospectus are available on the PFSA website, www.stampssa.africa
Our venue: www.kopanonokeng.co.za/

It has a cancel of SALISBURY 27 OCT 1904 tying a 1d Rhodesia Small Arms stamp. The card depicts a scene **In the Mazoe District**. Now, in all of this there is nothing remarkable – it is just interesting to the collector of early Rhodesian postal history. (Rhodesia then was administered by Royal Charter by the British South Africa Company.)

What drew my attention was the comments on the postcard:

Everything progressing swimmingly here or will be soon if rain continues, the wet season has set in capially and if it continues should have a good season for the farmers. I feel somewhat anxious as to whether letters will reach you safely with those mad Russians running amuck on the High Seas, but have no doubt our Navy will do its duty when necessary ...

Now another little bit of history. The ‘Dogger Bank incident’ occurred on the night of 21 and 22 October, 1904, when the Russian Baltic Fleet mistook a British trawler fleet from Kingston-upon-Hull in the Dogger Bank area of the North Sea for an Imperial Japanese Naval force and fired on them. The Russian warships involved in the incident were en route to the Far East, to reinforce the 1st Pacific Squadron stationed at Port Arthur, and later Vladivostok, during the Russo-Japanese War. Russian warships also fired on each other in the chaos of the exchange. Three British fishermen died and a number were wounded. One sailor and a priest aboard a Russian cruiser caught in the crossfire were also killed. The incident almost led to war between Britain and Russia.

I found it interesting that within a week of this ‘incident’, a pioneer farmer in Central Africa, awaiting the rainy season, would have received the news and be commenting upon it to a friend in England.

So, Strachan’s has returned to the photographic trade and the Russians are still making mayhem. We go around in circles.

A STAMP POEM...

The Postage Stamp

a reminder from by David Wigston, East Rand PS

We lick it,
and we stick it on
a letter or parcel.

We think not anymore about it.
What was it I put on that article?
Did the stamp have a picture of Marilyn
(Fig.1) or Elvis (Fig.2)?
Did it honour a veteran (Fig.3)
or a Senator (Fig.4)?

Was it “Tricky Dickey” (Fig.5) or was it maybe
Mickey (Fig. 6)?

Did I stand in the Post Office, annoyed at
the line and staring at the time?

Didn't I once collect these things as a kid?
Why in the world would someone waste
his or her time,

Collecting stamps when there are so many
other things to do.

But they do collect them.

They don't lick them but they do stick them,

In albums, in drawers, in books of all kind
And to some it provides even peace of mind.
We learn of history and art, and especially of
places far, far away.

We see the places we dream about in foreign
lands. We see flowers and bees, mountains and
trees, the bad guys, the good guys. The movie stars,
and fancy cars. And for our young as
well as ourselves we see the world
through this tiny art form. So, encourage
the young to collect, as it will certainly
add to their intellect. What after all is
a stamp, it's really a learning lamp.



Fig.3: Remembrance Day, or Poppy Day, is a Memorial Day observed by the Commonwealth to remember the end of World War I. It is observed on 11 November, the day on which the war formally ended. (Translation – Au champ d'honneur = In the field of honour.) Booklet of 10 stamps, domestic rate.



Fig.4: Margaret Chase Smith (14 December 1897 – 29 May 1995), served as a US Senator, 1949-1973. The USPS issued a stamp to honour her, 13 June 2007, as part of its Distinguished Americans Series.



Fig.5: “Tricky Dickie” AKA Richard Nixon (9 January 1913 – 22 April 1994), 37th President of the United States. He was the only US president to resign from office following the Watergate scandal.



Fig.6: Mickey Mouse, a cartoon character created in 1928 by the Walt Disney Company which also serves as the brand's mascot. Mickey debuted 18 November 1928 in the short film Steamboat Willie.



Fig.1: American actress, model and singer, Marilyn Monroe (1 June 1926 – 4 August 1962), she was famous as a “blonde bombshell”, but with a troubled private life. Her cause of death, which made front page news, was from an overdose of barbiturates.



Fig.2: Elvis Presley (8 January 1935 – 16 August 1977) needs no introduction, being considered as a cultural icon of the 20th Century. The cause of Elvis' death remains controversial, but was certainly impacted by years of prescription drugs which is thought to have triggered a heart attack.

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1961

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society
and Hugh Amooore RDPSA, FRPSL, The Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town



Part 4: The impact of the change over to the metric system of weights and measures on 1 April 1971 and the implementation of the Tokyo Universal Postal Union (UPU) Convention on 1 July 1971 on the postal rates of the RSA.

The year 1971 is very interesting from a philatelic and postal history point of view, as had been 1961 ten years earlier. 1961 saw decimalisation of the currency on 14 February and the formation of the Republic of South Africa on 31 May. Both had impacts on rates and RSA stamp issues. In 1971 South Africa adopted the metric system of weights and measures. On 1 April the implementation of the Tokyo Universal Postal Union (UPU) Convention provisions for letter and other rates started on 1 July 1971. The 1st April 2021 marked 50 years since the RSA changed to the metric system.

Inland rates and the adoption of metric measures

Imperial measures (feet and inches, pounds and ounces) had been the basis for the work of the Post Office in South Africa since before Union; as a result, the adoption by South Africa of metric measures on 1 April 1971 had a profound impact on Post Office regulations and rates. Instead of letter or parcel rates per ounce (or for airmail) per ½oz, rates were now to be set according to units of grammes. Instead of maximum dimensions measured in inches, these were now in centimetres (Fig.1).

Adopting metric measures had the following implications:

- The one-ounce inland letter rate was changed to a 40g rate: 1 ounce = 28.35 g, so the new rate allowed for a heavier first step-weight letter;
- The half ounce inland airmail letter was changed to a 20g rate: ½ oz = 14.17g, the new rate allowed for a heavier letter;
- The one-ounce foreign letter rate was changed to a 20g rate: this meant that the new rate was for a lighter letter.

Foreign rates: the adoption of metric measures and the impact of the Tokyo Convention

The adoption of metric measures applied equally to foreign rates, and as a result these changed on 1 April 1971. But the new rates were to be short-lived as South Africa was obliged to adapt its foreign rates to the new provisions contained in the Tokyo UPU Convention which took effect on 1 July 1971. The result was that the South African Post Office introduced a new set of foreign rates on 1 April 1971 and replaced these only three months later by another set of foreign rates, making the April 1971 foreign rates the shortest-lived set in South Africa's history.

A special *Post Office Bulletin* issued on 3 March 1971 indicated that there would be tariff changes on 1 April 1971 and again on 1 July 1971. It gave details of the new metric maximum and minimum dimensions of postal items and mass (weight) that would be applicable.

A key change required by Article 17 of the Tokyo UPU Convention was the new scale of weight steps for the foreign letter rate: this

had previously been a simple linear progression which in South Africa had been per ½ oz or per oz. It was now to be one of two scales and South Africa adopted the second which was

- Up to 20g
- Above 20g up to 100g
- Above 100g up to 250g
- Above 250g up to 500g
- Above 500g up to 1000g
- Above 1000g up to 2000g

At the same time the Tokyo Convention set new rates for letters, postcards, printed papers, and small packets, and also set dimensions

for standardised mail; non-standard items were to be liable to an extra charge. The metric foreign rates applicable from 1 April and the revised UPU-aligned foreign rates applicable from 1 July 1971 were both published in the *Gazette* on 24 March 1971 (*Gazette* 3027).

Inland Postal rates from 1 April 1971

Selection of inland postal rates that were applicable in the Republic of South Africa and South-West Africa from 1 April 1971:



Fig.1: Cover posted from Kimberley on 6 March 1971 to the USA franked with the 1½c Printed Matter rate. Note the Kimberley machine cancellation with the slogan: 'THINK METRIC / DINK METRIEK' in anticipation of the change over to the metric system on 1 April 1971.

To counter this, new scales were adopted for rate calculations. Simultaneous notices appeared in the *Gazette* on 24 March 1971 setting new inland rates effective 1 April 1971 for mail posted "in the Republic of South Africa for delivery within the Republic of South Africa or South-West Africa" and the same rates for mail posted "in South-West Africa for delivery within South-West Africa or the Republic of South Africa".

		Rates introduced on 14 February 1961	Rates introduced on 1 April 1971	Figures
1	Surface letter rate	2½c per oz	4c up to 40g	2
2	Inland Airmail letter rate	3c	5c for 1st 20g	3
3	Aerogramme letter rate	2½c	4c	
4	Postcard rate	1½c	3c	4
5	Airmail postcard rate	3c	4c	
6	Registration rate	5c	10c	
7	Printed paper	1c	2c	

The table shows the inland postal rates valid on the 14 February 1961 and on 1 April 1971

Foreign surface rates from 1 April 1971 and the 1 July 1971

The South Africa foreign surface letter rate was set at 6d for the 1st ounce on 1 April 1959; this had been converted to 5c for the 1st ounce and 3½c per additional ounce on 14 February 1961. This was the rate up to 31 March 1971.

On 1 April 1971, this rate became 5c for the 1st 20g and 3½c for each additional 20g. On 1 July 1971, the new scale was introduced, and both the African Postal Union and foreign surface letter rates were set according to it as follows:

Weight progression	Letter Rate to APU countries	Letter Rate to all other countries
Up to 20g	4c	9c
Up to 40g	4c	
Up to 100g	6c	21c
Up to 250g	10c	48c
Up to 500g	20c	90c
Up to 1000g	40c	R1.50c
Up to 2000g	75c	R2.40c

Airmail rates

A similar pattern applied to foreign airmail rates, though the new UPU weight scale did not apply to airmail letters.

The rates applicable since 1961 (and in many cases from earlier dates) were now set per 10g from 1 April 1971 where they had been set per ½ oz before.

For example, the airmail letter rate to the USA which was set at 2s 3d on 1 July 1953 (and from 14 Feb 1961 the equivalent 22½c) per ½ oz became 22½c per 10g on 1 April 1971 (Figs.5 & 6).

But the new rates from 1 July were very different as the sample of rates given in the following table shows. Of particular interest is the range of different airmail letter rates set on 1 July 1971 to different countries in Europe. These differences continued until 1976. A selection of airmail postal rates introduced from the 1 April 1971 and the 1 July 1971 (Figs.7 to 11)

The challenge from a postal history point of view is to find items used in the three months between the 1 April 1971 and 30 June 1971.

The airmail small packet tariffs set in March 1971 applicable from 1 July 1971 were set per 10g; these lasted six months and new rates (column 10 above) per 100g were set from 1 January 1972. (GN 2343 pf 31 December 1971, in Gazette 3352.)

Certified Mail Service: Extension to the Public

The Certified Mail Service of which the use had been restricted to National and Provincial Government departments was made available to the public from 1 April 1971. All classes of mail

matter, except parcels, could use the certified mail service. The cost was 5c plus postage. If proof of posting was required the item had to be handed in at a Post Office counter, and a fee of 2c was payable

The object of the certified mail service was to allow through the post, at a lower tariff than that for registration service. This service was restricted to South Africa and South West Africa. Certified mail was distinguished by a green label bearing the wording: 'Gesertifiseerde Pos / Certified Mail'. Certified mail was not supposed to be handed in over the counter but must be posted in a posting box (Fig.12).



Fig. 2: Cover posted the first day of metrification on 1 April 1971 and franked 2½c and therefore taxed 3c (double the deficiency) because the 4c surface letter rate was introduced on 1 April 1971.



Fig. 3: Cover posted 14 May 1971 and franked 3c which was the old inland airmail letter rate up to 30 March 1971. Cover taxed 4c (double the deficiency) to make up for the 5c for the 1st 20g rate introduced on 1 April 1971.



Fig.4: Postcard posted from Cape Town to Germany on 26 April 1971 illustrating the 3½c rate introduced on 1 April 1971.

Selection of Airmail rates for postal items posted in the RSA or in SWA										
Destination	As from the 1 April 1971				As from the 1 July 1971 and in substitution of the rates in columns 1 - 4					From 1 Jan 1972
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Letters per 10g	Aerogram me each	Postcards each	2nd Class Mail per 10g	Letter per 10g	Aerogram me each	Postcards each	2nd Class Mail per 10g	Small packets per 10g	Small packets per 100g
Australia	25c	10c	12½c	10c	20c	9c	11c	9c	14c	42c
Barbados	22½c	10c	12c	10c	20c	9c	10c	9c	14c	51c
Germany	15c	5c	7½c	6c	15c	9c	9c	7c	12c	34c
Holland	15c	5c	7½c	6c	16c	9c	9c	7c	12c	35c
Sweden	15c	5c	7½c	6c	16c	9c	9c	7c	12c	37c
USSR	15c	5c	7½c	6c	16c	9c	9c	7c	12c	35c
UK	12½c	5c	7c	5c	15c	9c	9c	7c	12c	35c
USA	22½c	10c	12c	10c	20c	9c	11c	9c	14c	52c

Fig.5: (at left) Cover posted from Durban on 10 May 1971 with the 22½c per ½oz rate to the USA introduced on 14 February 1961.

Fig.6: (below) Cover posted airmail from Durban on 18 October 1971 to the USA illustrating the 20c per 10g fee introduced on 1 July 1971.



Fig.7: Registered cover posted from Point in Natal to England on 28 February 1973 and franked with the amount of R1-15. The R1-15 pays: 10c registration fee introduced on 1 April 1971 plus the airmail fee of 15c per 10gram introduced on 1 July 1971, making up for a 70gram letter (7 x 15c = R1-05). Note the scarce usage of the R1 stamp.

Agricultural Parcel Post Service abolished

The Agricultural Parcel Post service was abolished as from 1 April 1971 because the service no longer served the purpose for which it was intended, namely, to enable producers in remote country areas to get *bona fide* farm products to the consumers at a minimum cost level (Fig.13).

Conclusion

The period 1961-1971 is one of the most interesting periods

in modern postal history and little about this aspect is known amongst philatelists. This article proves, yet again, how much interest can be found in modern material. Some of the items are not easy to find and when you do find one, it does not cost an arm and a leg.

Sources:

- Post Office Bulletin, No. 55 (Special) dd 3 March 1971.
- Post Office Bulletin, No. 60, April 1972.

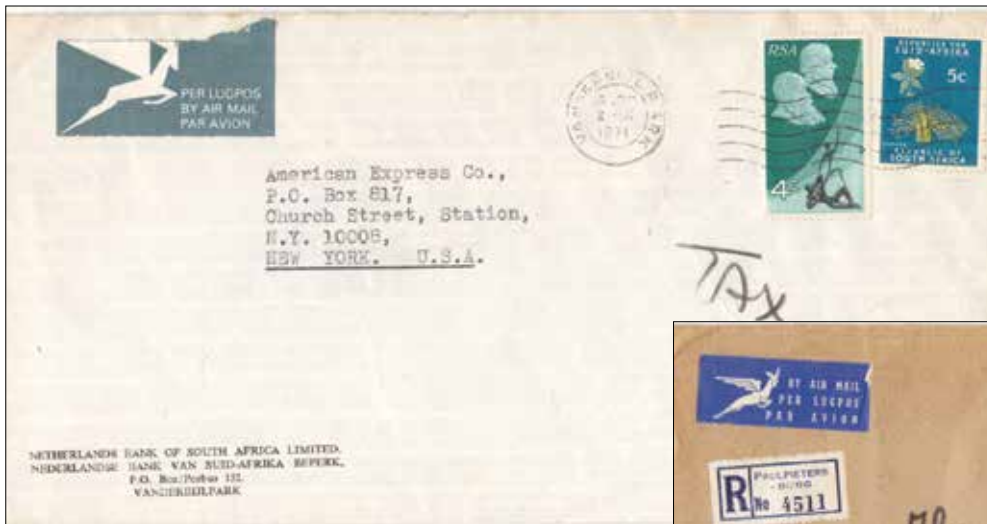


Fig.8: (above) Cover posted from Vanderbylpark on 2 September 1971 based on the 2nd class airmail rate of 9c to the USA introduced on 1 July 1971.



Fig.9: (at right) Registered cover posted from Paulpietersburg on 26 August 1971 to Germany. The R1-90 postage fee pays: 10c registration fee paid and the 15c per 10g airmail fee for a 120g letter (12 x 15c = R1-80).



Fig.10: Cover posted from Potgietersrus to Barbados on 2 September 1971 with the 20c airmail rate introduced on 1 July 1971.



Fig.12: This June 1971 usage reflects the new 4c inland letter postage rate and the 5c fee for certified mail, both effective 1 April 1971. The cover has the unusual Post Office cachet 'COVER SOILED IN TRANSIT'. This service was abolished in 1971 (Amoore collection).



Fig.11: Cover posted from Johannesburg on the 6 June 1971 to County Clare in Ireland and franked 14c. The postage rate set on 1 April 1971 to Ireland was 12½c per 10g. The rate to the Republic of Ireland set on the 1 July 1971 was 16c per 10g and 15c per 10g to Northern Ireland. The cover was returned to sender.



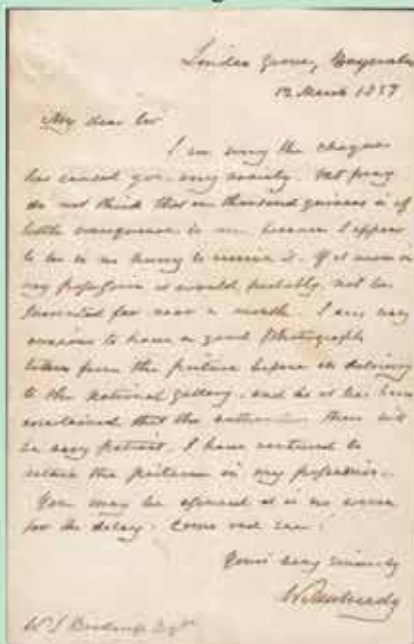
Fig.13: Agricultural Parcel Post label posted from Johannesburg on 12 August 1964 to Kokstad. The contents is described as Seeds or Bulbs.

BILL BARRELL LTD

The Mulready and it's Caricatures. Superb stock of unused and used Mulreadys, also Mulready adverts for thematic collectors. Excellent range of Caricatures also available, offered subject unsold.



Very fine unused 1d Mulready envelope. £150.00



1857 letter signed 'W Mulready'. £675.00



Superb unused 2d Mulready wrapper. £225.00



Very fine Spooner Caricature no.13 'Napier' original envelope. £575.00



Contemporary reproduction of Spooner Caricature no.2 in blue. Very rare. £575.00



Fores's hunting envelope no.4 very fine Deraedemacker reprint, hand coloured. £575.00



Spooner Caricature no.1 good to fine original 'flirting/courtship' envelope, hand coloured. £475.00



Fores's hunting envelope no.4 very fine Deraedemacker reprint, hand coloured. £575.00



Fores's Civic envelope no.8 Very rare Deraedemacker proof. £225.00



Spooner Caricature no.1 good to fine original 'flirting/courtship', several tone spots. £200.00



Spooner Caricature no.12 very fine original depicting hunting scenes. £300.00

PO Box 10494, Grantham, Lincolnshire,
NG31 0HS, United Kingdom
01476 594698

e-mail: bill@barrell.co.uk website: www.barrell.co.uk

THOMAS BAINES

PAINTER, TRAVELLER, WRITER

by Patrick Flanagan RDPSA,FRPSL Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



Thomas Baines was born in King's Lynn, England on 27 November 1820 and died in Durban, South Africa on 8 May 1875. In his 55 years he packed in an awful lot in his various areas of expertise and interest. He came to South Africa in 1842 at the young age of 22. He started work in Cape Town as a painter for a cabinet maker and graduated to become a marine portrait painter. He became the most distinguished artist who painted in South Africa in the mid-19th Century. He was appointed draughtsman to the Forces under General Henry Somerset during the English Frontier War of 1850-1853. His numerous paintings of the conflict were published in a book in 1852. In 1855 he explored Northern Australia under A. C. Gregory as a result of which he was elected a 'Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society' and was awarded its Gold Medal in 1858.

Later he was the artist on the Livingstone 1858-1859 expedition to the Zambesi. He and Livingstone disagreed on a number of issues and in 1859 was unjustly dismissed for theft. He travelled through South West Africa in 1862 with James Chapman. They reached the Victoria Falls on 23 July 1862. Along the way he painted a number of famous scenes which were published by *Day* in London in 1865. His reason for travelling to the Falls was to meet Livingstone in order to clear his name. He arrived too late as Livingstone had already left. Fever forced him to return to Cape Town in 1864 and then on to London. He returned to South Africa in 1868 to lead an expedition to Matabele King Mzilikazi on behalf of the Goldfields Exploration Company. Mzilikazi died before Baines could reach him.

Baines then joined the hunter Henry Hartley on an expedition near to where the town which bears Hartleys' name. He painted the famous picture of Hartley finding diggings which led to the Rhodesian Gold fields. He managed to negotiate concessions with new King Lobengula. Baines was a skilled pictorial chronicler who made words speak with imagery of pictures during his travels, mostly from Cape Town, between 1852 and 1864 wrote a number of letters to his mother in Kings Lynn in England. He also sent copies of Cape Newspapers to his mother where he felt the content would give her an idea of her son's activities at the southern tip of Africa.



Fig.1: Thomas Baines (Cape Archives) (Edna & Frank Bradlow)

The pre-stamp period (the first Cape stamps were issued in September 1853 – the Cape Triangular 1d) is illustrated by an entire written in November 1852, by Baines to his brother, interestingly addressed to London OR Lynn, Norfolk, at the time of the Frontier Wars (Fig.2). The letter includes reference to financial hardship and more importantly to him, a need for more paints.

In 1858, before heading off on the Zambesi expedition, a dinner in honour of the expedition was held in Cape Town and was fully reported in the *Cape Argus* newspaper of 29 April 1858. Baines sent a copy of the paper to his mother. The paper, although



Fig.2:

somewhat tatty due to the passage of time remains a complete copy, surely one of few survivors, particularly having gone through the mail. The centre pages of the broadsheet newspaper contain the article "Farewell dinner for Dr Livingstone and the officers of the Zambesi Expedition"



Fig.3: the Argus addressed and stamped.

Fig.5: Copy of the headline and first paragraph of the article. It is a fascinating article which lists all in attendance (including Livingstone and Baines) and sets out the proper and formal proceedings that guests endured at the dinner. The article is too long to replicate here. Postage for the newspaper was correctly applied at 1d, by use of the imperforate triangular stamp, cancelled by Cape Town triangular canceller. There are no transit or arrival marks.

Baines was fired by Livingstone, from the Zambesi expedition and returned to Cape Town. Baines then proceeded via Tete in Mozambique in poor health and left for Cape Town on HMS Lynx on 12 December 1859. Livingstone refused Baines permission to recover his possessions and sketches he had left in Tete.



Fig.6.



Fig.4: label on front right drawing attention to the article.

Baines then wrote to his mother Mrs J Baines in Lynn Regis, England with the cover franked 1s (2 x 6d Cape Triangular), for the correct sea mail postage to England. The stamps are cancelled by Cape Town triangular canceller and Baines signed the front of the cover 'T Baines'. Whilst the contents of the cover are missing it is reasonable to speculate that Baines was regaling his mother with the story of his firing and his journey to Cape Town thereafter (Fig.6).

Fig.5.



(Fig.8) The transcript follows:

"Monday evening

I have this day received my tin writing case from Tete. How it came I do not know. I suppose Kirk must have given it to Rae who took it on board the Lyra, then I fancy the officer who brought it in the Lyra must have brought it and left it at the Russels Masonic Hotel.

... The school children being painted in upon the original photograph and a second one taken from the finished picture. Chapman has done some photography up the country already but though it is very well, he hoped to succeed better this time.



Fig.6 : reverse



Fig.7

I am sorry to hear of the death of Cousin James at Natal. Please remember me kindly to Mrs Watson. Tell her I hope I shall see her yet in Africa. Many people go home from here, but generally come back again. Also do not forget to offer my regards and sympathy (?) to Mrs Baney. I had looked forward with hope to meeting Mr Baney when I returned. I am also very sorry to hear of the loss Mr George has sustained – please mention to him and to Casella, and thank Wheeler especially for his advice about writing to Dr Livingstone. Don't forget my uncle and please tell all my friends that they are in the front of my mind though I don't name them all in every letter.

We had a destructive fire a week or two ago on the premises of Mr Resler, Chemist but more damage was done by the injudicious movement of his stock, than by the flames. This afternoon there was a large fire in forest of silver trees on the slope of Devils Hill. A strong south-east wind beat down the smoke into Table Valley and it did not rise till it had passed half way along the base of Table Mountain. I do not know yet whether any houses were burnt.

Fig.8:

The dearest children being printed in upon the original photo
 graph and a second one taken for the purpose by a
 Chapman has done some photography of the same by a
 but thought it very well in hope to succeed in this
 I am sorry to hear of the death of Cousin James at Natal. Please
 remember me kindly to Mrs Watson. Tell her I hope I shall see her yet in
 Africa. Many people go home from here, but generally come back again. Also do not
 forget to offer my regards and sympathy (?) to Mrs Baney. I had looked forward with
 hope to meeting Mr Baney when I returned. I am also very sorry to hear of the
 loss Mr George has sustained – please mention to him and to Casella, and thank
 Wheeler especially for his advice about writing to Dr Livingstone. Don't forget my
 uncle and please tell all my friends that they are in the front of my mind though
 I don't name them all in every letter.

We had a destructive fire a week or two ago on the premises of Mr Resler, Chemist
 but more damage was done by the injudicious movement of his stock, than by the
 flames. This afternoon there was a large fire in forest of silver trees on the slope
 of Devils Hill. A strong south-east wind beat down the smoke into Table Valley
 and it did not rise till it had passed half way along the base of Table Mountain.
 I do not know yet whether any houses were burnt.

The Cambrian seems a very fine vessel but the Pioneer has (not yet?) arrived. There is a report that Lieut Skead who was with us in the beginning of the expedition is to join her. A friend of mine who knows May speaks of him as a good fellow. I should say Dr Livingstone will be very little gratified when he recognises you in the photograph of his steamer. I suppose I shall see a copy of it.

You can continue writing when you have anything to say to the care of Mr Logier and if you write him an occasional letter he will be glad to receive it. I shall leave my papers with him all ready for publication and I expect I shall have opportunities of receiving letters for some time through Walvisch Bay.

Believe me Dear Mother

Your affectionate son

(Signed T Baines)

Clearly the parting of the ways between Livingstone and Baines was acrimonious to say the least. Not only was it personal but the spat attracted the attention of the press.

The *South African Advertiser and Mail* picked up on the story and the edition of Saturday 9 February 1861 carried some editorial copy (Fig.9) and an advertisement on the front page "NOTICE: Wanted 50 copies of THE SOUTH AFRICAN ADVERTISER AND MAIL of 2nd and 6th February 1859 for which full price will be given." And in manuscript (BY Baines ??) "...these copies contain the correspondence between Mr Baines and Dr Livingstone, the Foreign and Colonial Office". Clearly there was a dispute which was now in the public domain.

On page 3 of the same paper (Fig.11) an editorial states "One of the most painful histories I have read for a long time is that detailed in the lately published Baines correspondence. I do not suppose that anyone who reads it will entertain the slightest doubt that Mr Baines is perfectly innocent of the charges brought against him – that his character, so far as the events referred to are concerned, is stainless: but that very belief forces on us a feeling of indignation that he should have been so cruelly and unjustly dealt with – and it is most painful to be compelled to entertain such feelings against a man such as Dr Livingstone. I only hope that the end may be a conviction on the part of the Doctor that he has done a cruel injury to an upright honest man – an avowal that he was wrong and a proof that he was misled by the malignity and falsehood of others into acts such as his own noble nature must revolt at." "Town Talk: By the Hermit of Adderley Street"

Baines mailed the said newspaper to his mother in England, franking it with the special newspaper 1d rate by affixing a 1d Cape Triangle stamp, cancelled by triangular Cape Town canceller (Fig.9). He highlighted both the advertisement and the editorial so as to draw her attention to each of them.

In 1864 Baines, wrote again to his mother (Fig.10). The envelope was franked 4d by a Cape Triangle 4d with full to large margins, cancelled by Cape Town dumb cancel alongside Cape Town De 15 1864 single circle canceller. On 31 January 1865 London red PAID strike applied on front. On rear London SHIP LETTER and LYNN arrival strikes. A journey of some 45 days arriving on 1 February 1865.

The story of Thomas Baines and his art, in particular is well chronicled. This hopefully gives some degree of perspective of the postal history elements relating to Baines, created unwittingly I am sure by him - but nonetheless of great significance.

Baines died in Durban in 1875. His grave is located on a site adjacent to the Marine Parade highway system. The photographs of his grave (Fig.13) are by

Fig.9: *Fig.10.*



Fig.10.

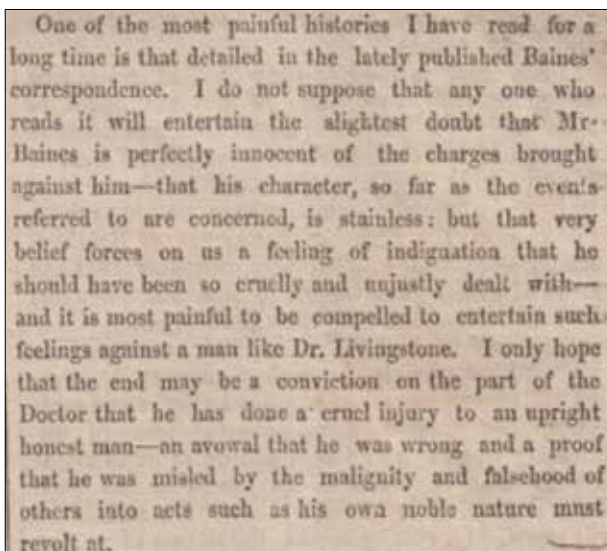


Fig.11.

Fig.12: Outspan near Colesberg 1859 Sketches by Thomas Baines. Ref: National Archives Zimbabwe. With Zambezi in the Background





NEW ISSUES

NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUE - 2021 - part 1 - addendum

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE 2020

Jan de Jong of the RSA Stamp Study Group has now examined un-cut printer's sheets of this issue and the missing information is as follows:

Printing sheet size: 460 x 665mm comprising nine sheetlets in three rows of three.



FDC 8.134 (R3/1, R2/1, R1/1, R5/1, R4/1)



FDC 8.135 (R3/2, R2/2, R1/2, R5/2, R4/2)

South African National Exhibitions

Including the 83rd PFSA Congress

The NATIONAL and JUNASS 2021 exhibitions takes place in Bloemfontein
21-23 OCTOBER 2021
For more information:
(IREX) and entry forms, contact: Joof van der Merwe
<jnc1@vodamail.co.za> or visit the Federation website
<https://www.stampsa.africa>
Entries close on 1 September 2021

courtesy of Mike Barter, a philatelist of repute who takes great delight in tracking down historic sites in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) related sites.

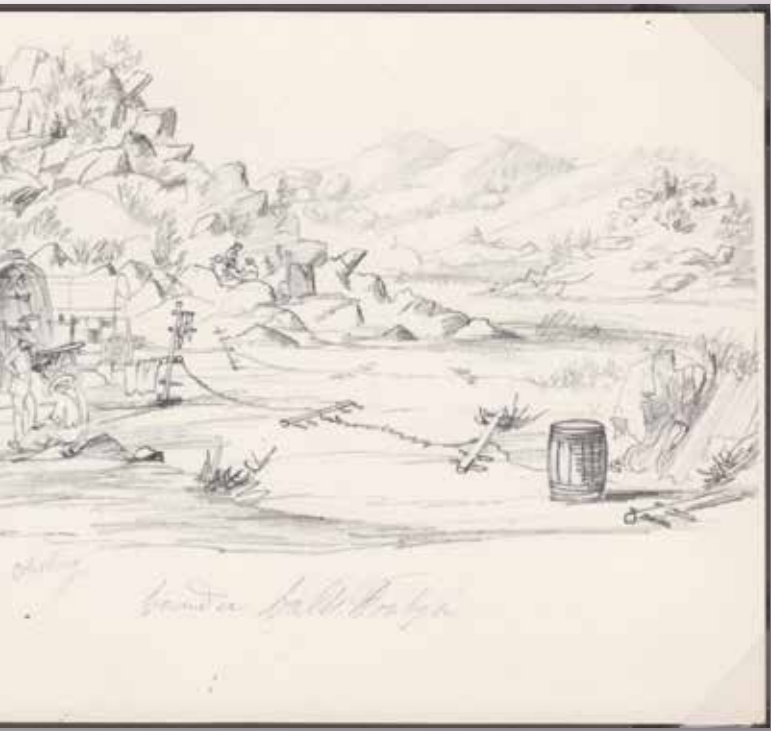
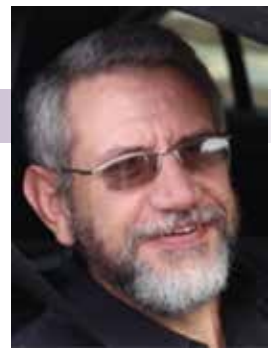


Fig.13.

Bibliography

- www.sahistory.org.za
- *Baines on the Zambezi* – Brenthurst Press 1982
- *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* by David Livingstone 1858
- The National Archives Zimbabwe



DETERMINING PITCH AND LEAVE PLATES FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN KINGS' HEADS OF 1913 TO 1926

by Dr Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria, email: louwrence@erasmus.org.za

Introduction

In my study of the Kings' Heads of South Africa and exhibiting them over the years, I derived a way that is more resilient and faster to plate than the method described in *The Handbook Catalogue* (Hagger, 1986; Sheffield et. al, 1960; Kaplan et. al, 1952). This method can also be used to plate the top and bottom corners of any printing for the Georgian stamps of the Union of South Africa's first definitive series.

Printing Format

Stamps were issued in sheets with 240 stamps. Thomas De La Rue & Co of London had printed the 1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d and 2d stamps in double sheet size with 480 stamps which were then halved. Each sheet was divided into four panes (Lobdell, 1944). Melville (1916) in Lobdell (1944) stated that two plates had been used side by side during printing; these were called 'Pitch' and 'Leave' plates. The 'Pitch' plate had passed first under the ink rollers and printed first, followed by the 'Leave' plate being inked and printed at once thereafter. The printer usually had used the same plates in the same position for each printing run. There is evidence that the printer marked some plates to identify their position - for the 1d, the printer had marked the Pitch plate with one notch in the Jubilee line under row 20/12 and the Leave plate with two notches in the same position as shown in Fig.3.

Determining Pitch and Leave plates

The method in the *Handbook Catalogue* (Hagger, 1986; Sheffield, 1960; Kaplan, 1952) is applicable only for the bottom corners (i.e. rows 20/1 and 20/12) for determining the Pitch or Leave plates. The method is based on the assumption that the distances between marks in the watermark are constant. It has been observed that is not the case and variations do occur. That leads to challenges in performing the plating with any accuracy. Another problem is to determine the plating for the top corners (i.e. rows 1/1 and 1/12).

Method (see Fig.1)

Evaluate the corner pairs from the gum side. Measure the distance x , as indicated in the figure below, for either a right or left position of the cross relative to the watermark. It is not necessary to measure very accurately, one only needs to get an approximate measurement to determine if the distance is longer or shorter than 20mm.

If the measurement on the left hand above is less than 20mm (i.e. the width of a stamp), then it is from the Pitch plate and if it is more than 20mm it is from the Leave plate. If the measurement on the right hand above is less than 20mm, then it is from the Leave plate and if it is more than 20mm it is from the Pitch plate.

This same criteria is also valid for the bottom corner blocks of rows 20/1 and 20/12.

Using the above criteria, the plates used for printing 1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d and 2d stamps are summarised in the following table, showing periods of plate number usage:

	Plate Number						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1/2d	Pitch	Leave	Pitch	Leave	Pitch	Leave	Leave
	1913-1916	1913-1916	1917-1919	1917-1919	1919-1926	1920-1924	1924-1926
1d	Pitch	Leave	Pitch	Leave	Pitch	Leave	Pitch
	1913-1914	1913-1914	1914-1919	1915-1919	1920-1921	1920-1926	1922-1926
1 1/2d	Pitch	Leave					
	1920 -	1920 -					
2d	Leave	Pitch					
	1913-1926	1913-1926					

Fig.2: Table of plating dates

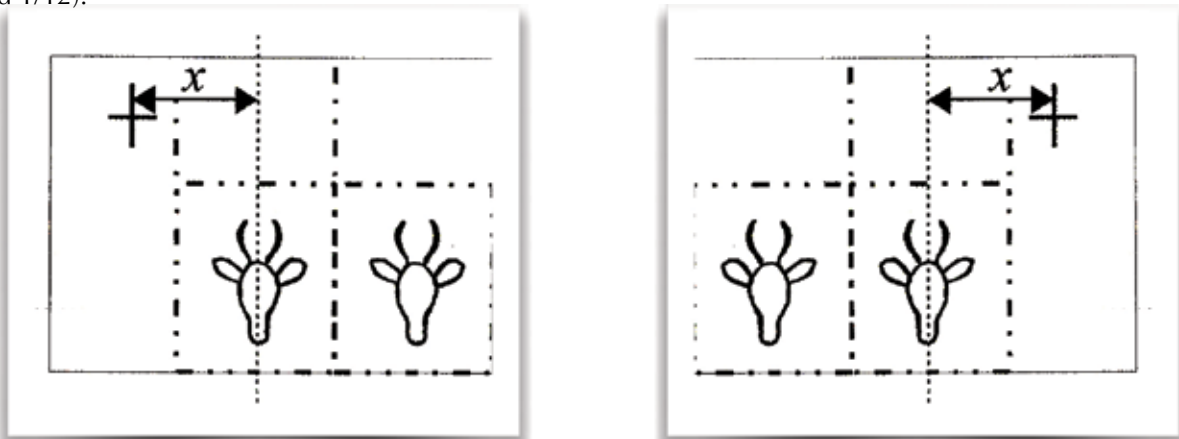


Fig.1: Traces of the projection lines through the centres of rows 1/1 and 1/12 and distance measurements to respective crosses in the watermark.




Fig.3: Lower right corner, of penny. Two notches in the Jubilee line indicate Leave plate.

Conclusion

The method proposed in this article can help in determining the plates used for printing the South African Kings Heads of 1913 to 1924. Specifically, it can be used to determine the plates for all four corners of the 1d without plate numbers.

Bibliography

- A. Basden and L. Simenhoff, (1946) *Standard Priced Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa*. Philatelic Federation of South Africa.
- P. Bishop, (1937) *The Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa - A collector's Handbook and Guide to Values*. Durban: The Philatelic Society of Natal.
- A. du Plessis (2019), *Printing Processes and Techniques on South African Stamps from 1910 to 2009 - A Short Overview in Two Parts*, The SA Philatelist, vol. 95: 2, no. 32.
- S. Hagger, (1986) *Handbook Catalogue - Union of South African Stamps*. Philatelic Federation of South Africa.
- A. Kaplan, S. Legator, and W. Sheffield, (1952) *Handbook Catalogue - Union of South African Stamps*. Philatelic Federation of South Africa.
- H. Lobdell, (1944) *The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa*. The Collectors Club.
- G. Reynolds, (1921) *Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa*. Johannesburg: G.W. Reynolds.
- S. Rich, (1922) *The Stamps of South Africa*. Severn-Wylie-Jewett and Co.
- W. Sheffield, S. Hagger, T. Berry, and S. Legator, (1960) *Handbook Catalogue - Union of South African Stamps*. Golden Jubilee ed., Philatelic Federation of South Africa. 

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

W.A. – GRIQUALAND EAST'
A remarkable missionary cover



1898 envelope from WA / via CT/ + Kokstad to the Post Office of Sneezewood'

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR - P.O. Box 37324, London N1 - 2YQ.
Tel: 020 7226 1503 Fax: 020 7359 7456 email: markjtaylor@btinternet.com

BOTSWANA'S OFFICIAL RUNNER POST

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

...a chapter from my proposed book being written on the History of the Botswana Post Office...

On 30 September 1885, the territory north of the Molopo River as far as Latitude 22 degrees South was declared a British Protectorate. Almost immediately following this declaration, on 14 October 1885, the Rev. A. J. Wookey at Molepolole petitioned Colonel Carrington of the Border Police "on behalf of the European residents in Sechele's country to ask you if there is a hope or prospects of any arrangements being made for the conveyance of the post through Mafikeng to this part of the country. At present, all postal matter comes via the Transvaal, and is purely a private post between this place and Zeerust. If you could see your way to making arrangements for say a permanent weekly or even a fortnightly post, you would confer a great benefit on all the European residents throughout the country."

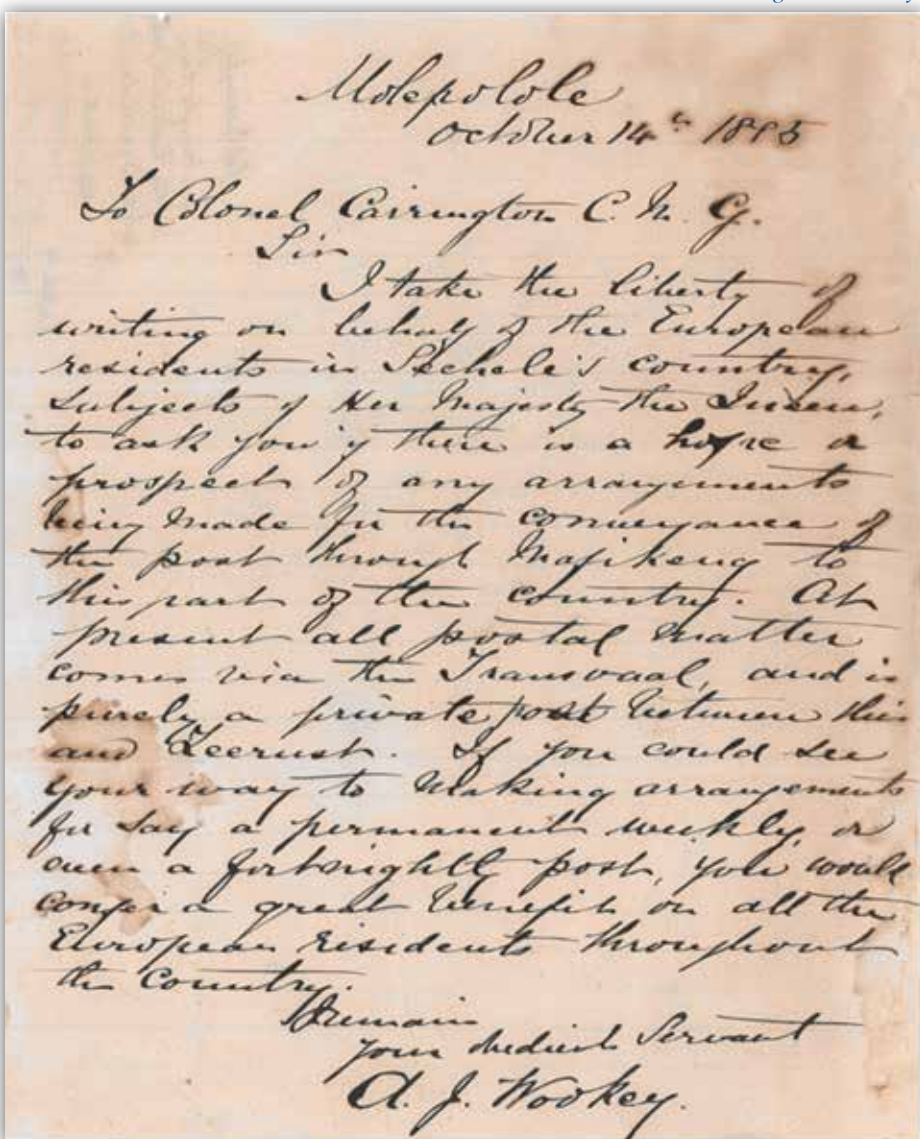


Fig.1: Wookey's Petition

Moffat's Project

In 1887, John Smith Moffat was appointed as an emissary to Chief Lobengula in Gubulawayo and in this capacity

he communicated regularly with Sir Sidney Shippard, the British Administrator in Vryburg. Moffat initially utilised the



Fig.2: Portrait of Moffat

missionaries' informal postal system: his letters and reports were carried, mainly by runners, some 800 kilometres to Mafeking, where they were passed to the post office for onward transmission to Vryburg.

In early 1888, Moffat suggested to Shippard that a regular official runner mail system be introduced between Mafeking and Gubulawayo.

The proposal was approved, and the Postmaster-General at Vryburg was instructed to investigate whether certain residents of the Protectorate would assist in the establishment of this project:

"a) To enquire from Mr Tillard, Postmaster at Mafeking, Mr John Williams of Kanye, Mr Boyne of Molepolole, Messrs Musson Bros of Shoshong, and Mr Samuel Edwards of the Tati, the cost of a Postal Service from Mafeking to Shoshong, and from Shoshong to Gubulawayo via the Tati, to be carried out by a system of native runners.

b) Mr Tillard to say whether he could secure the services of trustworthy runners between Mafeking and Kanye to convey a post once a fortnight each way, and if so what would be the cost.

c) Mr John Williams to be asked whether he would be willing to act as Postal Agent and to undertake the sale of stamps without remuneration and also to find reliable runners for a post once a fortnight each way, between Kanye and Molepolole.

d) Similar questions to be asked of Mr Boyne as regards a post between Shoshong and Molepolole and to Messrs Musson Bros with regard to a fortnightly post between Shoshong and the Tati, and Mr Samuel Edwards with regard to a fortnightly post between Tati and Gubulawayo, to which there is reason to believe the Chief Lobengula would be willing to contribute a small subsidy."

Although some of the traders were reluctant to undertake the work of Postal Agent, the necessary arrangements were finally made, and in June 1888, Moffat was instructed to implement the project. The total cost of the mail service



between Mafeking and Gubulawayo was under no circumstances to exceed the cost of £200 per annum. The mail service was to be limited only to letters and newspapers; books and parcels were not to be accepted as long as the service was operated by runners.

The introduction of the service was announced on 8 August 1888 by a Notice in *The Bechuanaland News*:

'The arrangements which Mr. J. S. Moffat, Assistant Commissioner, has during the past month or two been making are now completed and the 'Protectorate Post' comes into operation forthwith. The former route to the Interior, via Zeerust in the Transvaal, has been summarily abandoned, and the post will be conveyed by native runners through Mafeking to Kanye (Gasitsive's), Molepolole (Secheli's) and Shoshong (Khama's) weekly, and from Shoshong to Gubulawayo (Lobengula's) fortnightly'

PROTECTORATE POST.

IT is hereby notified for general information that arrangements will shortly be completed for the establishment of a Postal Service, by Native Runners, between British Bechuanaland and Matabeleland via Bamangwato, when the following Rates of Postage will come into force:—

Correspondence posted within the Protectorate and Trans-Protectorate to be prepaid in British Bechuanaland Stamps overprinted with the word "Protectorate."	LETTERS		For each Newspaper not exceeding 4 oz. and for every additional 4 oz.
	Not exceeding ½ oz.	Every additional ½ oz.	
1.—WHEN POSTED WITHIN THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE—			
(a) Addressed to places within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) Addressed to Offices in Matabeleland, British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa	4d	4d	2½d
(c) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.—The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of	2d	2d	2d
2.—WHEN POSTED BEYOND THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE—			
(a) Addressed to Places within the Trans-Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) Addressed to Offices within the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	2½d
(c) Addressed to British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa	6d	6d	4½d
(d) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.—The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of	4d	4d	4d
3.—CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO THE PROTECTORATE OR TRANS-PROTECTORATE FROM OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PREPAID AT THE RATES PROVIDED IN THE EXISTING CONVENTION BETWEEN THE CAPE COLONY AND BRITISH BECHUANALAND, and the following additional charges will be payable upon delivery—			
(a) When delivered within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) When delivered beyond the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	4d

Postal Agencies are being opened at the undermentioned places:—
 Within the present limits of the Protectorate at Kanye, Molepolole (Secheli's), and Shoshong (Khama's).
 Beyond the present limits of the Protectorate at Tati and Gubulawayo (Lobengula's).
 No Articles will be transmitted at Book or Parcels Rates beyond Mafeking in British Bechuanaland so long as the Mails are conveyed by Native Runners.

ERNEST C. BAXTER,
Acting Postmaster-General.

Vryburg, British Bechuanaland,
July 28th, 1888.

Printed by Townsend & Son, "Government Gazette" Office, Vryburg.

Fig.3: The Postal Notice of August 1888

The Postal Notice of August 1888

The Notice provided that, as in the Cape Colony, postal charges were to be based on the weight of a letter and its destination. A letter addressed within the Protectorate would cost 2d per half ounce, and 4d per half ounce when addressed to offices in Matabeleland, British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa. The rate for mail addressed to the United Kingdom (and foreign countries) was the rate that applied to such places from British Bechuanaland plus a surcharge of 2d. The cost of a letter to Great Britain was therefore 8d [6d + 2d]. A letter from the Trans-Protectorate was subject to an additional 2d surcharge.

Moffat had been instructed that the cost of the service was not to exceed £200 per annum. Since British Bechuanaland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate operated a joint fiscal system, and it was necessary - in order to calculate the revenue derived from the postal service of the Protectorate - that the postage stamps used in the two territories should be distinguishable from each other. For this accounting purpose, a quantity of British Bechuanaland stamps were overprinted 'Protectorate' for sale only in the Protectorate. These overprinted stamps were issued for sale on 7 August 1888.

By these means, the Protectorate's first official postal service was introduced on 9 August, 1888. The mails from and to Mafeking, Kanye, Molepolole and Shoshong were served by native runners weekly. A fortnightly service operated northwards from Shoshong to Tati and Gubulawayo.



Fig.4: A miniature sheet issued by the Botswana Post Office in 1972 to celebrate the introduction of the Official Runner Post in 1888.

The Postmaster-General's Annual Report for the first year of the Protectorate's postal department indicates that 6,756 paid letters, 419 official letters, 4,776 newspapers and 124 registered letters were received at the offices of the Postal Agents; the number of items despatched from the Protectorate's offices during the same period was 6,109 paid letters, 419 official letters, 126 newspapers and 177 registered letters. Postage stamps to the amount of £242 were sold during the year, whilst £97 was also collected from surcharges and additional postal charges.

The runner 'foot post' system worked satisfactorily for nine months. However, in May 1889, the main body of the Bechuanaland Border Police was moved

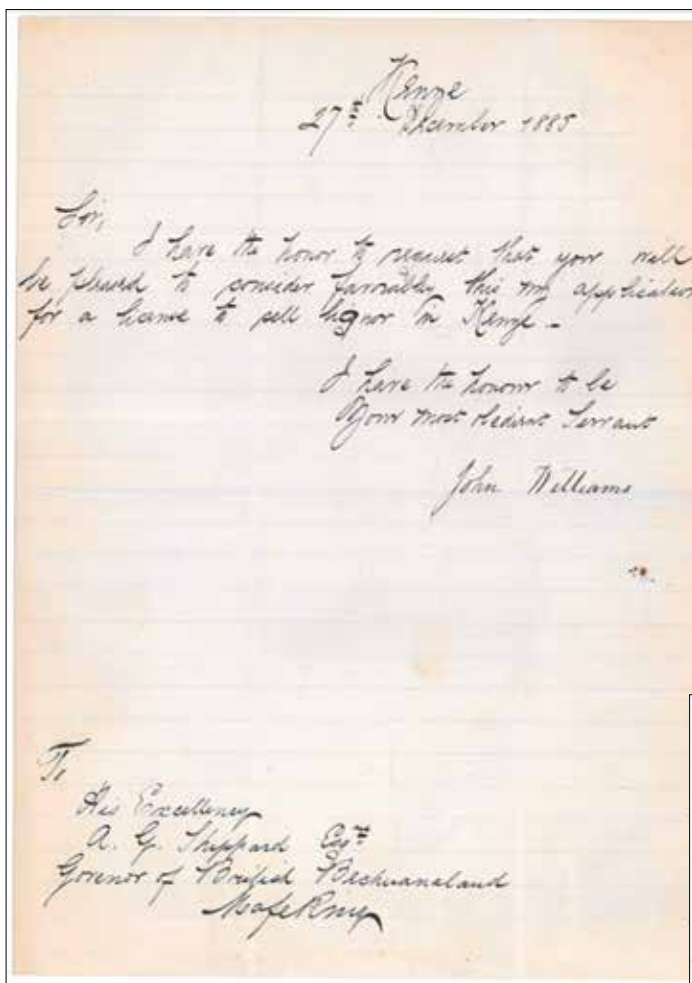
up from Mafeking to Macloutsie in the north-east, in anticipation of the invasion of Mashonaland by Rhodes's 'Pioneer Column'. This relocation led to a considerable increase in the weight of the mails to be conveyed through the Protectorate, and although the service was restricted to letters and newspapers only, the native runners were no longer able to cope with the resulting demands.

Postal Agencies

Following the establishment of an official mail service, five Postal Agents were appointed, based at Kanye (Mr John Williams), Molepolole (Rev. S. J. Wookey), Shoshong (Mr C. Austin), Tati (Mr Samuel Edwards) and Gubulawayo (Rev C.D. Helm). Chief Montsioa's son and heir, Kebalepele, also agreed to arrange transportation of the mails between Mafeking and Kanye at a cost of £1 per trip.

All he needed to do was to sell the relevant stamp(s) to the customer and then 'deface' the stamps with an 'obliterator', being a barred numeral cancellation.

Following the practice observed in the Cape Post Office, each agency was issued with an obliterator bearing a different number: 674 to Molepolole, 676 to Shoshong, 677 to Kanye, 678 to Gubulawayo, and 679 to Kanye.



LIST of Bechuanaland Postal officials who should provide guarantees.

Office.	Rank.	Name.	Am't of Security required £	Remarks.
Vryburg	P.M.	Sydney J.E.	250	
"	Asst	Crosbie F.	100	
"	"	Ashkman J.C.	100	
Vryburg Station	P.M.	Orger A.P.	250	100
Mafeking	"	Flowers H.H.	250	
"	Asst	Howat J.	100	50
"	"	Hiebner H.P.	100	
"	"	Lock F.	100	
Tzaneen	P.M.	Clinkscales T.J.	250	
"	"	(The Civil Commr.)	250	
Gaborone	D.P.M.	Lesly K.	50	
Kanye	"	Miss H. Good	50	
Macloutsie	"	Logan A.	100	
Molepolole	"	William H.	50	
Palla	"	Chapman J.	50	
Palapye	"	Craighead A.	100	
Shoshong	"	Keay B.	50	
Mariboga	"	Erasmus D.	50	
Tzaneen Station	"	Gill W.F.	50	

Fig.7: The Security required from Postal Officials

By 1894, it was decided that because of the amount of cash handled by postal officials, they should be required to arrange for appropriate security to be given to the Post Office

Sub Offices & Post Office Agencies

Office	All Clerks & Supervisors of Office	Am't of Security	Am't of Cash	Am't of Stock	Am't of Bonds	Am't of Guarantees	Am't of Deposits	Am't of Advances	Am't of Loans	Am't of Other	Remarks
Gubulawayo	A. Brown	100	2								£2500000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	6								£2
Kanye	J. Williams	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	50								£1000000
Molepolole	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palla	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Macloutsie	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Palapye	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Shoshong	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Tzaneen	J. Ashkman	100	2								£1000000
Mariboga	J. Ashkman	100	2								£10000

ITEM OF INTEREST

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

A long stamp for a short day. Issued 21 June, 2007 by the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, the stamp traces the path of the sun during the Southern Hemisphere winter solstice (Fig.1). The stamp measures a whopping 15.7cm wide.



Fig.1: The course of the sun at the Dumont d'Urville Station on the 21 June.

The Dumont d'Urville Station is a French scientific station in Antarctica on Île des Péterles, archipelago in Adélie Land. It is named after explorer Jules Dumont d'Urville, whose expedition landed northeast of the archipelago on 21 January 21, 1840. The station is located 2,600km from the South Pole at 66°39'S 140°00'E. The Antarctic Circle is at 66°33'S (Fig.2).

At the Station the sun rises at 10:25, reaches its zenith at 12:40 and sets again at 14:53 on 21 June. South of the Antarctic Circle, the sun is below the horizon for 24 continuous hours at least once per year (and therefore not visible at noon). However, there is a brief twilight, gradually decreasing as you move towards the Pole. The reverse occurs during the summer solstice, 21 December. This disparity is caused by the tilt of the Earth's axis.

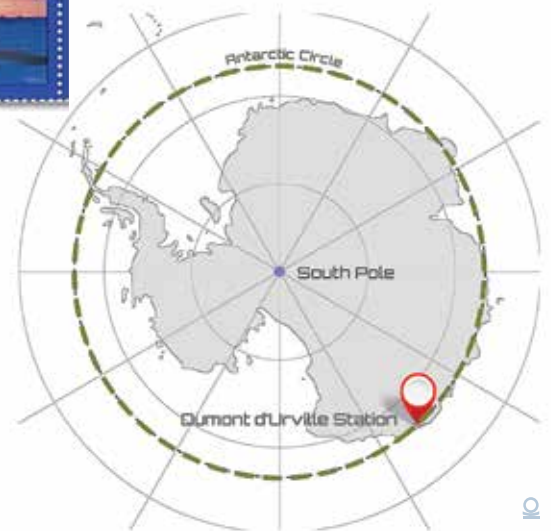


Fig.2: (below) Location of the French Dumont d'Urville Research Station, on the Antarctic Circle.

FOR SALE



New book chronicling the role of Missionaries of the Paris Missionary Society in Barotsiland (Northern Rhodesia) to 1924. Some 420 pages, hard bound

And fully illustrated in colour with French / English translations. Of relevance to the Postal Historian and the Social Historian. A wonderful window into the role of missionaries in Southern and Central Africa at the turn of the century

Price in Southern Africa : R700 includes Courier delivery within South Africa.

Order and enquiries by e-mail to patf@fgprop.com

COMING SOON : Rhodesian Philately to 1924 : 720 pages full colour

- Published by the Royal Philatelic Society London - enquiries patf@fgprop.com

Ceteris Parabis Philately?

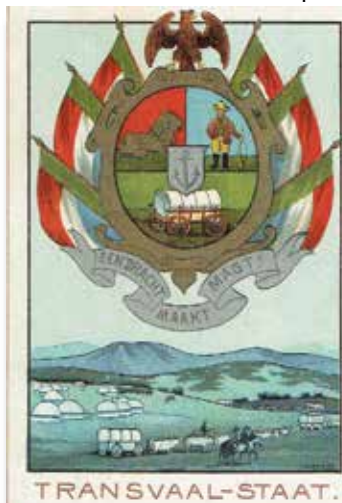
by Paul van Zeyl RDPSA, SAPDA

Sociologists, amongst others, have found the Latin expression *Ceteris parabis* useful in trying to explore the effects of change. It means 'all other things remaining the same'. Adapted for stamp collecting / philately, it surmises that if all other things stayed the same, that is, if we continue pursuing our hobby in the present way, we're likely to have the same outcome, namely the continued lessening of **popular pursuit** of our hobby.

I voice this piece from the perspective of a 'collector-dealer', someone who in pursuit of profit freely allows his **desire** to find and arrange bits of paper to limit net income. It's in my 'being', my conscious mind, well supported by my now adapted sub-conscious mind. Reinforced, weekly, by my **expectation** of finding more perceived philatelic treasures at stamp fairs, where I've become **confident** that I'll manage to acquire something which will add to my somewhat excessively catholic taste in material. In this, of course, I'm further supported by the desires of my collector-clients!

In this outline of what, in my opinion, is critical to the advancement of Philately, I focus on key words common to all 'happy' collectors: *Desire, Expectation and Confidence*. These words actually apply to the satisfactory realisation of all of our life's pursuits.

One would assume that I have universal backing for these cornerstones of a sound, pleasant life. But it's where human and related structural limitations enter the equation that one meets critical boundaries for growth. Let me attempt to put this positively: the 'equal' enjoyment and thereby advancement of our hobby means we should strive



Philately's most popular micro-adjustments: the introduction of postcards, FDCs (signed) & Open Class/Philately into exhibiting



means we should strive not only to allow but also to give real recognition to the creativity of fellow collectors, and in the overall process to attract, as yet disinterested parties.

Some points and reasons have been made, now for some instructive illustrations. This is where I'm likely to trample on toes. I don't have 'self-censorship' proclivities. Let's therefore consciously commence with human difficulties, those which precede the ensuing structural ones.

'Power' is a determinant of structure. In the 1940/70s the world reached an apex in stamp collecting interest. It was backed by kingly and schoolboy interest. Trade responded equally, as it does in any expanding market. Philately had 'Power', and it

attracted both *Power* people and those who were enamoured of Royalty. Ever-rising auction realisations drew newspaper headlines, a 'wow' factor which added attraction. Collectors' interests were encouraged along Exhibition lines, which led to a differentiation between 'types' of collectors. This was the start to the 'non-equality' of collectors, a major matter in today's world, today's neo-liberalist demands for 'change'. Yes, I'm using the present context, which demands that we're all equal, whereas we know that by virtue of our natural birth-endowments we're not.

So it's not really based on rationality but the experience of excessive differences in groups, living conditions and the abuse of natural resources. A pattern of stamp collecting has now evolved, one which has been promoted by rules set at the 'top' level. And, more importantly for the concept of 'popular pursuit', by the rise of the clichés 'them' (equals Power) and 'us' (equals 'Dispossessed').

In my opinion, there *have* been significant changes to the structure of Exhibitions. That relates to exhibit types, such as the inclusion of 'Open Class Philately', Thematic, Postcard... even 'Unjudged' exhibits and the clarification and explanation of rules. For the last decade or so, these groups have been more numerous than the 'Classic' types, meaning that room has been created for collector creativity and intellect. BUT, disinterested groups have no attachment to 'Organised Philately' as yet. I have written often and at length about the need for Organised Philately to at least show a little desire to generate such a space, especially pertinent in the changed South Africa, and especially important for our forthcoming International stamp exhibition in Cape Town this year. For the 'them' to be positively touched by 'us', we need to exhibit a display which will be applauded by local communities. An example would be one produced by the Iziko Museum.

A 'closer-to-heart' one would be a designed and 'recognised' local on District Six. There are books and authors who have photos which are of high interest and emotive value. (And authors have an inclination to want to advance book sales!)



To date there's been zero positive feed-back, probably no thinking about a so-called community-'legitimate' display at all. I now have no expectation of effort in this regard, no confidence in the realisation of a significant opportunity to advance philately's profile country wide.

As a collector and dealer I've experienced the 'bleeding' of popular philately first hand, and have comprehensively participated in adapting change research on behalf of Organised Philately. As an independent development economist in our Townships in the former positive Madiba and (early) Mbeki times, I've experienced extremely caring community conduct by the grass roots 'them'. Clearly, there's no reason for Organised Philately not to at least show an inclination to adapt to a more broadly positive display environment.

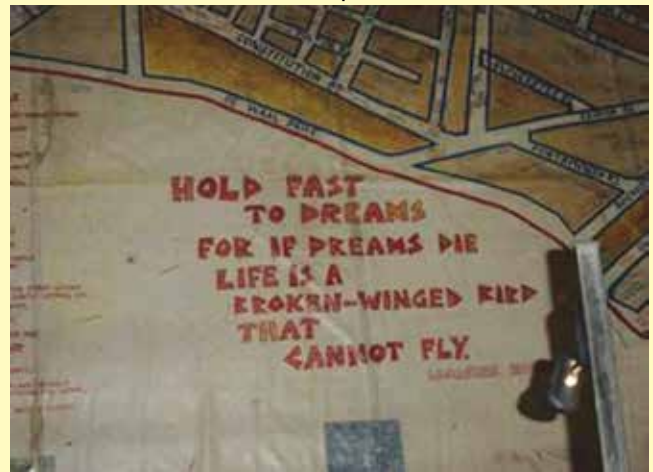
The long-powerful Roman Empire believed in 'Positive Power'. *'Omnia mutantur nos et mutator in illis'...* **All things change, and we change with them.** They had the Desire, the Expectation and the Confidence... which 'we' (the 'us'!) are so, so lacking at present. A common problem worldwide, a particularly common problem in South Africa overall.

It's reported our Gauteng-based BUSINESS multinationals are preparing to move to the better politically and administratively managed Western Cape. Better to adopt the Roman approach, the short-term solutions are just that at this time of our existence. One which can justify the cost. Let us start wide-ranging positive philatelic process with the high profile, very high cost Cape Town International Exhibition.

District Six and Apartheid: Politics, History and Memory

an important disclaimer: though I write about District Six and the District Six Museum, my knowledge is limited. I was given a small though personal and informative tour of District Six by a former resident, of its few remaining buildings that stand out as if out of defiance, and the open grasslands that betray no sign of a past vibrant life. I have visited the museum twice, both times too short to fully absorb the tragedy and injustice it presents. The following words are only a modest attempt to share my thoughts about the significance of what has happened in District Six.

Christian Paiz Updated 9-19-2004



Pic in Christian Paiz's publication on D6, inspired by a visit to the District Six Museum and (below) an original photo of a POW-staffed canteen at Diyatalawa Camp, Ceylon, ca 1900.



BOOK REVIEW - A WORTHY READ: 'A LIFE IN LETTERS'

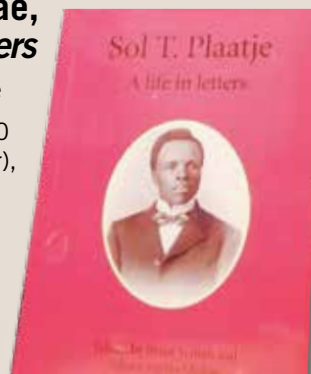
Brian Willan and Sabata-mpho Mokae, editors, Sol T. Plaatje: A Life in Letters

The public and private life of Sol Plaatje

Historical Publications South Africa, Cape Town, 2020
xxv + 359 pp ISBN 978-0-9947207-6-4 (hardcover),
978-1-990981-46-3 (eBook) R390.00

There has been an important upswing in attention with a welcome trend towards remaking or revising the canon of important figures from the South African past. This has included edited collections of the works of prominent individuals, and notable among these have been early-twentieth century black African politicians and writers. *Historical Publications*

Southern Africa (renamed from its previous moniker, the Van Riebeeck Society) has published four edited collections of the writings of such individuals since 2008, including Isaac Williams Wauchope, Richard Victor Solope Thema, and A.B. Xuma. *'A LIFE IN LETTERS'* a collection of Solomon T. Plaatje's correspondence, the 4th such volume in over a decade.



There are 260 letters, written from 1896 to 1932, included in the book. Most are in English, but some are in Setswana, Dutch/Afrikaans, and a few are in German. Although a number of the letters are from the collections of the Cullen Library at the University of the Witwatersrand, the reviewer counted twenty-seven different collections across three continents. The book is an excellent resource not only for historians, but also for students and the general public who now have access to a wide range of Plaatje's thoughts, opinions, and emotions that are evident in his letters.

The co-editor of this volume, Brian Willan in his *Sol Plaatje: 1876-1932* (Johannesburg, 1984) the correspondence conveys the range of Plaatje's talents - building and maintaining the social worlds of the Batswana in the face of increasing racist policies and the actions of white-minority rule in the Cape Colony, Transvaal, and later, the Union of South Africa in the twentieth century.

...continues from page 105

- WIJNANTS, Mr Paul, Philatelic Federation of SA
Portland as an Exchange Office for United States Transatlantic Mail by the Alan Line 1859 – 1870.
- WONG, Mr Chi, Hong Kong Philatelic Society
Cancellations on Issues of Hong Kong Queen Victoria 2 cents after 1900.
- ADAMS, Mr Fran, American Philatelic Society
The United Nations and Palestine 1947-1951.
- ATHALE, Dr Dinar, UK National Philatelic Society
Indelible Evidence: The History of Forensic Medicine
- CARTIER, Mr Ray, American Philatelic Society
A Tale of Two Hornets – U.S. Aircraft Carriers – CV 8 and CV/CVA/CVS12.
- CIESLAK, Mr Ryszard, Polish Philatelists Union
Information – A Challenge for Secret Services.

THEMATIC

- GHOSH, Mr Joy, Philatelic Congress of India
Legend of Rabindranath Tagore – A Philatelic Tribute.
- HASAN KHAN, Mr Shahid, Philatelic Congress of India.
Stamps of Mahatma Gandhi and Non-Violence.
- LUBBE, Prof Sam, Philatelic Federation of SA
Design Errors on Stamps.
- MARTINS, Mr Braz, Brazilian Federation of Philately.
Brazil Beauty.
- MARTINS, Mr Fernando, Federação Portuguesa de Filatelia.
Olympic Games – Berlin 1936.
- MILLARD, Mr Victor, Philatelic Federation of SA
Shellfish Pursuits.
- MIRANDA, Ms Raquel, Asociación Filatelica Guatemala.
The World of Mafalda
- NAM, Mr Sang Chul, Philatelic Federation of Korea.
Secret of Moth.
- PARK, Mr Gwang Seok, Philatelic Federation of Korea.
Crops and Vegetables.
- RAJASHEAKER, Mrs Revathi, Philatelic Congress of India.
Raft to Ice Breaker.
- SINGH, Mr Aditya, Philatelic Congress of India
Yoga – The Art of Living.
- WADHWA, Capt Vijay, Philatelic Congress of India.
Evolue – A Beak at Evolution.

AEROPHILATELY

- COLLAN, Prof Mikael, Suomen Filatelistiliitto
Finland – Domestic Air Mail.
- DONEN, Mr Neil, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.
Mail related to the ill-fated 1935 Trans-Tasman Jubilee Flight.
- HANNULA, Mr Petteri, Suomen Filatelistiliitto
Transpacific Airmail Services 1935-1941.
- HEGARTY, Mr Clem, Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland.
KLM, The Oldest Airline in the World Still Flying.
- KHAITAN, Mr Piyush, Philatelic Congress of India.
The Birth of Airmail – The First Aerial Post at Allahabad, 18 February 1911.

- MELAMED, Mr Semyon, American Philatelic Society.
Identification of On-Board Zeppelin Mail 1908 – 1929.
- CARTIER, Mr Ray, American Philatelic Society
Apollo Soyuz Test Project.

REVENUES

- GOSSE, Mr Tom, Australian Philatelic Federation.
King George VI Large Key Type Revenue and Postage High Value Stamps 1937 – 1953 that were used for Revenue Purposes.
- JACOBSON, Dr Leon, Philatelic Federation of SA.
Customs Duty/Douane Stamps of South Africa.
- KEDIA, Mr Prakash, Philatelic Congress of India,
Dewas J.B. (I.F.S.) War Contribution Stamps 1940 – 1945.
- KRIEG, Mr Harald, Bund Deutscher Philatelisten E.V.
The Fiscal Philately of German South West Africa.
- MAHLER, Mr Michael, American Philatelic Society.
A Fiscal History “Perfect Storm”: The U.S. \$15 Mortgage Stamp 1862 – 1872.
- MAHLER, Mr Michael, American Philatelic Society.
California Blues: The Iconic 1857 Gold Rush Revenues
- MAHLER, Mr Michael, American Philatelic Society.
Florida Fiscal History 1862 – 1872: A Tour of the State.
- MAHLER, Mr Michael, American Philatelic Society.
Stamp Tax on Nevada Territory Stock Certificates: The 25c Blaze of Glory.
- MAHLER, Mr Michael, American Philatelic Society.
Thar She Blows: U.S. Whaling Fiscal History of the Civil War Era.
- MAHLER, Mr Michael, American Philatelic Society.
The Ultramarine Experiment 1869 – 1870
- MATHESON, Dr Ian, Philatelic Federation of SA.
Newspaper Duty in Cape of Good Hope 1827 – 1848.
- SARKKI, Mr Jukka, Suomen Filatelistiliitto
Thailand – Charity Revenues Stamps Model 1953 – Health and Education.

POSTAL STATIONERY

- AMOORE, Mr Hugh, Philatelic Federation of SA,
South African Reply Coupons from 1907.
- HALEWOOD, Mr Nick, Philatelic Federation of Japan.
Queen Elizabeth II Aerogrammes of Ceylon
- SCHUMANN, Mr Stephen, UK National Philatelic Society.
New Zealand Prisoner of War Air Letter Cards 1941 – 1945.
- THY, Mr Peter, American Philatelic Society
Early Bechuanaland Telegraph Forms.

FIRST DAY COVERS

- KLIMLEY, Mr Ronald, American Philatelic Society.
Hand-Crafted First Day Covers of the 29c Sandy Hook Lighthouse Stamp.
- KLIMLEY, Mr Ronald, American Philatelic Society.
The 75th Anniversary of the South African Rugby Board.

OPEN CLASS

- BENNINGHOFF, Mr Robert, American Philatelic Society.
The Irish Civil War January 1922 to April 1923.
- BENNINGHOFF, Mr Robert, American Philatelic Society.
The Struggle for Irish Independence from

- Great Britain – May 1916 to December 6, 1921.*
- HEATH, Mrs Petra, Philatelic Federation of SA
Jan van Riebeeck: 10 Jaar aan die Kaap de Goede Hoop.
- MCLAUGHLIN, Mr David, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.
Canada: The World's Grain Exhibition and Conference, Regina, 1933.
- PIENAAR, Mr Gary, Philatelic Federation of SA
The Inauguration of the Voortrekker monument – 16th December 1949.
- REEVES, Mrs Maureen, Philatelic Federation of South Africa.
By Endurance we Conquer.
- VAN SOEREN, Mr Johan, Bund Deutscher Philatelisten E.V.
Charlie Chaplins “Der Große Diktator” (1940) – Satire und Realität.
- VAN SOEREN, Mr Johan, Bund Deutscher Philatelisten E.V.
Charlie Chaplins “The Kid” (1921) Höhepunkt der Geschichte des Stummfilms.

PICTURE POSTCARDS

- DU PLESSIS, Mr Andre, Philatelic Federation of SA.
Chinese Indentured Workers on the Rand – 1904 to 1910.
- FIGG, Mr David, Australian Philatelic Federation.
The Hoboken Docks Fire 1900.
- GLASHAN, Ms Alexandra, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.
Vintage St. Patrick's Day Postcards Celebrate Irish Myths, Legends and Tall Tales.
- MCLAUGHLIN, Mr David, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.
Local Publishers of Ottmar Zieher's Philatelic Post Cards.
- REBELO, Mr Americo, Federação Portuguesa de Filatelia.
Sport Llisboa Benfica seen through the Illustrated Postcards.
- SODERO, Ms Jane, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.
Milford House – A Rustic Resort in Southwestern Nova Scotia.

MARCOPHILY

- ADAMS, Mr Fran, American Philatelic Society
Cancellation Devices of the International Institute of Agriculture 1906-1946.
- MADIRAJU, Mr Lokeswara, Philatelic Congress of India.
Great Britain – Postal Cancellation of Post Office Numbers of England and Wales on Penny.
- PEREIRA, Mr Antonio, FEBRAF Brazilian Federation of Philately,
Passeio Pele cidade Maravilhosa – Wonderful City Tour – Rio de Janeiro.

MODERN EXPERIMENTAL

- BERMAN, Mr Genady, Israel Philatelic Federation.
Post in Crimea During Transitional Period, March – October 2014.
- KIM, Mr Chang Han, Philatelic Federation of Korea.
The Korean Definitive Stamps 170 Won Australian Curlew.
- MIN, Mr Kyoung Ok, Philatelic Federation of Korea.
Korea: 3550 Won Definitive Issue During Basic Rate 300 Won Period.



Thank you to all Federations and Exhibitors for your support in this successful event

Febr. 19th 02

Sept 12th 01



Dupl.

June 18 240 leads 6 extra. 6 experimental
 July 17 240 leads
 July 18 240 leads
 July Dupl. 240 leads 240 leads 240 leads
 Aug 26. 02

~~These 5 plates not used~~ 6 leads extra from each die superseded by single colour plates



July 27 240 leads
 July 24 240 leads
 July 20 240 leads
 6 leads extra from each die

Aug 28. 02



THE BEAUTIFUL.
 THE EXCEPTIONAL.

Rare Stamps, Proofs,
 Varieties & Covers

LOCAL EVENTS & SOCIETY NEWS

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

It is important to note that not all Societies have returned to having their regular meetings during this time of lockdown, they do, however, welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website www.stampssa.africa



Philatelic Meetings of The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

As a result of changing the Lockdown to Level 3 on 25.7.21, the Wits meetings will continue once again at the Johannesburg Country Club on Wednesdays as follows:

- 11 Aug - Favourite Cover,
- 8 Sep - One Frame Evening,
- 13 Oct - 2nd Competitive evening,
- 10 Nov - Invited Exhibitor,
- 8 Dec - President's Evening & Cocktail Party

You can contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA, for further information 082 722 7604.

WOODMEAD Informal Study Group please send all communication to haschaff@iafrica.com

Meetings at this venue to be held on the last Wednesday of each month from July 2021 to November 2021.

All meetings to start at 19h30 and, if you intend dining before the meeting, please meeting in the Club Room at Auckland Park or the members' restaurant at Woodmead at 18h30.

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 and Society Secretary:* Alex Visser. alex.visser@up.ac.za Box 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927

DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING

Sekretaresse: Gerrie Conradie
082 952 6700.
Tel / Faks 044 698 1074.
epos: gajcon@gmail.com



AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Aangename en aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter: Dr. Louwrence Erasmus. Sekretaris: Ronel Erasmus. Kontak: Herman van Niekerk by hinvestasta@gmail.com of 072 446 2501

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr,
Tel: 011 789 6357



Until it is considered safe to gather indoors, the PSoJ will at hold monthly Zoom meetings. Anyone interested in joining these meetings should contact Clive Carr directly.

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Werner Barnard;
email: president@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 0825670353 (a.h.);
email: secretary@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za
Website: <http://bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za>
Contact the Secretary for Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN



Email: royalphilict@gmail.com
President: Ida Potgieter
email: matheyc58@gmail.com
cell: 074 333 4646
Secretary: Victor Millard 0828028882
or *email:* millardvg@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.rpsct.org>

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



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 021 689 5050
email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



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.info



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.

PostNet Suite #11,
Private Bag X0002, The Fig Tree, Charlo, 6033 PORT ELIZABETH

Meetings for 2021 held in the daytime- 10h30/11h00 to 13h00 at same venue. dates: 2.8; 6.9; 4.10; 4.11;
No meeting December reserved for President's Christmas party.

STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING



Kontak:
stellenboschstamp@gmail.com

CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE
ISRAEL PHILATELY

Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef
<akatzef@mweb.co.za>
+27 (21) 4615134 *President of CASPIP.*

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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



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

David Wigston - Acting President
email: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Hammerton
hampaul@ananzi.co.za



WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374.
Chairman/Secretary: Ian Walker. Tel: 0114721161
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

HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN

The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join and get involved in this social hobby of Kings. *German Restaurant open for lunch.*
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

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings and auctions are held at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Rd, Bluff, Durban on every 2nd Saturday and last Saturday of each month. Contacts: **President:** Fonda Sonitus 074 347 1388 **Vice President:** Zbigniew Kawecki 079 465 7468. zkawecki57@gmail.com Alternatively, email the Secretary at philatelicsocietykzn@gmail.com for more details on meetings, auctions, sales packets and membership. Everyone is welcome and committee members are always on hand to give advice about evaluations and philately. The club has a very successful Study Group focusing on specific topics. These meetings are held two weeks after the general meeting at 09h00 for 09h30. Please use the contacts above for more details of topics.



THEMATICS SOUTH AFRICA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Vibrant and active group - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. **Group Leader:** Helena Snyman
Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za



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: aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com
 2. **President:** Dave Wyllie.
 3. Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
- Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

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

Chairperson: Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com
Secretary: Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com
Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, corner 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.

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 South African representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

Now amalgamated with the EDENVALE Philatelic Society.

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: secretarypdm@gmail.com

THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall, Usually first Saturday of every month (09:00 - 12:30) **Contact:** Ken Joseph. 072 597 1287
email: ken@philatelicfriends.com

Smalls' Corner


Literature for sale (other titles also available). Contact Emil Minnaar 063 803 3536 Resident in Gordons Bay, Western Cape - Packaging and posting extra.

- **The Tete-Beche varieties of Transvaal.** Drysdall & Criddle - Hard cover 44 pages R350
- **Transvaal - the Provisional Issues of the 1st British Occupation.** Drysdall - Hard cover 86 pages - R400.
- **Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope.** Robert Goldblatt 1984. As new - with dust cover R350.
- **History of Medical & Hospital Services of the Anglo-Boer War.** - Peter Prime 1998 - Soft cover 182 pages - R450
- **Mount Currie Express.** T.M. Mullins 1982. As new R100. Occasional Paper 3 Post Mark Society.
- **The Branch Post Offices of Natal.** John Dickson 1996. Soft cover 18 pages R60.

WANTED Boxed set SA stamp replicas silver/goldplated, contact George (011) 782-6985. gccstamps@telkomsa.net

WANTED a young collector contacted the Wits PS via his father, Karim Mirak <mirak197725@gmail.com> If you are feeling generous and want to send a few local stamps for this 9 year old, this is his address: Boukerzaza yasser. Cité benboulaid Bt D2 N°5 Montpensier. BLIDA 09000. ALGERIA

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

WANTED: A 44 year old teacher and Mongolian Philatelic Union member who has collected for over 30 years is looking for good philatelic friends from South Africa. Offering in exchange Mongolian mint stamps 1960-1991 against mint stamps from your country. Condition of exchanged :1. Please, write in English or Russian. If you do not speak these languages, please use # in the 'Scott' or 'Michel' catalogues. Jigjid Gantsogt. P.O.Box-314. UlaanBaatar-38. Mongolia. 

Comic Corner


Stamps that make you SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 65 Errors on Stamps... 'PROPHET COLUMBUS ?'



This colourful miniature sheet of the Comoro Islands was issued for the 500th Anniversary of the discovery of Cuba, Haiti and the Bahamas in 1492.

Columbus arrived in the Caribbean on 12 October 1492 and believed he had landed in India, which is the reason why this group of Caribbean Islands are still called the "West-Indies"... In July 1969 the U.S. astronaut Neil Armstrong landed with Apollo 11 as the first man on the moon and said his famous words: "One small step for a man - one giant leap for mankind." To find this quotation (in French) on this commemorative stamp issue means that Christopher Columbus must have been quoting Neil Armstrong 477 years before, - at least according to the Postal Administration of the Comoros... 

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

THE "GRECA" COLLECTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN POSTAL HISTORY

7 September 2021 | 10am | London | RPSL

17 August - 8 September 2021

e-auctions
SPINK



For further information please contact:

Nick Startup | nstartup@spink.com | +44 207 563 4073

David Parsons | dparsons@spink.com

SPINK LONDON
67-69 Southampton Row | WC1B 4ET

Follow us #SPINK_AUCTIONS

 WWW.SPINK.COM

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps

THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 97:5. 968

www.stampssa.africa



An underpaid cover mailed from East London in 1893 to an officer of the Border Police deployed at Fort Gaberones



Cover with a cachet indicating that the item was re-routed due to the fact that the Road Motor Transport Service was suspended.



1915 overweight cover attracting a 2d Postage Due



ALWAYS DIVERSE!

Fine Stamps, Proofs, Varieties & Covers

Premier Swaziland Revenues



1911 Transvaal KEVII
2/6 overprinted.
1 of 3 recorded.



1911 Transvaal KEVII
10s overprinted.
1 of 2 recorded.



1911 Transvaal KEVII
£5 overprinted.
Only recorded example.



1927 South Africa KGV
1d overprinted for
Swaziland Revenue.
Block of six with
dramatic double
overprints.
Cert: Eichele BPB.

Enjoy viewing our select material on filat.ch

Filat AG



The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
www.stampssa.africa

REGULARS

- 135 Closing dates for future issues
- 137 Letters to the Editorial Board
- 138 Phun with Postmarks
- 162 Society details & 'Smalls'
- 163 Errors on Stamps

FEATURES

- 136 PFSA - Federation News
by C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA
- 137 The Anglo-Boer War Books
- 140 The Bechuanaland Border Police
by Andrew Briscoe
- 142 A letter from the King of Barotseland
by Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL
- 144 Mail Suspended to Angola, Algeria and Saudi Arabia,
- Part 5. Damaged and Suspended Mail
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 148 A Good Address
by Alan Rose
- 152 Sending Money Home. South Africa to Sekakes,
Lesotho During 1972 and 1973
by Dr Louwrence Erasmus
- 156 Revisiting the 2d Unhyphenated Rotogravure interrupted printing
by M.J.H. Tonking RDPSA
- 157 Vrijstaat 2021 Commemorative Cover and Cancellor
- 158 The Anglo Boer War
by Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL, RNCP

ADVERTISERS

- 134 Filat AG
- 143 John & Mark Taylor
- 147 Doreen Royan & Associates
- 151 Abacus Auctions
- 160 Rhodesian Study Circle:
two new books
- 157 Kopano Nokeng Country
Lodge & Conference Centre
- 161 Bill Barrel Ltd
- 164 Spink

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.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL: molens@pixie.co.za
David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Robin Messenger: messenger.robin@gmail.com
Janice Botes Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za
Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
COO. André du Plessis RDPSA: andredupfs@gmail.com

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

Alex Visser RDPSA : 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 RDPSA: andredupfs@gmail.com
Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

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

All South African stamps
are reproduced with the
permission of SAPO



EXHIBITIONS

- 105: Savpex 2021
- 139: MonacoPhil 2022
- 155: Cape Town International Exhibition 2022
- 155: London International Exhibition 2022
- 158: South Africa National Exhibition & Congress 2021

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:**

• **DECEMBER** 2021 - Volume. 97: 6. 969. **9 Nov 2021** • **FEBRUARY** 2022 - Volume. 98 : 1. 970. **7 Jan 2022**



FEDERATION NEWS

from the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA
André du Plessis RDPSA 083 399 1755.
<https://www.stampssa.africa>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



We are in October - the most beautiful and best month of the year! I will be the first person to admit that we all do not think so, but here is something that certainly may convince you... Things are happening at full capacity for the 2021 National Stamp Exhibition – VRIJSTAAT 2021 - in Bloemfontein from 21 to 23 October.

The venue, Kopano Nokeng, with its warm and welcoming atmosphere, is 12km from the city centre off the N8 to Thaba Nchu, making it easily accessible. The venue offers plenty of secure parking.

It is the Organising Committee's sincere hope to see as many philatelic friends as possible and welcome you to VRIJSTAAT 2021 to make the most of your visit to this year's philatelic event.

There are some 220 competitive frames together with a Court of Honour section and JUNASS. Unfortunately, there will be no auction, but several dealers with SAPDA credentials will be in attendance to attend to your stamp needs.

In celebration of the event, commemorative covers will be available at R15.00 each. Be sure to take up the offer to have your purchased exhibition envelopes cancelled with a specially designed canceller by Thea Clemons, Graphic Designer at Philatelic Services. Orders can be placed with Joof van der Merwe at jnc1@vodamail.co.za.

This year is the 93rd anniversary of PFSA and its 83rd Congress which is held on Saturday 23 October 2021 at this Kopano Nokeng venue. In the early years, Congress was not held annually and in the 1940s it was disrupted by the second World War.

The most prestigious event of our philatelic year, the Palmares, will also take place at the Kopano Nokeng venue on Saturday evening (23 Oct). This, together with the Awards ceremony, offers an event that gives us an opportunity to meet and greet friends and partners. Tickets for the Palmares are available at R350 per person and can be obtained from Joof van der Merwe at jnc1@vodamail.co.za.

Tickets will also be available from the reception desk during the Exhibition – please remember to secure your tickets!

The Jury members, under chairmanship of Michael Wigmore RDPSA, will be happy to discuss aspects of the material on show.

It would be remiss of me not to thank sponsors, societies and advertisers for the financial support received from them on behalf of the PFSA. A special thanks is extended to Spink of London, our main sponsor and to Kopano Nokeng for the excellent venue and the dedication of the Organising Committee.

SEE YOU THERE...

Directions: On the Bloemfontein Thaba Nchu road (N8), take the Airport off ramp and turn left. At the first circle turn right and after about 100m right again. After passing the Air Force base on the left, Kopano Nokeng is on the right (within 5km from the circle).

Programme:

Tuesday:	19 Oct: 09:00 to 14:00 acceptance of exhibits
Wednesday:	20 Oct: 10:45 Judging Commences 10:45
Thursday:	21 Oct: 09:00 Judging Commences 11:30 Dealers Arrive 14:45 Conclusion of Judging 15:00 Opening Ceremony of Exhibition 18:00 Jury/Dealer dinner
Friday:	22 Oct: 10:00 to 17:00 Exhibition open 15:00 Jury Critique for Exhibitors 17:00 Foundation meeting
Saturday:	23 Oct: 08:00 Annual Congress 09:00 to 17:00 Exhibition open 18:00 Palmares
Sunday:	24 Oct: 10:00 to 13:00 Exhibition open 13:00 Dismounting Exhibits

Jury: Michael Wigmore RDPSA (chairman)
Hugh Amoore RDPSA (vice-chairman)
Joof van der Merwe (secretary) Dr Neil Cronje RDPSA,
Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, Richard Johnson RDPSA ,
Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA, Emil Minnaar RDPSA,
Jan van Beukering, André du Plessis RDPSA (apprentice),
Victor Millard (apprentice), Joof van der Merwe (apprentice)

EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.

PUBLICATION:

The South African Philatelist, a bi-monthly stamp magazine, is published by the **Philatelic Federation of South Africa** (PFSA). This is one of the oldest running stamp magazines in the world and was founded in 1920.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

Electronic copy: •RSA and Worldwide - R70.00

Printed copy: •South Africa - R300.00 (Include local postage)

- SADC countries - R750.00 (Include International postage via airmail)
- Foreign countries - R1,100.00 (Include International postage via airmail)

PLEASE NOTE:

Subscription for a printed copy is for six issues per year and automatically include access to an electronic copy. The 2021 rates are also available on the PFSA official website under 'CONTACT/JOIN':

www.stampssa.africa

Enquiries regarding **subscriptions and PFSA membership**

can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA at andredupfs@gmail.com Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

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 C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA, PO Box 53100, Wierda Park, 0149 or email the Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za





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 writing gift.



In response to a Facebook query regarding the posting of SETEMPE, Ashraf Ali replied: "You can contact Philatelic services on sa.stamps@postoffice.co.za or myself at Ashraf.Ali@postoffice.co.za for assistance. The *Setempe* magazine is no longer printed but we do send out regular newsletters via email.

A SPECIAL REQUEST - POSTCARDS TELL A STORY

from Vanessa Thomas.

So I know that there have been requests for penpals in the past but this is a slightly different request...

I teach 5th grade Reading and Social Studies in Tulsa, Oklahoma USA in a low-income school, and many of my students have never (and might not ever) have the opportunity to leave the city, much less the state or country.

I love to share my travel stories with them and they are always excited to hear about them. They LOVE to use google earth to travel to places all around the world and see all the different places and explore!

I wanted to ask you to send postcards of either where you are from, or where you visit with a quick story about the place that I can share with my class!

These 10-year-olds have such a sense of adventure and wanderlust, and I want to help them aspire to dream big and get out of their hometown and see the country or world some day.

Postcards can be sent to:

Ms. Thomas' 5th Grade Class
Owen Elementary, 1132 N Vandalia Ave
Tulsa, OK 74115
Oklahoma USA

(Languages other than English are welcome, we would love to translate them!)

Please mention the SAP when sending



PHILATELIC BOOKS

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY to complete your reference library of the Anglo-Boer War books



for information to purchase contact André du Plessis RDPSA: pfsastamps@gmail.com Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

The SPECIAL discount continues for ALL ORDERS - See the PFSA website: www.stampssa.africa



- *Die Machadodorp-briefkaarte van die Anglo-Boereoorlog* 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-Boereoorlog* by Carel Breedt 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-Boereoorlog* 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.

Phun with postmarks

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



More about Transvaal postage due stamps

In the August 2021 *Phun* column I raised the question about actual usage of the Transvaal postage due stamps or labels as sometimes named shown in Fig.3 below. Hugh Amooore RDPSA kindly shared information which he is compiling about postage rates which has been included in this column. I greatly value and acknowledge his contribution.

The use of the postage dues from 1907 was confined to the Transvaal until 1 November 1911 (SA (1911). Government Notice 1754 of 20 October 1911. See also: *Report of the Postmaster General of the Union for 1911*, p 9). It was only after the consolidation of the postal laws of the four former colonies and their replacement by the Act of 1911, that the use of labels to account for the payment of postage due penalties was possible, or required, in the other provinces. This then is the beginning of the interprovincial period for the Transvaal Postage Due labels. Stanley Gibbons in the 2014 *Southern & Central Africa* catalogue states 1 June 1912 as the earliest date of interprovincial use, without

comment. In the analysis in the Table1 there is no evidence that the dues were used interprovincially prior to 1.11.1911.

The Union postage due labels appear to have been printed and issued over a three-month period from 12 December 1914 (2d), 2 February 1915 (3d) and 19 March 1915 (½d, 1d, 5d, 6d and 1/-) (Basden and Simenhoff (1946)) and this could then be considered as the end of the interprovincial period.

However, the Transvaal labels continued to be used by Post Offices for a considerable time. Hagger (1986, *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 – 1961, Handbook Catalogues*. Cape Town, Reijger Publishers, p236) records that “the Union issues were only used by post offices after stocks of the corresponding values of Transvaal postage dues, which were currently being used, had been exhausted. Consequently, there was no definite issue date for any value, and it was difficult to get the 5d and 6d dues until the early 1920s.” He goes on to record that many offices never received the first Union issue 1/- postage due label.

With all this information the next question is what was the situation on the ground? The actual date of issue of the Transvaal dues in 1907 has not been provided in the references. Thanks to the support of Morgan Farrell who researched his collection and input from Bas Payne, we were able to combine 127 different Transvaal dues with legible place name and date. This information is summarised in Table 1.

Each cell contains the earliest and latest recorded date together with the number of examples seen in bold. The earliest use of the dues was 26.7.1907 for the 2d and the earliest use of the ½d, was 2.7.1908. The 1d and 6d were also seen during this period.

The dues were used only in the Transvaal until 1.11.1911, and this is Period 1 in Table 1.

Period 2 is from 1.11.1911 for all the provinces until the issue dates of the Union dues given above, which is the interprovincial period. None of the provinces other than the Transvaal had

	Period	½d	1d	2d	3d	5d	6d	1/-
Tvl	1	2.7.1908 1	3.1908 4	26.7.1907 12 24.8.1910			15.8.1907 1	
	2	2.5.1912 1	22.6.1912 5 8.1.1915	14.2.1912 14 21.7.1913				21.3.1913 1
	3	3.1.1921 3 21.4.1922				17.12.1924 1	17.12.1924 1	6.1922 1
Cape	2	7.5.1913 2 28.10.1913	26.12.1911 16 3.1915	30.11.1911 26 20.6.1914	31.7.1914 2 4.9.1914	18.9.1912		
	3	18.1.1921 2 19.1.1921	5.1915 1	3.3.1915 9 25.12.1920			25.12.1920 1	
ORC	2		2.12.1913 1	9.3.1912 3 20.10.1913				
	3	19.1.1921 1						2.1920 1
Natal	2	9.1912 1	5.12.1912 5 3.1915	24.2.1912 6 27.10.1914	1.3.1913 1	1.3.1913 1	7.1912 2 1.3.1913	

Table 1. Use and distribution of the Transvaal postage due labels.

used the dues prior to 1.11.1911, and the earliest recorded use was 30.11.1911 for a 2d used in the Cape. Interestingly the dues were mostly used in the Cape, whereas only a few cases were recorded of use in the ORC and Natal. As reported in the literature the 5d and 6d dues were used after the Union dues were issued, mainly in the 1920s. The 3d and 1/- dues are also scarce.

The Transvaal labels were used in South-West Africa during the occupation period (from 1915) which is confirmed by three examples seen with the earliest recorded date of 19.4.1916. After 1923 surplus Transvaal 5d and 6d dues were overprinted for use in South-West Africa. They were never demonetised but had been exhausted or withdrawn long before December 1937.

It is concluded that the interprovincial period for these Transvaal dues thus runs from 1 November 1911 until stocks were exhausted; copies used in the Union as late as the 1920s are not uncommon and the latest recorded date in the above study was 17.12.1924.

The system for collecting fees before postage dues were used are shown in Figs.1 and 2. Fig.1 shows a taxed item into the Transvaal in February 1907 before the use of postage due labels to account for the collection of fines was introduced. This cover has added interest. It is overweight for the 15g rate from Germany, and hence paid 40 pfg (the German UPU rate was 20g per 15 pfg at the time). It was reposted from the Cape and has a faint REPOSTED mark (top left) and under this the manuscript '2' for two rates. It was thus liable for the reposting

fee (at the single rate not double the rate). So at the 1d rate per ½ oz this attracted a 2d reposting fee. This would have been collected by the Transvaal Post Office from the addressee. The accounting would have been against the 2d due on the bill



Fig.1: Taxed cover prior to introduction of postage due labels (Amoore).

Figure 2 shows an internal Cape postcard from Simon's Town (22 December 1906). It was unpaid, so marked with the Simonstown T in circle tax mark (this is rare). It then went to the Cape taxing office in Cape Town, where the large 1D tax mark was applied, signalling to the Paarl postmaster that a 1d fine had to be collected from the addressee. Again the internal post office accounting would have been against the manifest accompanying the mail.



Fig.2: Unfranked card from Simonstown to Paarl in 1906 (Amoore).

Figure 3 shows usage of Transvaal dues in the Cape during Period 3. Posted in Clarkebury in May 1915 the East London Post Office noted that - though paid 2d at the 1d per ½oz

rate - this was in fact over 1oz, and should have been paid 3d. The deficiency was doubled for a fine of 2d. The 'T' is the distinctive East London mark, as is the '2d' handstamp. The pair of Transvaal 1d dues were added by the East London Post Office and cancelled East London/S Africa/.



Fig.3: 1915 overweight letter sent from Clarkebury to East London attracting a 2d postage due (Amoore).

Postmarks at our finger tips

In many of my columns I refer to Addenda of postmark books on southern Africa. These include 'The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States and Colonies' and 'The Comprehensive Handbook of the Postmarks of German South West Africa, South West Africa and Namibia' by Ralph Putzel. Substantial material has been added and the Addenda are now available under RESOURCES and POSTMARKS on the Federation public side of the website <https://stampssa.africa/>. It is anticipated that the other specialist publications on the provinces will be included in due course, placing this huge resource at our finger tips. Please note that the original publications are not incorporated as photographic printing processes were used which are not directly compatible with digital search programmes.

In hierdie rubriek is daar geprobeer om uit te vind wat meer as 'n eeu gelede gebeur het om boetes in die poswese te verhaal. Aanvanklik, vanaf 1907, het slegs Transvaal boeteseëls gebruik, maar na Uniewording is die boeteseëls vanaf 1911 in al die provinsies gebruik. Dus was daar 'n interprovinsiale tydperk tot die Unie boeteseëls op verskillende datums in 1914/5 gedruk is. Die interprovinsiale gebruik strek egter tot die voorraad Transvaalse boeteseëls opgebruik is tot so laat as 1924. Die boeteseëls is gebruik om tasbare bewys van betaling te bevestig, terwyl voor die tyd slegs boete of per hand of per boetestempel aangedui is. Aangesien hierdie stelsel misbruik kon word, is boeteseëls geskep.

Dates for MonacoPhil 2022: from 24 to 26 November 2022

"We hope to welcome a large number of visitors in November next year"

- Patrick Maselis
General Commissioner
MonacoPhil 2022



PARTNERS



The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, 'Keeping in Touch' with regular and new readers who will ensure that the social media activities and publications continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa.

Contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDP SA 083 399 1755.

<https://www.stampssa.africa>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

THE BECHUANALAND BORDER POLICE

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



In 1885 the British Government despatched an expeditionary force under the command of General Sir Charles Warren to establish control of the strategic corridor of land north of the Cape Colony. Occupation of this territory was threatened by German expansion from the west and also from the east where President Kruger of the South African Republic had announced the annexation of the recently proclaimed 'republics' of Goshen and Stellaland. Following the successful completion of Warren's mission, the territory south of the Molopo river became the colony of British Bechuanaland and that north of the Molopo as far as latitude 22 degrees South was declared as the Bechuanaland Protectorate. The next task was the establishment of a quasi-military force to patrol the borders of the new territory in order to prevent incursions by freebooters and others.

the Police at their camp instead of the bags being taken directly to the Post Office to be opened. In early 1886, the Postmaster-General of British Bechuanaland decided that the BBP should cease to carry the civil mails between Vryburg and Mafeking, and tenders were invited to operate this service. Mr Geeringh, the proprietor of the Passenger Cart Service, was awarded the tender for conveyance of the mails from Kimberley to Mafeking with effect from 1 March 1887. Little is known about the service provided by Geeringh, except that he abandoned the contract later in July 1888.

In the Bechuanaland Protectorate

Here, the BBP initially only conveyed government mail and despatches. This service was operated on an ad hoc basis, as the need arose and resources were available.

The Protectorate's first official postal service was introduced on 9 August, 1888. The mails from and to Mafeking, Kanye, Molepolole and Shoshong were carried by native runners weekly. A fortnightly service was operated northwards to Tati and Gubulawayo. This runner 'foot post' system functioned satisfactorily until May 1889, when the main body of the BBP was moved up from Mafeking to Macloutsie in the far north-east, in anticipation of the invasion of Mashonaland by Cecil Rhodes's 'Pioneer Column'. This relocation led to a considerable increase in the weight of mail to be conveyed through the Protectorate, and although the service was restricted to letters and newspapers only, the native runners were unable to cope with the resulting demands. Colonel Carrington of the BBP was accordingly



Fig.1: A cover of 1888 endorsed 'O.H.M.S.' and countersigned by Lieutenant C.J. West commander of a BBP detachment to a Basotho resident in 'Mosara' (Maseru) in Basutoland. Backstamps of Vryburg (24 July), Kimberley (27 July) and Aliwal North (29 July).

The initial recruits of the Bechuanaland Border Police (BBP) came mainly from the disbanded mounted units of the expeditionary force. About 50 Basotho experienced horse riders were also recruited (Fig.1).

In British Bechuanaland (Fig.2), the BBP conveyed government and other official letters by horseback riders and wagons between Barkly West in the northern Cape and Vryburg in British Bechuanaland. For a few months in 1885, the Police also conveyed the civil post on behalf of the Post Office. However this task was not performed satisfactorily. There were numerous complaints about registered letters going astray, and of other irregularities which were all attributed to the opening of the mail bags by

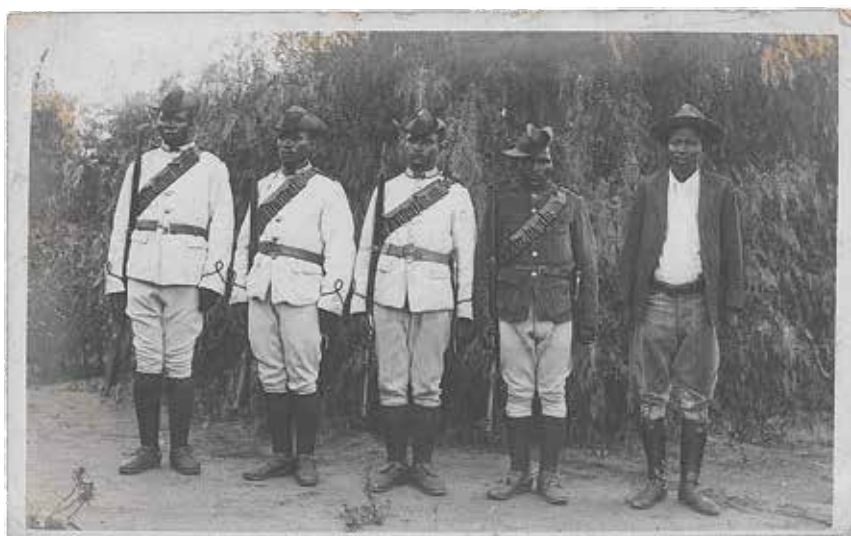


Fig.2: A picture postcard showing BBP members

asked to provide an estimate and proposal for the cost of providing the weekly service from Mafeking to Macloutsie by Police carts. There being no immediate viable alternative, this

arrangement was implemented and the Police cart service commenced on 31 July 1889.

In anticipation that the BBP might be unable to provide an acceptable service for carriage of the civil mail, an interim contract was simultaneously negotiated with the Bechuanaland Exploration Company to provide a mule-pulled cart to transport the mail northwards to Gubulawayo.

The first Police cart was scheduled to arrive from the south at Shoshong on 6 August 1889, but had not done so by 10 August. The resident Superintendent of the Bechuanaland Exploration Company expressed his frustration to the Company's General Manager in Cape Town:

"The post due on 6th inst has not yet arrived at Shoshong. Our native runners returned on the 7th without the mails The delay is very annoying and it is likely that we shall have much more of the same sort of thing before the new system is in fair working order ..."

Evidence that the BBP had little ability and/or appetite for carrying the civil mail soon materialised. In the second month of the service, on 27 September 1889, J. E. Middleton, the Post Master-General in Vryburg, reported to Sir Sidney Shippard, the Administrator of British Bechuanaland and Deputy Commissioner of the Protectorate:

"Postmaster Mafeking reports that Protectorate mail arrived there this morning Wednesday at 8 am. Trooper in charge reports cart broke down at Crocodile River. [The Officer in Charge] has informed [the postmaster] that they cannot take mails to Protectorate this week as mules are unfit to travel and they cannot supply fresh ones – mail will consequently be delayed at Mafeking as Police cart has broken down - we must revert to native runners between Mafeking and Shoshong to avoid collapse to the Shoshong to Gubulawayo service. Kindly communicate with His Honour on this subject."

Two days later, Middleton amplified his report: *"The police cart did not go to Shoshong at all but merely dropped the Shoshong mail at the Police Camp, Crocodile Pools, and proceeded direct to Head Quarters Camp. Mail was taken from there to Shoshong by a passing wagon and arrived four days late. I would also be glad if the Police Authorities could be advised that under no circumstances are the seals of mail bags to be broken or the bags opened by anyone except those to whom they are actually addressed..... In the Shoshong bag, several letters and newspapers were extracted. This is strictly forbidden by the Postal regulations."*

On the following day, Shippard sent his instructions to Middleton:

"I have shown your telegram to Sir F. Carrington who has

telegraphed to Capt. McGregor to let PMG have available mules for the Protectorate Post so as to get off the two weeks' accumulations at least as far as Molepolole. Mr Johnson, on behalf of the Bechuanaland Exploration Company, has written to Col Carrington to say that he will undertake the post between Kimberley and Mafeking from 3rd proximo as agreed with me but that his company will not be able to undertake the Protectorate Post for another six weeks at least. I authorise Post Master General to revert to native runners system for the Protectorate Post until the Bechuanaland Exploration Company can get their system into working order...."



Fig.2: An underpaid cover mailed from East London on 3 March 1893 to an officer of the Border Police deployed at Fort Gaberones. Backstamps of Midland Up (4 March), Kimberley (5 March), Vryburg (11 March), Mafeking (14 March) and Gaberones (16 March). The envelope was underpaid by 2d in terms of a Postal Notice dated 10 October 1892, which provided that the basic rate for correspondence from the Cape Colony to the Protectorate was increased from 2d to 4d. The surcharge of 4d, to be paid by the addressee, represents double the 2d deficit.

The Police, therefore, must make their own arrangements to fetch their own letters from the most convenient point on our line of post (Fig.3). Of course letters and despatches should have priority over newspapers and all other postal matters, so long as the native runner system lasts. It will of course be necessary to have separate bags for the Police mails, so that these may be handed over without delay or difficulty to the Police post cart or post riders at the point agreed...."

The last BBP post cart to carry the civil mail reached Mafeking on 22 October 1889.

Bibliography

- Jurgens A.A., *The Bechuanalands*, self-published, undated, Cape Town.
- Main, E., *Man of Mafeking: The Bechuanaland Years of Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams 1884-1901*, The Botswana Society, 1996, Gaborone.

A Letter from the King of Barotseland

by Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



This article briefly provides a hint of life in Barotseland and the interaction between the local people and missionaries from the Paris Missionary Society.

Lewanika (1842-1916) was the Lozi Litunga, the King or Paramount Chief of Barotseland from 1878-1916 with a short break during 1884/85. On his death, he was succeeded by his son Litia who assumed the name Yeta III. The cover of this letter (Fig.1), indicates the addressee as M.Ch. A. Reuter, a missionary from the Paris Missionary Society, (PMS), and a relative of Dr Georges Reuter, a missionary doctor working with the Society in Barotseland. It was sent to Reuter c/o another missionary, the Reverend Theo Burnier, resident at the time in Switzerland. Burnier worked with the PMS in Barotseland from 1899 to late 1918.

The letter was written by Yeta III as indicated by the manuscript addition 'Du roi Yeta III' on the front of the cover. On the rear is a rubber handstamp of an elephant, (Fig.2) a symbol of the King of Barotseland. Postage of 2½d was paid by two 1d and a single ½d Rhodesian Admiral stamps, cancelled by the MONGU LEALUI postmark dated 21 August 1918. The Lausanne arrival strike, dated 21.X.18, indicates a two month journey.

The letter (Fig.3), is written in the Lozi district dialect but has been translated into French on the rear by Theo Burnier, (Fig.5). This is deduced from the handwriting which is similar to that of Burnier on a number of Postal Stationery cards seen by the author which were known to have been written by him.

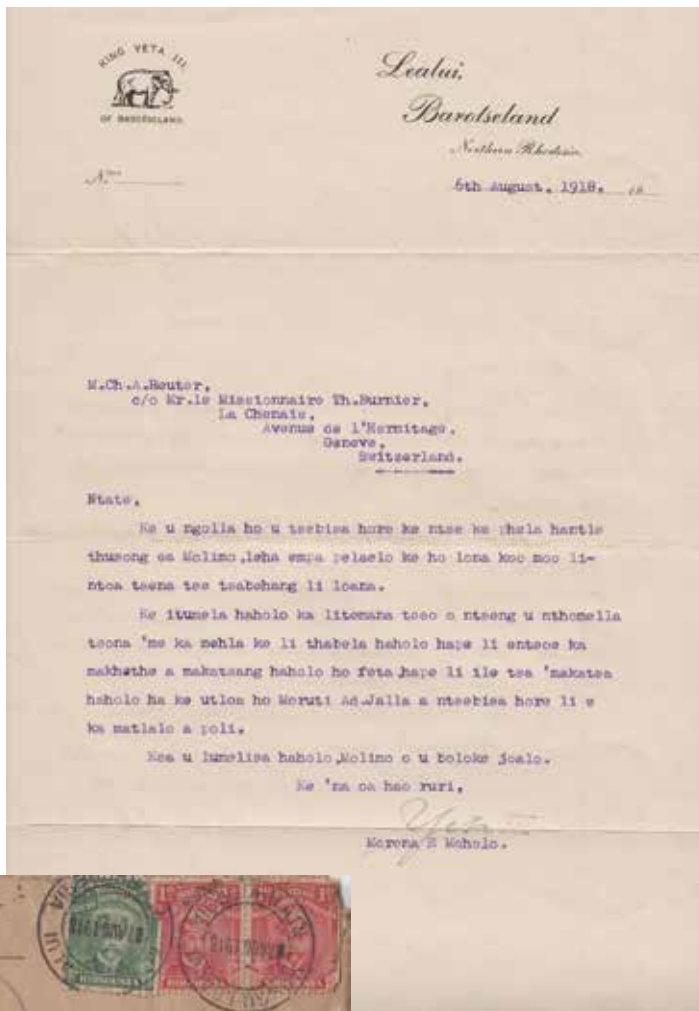


Fig.3: The letter written in Lozi dialect from Yeta.



Fig.1.

Lewanika never spoke in public, he gave his instructions to Ngambella who spoke for him. Litia, breaking with tradition (said)... Chiefs of the people, my first words will be a sincere 'thank you', for the help you have always given to my father. Words fail me to express all the gratitude that fills my heart on this subject...".

Interaction between the members of the PMS and the local people is reflected in a note by Burnier dated 15 March 1916 for *News from Barotseland*, No 56, August 1916, where he writes, inter alia,

"A remarkable ceremony was enacted this morning at the Khotla of Lealui, which formed the culminating point of these festival days.....I had the privilege of attending this assembly with my colleagues Boiteaux and Ellenberger.....Then the Ngambella (Prime Minister) spoke in his turn and ended with these unexpected words. What an innovation !"

A photo of Yeta III, (Fig.4), Paramount Chief of the Barotse Nation, and his consort Namabanda.

A fascinating Postal History item emanating from Barotseland.



Fig.2.



Fig.4: Photo of Yeta III, Paramount Chief of the Barotsi Nation and his consort Namabanda.



Fig.5: The translated letter by Theo Burnier in French on the rear. 

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

SOUTHERN NIGERIA

1902 Parcel label to England, cancelled Sapele



"A VERY RARE ITEM, IN REMARKABLE CONDITION"



JOHN & MARK TAYLOR
P.O. Box 37324,
London N1 - 2YQ.

Tel: 020 7226 1503 Fax: 020 7359 7456 email: markjtaylor@btinternet.com

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1961

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Part 5: Damaged and Suspended Mail

Introduction

It is indicated in the *Post Office Guide* that the Post Office is by law not responsible for any loss or inconvenience which may arise from the loss, non-delivery, mis-sending, wrong delivery or delay in the delivery of any mail matter (even if it be registered), nor for any damage which mail matter may sustain during transmission. Compensation is however, under certain conditions payable for the loss of registered items.

However, the Post Office applies cachets and other marks to explain to addressees why the mail has been damaged, not delivered or delayed. This is providing postal history collectors with an interesting field of collecting.

The aim of this article is to illustrate and describe a selection of damaged and suspended mail marked as such.

TULBAGH EARTHQUAKE – 1969

On 29 September 1969, an earthquake that measured 6.3 on the Richter scale occurred in the Tulbagh area. The earthquake struck at 10pm that evening and caused significant damage to the town. It destroyed many buildings in the main road and led to a reported nine fatalities, mostly young children.

Tulbagh was near the epicentre of the most severe South African earthquake in living memory, which struck the Boland on that fateful night in September 1969; and a priceless and beautiful part of the country's cultural heritage was destroyed in a matter of seconds. Church Street, with its charming 18th and 19th century houses, crumbled under the quake's awesome impact and the next day the country was shocked to read that everything lay in dust and rubble.

Church Street, which somehow captured the essential spirit of a unique culture, looked as if it was in the throes of a nightmare: many fine gables had either tumbled or were totally destroyed, whole sections of many houses had collapsed, most of the soft brick walls had burst open in wide cracks, plaster had been torn off in large sheets, rafters and roofs had caved in. Everything appeared to be in total and irreparable ruin.

Because of what it meant to people with a very acute feeling for the past, Church Street, suddenly became the emotional focal point of the whole disaster. The earthquake also disrupted the delivery of mail to and from the town and in surrounding areas as far as Cape Town (Figs.1 & 2).

THE NAIROBI AIRCRAFT CRASH – 1974

Lufthansa Flight 540 was a scheduled commercial flight, operated with a Boeing 747-130, carrying 157 people (140 passengers and 17 crew members). The flight was proceeding on the final segment of its Frankfurt–Nairobi–Johannesburg route. On 20 November 1974, it crashed and caught fire shortly after taking off from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya. This was the first fatal accident of a Boeing 747.

As the aircraft was making its takeoff from runway 24, the pilots felt a buffeting vibration. The captain continued the climb and retracted the landing gear. However, as this was being done, the aircraft started to descend and the stall warning system light came on. The aircraft continued to descend, and at approximately 3,700 feet (1,100m) from the end of the runway, the Boeing 747 crashed onto the grass.

It then struck an elevated access road and broke up. The left wing exploded, and fire spread to the fuselage. A total of 55 of the 140 passengers and 4 of the 17 crew members were killed.

Some crash cover mail items were recovered from the flight. A 'crash cover' is a philatelic term for a cover or package that has been



Fig.1: Cover with the Tulbagh earthquake cachet to indicate that the postal item was either delayed or damaged due to the earthquake.



Fig.2: Cover posted on the 9 October 1969 from Cape Town to Johannesburg with the cachet in blue to indicate the reason why the cover was delayed and damaged.

recovered from a fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft, airship or airplane crash, train wreck, shipwreck or any other accident. Some mail was recovered from the crash in 1974 near Nairobi (Fig.3).

POSTAL ITEMS DAMAGED BY 'PARCEL OR LETTER BOMB'

The Soweto uprisings of 1976 marked a decisive shift in Black politics in South Africa with the African National Congress (ANC) reverting largely to the tried and tested tactics of the early 1960s, namely sabotage. The primary objective was to "raise and sustain the level of morale and militancy among the masses inside the country". The 1977-1980 period witnessed the ANC's armed wing - Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) - engaging in a range of operations which were to dramatically increase in the coming years.



Fig.3: Cover posted at Essen in Germany on 18 November 1974 carried on the ill-fated flight from Frankfurt to South Africa. This cover received the cachet: 'RETRIEVED FROM AIR CRASH ON 20 NOVEMBER 1974 AT NAIROBI /HERWIN VAN LUGRAMP OP 20 NOVEMBER 1974 TE NAIROBI'.



Fig.5: Damaged registered cover posted from the Arcadia Post Office dated 10 December 1977. This is an example of extremely rare damaged mail recovered during the urban struggle against apartheid in 1977.

THE SOWETO UPRISINGS – 1976

The Soweto-uprising in 1976 near Johannesburg was an important turning point in the 'struggle against apartheid'. This was a series of protests led by high school students in South Africa that began on the morning of 16 June 1976. Students from numerous schools in Soweto began protesting against the introduction of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in local schools. It is estimated that 20,000 students took part, and they were met with fierce police brutality that resulted in the deaths of 176 protesters.

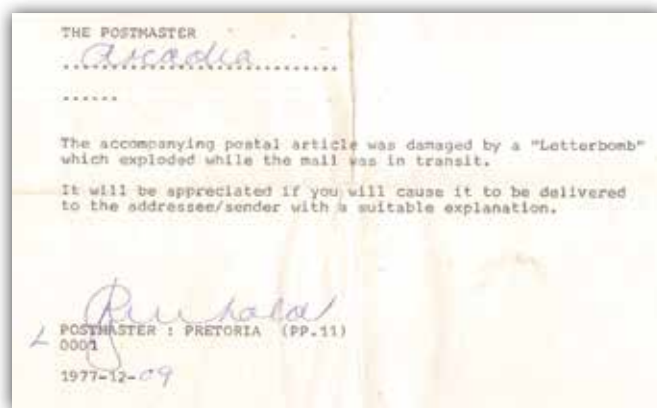


Fig.6: Note dated December 1977 from the Postmaster of the Head Office in Pretoria, informing the Postmaster of Arcadia, where the letter was originally registered, to inform and explain to the addressee that a 'letterbomb' exploded while the mail was in transit and damaged the letter.



Fig.4: Riot-damaged registered cover tied by MOZODO datestamp dated 15 June 1976 with handstamp 'DAMAGED DURING RIOTS JUNE 76 / BESKADIGTYDENS ONLUSTE JUNIE 76' and cachet inscribed 'ONDERSOEK / WITWATERSRAND INVESTIGATION / REGIONAL DIRECTOR'

In remembrance of these events, 16 June is now a public holiday in South Africa, named Youth Day. Mail from Mozodo Post Office in Soweto, which opened in 1966 and was destroyed by fire during the rioting of 1976, was disrupted. The cover shown in Fig.4 was recovered from the wreckage.

In 1977, the MK Central Operational Headquarters established the Transvaal Urban Machinery (TUM) in Maputo in neighbouring Mozambique. Infiltration of cadres from Mozambique into South Africa began in earnest that year. Small combat groups of two to three guerilla fighters armed with grenade launchers were sent to urban areas to carry out attacks under the direction of the internal leadership. This also had an impact on the delivery of mail in the area (Figs.5 & 6).

THE ROAD MOTOR TRANSPORT SERVICE SUSPENDED – 1987

In 1912, the first Road Motor Transport Service (RMT) was inaugurated between Bot River and Hermanus. From this modest beginning a vast national system arose which at its peak, served most of the remote corners of the country. This service operated as a road transportation network linked to the railway system. In 1980, the usefulness of the onboard letter-boxes was reassessed and even though the usage by then had dropped off considerably, it was decided not to do away with the service. Eventually, with the demise of the rail-letter system on 31 March 1994, its application to the Road Motor Services also fell away. In September 1987 the RMT service between Mount Edgecombe and Pietermaritzburg was suspended due to the heavy rains that pounded the northern parts of Natal. During the floods that year roads and bridges were swept away. A cachet was applied on the covers to inform the recipient that the mail had been rerouted and the service interrupted (Fig.7).



Fig.7: Cover posted from Mount Edgecombe on 1 September 1987 to Pietermaritzburg with a cachet indicating that this item was re-routed due to the fact that the Road Motor Transport Service to Pietermaritzburg was suspended.

MAIL SUSPENDED TO ANGOLA, ALGERIA AND SAUDI ARABIA

Angola

The Angolan Civil War (*Portuguese: Guerra Civil Angolana*) was a civil war in Angola, fought from 1975 up until 2002. Angola's independence from Portugal in November 1975 resulted in a power struggle between two former anti-colonial guerrilla movements, the communist People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (*Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola – Partido do Trabalho - MPLA*) and the anti-communist National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (*União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola - UNITA*). The war was used as a proxy battleground during the Cold War by rival states such as the Soviet Union, Cuba, South Africa and the United States.

Angola's membership of the African Postal Union was terminated on 31 August 1978. Simultaneously the surface-mail service from South Africa to Angola had been temporarily suspended probably because of the civil war in

that country during that period. It was announced in the *Post Office Bulletin* of July 1980 that the postal service to Angola had been suspended. It was also mentioned that the post office was compelled to take this action owing to the fact that the Postal Administration of Angola returned all mailbags dispatched from South Africa to that country during the last few months, unopened to Johannesburg (Fig.8).



Fig. 8: Cover posted from Pretoria to Angola on 16 October 1983 franked with 60c which was the rate for a 40g letter (4 x 15c = 60c) with cachet 'DIENS GESTAAK/ SERVICE SUSPENDED'. It was announced in the *Post Office Bulletin* of July 1992 that the air-mail letter post service to Angola had been resumed.

Algeria

The first ever post-independence multi-party parliamentary election held in Algeria on 26 December 1991, was cancelled due to a military coup executed by the Algerian People's National Army.

Elements within Algeria's armed forces expressed concerns that the Islamic Salvation Front (French: *Front Islamique du Salut*) would use its projected two-thirds majority at the polls to defeat the ruling National Liberation Front (French: *Front de Libération Nationale, FLN*) to form an Islamic state. The annulment of the elections precipitated the military coup which led to the Algerian Civil War, also known as 'the dirty war' (French: *la sale guerre*), which raged from 26 December 1991 to 08 February 2002.

The cancellation of the elections and the military coup before the election's second round in January 1992 led eventually to the declaration of a state of emergency in June 1992, the suspension of constitutional rights and the postponement of elections until December of that year. In the 7 year period of conflict, with Algeria's government led from 1995 by its president, General Liamine Zéroual, estimates vary between 60,000 and 100,000 deaths, among those government forces, insurgents and civilians who perished. Guerrilla infighting, insurgencies, massacres as well as self-defence militias vying for community survival were the order of the day, with the conflict coming to an effective end in February 2002 during the opening years of Abdelaziz Bouteflika's presidency (Fig.9).

Saudi Arabia

Normally, mail services are suspended for several reasons: at the request of the Postal Administration of that country, a natural disaster that disrupted infrastructure or a military conflict in the country or the region. In the case of the mail

service being suspended to Saudi Arabia nothing could be found in the *South African Post Office Bulletins* issued during that period announcing the suspension of the mail service to that country (Fig.10).

Readers are encouraged to share information that can lead to the reasons for the mail service from South Africa and probably other countries being suspended early in 1984.

Was this because of the aftermath of the war between Israel and Lebanon that disrupted the whole region?



Fig.10: Part cover posted from Cape Town to Saudi Arabia on 26 January 1984 with the correct Airmail-rate of 25c.

Note the cachet: 'SERVICE SUSPENDED / DIENS GESTAAK'.

Conclusion

Damaged and suspended mail is providing RSA postal history collectors with an interesting and unusual field of collecting.

Sources

- Hagen and Naylor, *Railway postal history of South Africa*, Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, Johannesburg, 1998.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algerian_Civil_War, retrieved 31.7. 2021.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angolan_Civil_War, retrieved 31.7. 2021.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli-Lebanese_conflict, retrieved 31 July 2021.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lufthansa_Flight_540, retrieved 31 July '21.
- South African Education Trust, *The Road to Democracy in South Africa*, Vol. 2. (1970-1980), UNISA, Pretoria, 2006.



Fig. 9: Cover posted from Humewood in Port Elizabeth on 18 September 1992 with the cachet applied: 'SERVICE SUSPENDED/DIENS GESTAAK'. The reason why the service was possibly suspended was due to the coup organised in 1992 in Algeria by General Khaled Nezzar - the hardline Minister of Defence.



Doreen Royan & Associates (Pty.) Ltd

(Established 1982)

Tel: + 27 11 706 1920

Email: royan@icon.co.za

Great Britain & British Commonwealth

Rarities Errors & Varieties

0832736383



A GOOD ADDRESS



by Alan Rose, East Rand Philatelic Society

Location, location, location, the desirability of a 'good address' is regularly impressed on house buyers by estate agents, maybe for social or commercial reasons, or the potential of a good resale value in the future. For the postman, a 'good address' has a totally different meaning; equally desirable, but it means an address that can be read easily and one that is complete.

Before postal services were available, correspondence was conveyed by a personal messenger who knew of the recipient and where he could be found. Addresses as we know them were not really necessary. However, once a public service was instituted, the scenario changed, as conveyance was by a third party who needed directions. That's what an address was, directions detailing where to make the delivery.

In the days when the Post Office gave a personal service, street deliveries of mail were the norm, usually two per day in residential areas, often more in big cities or commercial districts. Unfortunately, the postman's lot, like the policeman's, was not always a happy one, for often, the addresses he had to work with left much to be desired in terms of legibility and content.

For many decades mail was addressed by hand, and as we know, handwriting is a very personal characteristic and varies with the person. Schooling in handwriting was limited in early days and was initially restricted to the upper and professional classes, that is, the aristocracy, or the professions: the clergy, the law or medicine. (This is not to say that a title or a professional qualification was, or still is, any guarantee of a legible hand!). In consequence, postmen, including sorters, delivery men and all members of the handling chain, faced a daily battle to read and to interpret the graphic phenomena which passed as handwriting on the mail they handled. Such was the problem that most postal authorities were compelled to create departments dedicated to interpreting and deciphering addresses deemed undeliverable. In these circumstances my sympathy lies very much with the delivery man, wanting to do his job, but hindered by those he's trying to help.

To some people, letter writing is an art, to be enjoyed and performed graciously so their handwriting is neat and the address is as clear and precise as the content, Fig.1. For others, it is a chore to be completed as quickly as possible and the address is the last thing considered. Hand writing is something one does of necessity, there is no need to make an effort with it. The result is *griffonage*: defined in the dictionary as 'careless handwriting, crude and illegible scrawl', Fig.2. In retrospect, it is a credit to these postmen who, possibly with only a modest education, are able to decode such scribble, and keep the mail moving. Our modern pharmacists are pretty good at deciphering GPs' *griffonage* on their scripts, but the scrawl we find on covers and postcards of years ago would tax even the most erudite of these gentlemen.

How an address is written, that is, the legibility of the writing, is only half the battle; the content, or *what* is written is another struggle the postman has to contend with. The rough sorting: the country, state, province or county, and also the town is done by his colleagues earlier in the postal chain, but the final battle is left to the poor guy on the round. To enable his job, what he needs are the details: the number or name of the building the letters are destined for, and the street, road,



Figs.1a&b: Beautiful 'Copperplate' written address details - (possible with a quill or dip pen).



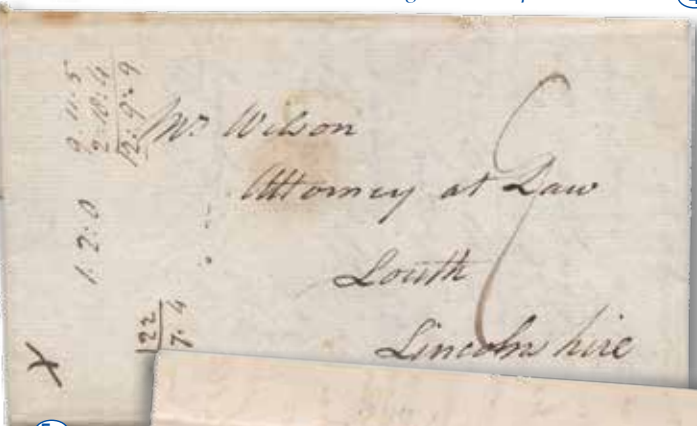
Figs.2a&b: A challenge for any Postman.



Figs.3a&b: Two examples of a 'Known' Company Addresses.

Fig.4: (at right) Every postman in Baltimore would have known the location of the Faultless Nightwear Corporation.

4



5a



5b



5c

Figs.5 a-c: Three examples of only local knowledge would help the postman find these addresses.

square or court where it is located. Regrettably, it is common that some of these components are missing or inadequate, leaving the postman to fall back on his local knowledge, general knowledge, maybe gut feel or ultimately Lady Luck.

Frequently, letter writers think that their correspondents are sufficiently well-known that just a name is adequate for the postman. Clearly, senders looked on postmen as thought readers. For commercial mail addressed to manufacturing companies, professional offices and business organisations, this is probably true. Coming under the heading of local knowledge, the whereabouts of these establishments are generally better known than those of individuals. The examples of Fig.3, despite their brevity, would not have been a problem, and surely every postman in Baltimore would have known the location of the Faultless Nightwear Corporation Fig.4.

However, individuals need more complete addresses, and it is evident that some senders think the addressee's name and title are sufficient for the Post Office, Figs.5.

They were taking a chance on these examples as it is unlikely that Mr Tucker or Heer Haan were the only legal offices in town, or that Mr Wilson was the only Attorney in an area the size of South Lincolnshire. In these circumstances local knowledge of the postman is the only answer.

An even more desperate situation arises when the writer gives only an individual's name and city, not even a job description, Fig.6. Then the problem really escalates. One might get away with this in a village, or even a small town where local knowledge would again come to the rescue, but to expect delivery to just a name in cities the size of Leipzig or Den Haag is stretching faith in the postal services to the limit. I'm sure there was more than one Heer Jager in Hilversum although possibly Mejuffrau Sonnaville was sufficiently well-known in Den Haag. Figure 7 illustrates the ultimate in hope, and frustration for the postman, when even the country is omitted. A sorter obviously took a chance on Australia.

Flattering as it is, the belief that postmen have the innate ability to extrapolate an address from the merest hint is not well founded. Having worked on the post in a temporary capacity I have only admiration for those who, in the days before automation when all mail was



Fig.6 a,b,c: Three samples - only individual's name and city, not even a job description - a challenging guessing game.

handled manually, had the ability, and the patience to decipher writing and to divine the intentions of senders. In smaller towns they also had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the names and locations of almost everyone in their community. These were definitely acquired skills which were learned on the job.

For the ultimate in simplicity one cannot better the address of the Duke of Wellington's residence, Apsley House in Piccadilly, London; this was 'Number 1, London'. He obviously thought this appropriate for the first residence of significance within the confines of the City of London when approaching from the west. It surely rivals the Royal Palaces! Without the luxury of celebrity status, a simpler, more commonsense solution has sometimes been adopted. The advice, 'if in doubt, spell it out' is well illustrated by the newspaper wrapper in Fig.8. The translation reads, 'Loosduinsche Weg, the un-numbered house next to the brewery diagonally over from the third bridge'. Unusual, but I'm sure their newspapers were delivered regularly.

These examples illustrate the problems caused by a 'poor address', and why, in earlier days, a postman really earned his wage. The modern 'postie' has a comparatively easy life. The advent of the typewriter, and in the mid 1900s the computer/word processor, were a godsend as the majority of the addresses with which he is confronted these days are now printed and quite legible. Box numbers have eliminated streets and post codes are unique to cities, towns and their larger suburbs so automated sorting has eliminated most of his interpretation problems. Further, as many addressees now collect their mail from their boxes themselves, his leg work is considerably reduced compared with former years.

Whilst technology has, in theory, improved our postal delivery services, when it comes to a 'good address', I confess to finding something like Fig.9 to be infinitely more attractive than a PO Box number, regardless of how more efficient the latter is claimed to be.

Unfortunately, even when there is a good address, legible, precise and complete, Murphy is still around, Fig.10.

Fig.7.



Fig.8.



Fig.9.



Fig.10.

abacus auctions

Stamps & Postal History, Coins & Banknotes, Sporting Memorabilia & Collectables

We invite you to participate ...

We will be conducting several major specialised auctions throughout 2022 and invite you to contact us as soon as possible with a view to consigning suitable material for -

Australian Colonies Postal History featuring *Dale Forster's* Loose Ship Letters

India featuring Convention & Feudatory States

South Africa & Provinces featuring *John Fletcher's* Cape of Good Hope & Transvaal



Stamps, Postal History & Picture Postcards Public Auction 10-12 November 2021



In addition to the specialised auctions, a full programme of Live Online & Public Auctions is planned for the remainder of 2021 and throughout 2022. Please contact us to arrange a complimentary, no-obligation appraisal of your **Stamps, Postal History, Picture Postcards, Coins & Banknotes, Sporting Memorabilia and General Collectables**. We are available to visit you for consignments of higher value/greater size with free transport & insurance.

abacus  auctions

29 Hardner Road
Mount Waverley, Victoria, 3149
AUSTRALIA

Post Office Box 296
Mount Waverley, Victoria, 3149
AUSTRALIA

Phone: +61 3 8513 0595
Email: info@abacusauctions.com.au
Web: www.abacusauctions.com.au

SENDING MONEY HOME

SOUTH AFRICA TO SEKAKES, LESOTHO DURING 1972 AND 1973

by Dr Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria,
email: louwrence@erasmus.org.za



Introduction

I bought a number of RSA registered covers on the internet in 2018. I paid a couple of cents per cover. After taking a closer look at them, I saw that most of them had been sent from industrial centres in South Africa and they were all destined to Sekakes in Lesotho. Later I acquired another batch of covers sent from RSA to Sekakes from a friend. I exhibited at SAVPEX '19 a one framer with the major findings of my study on these covers. The one framer was also exhibited in the invited exhibition section of the ER100 as an example of a frugal philatelic exhibit in which the ink and paper cost more than the philatelic material on display. I did not pay more than ZAR20 for the 29 covers in the one frame exhibit. I later decided to do a more thorough study on the 262 covers I have and see what philatelic information emerged from such a study. This article is the results of that study.

Historical Background

Migrant labourers from neighbouring countries were part of the South African industrial scene for more than a century. In particular, post 1920, the various mining houses actively recruited migrant labour through Mine Labour Organisations: Wenela Ltd and NRC Ltd. Labourers sent money to their families using the postal system, commercial banks and miners also used Wenela. Money sent by mail was sent to post offices or postal agencies close to where family members lived in neighbouring countries.

The covers I held had contained money sent from various places in South Africa back to family members living in Sekakes during the last two years of this practice, during 1972 - 1973. In September 1973, all Lesotho mine workers were sent back to their country of origin because of the eruption of riots on mines during the month.

Letters sent to the Sekakes postal agency had been opened in Sekakes Store. The amount inside the letter was written on the cover (Figs 2,3&4). Covers were kept as proof of receipt.

Rates and Regulations

According to the *Post Office Bulletin* no. 55 (Special) of 3 March 1971, the same postal rates were applicable for sending mail in South Africa and to Lesotho in 1972 and 1973.

A small registered envelope cost 4c. The surface mail postal charge was 14c, calculated as 4c surface mail rate + 10c registration fee. The airmail postal charge 15c, calculated as 5c airmail rate + 10c registration fee.

The total cost for sending money to Lesotho, irrespective of the amount of money sent, was therefore 18c via surface mail and 19c via airmail.

Routes

Previously, Scott (1980) reported three routes used for mail entering Lesotho from South Africa enroute to Sekakes, namely:

1. Johannesburg - Maseru - Semonkong - Qachas Nek - Sehapas - Sekakes
2. Bloemfontein - Maseru - Semonkong - Qachas Nek - Sehapas - Sekakes
3. Matatiele - Qachas Nek - Sehapas - Sekakes

Maseru is the capital city of Lesotho, established in 1869. It is also the *camptown* (capital) of the Maseru District. It is located on the Caledon River on the Lesotho-South Africa border. The name means 'place of red sandstones'. The Maseru Post Office opened on 1 January 1872.

Qachas Nek is, since 1888, the *camptown* of Qachas Nek District in Lesotho, only two kilometres from the South African border. Qacha (Nghatja) was a son of Moroosi (the chief of the BaPhuthi clan.) The Qachas Neck Post Office opened in 1892.

Sekakes is a village in the Qachas Nek District. It was named after a son of Mosothoane. The postal agency was located in the Sekakes Store and under the control of the Qachas Nek post office. The Sekakes postal agency opened in 1931, closed later and re-opened again on 1 December 1954.

	Maseru	Qachas Neck	Sekakes
Johannesburg	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by airmail on South African Airways		
Bloemfontein	Daily by train		
Pietermaritzburg		Daily by train to Matatiele, daily by Newman's Bus from Matatiele	
Maseru		Wednesdays and Fridays by airmail via Semonkong	
Qachas Neck			Twice a week via Sehapas by Newman's Bus

Table 1: Mail dispatch (Based on Scott (1980))

Postmarks

All the covers cancelled at Sekakes received the Sekakes postal cancellation, without a time code, introduced in 1931 (Fig.1). The latest use in this study is 14 September 1973 (Fig.4).

No postmarks were applied at Shehapas, Semonkong, Matatiele or Jan Smuts Airport / Johannesburg.

Most covers enroute to Sekakes, received cancellation at the post office of origin and the major sorting centres, i.e. Bloemfontein, Pietermaritzburg, Maseru and Qachas Nek.



Fig.1

Other Markings

Registered Covers received one of four types of registered labels, i.e. a white paper label with registration number printed in blue and the post office name, a purple, black or pink ink stamp with the post office name and the registration number written in by hand. Also on the covers was an internal filing number written by hand.

Except for one cover, all covers have the amount of money that had been sent written on them.

Potential Number of Covers

The number of covers sent during 1972 and 1973 has been estimated using the following method:

- Estimate the number of people from Lesotho working in RSA in 1972 and 1973.
- Estimate the fraction of the population lived in Sekakes in these years and the number of households.
- Estimate the number of people in Sekakes that worked in RSA.
- Assume each person had sent money back home fortnightly.

Based on Census data for Lesotho, between 30 and 70 people worked at any time in the RSA during 1972 to 1973. At most 820 envelopes were sent in 1972.

Because of the mining riots during September 1973, the estimate is 590 envelopes were sent in 1973.

STUDY RESULTS

Overall

A total of 262 envelopes were examined in this study. Seventy-one covers sent from 8 February 1972 to 28 December 1972 were used to send a minimum of R2,00 and a maximum of R40,00. This is 8,66% the estimated number of covers sent in 1972.

One hundred ninety one covers were sent from 4 January 1973 to 10 September 1973 to send a minimum of R2,00 and a maximum of R60,00. This is 32,4% of the estimated number of covers sent in 1973.

During 1972 and 1973 two covers were used to send R2,00 and one cover to send R60,00. The average amount sent is R13,95 and not a good statistical parameter to use in this study as no cover carried this amount. Rather, the mode is calculated to find the amount most sent, i.e. 35,9% or 94 covers were used to send R10,00.

The earliest cover in the study was sent from Naglewood in the Durban area with R6 cash in it with a purple ink hand stamped registration label bearing the no. 9356 on Tuesday, 8 February 1972. The latest cover in the study was sent from Musgrave Road in Durban with a paper registration label no. 3847 on Monday, 10 September 1973 (Fig.4).

The greatest number of envelopes sent from the originating post offices was 7 on 29 May 1973. The greatest number of envelopes arriving at Sekakes on one day was 12 on 10 August 1973.

Originating Post Offices

The provinces that mail originated from are shown in Table 2. The highest number of covers were sent from Natal followed by Transvaal. Only three covers were mailed from the Cape Province.

CENTRE	No of covers
Cape Province	3
Orange Free State	74
Natal	99
Transvaal	86

Table 2: Mail originating per Province

The top 5 originating centres are shown in Table 3, and 193 covers originate from them. The top three centres are all where large mining activities are concentrated, namely the Orange Free State goldfields, coalfields of Natal and the Klerksdorp goldfields. Durban and Natal Midlands are centres for factories, domestic workers/gardeners, farm workers and store workers.

CENTRE	No of covers
OFS Goldfields	74
Coalfields of Natal	47
Klerksdorp Goldfields	31
Durban	21
Natal Midlands	20

Table 3: Top 5 centres that covers were sent from

The highest number of the covers in the Orange Free State Goldfields originated from Pansig, followed by Waterskag, Table 4.

POST OFFICE	No of covers
Allanridge	1
Eerstemyn	7
Motse-Thabong	1
Pansig	22
Tikwe	1
Tweedemyn	4
Virginia	7
Waterskag	20
Welkom	11

Table 4: Post Offices in the Orange Free State Goldfields

The highest number of the covers in the Coalfields of Natal originated from Coronation, followed by Durnacol and Nagagane, Table 5.

POST OFFICE	No of covers
Ballengeich	3
Coronation	9
Durnacol	7
Elandslaagte	5
Emgala	4
Glencoe	2
Hlobane	2
Ladysmith Natal	1
Langkrans	3
Ngagane	7
Utrecht	2
Wasbank	2

Table 5: Post Offices in the Coalfields of Natal

In the Klerksdorp Goldfields the highest number of the covers originated from Orkney, followed by Koekemoer and Vaal Reef, Table 6.

POST OFFICE	No of covers
Befula	1
Koekemoer	4
Liphakoeng	3
Orkney	16
Vaal Reef	4
Glencoe	3
Zuiping	2

Table 6: Post Offices in the Klerksdorp Goldfields

Route via Bloemfontein to Maseru

A total of 5 covers have been positively identified to travel on this route, three in 1973 and two in 1972. The covers all have a Bloemfontein 29 cancellation. The covers originate from the following post offices: Coronation, Durnacol, Koekemoer Stasie/Station, Liphakoneng and Tweedemyn (Fig.2).



Fig.2.



Fig.3.

Route Johannesburg to Maseru

A total of 20 covers were flown from Johannesburg to Maseru on South African Airways, ten in 1972 and nine in 1973. The covers originate from Alunsa, Blyvooruitsig, 2x Highgold, Libanon, Lynn East, Mabopane, 2x Marieshaft, Motse-Motse, 2x Ngagane, Northlands, Penge, 2x Schapenrust, Stubenvale and 3x Tornaka (Fig.3). Only the cover from Libanon had postage of 15c to pay for airmail, all the other covers had postage of 14c paid for surface mail, but were carried by airmail.



Fig.4.

Route Pietermaritzburg to Qachas Nek

A total 238 covers were sent via Pietermaritzburg to Qachas Nek, 59 in 1972 and 179 in 1973. The only cover paid for airmail was carried by surface mail over Pietermaritzburg from Khotso (Fig.4)

Days on which mail was handled

In Table 7, it can be seen that the covers were mailed throughout the week, with the highest number of covers mailed on a Friday and the least on a Sunday. Pietermaritzburg sorted mail seven days a week as did Maseru. Qachas Nek sorted only Mondays to Fridays mail. Sekakes received mail most of the time on Tuesdays and Fridays. If the information in Table 1 is accurate, then it can be deduced that there are a potential 13

more covers that actually travelled by train from Bloemfontein and were not carried by airmail from Johannesburg as initially identified. From this it can be deduced that only a potential eight covers actually were carried by airmail.

How long did it take?

The minimum time it took for mail from South Africa to Sekakes was 4 days for 60 covers. A further 60 covers took 7 days to arrive in Sekakes. It took 8 days for 50 covers and 11 days for 15 covers. In 1972 one cover took 14 days and in 1973 one cover took 37 days.

Between Qachas Nek and Sekakes 21 envelopes took only 1 day. It took 87 covers 4 days. In 1972 five covers took a maximum of 8 days and in 1973 one cover took a maximum of 18 days.

Conclusion

This study presents descriptive statistics for the mail from various industrial centres in South Africa to Sekakes in Lesotho. The study also led to the cataloging of 262 registered covers. This article presents an estimate of 820 and 590 covers that were mailed to Sekakes from South Africa in 1972 and 1973 respectively.

This is an interesting postal history collection and further study could unearth more interesting items, especially in the historic context of the widespread industry strikes in Natal and the mining riots during 1972 and 1973.

Day	1st PO	2nd PO	3rd PO	BFN	PMB	Maseru	Qachas Nek	Sekakes
Monday	33	7	1	1	26	4	78	8
Tuesday	62	22	3	0	35	5	50	102
Wednesday	40	25	0	1	30	3	49	9
Thursday	48	20	0	0	25	1	39	0
Friday	37	10	0	2	28	5	38	136
Saturday	39	13	0	0	27	6	8	7
Sunday	3	2	2	1	52	1	0	0
Total	262	99	6	5	223	25	262	262

Table 7: Days and number of covers handled per post office

Bibliography

- Harington, JS and McGlashan, ND and Chelkowska, 'A Century of migrant labour in the gold mines of South Africa', The Journal of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, p 65-71, March 2004.
- *Post Office Bulletin*, No 55 (Special), 3 March 1971, Pretoria: Public Relations.
- Scott, AH, *The Cancellations & Postal Markings of Basutoland/Lesotho Post Offices & Their Historical Background*, Sea Point, South Africa: Collectors Mail Auctions (Pty) Ltd, 1980
- Lesotho Government, 2016 Census Summary, <http://www.bos.gov.ls/2016%20Summary%20Key%20Findings.pdf>
- Gordon, E., 'An analysis of the impact of labour migration on the lives of women in Lesotho', The Journal of Development Studies, 17:3, 59-76, 1981, DOI:10.1080/00220388108421798
- Murray, C., *Families Divided: The Impact of Migrant Labour in Lesotho*, Cambridge University Press, 1981.



The Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition from 8 to 12 November 2022.



Website: www.capetown2022.org

LONDON
2022
15 TO 26 FEBRUARY

INTERNATIONAL
STAMP EXHIBITION
19-26 FEBRUARY 2022






Revisiting the 2d Unhyphenated Rotogravure interrupted Printing

by M.J.H. Tonking RDPSA, SA Collectors in the UK

During the seven year life of the 2d 'unhyphenated' rotogravure postage stamps (1931-1938) three instances of interrupted printing are recorded.

The first occurs on Issue 1 in which case the frames were either completely or partially missing (Fig.1a & b). Reported in *The South African Philatelist* of September 1931, the frame is missing on 12 stamps on the block illustrated. It is surmised that this was caused by a stray piece of paper being in the roll of paper from which the stamps were printed.

The second interrupted printing occurred on Issue 2. The first example (Fig.2a) shows the partial printing of the frame and the second partial printing of the vignettes (Fig.2b).

The third and final example is found in Issue 3, where it is known to have occurred on a single sheet number 0157 where the frame is partially or totally missing extended from rows 13 to 17 across the full width of the sheet (Fig.3 illustrated on next page). It is possible that other examples exist which are not recorded here.

Fig.1a: Issue 1. Illustration taken from the 'SAP' September 1931 shows sheet number 3977 and part of small arrow at the bottom left of row 20/4.

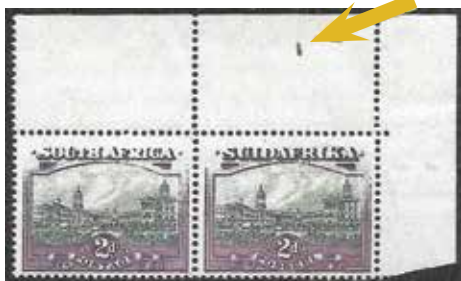


Fig.2b: Issue 2 - Watermark upright, Row 12/5 - Dot in left scroll. Also shows perforator adjustment between rows 11 and 12.

Colour Trial

What is considered to be a colour trial exists which was printed from unscreened cylinders. The interior cylinder number is unknown, however discrete flaws indicates that the exterior cylinder used was '1x' as used for Issue 1 of the first issue. The frame was mauve and the vignette sepia in colour.

The vignette design was slightly too



Fig.1b: Issue 1. Row 19/6 - Dot in gutter below left scroll. Early printing - eleventh row flaw - mark in Early printing since 'extended spires' absent.

Fig.2a: Issue 2. Partly missing frames Watermark inverted. Row 1/6 - Grey mark in top margin



Fig.4: Rows 13 and 14 stamps 1 and 2. Row 13/1 - Purple dot at right leg of last 'A' of Africa.

Row 13/2 - Purple dot in right outer frame.

Row 14/1 - Purple dot to right outer frame, purple dot to right of 'L' of Posseel.

Row 14/2 - Purple dot to right of 'E' of Postage.



Watermark inverted.

Row 15/6 - two dots in 'd' of 2d.

16

17

18

Sheet number 3977.

19

20

Perforator junction.



Fig.3: Issue 3.
Upright watermark.

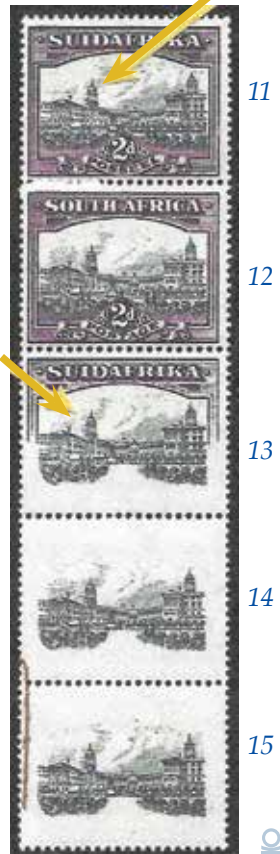
Vertical Row 4

small for the frame and it was probably for this reason that it was withdrawn after only a small quantity had been printed

(Fig.4 illustrated on p156).

Row 11/4 - purple dot to right of left tower.

Row 13/4 Grey dots to left of left tower.



References

- *The South African Philatelist* September 1931.
- *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1962.* S.J. Hagger RDPSA 1986.



The 83rd PFSA Congress is planned to take place together with the **VRIJSTAAT 2021 NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION**

in Bloemfontein, happening 21 - 23 Oct '21 and includes JUNASS 2021.

OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY BLOEMFONTEIN PRESENTS: VRIJSTAAT 2021 NATIONAL EXHIBITION



a commemorative cover will be available featuring the specially designed cancellor and exhibition logo for only R15 each.



Accommodation as well as this events venue - Kopano Nokeng Country Lodge & Conference Centre. 14 Maselspoort Road, Midway, Bloemfontein Tel: 051 813 913

Kopano Nokeng
COUNTRY LODGE &
CONFERENCE CENTRE

Tel: +27 (51) 813 9130
Fax: 086 656 1906
www.kopanonokeng.co.za
Maselspoort Road, Midway,
BLOEMFONTEIN, Free State

CONFERENCE & EVENTS
events@kopanonokeng.co.za
GUESTHOUSE & RESTAURANT
admin@kopanonokeng.co.za

The Anglo Boer War



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

The war between Great Britain on one hand and the Republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State on the other, gave rise to a number of provisional issues by British forces. They were, generally, but not exclusively, of little more than local validity (Fig.1).

The Mafeking Local Post was formed to carry mail between the defences during the siege of the town from 13 October 1899 to 17 May 1900.

Two stamps were produced by photography on ferro-prussiate paper, hence the famous blue colour (Fig.2). The 1d value depicted Sergeant-Major Goodyear on a bicycle while the 3d showed the garrison Commander, General Baden-Powell. Overprints on Bechuanaland and Cape of Good Hope stamps were used on mail from Mafeking carried by native runner through enemy lines (Fig.3).

Fig.2.



Fig.3.

British forces occupied Wolmaransstad in June 1900 but found the Boers had removed all the stamps. A local firm came to the rescue with their stock of Transvaal stamps and, with a finely positioned overprint on the Penny Post commemorative, provided a figurative cancellation to the Z.A.R. (Fig.5).

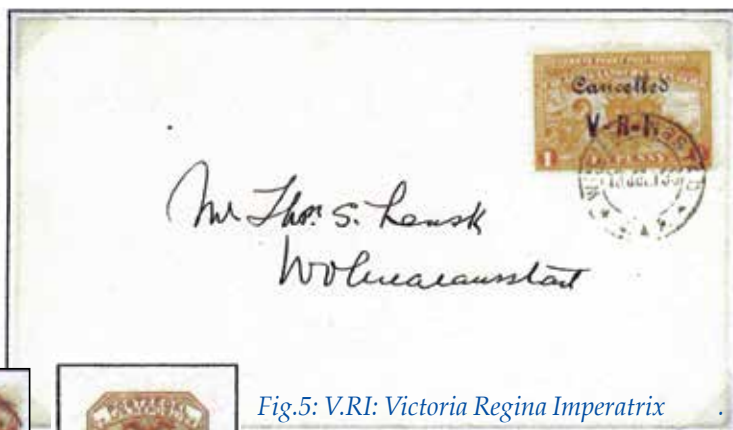
The overprint (Fig.4), was authorised in August 1900 by the British Commander during the five month siege of Schweizer-Reneke.

Fig.4.



Fig.6.

Fig.5: V.R.I: Victoria Regina Imperatrix



being in the Mosely Collection at the British Museum (Fig.10).

As the British forces, after initial heavy losses, began to gain the upper hand, the Boers

Rustenburg was relieved in June, 1900, by Baden-Powell after a short siege by a large Boer force. With only stamps of the Z.A.R. available, a 'V.R.' overprint appeared the patriotic British residents (Fig.6). Shortly before the end of the War in 1902, revenue stamps of the Transvaal overprinted 'V.R.I.' could be used as postage stamps in Volksrust in case of shortages (Fig.7). In this copy, 6d would have represented the local rate, 2d, plus 4d registration fee. When Captain Labouchere entered the town of Lydenburg in September 1900 there were no 3d stamps available and he therefore had 2400 copies of the 1d surcharged (Fig.8).



Fig.7.



Fig.8.

Stamps were issued by the Boers for the First and Second Republics (1869-77 and 1892-1900) and these are represented separately. The exigencies of the War prompted certain local issues and these tend to reflect the fluctuating fortunes of the Boer forces.



Fig.10.

1. Pietersburg
2. Pretoria
3. Machadodorp
4. Carolina
5. Lake Chrissie
6. Vryburg-Cape
7. Ermelo
8. Paulpietersburg

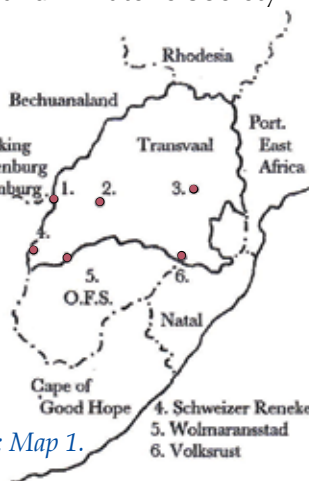


Fig.1: Map 1.

At the time that Pietersburg was falling to the British, the East Highveld Postal Service - the *Oos-Hoëveldse Posdiens* - linked Ermelo and Carolina as well as Lake Chrissie, Piet Retief and Paulpietersburg, previously Paulpietersdorp and, until 1903, in the Transvaal (Fig.9). Not having a printing press, they produced typewritten stamps for the service in April 1901 and, as at Pietersburg, they were authenticated by a postal official, in this case Jan van der Bergen, then a telegraphist at the *Hoofdlager* - Headquarters - at Ermelo.

This copy appears to have been cancelled with the postbag seal of (Paul)pietersdorp. In 1981, only twenty copies in all of the seven values in three types were on record, twelve of these

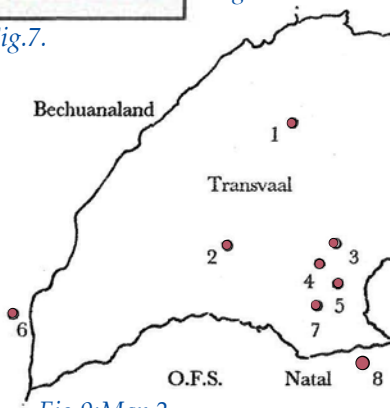


Fig.9: Map 2.

retreated into the Eastern Transvaal. While the temporary government was in Machadodorp a postal card was produced on board a train by the 'Staatsdrukkerij te velde' - State Printers in the field. The town fell to the British later in 1900 (Fig.11: see next page).

The town of Vryburg was occupied by Boer forces from November 1899 until May 1900. The Z.A.R. overprint on stamps of the Cape of Good Hope stood for the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek*. Note the



Fig.11.



Fig.12.



Fig.13.

absence of a reference to the Cape in the postmark. Later, Transvaal stamps were also overprinted. (Fig.12). Pietersburg, for a while the H.Q. of the Boer Government, ran short of stamps at the end of 1900.

After an attempt to do without, the local newspaper of the day - 'Die Zoutpansberg Wagter' - was authorised by President Kruger to produce a typeset issue which, initialled by I.T. de V. Smit, Controller of Posts, was in use in March and April of 1901 (Fig.13).

Although predominantly of a 'local' nature, most provisional issues during the Anglo Boer War have achieved catalogue status and in turn thereby a degree of respectability. Here are certain issues which have yet to acquire such a listing. In his book 'Transvaal Philately', the late Major Ian Mathews stated that revenue stamps of the Transvaal were surcharged for postal use at Zeerust by Lord Edward Cecil while the postal administration was in the hands of British officers, approximately May to July 1900 (ex Mathews) (Fig.14).



Fig.15: Map 3.

The British Reoccupation of Vryburg occurred in May 1900 (Fig.15). A few Transvaal stamps were overprinted 'V.R. Special Post' as reported in Gibbons. These were supplemented by a number of Cape stamps which the commander of the British forces - Clifford St. Quentin - had struck with a Vryburg C.G.H. canceller and to which he added his initials in place of the date slugs (Fig.16).

A letter from Colonel Cavaye, the Commandant of Kuruman, dated 7 March 1901, describes the purchase and surcharging of £10's worth of stamps from the local postmaster (Fig.17).

These were to be used by dispatch riders when communications were cut by the Boers.

They were never put to use and were in due course returned to the postmaster whereupon they were cancelled by favour, thus qualifying for the description "authorised but never issued".



Fig.16.



Fig.14.



Fig.17.

Ladysmith was besieged by the Boers from 1 November 1899 to 28 February 1900. A siege post office was set up by General Sir Archibald Hunter of the Natal Field Force on 6 February. The two-line garrison hand stamp was fashioned from worn metal type. Usage between 23 and 27 February is not frequently encountered (Fig.18).



Fig.18.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE

New book chronicling the role of Missionaries of the Paris Missionary Society in Barotsiland (Northern Rhodesia) to 1924. Some 420 pages, hard bound And fully illustrated in colour with French / English translations.

Of relevance to the Postal Historian and the Social Historian. A wonderful window into the role of missionaries in Southern and Central Africa at the turn of the century Price in Southern Africa : R700 includes Courier delivery within South Africa.

Order and enquiries by e-mail to

patf@fgprop.com



ALSO AVAILABLE NOW : Rhodesian Philately to 1924
720 pages full colour - Published by the Royal Philatelic Society London
- enquiries patf@fgprop.com

JUST RELEASED

Rhodesian Philately to 1924

The British South Africa Company Period



Brian Trotter RDPSA FRPSL
Colin Hoffman RDPSA FRPSL
Patrick Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL

NEW PUBLICATION "RHODESIAN PHILATELY TO 1924 THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY PERIOD"

This 720 page, full colour, hard bound book on the philatelic aspects of the British South Africa Company in Rhodesia to 1924, provides an overview of the postal history, stamps, and revenues of the period and much more.

Published by the Royal Philatelic Society London, a limited number of copies are now available in South Africa, through Patrick Flanagan FRPSL, RDPSA.

Details from patf@fgprop.com

BILL BARRELL LTD

'List 162 - Made in Britain'



Considered to be one of the best retail price lists offering GB postal history, stamps and literature with many unusual items from all reigns.

Accurate descriptions

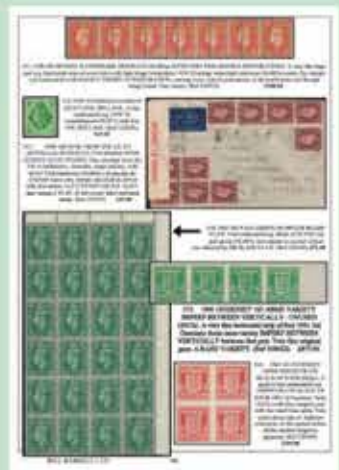
Competitive prices from a few pounds to thousands.

Fully illustrated

Lots of information

Totally free!

Please contact us for your copy.



Bill Barrell Ltd, PO Box 10494, Grantham,
 Lincolnshire, NG31 0HS,
 United Kingdom, 01476 594698
 e-mail: bill@barrell.co.uk website: www.barrell.co.uk

SOCIETY DETAILS

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

It is important to note that not all Societies have returned to having their regular meetings during this time of lockdown, they do, however, welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website www.stampssa.africa



Philatelic Meetings of The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

As a result of moving to Corona-19 level 2 on 12.09.2021, the gates of both Auckland Park and Woodmead now close at 21h30. Meetings at both venues now start at 19h00 and finish at 21h00. Wits meetings continue at the Johannesburg Country Club on Wednesdays as follows:

- 13 Oct - 2nd Competitive evening,
- 10 Nov - Invited Exhibitor,
- 8 Dec - President's Evening & Cocktail Party.

You can contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA, for further information 082 722 7604.

WOODMEAD Informal Study Group

please send all communication to haschaff@iafrica.com

Meetings at this venue are held on the last Wednesday of each month. Meetings now start at 19h00 and, if you intend dining before the meeting, please meet in the Club Room at Auckland Park or the members' restaurant at Woodmead at 18h00.

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 and Society Secretary:* Alex Visser. alex.visser@up.ac.za Box 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927

DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING

Sekretaresse: Gerrie Conradie
082 952 6700.
Tel / Faks 044 698 1074.
epos: gajcon@gmail.com



AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Aangename en aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter: Dr. Louwrence Erasmus. Sekretaris: Ronel Erasmus. Kontak: Herman van Niekerk by hinvestasta@gmail.com of 072 446 2501

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr,
Tel: 011 789 6357

Until it is considered safe to gather indoors, the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg will at hold monthly Zoom meetings. Anyone interested in joining these meetings should contact Clive Carr directly.



BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Werner Barnard;
email: president@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 0825670353 (a.h.);
email: secretary@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za
Website: <http://bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za>
Contact the Secretary for Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN



Email: <https://stampssa.africa/rpsct/home/>
President: Ida Potgieter
email: matheyc58@gmail.com
cell: 074 333 4646
Secretary: Victor Millard 0828028882
or *email:* millardvg@gmail.com

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

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



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 021 689 5050
email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



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: davesyoung@gmail.com
Secretary: Volker Janssen.
Website: www.fhps.info



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.
PostNet Suite #11,
Private Bag X0002, The Fig Tree, Charlo, 6033 PORT ELIZABETH
Daytime Meetings - 10h30/11h00 to 13h00 at same venue.
Dates: 4.Oct; 4.Nov; No December meeting - reserved for President's Christmas party.



STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Meetings: First Tuesday, every month, 19:00 at Le Donjon, Recreation Hall, La Clemence, Webersvallei Rd, Stellenbosch. *Contact via email:* stellenboschstamp@gmail.com



CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE
ISRAEL PHILATELY

Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef
<akatzef@mweb.co.za>
+27 (21) 4615134 *President of CASPIP.*

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909 EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: David Preston
082 7742090.
email: presteetelkomsa.net
Secretary: Carlos Da Fonseca
082 334 7603.



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: David Wigston
email: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Hammerton
hampaul@ananzi.co.za



WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374.
Chairman/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

HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN

The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join and get involved in this social hobby of Kings. *German Restaurant open for lunch.*
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

Smalls' Corner

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

WANTED: A 44 year old teacher and Mongolian Philatelic Union member who has collected for over 30 years is looking for good philatelic friends from South Africa. Offering in exchange Mongolian mint stamps 1960-1991 against mint stamps from your country. Condition of exchanged :1. Please, write in English or Russian. If you do not speak these languages, please use # in the 'Scott' or 'Michel' catalogues. Jigjid Gantsogt. P.O.Box-314. UlaanBaatar-38. Mongolia.

WANTED : An advanced collector of the 1/2c (Kingfisher) value of RSA 1st Definitive, looking for following:

- Group1 -Issue1 (SACC 197)- proving strip with no numbers on margin.
- Group2-Issue2 (SACC236a)- Sheet numbers missing on G7 9 16A block.
- Group3-Issue1 (SACC281)-block of 6 of the B or D panes with sheet numbers below either stamps 2 & 3 or 1/2&3 or 1&2.
- Group3-Issue2 (SACC287)- 1st distribution-Swiss 5mm. Full sheets of B and C Panes.
- SACC 287d - 3mm Harrison-tete-beche but REVERSE WATERMARK on B and D panes.

Contact Phidias Chrysochou at p.chrysochou@absamail.co.za or 0827880187

WANTED: Homelands commercially used covers and reprints of definitives MNH: Contact Ralf Kollmann. Email: ralf.kollmann@gmx.de

FOR SALE: (many more titles available*) - Contact Emil Minnaar. 063 803 3536

- The Tete-Beche varieties of Transvaal, *Drysdall & Criddle* - Hard cover 44p; R350.
- Transvaal - the Provisional Issues of the 1st British Occupation. *Drysdall - Hard cover 86p; R400.*
- Transvaal - Revenue & Telegraph Stamps. *Drysdall - Hard cover 188 p; R400.*
- Transvaal Postage Stamps + colour plates. *Curle & Basden - Hard cover 154p; R1500.*
- The Encyclopaedia of SA Post Offices & Postal Agencies - 4 Volumes *Ralph Putzel; R2400.*
- Ceylon - Camps for Boer Prisoners - their Postal History. *Richard Stroud 1989 - Soft cover 132p; R400.*
- History of Medical & Hospital Services of the Anglo-Boer War - *Peter Prime 1998 - Soft cover 182p; R450.*
- South African Postal Slogans - *S.J. Vermaak 1979 (As new) soft cover; R200.* *Resident in Gordon's Bay Western Cape - Packaging & Posting extra

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings and auctions are held at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Rd, Bluff, Durban on every 2nd Saturday and last Saturday of each month. Contacts: *President:* Fonda Sonitus 074 347 1388 *Vice President:* Zbigniew Kawecki 079 465 7468. zkawecki57@gmail.com Alternatively, email the Secretary at philatelicocietykzn@gmail.com for more details on meetings, auctions, sales packets and membership. Everyone is welcome and committee members are always on hand to give advice about evaluations and philately. The club has a very successful Study Group focusing on specific topics. These meetings are held two weeks after the general meeting at 09h00 for 09h30. Please use the contacts above for more details of topics.



THEMATICS SOUTH AFRICA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Vibrant and active group - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. *Group Leader:* Helena Snyman Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za



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: aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com
2. *President:* Dave Wyllie. davewyllie37@outlook.com
3. Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

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

Chairperson: Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com
Secretary: Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com
Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, corner 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.

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 South African representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

Now amalgamated with the EDENVALE Philatelic Society.

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: secretarypmsg@gmail.com

THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall, Usually first Saturday of every month (09:00 - 12:30) *Contact:* Ken Joseph. 072 597 1287 email: ken@philatelicfriends.com

Comic Corner

Stamps that make you SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 66 Errors on Stamps...

'EXTENSION OF LIFE'



The West-African Republic of Gambia issued a commemorative stamp series of international entertainment artists in November 1988.

The D2.50 stamp shows a portrait of the Russian-born actor of stage and film - Yul Brynner, a famous artist and film director of his time.

He also was an activist for UNESCO and Terre des Hommes. Born 1920, more than 100 years ago on the island of Sachalin and died at age 65 in 1985 in New York. The wrong dates on this stamp, he was born five years earlier in 1915 and lived two years longer to 1987 !

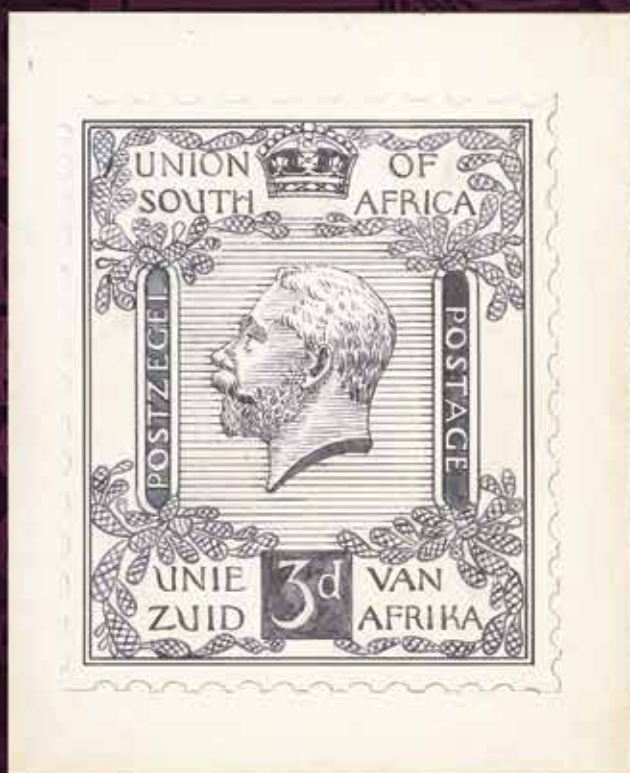
SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

IMPORTANT STAMPS AND COVERS OF THE WORLD

7 October 2021 | 10am BST | London | RPSL

An important, unique and highly attractive set that would hugely enhance a collection of this era.



LOT 41

1913 eleven hand-painted essays submitted for the new Definitive Union postage stamps, each executed in various colours on pieces with simulated perforations on Cordall's Bristol Board (157x194mm)

Estimate: £18,000-£20,000

For further information please contact:

Nick Startup | nstartup@spink.com | +44 207 563 4073

David Parsons | dparsons@spink.com

Ian Shapiro | ishapiro@spink.com

SPINK LONDON

67-69 Southampton Row | WC1B 4ET

Follow us #SPINK_AUCTIONS



WWW.SPINK.COM

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps

THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 97:6. 969

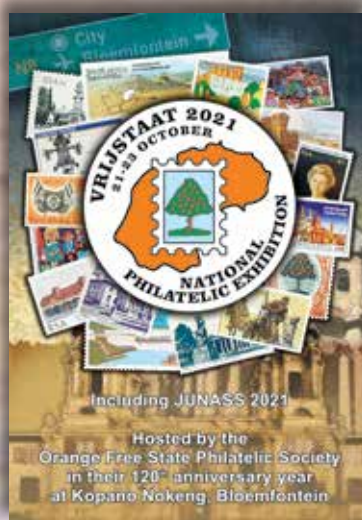
www.stampssa.africa



Opened out cover from Paoting, China to New Modderfontein Gold Mine, Benoni, posted on 3 January 1906



Celebrating the festival



Report from the 83rd Congress and Vrijsstaat National Stamp Show



North America's most expensive stamp

The SA Post Office since 1961

Part 6: Registered Mail



ISSN 0038-2566

South Africa

Fine Stamps, Proofs, Varieties & Covers



www.filat.ch

What have you been missing?

Filat AG



Always Free Shipping... Worldwide!

The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
www.stampssa.africa

REGULARS

- 167 Closing dates for future issues
- 168 Letters to the Editorial Board welcome
- 170 Phun with Postmarks
- 202 Society details & 'Smalls'
- 203 Errors on Stamps

FEATURES

- 168 PFSA - Federation News
by C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA
- 169 Five changes coming to Post Offices
- 171 Obituary - *Dr Nic Zerbst RDPSA*,
- 172 Christmas Island
by Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL, RNPC
- 172 BOOK: Beyond the Sea: Maritime Mail before 1878
by Paul Wijnants IPHF FRPSL
- 174 *Lepidopterous* philately: Chinese postal stationery – a word of caution
by Henk Geertsema
- 176 Various Aspects of the Postal System of the Republic of South Africa,
- Part 6. Registered Mail
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 180 Vrijstaat National Exhibition
- 183 Congress 2021
- 191 Obituary - *Simon Everest*
- 192 Correspondence of the Chinese Indentured Mineworkers
on the Rand - 1904 to 1910
by André du Plessis RDPSA
- 196 Decorated Post Offices / number 25
by Garry Osthoff
- 198 The Evolution of the Grill Stamps of the United States
by Jan Hofmeyr
- 200 Postcards from the past
by David Wigston

ADVERTISERS

- 166 Filat AG
- 173 Bill Barrel Ltd
- 175 John & Mark Taylor
- 191 Rhodesian Study Circle Books
- 195 Abacus Auctions
- 197 Doreen Royan & Associates
- 201 Rhodesian Study Circle Books
- 201 Kopano Nokeng Country Lodge & Conference Centre
- 204 Spink

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.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL: molens@pixie.co.za
 David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
 Robin Messenger: messenger.robin@gmail.com
 Janice Botes *Production Editor*: janice@gdb.co.za
 Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
 COO. André du Plessis RDPSA: andredupfs@gmail.com

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

Alex Visser RDPSA : 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 RDPSA: andredupfs@gmail.com
 Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

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

All South African stamps
 are reproduced with the
 permission of SAPO

EXHIBITIONS

- 169: London International Exhibition 2022
- 169: Cape Town International Exhibition 2022
- 169: MonacoPhil 2022

Post Office 



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:**

• **FEBRUARY** 2022 - Volume. 98 : 1. 970. **10 Jan 2022** • **April** 2022 - Volume. 98: 2. 971. **7 March 2022**



FEDERATION NEWS

from the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA - André du Plessis RDPSA 083 399 1755.
<https://www.stampssa.africa> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



I want to start by paying tribute to members who had closed their albums since Congress 2020: Jennifer Barry (RSC & RPSCT); Henriëtte Botha (Previous OFS PS); Dennis Croukamp (Bellville PS); Brian Dennis (RPSCT); Japie de Vos, (Die Posboom PS); Pieter de Vries (Subscriber); Bernard du Plessis, (PEPS); Pierre Erasmus (Sasolburg PS); Simon Everest (Sandton PS); Emil Iglauer (PPS); Mike Kelly (Previous PPS); Stan Rowland (Bellville PS); and Peter Wilgenbus (AFP).

Congratulations to the OFS Philatelic Society Organising Committee for arranging a very successful National Stamp Exhibition and the 83rd Congress 2021 during these challenging times.

During 2021 we have faced the challenges of our hobby by being more active and expanding our activities on the electronic and Social Media platforms. These platforms now offer a current Facebook membership of 1,675 and 789 Twitter followers. Interest on these platforms is still growing and our official website also received positive attention. The publishing of *The SA Philatelist*, *Keeping in Touch* and the exhibits/results of SAVPEX 2021 have attracted positive reaction.

We are confident that the site is secure, operating with a security certificate (<https://>). Woo-commerce software was installed and launched in May 2021 that allows PFSA members to log in and access information in the members' area. We have designed a facility for Societies to access their own "drop-down" menu to place news and events with their own unique username and password.

Under 'RESOURCES', in the open area, several topics and information regarding Union of SA Stamps are available and the latest addition is the addendum of *"The Postmarks*

of South Africa and Former States and Colonies" prepared by Alex Visser RDPSA.


COVID 19 restrictions influenced Society meetings and little face-to-face activity occurred. Feedback from regional Vice-Presidents indicates that Societies are using creative ways to stay in touch with their members.

Unfortunately, the COVID 19 pandemic has also had a negative impact on postal services. Several enquiries were received from members complaining that they had not received copies of *The SA Philatelist* in 2020 and 2021. More than the usual number of the publication were "returned to sender" with reasons 'Unknown' or 'PO Box closed'. Enquiries to members confirmed the opposite with no change of address.

Throughout the year, membership updates received from Societies/members were constantly performed and four youth clubs are currently affiliated. I have started to distribute Society Membership Lists confirming membership and payment of the annual affiliation fees, which are due by February 2022.

It can be said that we have seen some growth in membership for the first time in years. Since 4 May 2021, thirty-two new members have been registered of which twenty joined via the website.

We are also happy to report that this event, Vrijstaat 2021, received no reports from attendees who had any Covid 19 symptoms after the event - this suggests that this was not a 'super-spreader' event. Please encourage and motivate anyone you know who has not had the vaccine, to do their civil duty and go and have the vaccine.

Thank you for all the support during this past year and wishing all our readers a very happy festive season. 



The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, 'Keeping in Touch' with regular and new readers who will ensure that the social media activities and publications continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. Contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDPSA, 083 399 1755. <https://www.stampssa.africa> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/> 

EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.

PUBLICATION:

The South African Philatelist, a bi-monthly stamp magazine, is published by the **Philatelic Federation of South Africa** (PFSA). This is one of the oldest running stamp magazines in the world and was founded in 1920.


ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: • **Affiliation fee** in RSA and World Wide: R100.00 (this includes your electronic copy). **Printed copy** of *The SA Philatelist* - if you elect to receive a printed copy, subscription are as follows:

- South Africa - R570.00 (Include local postage)
- SADC countries - R1,000.00 (Include International postage via airmail)
- Foreign countries - R1,350.00 (Include International postage via airmail)

PLEASE NOTE:

Subscription for a printed copy is for six issues per year and automatically includes access to an electronic copy. The 2022 rates are also available on the PFSA official website under 'CONTACT/JOIN': www.stampssa.africa Enquiries regarding **subscriptions and PFSA membership** can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA at andredupfs@gmail.com Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

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 C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA, PO Box 53100, Wierda Park, 0149 or email the Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za 





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 writing gift.

FIVE CHANGES COMING TO POST OFFICES IN SOUTH AFRICA – INCLUDING CAR LICENCE RENEWALS VIA MOBILE APP

The South African Post Office is working on several initiatives that will significantly expand its service offerings at branches across the country. These includes a new vehicle licensing feature, an expanded rollout of grant payment facilities, and an increased push into e-commerce.

GRANTS: The South African Post Office is extending its relationship with retailers, which will allow South Africans to collect their grants from additional outlets.

The Post Office currently allows South Africans to collect a R350 Social Relief of Distress grant (SRD grant) from its offices. It has extended the collection channel for SRD grants to Pick n Pay and Boxer supermarkets.

platform. *“Wish.com is now considering appointing the SA Post Office as a distribution hub for the Southern African region, a role that comes naturally to the South African postal entity. OR Tambo Airport is the point of entry for all airfreight into the region, and South Africa’s seaports are the points of entry for most surface freight from overseas.”*

No more cash: The Post Office said it will introduce a cashless solution at all of its branches. *“This will reduce the attractiveness of post offices to criminals as there has been a substantial increase in armed robberies and burglaries over the past two years. The South African Post Office also accepts cards as a payment method for all transactions at its branches to reduce cash levels and make payments convenient for its customers”.*

Increased turnaround times: Together with the Universal Postal Union, the Post Office said it has introduced an improved tracking system for international items, including a single tracking code. Historically, international packages have had their own tracking number, with a different number assigned when the parcel is transferred to the South African Post Office. The number of international items on hand at the international sorting centre has been totally cleared, from 2.1 million items in April.

“This was achieved by introducing an extra shift, installing additional computers to clear items and by managers who volunteered to work over weekends to process mail. The drive to deliver all items on hand continues, and the South African Post Office is encouraging its customers to collect items from their local post office when they receive a collection notice in the mail or an SMS,” the SAPO spokesperson said.



The Editorial Board invites comment - email the Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za

“The partnership will soon be extended to more retail chains, including spaza shops so that beneficiaries can transact in their own communities and also boost the local economy”. These reduce queues at post offices and makes it easier to comply with social distancing requirements.

VEHICLE LICENCES: The Post Office introduced a new mobile application at the end of October 2021 that will enable vehicle owners to renew licences via mobile phone. *“The renewal and payment will be done using the app, and the motorist can then choose to collect the disc from any convenient post office or have it delivered to an address of his choice. The motor vehicle licence renewal service is currently available in all provinces except the Western Cape, where it will be introduced soon,”* a Post Office spokesperson said.

More than three million motor vehicle licences were renewed at branches of the SA Post Office in the past financial year.

Expanded Wish.com partnership. In March this year, the Post Office and **Wish.com** entered into a formal agreement where SAPO was appointed the distributor of all items ordered through the **Wish.com**

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

19-26 FEBRUARY 2022

The Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition from 8 to 12 November 2022.

Road to Democracy

Website: www.capetown2022.org

Dates for MonacoPhil 2022

from 24 to 26 November 2022

“We hope to welcome a large number of visitors in November next year”

- Patrick Maselis
General Commissioner
MonacoPhil 2022

PARTNERS

Phun with postmarks

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



Griqualand West spreads to Griquatown

In the August 2021 *Phun* column I illustrated a Griqualand West 5/- revenue stamp cancelled with a Griquatown squared circle with 'Griq. West' at the base. The date is A/NO 8/86. This postmark had not been recorded previously and the date is after 1881 when all surplus postage stamps were returned to Cape Town. I questioned whether this also applied to revenue stamps.

Ian Paterson provided me with several examples from his collection, which are shown in Fig.1. Besides the five items shown in Fig.1, Putzel on p.40 of Vol. 5 of the Postmark books illustrated the Kimberley date stamp with GW at base but did not number it. The illustration of a pair of the Cape revenue stamps overprinted 'G' on piece was too poor to copy. Table 1 shows the details of each of the squared circle date stamps. Ian presumed that the squared circle date stamps must have been used telegraphically. The reasoning with regard to telegraphic usage is that the 1/- value is the most common value found with this cancel on GW Revenues and was also the standard telegraphic rate for 10 words at the time (Gilbert Allis quoting *Transvaal Government Notice No. 131* dated 1 September 1879). The 5/-, shown in the August 2021 *SAP*, and the one Pound (Fig.1e) must have been for long telegrams! It may be argued that another possible use may have been the registration fee for posting diamonds or other high value items through the mail. Most of the ZAR Enschedé Five Pound stamps were used for sending gold or diamonds through the mail. The King Williams Town item (Fig.1e) may corroborate the telegraph statement as small high value items were not available in the region. Lastly, the stamps could have been used for revenue purposes.

While I was struggling with this challenge, Cedric Roché RDPSA shared his Griqualand West revenue material. He also had 1/- overprinted revenue stamps with the squared circle date stamps from Griquatown, Kimberley and King Williamstown. The date range was 22 AU 1886 to 10 DE 1886. This corresponds with the information in Table 1. In addition he had a 5/- revenue stamp with a Kimberley squared circle cancellation and a 3d revenue stamp with a King Williamstown squared circle cancellation.

Griqualand West overprinted revenue stamps (6d, 1/-, 3/- and 10/-) with manuscript cancellation or fiscal cancellation were found used with legible dates in the 1880s (Fig. 2). No later items used for revenue purposes have been recorded.

Of particular interest in Roché's collection are several items which were on piece, shown in Fig.2b and 2c with BONC No. 11 (Queenstown) and BONC No. 21 (Somerset East) cancellations. These items were on what appeared to be pieces of envelope, in one case stiff blue paper and the other thick white paper. There was no evidence that they were from telegraph printed forms. This means that the small group which started this discussion were either used for

mailing parcels or registered items, or for telegraphs. Another possibility is that the material which has been seen was a small grouping that survived, whereas most of the other telegraph forms were destroyed as per Post Office instructions. Ian made an interesting observation, namely that the ZAR/Transvaal telegraph forms had a square printed block which matched the size of the squared circle datestamp. Does that mean that squared circle datestamps were primarily used telegraphically, and BONCs used on mail in the CoGH as discussed?

What is the correct answer? Your help would be appreciated.



Fig.1: 1886 Griqualand West revenue stamp with squared circle datestamps. (Note Fig.1d, inverted overprint).

Item	Office	Province	Date	Putzel No.
Fig. 1a	Griquatown	Griq.West	A/OC **/86	Addendum 1x
Fig. 1b	Kimberley	G.W.	E/NO 8/86	Addendum 9x
Fig. 1c	Kimberley	G.W.	E/DE 10/86	Addendum 9x
Fig. 1d	Griquatown	Griq.West	A/OC 31/86	Addendum 1x
Fig. 1e	King Williams Town	Cape Colony	D/*A 12/86	Put 8
Aug 2021 <i>Phun</i>	Griquatown	Griq.West	A/NO 8/86	Addendum 1x
<i>Putzel</i> vol 5 p40	Kimberley	G.W.	*/OC 21/86	Addendum 9x

Table 1: Details of the datestamps.



(Fig.2a)



(Fig.2b)

Fig.2: 1882 Revenue use (a), and later postal use in Queenstown (b) and Somerset East (c).

† **DR. NICK ZERBST RDPSA**
5 September 1942 - 11 November 2021



Nick Zerbst het in sy mediese beroep sekerlik nie veel tyd gehad om oor sy stokperdjie te skryf nie. Tog het sy pen se ink nie opgedroog nie. Hy het etlike artikels en rubriekbydraes vir die *SA Philatelist* en die *The Anglo Boer War Philatelist* geskryf.

Artikels:

- Boer censor seal Type 4 – A cover to France: (ABO Philatelist, March 1998)
- French Mail Transport Ships Anglo-Boer War Philatelist, Dr Guy Leroux (ABO Philatelist, June 2003) (Skrywer gee erkenning aan Nick Zerbst vir fotos voorsien vir artikel)
- The Use of the OVS Commando Brief, Richard Stroud (ABO Philatelist, September 2004). Stroud gee erkenning en haal aan uit Zerbst-versameling.

Nick Zerbst het 'n huldeblyk geskryf na die afsterwe van die bekende versamelaar van Anglo-Boere Oorlog boeke, Etienne Woodford (Woody) Nel in Kaapstad op 6 April 2009. (ABO Philatelist, September 2009).

ABOPHILL 100

The Anglo Boer War Society: Tot met sy afsterwe, vir 30 jaar, was Nick lid van hierdie vereniging. Hy het in Desember 1999 'n Spesiale Filateliese Uitstalling in Bloemfontein help reël om die Anglo-Boere Oorlog se eeufees te herdenk. Nick Zerbst was ook een van die spesiaal genooide uitstallers. Hy het die volgende uitstallings tot die skouspel bygedra:

- ZAR and OFS Censorship*
- Indian Prisoner of War Camps*
- Ceylon Prisoner of War Camps*
- The Zerbst Family*

DIE EREROL:

Hy het voortgegaan om sy geliefde stokperdjie met passie te geniet. Op 20 Oktober 2018 ontvang hy die hoogste eerbewys in Suid-Afrikaanse Filatelie. Hy is genooi om die Eerol van Uitgelese Filateliste van Suid-Afrika te teken. Omdat hy nie teenwoordig was nie het die plegtigheid vroeg in 2019 op George plaasgevind.

“Vrijstaat 2021”, het Nick vir my gesê, “is my laaste uitstalling. Dis darem nie so verskriklik vêr om te ry nie.” Sy uitstallings was daar. Hy was in die hospitaal. Op 5 September 2021 het Nick Zerbst gegroet. Dit was verrykend om jou te ken.

Suid-Afrikaanse Filatelie is armer!

ds P.S.

Die lente van 1942 het vir die Zerbstgesin groot vreugde gebring. Op 5 September knip Nick Zerbst vir die eerste keer oog vir hierdie wêreld. Volgens sy eie vertelling is hulle kinders streng en regverdig groot gemaak. Duitse bloed het nie tyd vir 'nonsies' nie. Van kleindag af het Nick posseëls interessant gevind en begin versamel. Met hom het dit soos met meeste ander versamelaars gegaan. Seëlversameling was nie toe al op hierdie jong seun se program nie. Daar was baie ander dinge wat ook ondersoek moes word. Dan was daar ook die skool- en universiteitsjare, die bosoerlog in Angola. Tyd (en geld) vir dié stokperdjie was daar nie. Die saadjie was egter geplant om hom te laat groei tot een van Suid-Afrika se grootste kenners van Anglo-Boereoorlog krygsgevangekamppos.

Hy was vir baie jare 'n gewaardeerde lid van die OVS Filatelievereniging in Bloemfontein asook die George Filatelievereniging. Almal het vir Nick leer ken as iemand wat entoesiasies oor sy versamelveld kon gesels om sy kennis te kon deel. Die lede van die George Filatelievereniging was baie bevoorreg om Nick as gereelde gesig op sy vergaderings te hê. Vanaf 2016 tot sy afsterwe was hy die voorsitter wat elke vergadering met bekwaamheid gelei het.

Gedurende 1999 het Joh Groenewald drie van Suid-Afrika se groot ABO-versamelaars, John Sandilands, Andries Raath en Nick Zerbst om een tafel byeengebring. Daardie dag is besluit dat hulle, ter wille van ABO-Filatelie, materiaal onderling gaan uitruil.

Deur die jare het hy hom onderskei as 'n versamelaar en navorser van ABO-pos. Daarvan getuig onderstaande opsomming van sy toekennings op Nasionale- en Internasionale Filateliese Tentoonstellings.

Nick Zerbst het in die 12 Nasionale Uitstallings waaraan hy deelgeneem het, homself onderskei en 'n string trofeeë ontvang:

Grand Prix (2012), ABO-Trofee (ses keer), Stampcor Trofee (twee keer), Tony Chilton Transvaal Trofee (twee keer), Dawid De Villiers Trofee, FAK-Trofee (twee keer), Mont Blanc Toekenning.

Internasionale Filateliese Tentoonstellings:

- Indepex 97, Nieu-Delhi (15-22 Des.) *Anglo Boer War – Prisoner of War Camps in India and Ceylon* (SG) *
- Jakarta 2008: *Anglo Boer War – Prisoner of War Camps in India* (LV)
- Johannesburg 2010: *Anglo Boer War – Prisoner of War Camps in India* (G)

(S-Silver, SG-Silver-Gilt, V-Vermeil, LV-Large Vermeil, G-Gold, LG- Large Gold)

Continued... PHUN WITH POST MARKS



(Fig.2c)

As always I greatly appreciate comments and feedback from our readers. Several contributions I have received will be dealt with in future columns.

Wat aanvanklik as 'n soektog na die gebruik van 'n onbekende datumstempel begin het, het uitgeloop op 'n ondersoek van die gebruik van inkomste seëls van Griekwaland-wes nadat die seëls terug getrek is. Volgens 'n studie van beskikbare materiaal wil dit voorkom of die seëls vir 'n tydperk van ongeveer 6 maande in 1886 vir telegraaf en/of geregistreeerde pos gebruik is. Om hierdie hipotese te toets is verdere materiaal nodig, en weereens word u hulp ingeroep.



CHRISTMAS ISLAND

by Chris Mobsby RDP SA, FRPSL, George Philatelic Society



In anticipation of the fact that many subscribers to *The South African Philatelist* will be receiving their edition of the journal for December towards the end of the year, I put the suggestion to the Editorial Board that it might be appropriate to include a Christmas-orientated article in that edition. Should you now be reading the present offering you will realise that my idea was considered in a favourable light by the Board.

Christmas Island is situated in the eastern Indian Ocean about 400km south of the westernmost tip of the Indonesian island of Java. Between 1901 and 1958, the postal service on the island made use of the stamps of firstly, the Strait Settlements and, later, those of Singapore. In 1958, the island became an Australian territory and stamps of a similar design to that country's Q.E.II issue of 1955 were printed with the additional inscription of 'CHRISTMAS ISLAND' and in face values from 2-cents to \$1 in Malaysian currency (Fig.1). This set of stamps saw service until 1963 when the first of many pictorials with an indigenous theme were produced for the island. In 1969, a single, 5-cent stamp was issued, as illustrated, celebrating the festival after which the island was originally named (Fig.2).

Since that date, there have been numerous stamp issues, far more, one would imagine, than could be justified by a permanent population of around 2,000 people but with, presumably, considerable appeal



Fig.1.



Fig.3.



Fig.2.

for philatelists and holiday-makers.

There is however another Christmas Island, one of the Line Islands in the central Pacific Ocean, discovered by Captain Cook on 24 December 1777, hence the name that was bestowed upon it. It became one of the British Colony of the Gilbert Islands now known as Kiribati.

The island does however possess a particular claim to fame in the world of 'Cinderella Philately'. There was, early in the 20th Century, a considerable trade in coconuts. The Central Pacific Coconut Plantations Ltd. was run by a Father Rougier who, in 1916, issued a five-cent stamp, letterpress printed in three colours, in order to defray the cost of transshipping mail to Tahiti (Fig.3).

A group of Europeans settled on the island in January, 1918, and the datestamp of 11 January 1918 on the piece illustrated coincides, at the time of writing, with the earliest strike recorded. Viewers may notice the spelling on the stamp; there should be no 'A' in the word 'COCOANUT', but, perhaps, the company was registered in that format and, in any case, errors of this nature do add to, rather than detract philatelic interest from such items.

Beyond the Sea. Maritime Mail before 1878

by Paul Wijnants IPHF FRPSL.



This 136 page book, published in 2019, was produced to celebrate a special exhibition of Maritime Mail at the MONACOPHIL in 2019.

The exhibition was held at Musée des Timbres et Monnaies from 27 to 30 November 2019. The organisers were the Club de Monte-Carlo and the International Postal History Fellowship (IPHF).

The participants were His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, members of the Club de Monte-Carlo, 5 International museums and philatelic exhibitors worldwide. There were 33 exhibitors and each exhibit was allocated one full page with a description and coloured scans of the material. As a supplement, seven articles of never-published research and material were listed on the United States Navy in the Mediterranean (1801 to 1861), Early US-French Letters carried by Vanderbilt Line Steamships, Queensland mail via Torres Strait, Maritime mail between Mexico and the United States (The Cuban Connection), L'administration des Postes de France en Méditerranée (1837 to 1851), the Falmouth Mutiny (1810 to 1811) and the Use of T-Markings on Maritime Mail (1875 to 1878).

This book well worth having in your library and was donated to the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society to boost funds.



Please consider purchasing the book to enhance your philatelic library. Send your offers to Herbie Schaffler at haschaff@iafrica.com or Derek Roth at derek@gunret.co.za.

BILL BARRELL LTD - 'List 163 - Made in Britain'

B **B**

BILL BARRELL LTD
 SPECIALISTS IN THE PHILATELIC MARKET
 100 YEARS OF THE GREAT BRITAIN

LIST 163 GREAT BRITAIN

THIS LIST CONTAINS 100 PHILATELIC ITEMS
 INCLUDING STAMPS, POSTCARDS, LETTERS
 AND OTHER PHILATELIC MATERIAL. THE LIST
 IS DIVIDED INTO 10 CATEGORIES AND IS
 A MUST FOR ALL PHILATELICAL COLLECTORS.
 THE LIST IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT
 THE FOLLOWING PRICE: £10.00 (UK) / £12.00 (OVERSEAS)

B **B**

30. 1840-1850 BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY
 A collection of 100 handwritten letters from
 the period 1840-1850, including letters
 from the Queen and other royal family
 members. The letters are written on
 high quality paper and are in excellent
 condition. Price: £100.00 (UK) / £120.00 (OVERSEAS)

31. 1850-1860 BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY
 A collection of 100 postage stamps from
 the period 1850-1860, including the
 first postage stamp issued by the
 United Kingdom. The stamps are in
 excellent condition and are a must
 for all philatelic collectors. Price:
 £150.00 (UK) / £180.00 (OVERSEAS)

32. 1860-1870 BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY
 A collection of 100 postage stamps from
 the period 1860-1870, including the
 first postage stamp issued by the
 United Kingdom. The stamps are in
 excellent condition and are a must
 for all philatelic collectors. Price:
 £150.00 (UK) / £180.00 (OVERSEAS)

Considered to be one of the best retail price lists offering GB postal history, stamps and literature with many unusual items from all reigns.

Accurate descriptions

Competitive prices from a few pounds to thousands.

Fully illustrated

Lots of information

Totally free!

Please contact us for your copy.

33. 1870-1880 BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY
 A collection of 100 postage stamps from
 the period 1870-1880, including the
 first postage stamp issued by the
 United Kingdom. The stamps are in
 excellent condition and are a must
 for all philatelic collectors. Price:
 £150.00 (UK) / £180.00 (OVERSEAS)

34. 1880-1890 BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY
 A collection of 100 postage stamps from
 the period 1880-1890, including the
 first postage stamp issued by the
 United Kingdom. The stamps are in
 excellent condition and are a must
 for all philatelic collectors. Price:
 £150.00 (UK) / £180.00 (OVERSEAS)

35. 1890-1900 BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY
 A collection of 100 postage stamps from
 the period 1890-1900, including the
 first postage stamp issued by the
 United Kingdom. The stamps are in
 excellent condition and are a must
 for all philatelic collectors. Price:
 £150.00 (UK) / £180.00 (OVERSEAS)

36. 1900-1910 BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY
 A collection of 100 postage stamps from
 the period 1900-1910, including the
 first postage stamp issued by the
 United Kingdom. The stamps are in
 excellent condition and are a must
 for all philatelic collectors. Price:
 £150.00 (UK) / £180.00 (OVERSEAS)

37. 1910-1920 BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY
 A collection of 100 postage stamps from
 the period 1910-1920, including the
 first postage stamp issued by the
 United Kingdom. The stamps are in
 excellent condition and are a must
 for all philatelic collectors. Price:
 £150.00 (UK) / £180.00 (OVERSEAS)

38. 1920-1930 BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY
 A collection of 100 postage stamps from
 the period 1920-1930, including the
 first postage stamp issued by the
 United Kingdom. The stamps are in
 excellent condition and are a must
 for all philatelic collectors. Price:
 £150.00 (UK) / £180.00 (OVERSEAS)

Bill Barrell Ltd, PO Box 10494, Grantham,
 Lincolnshire, NG31 0HS, United Kingdom
 01476 594698

e-mail: bill@barrell.co.uk website: www.barrell.co.uk



Lepidopterous philately: Chinese postal stationery – a word of caution

by Henk Geertsema, Stellenbosch Philatelic Society

Postal stationery, including picture postcards, relating to a specific theme, form an important, especially visual, part of any thematic stamp collection. Some of these cards are readily available in the trade and are generally not too expensive. In competitive exhibitions these cards conform to the relevant FIP/GREV conditions and often fill a void in adding suitable illustrative items to an exhibit. One is, however, warned. The exhibitor should be aware of, and use such items with caution.

Chinese post cards, often doubling as lottery cards – Fig.4. see tab at the bottom of Fig.1, are issued by the Chinese State Postal Bureau. Later editions of these cards have no tab and the lottery number is now printed on the left hand side of the reverse of the cards. The cards cover a wide array of illustrations of, for example, butterflies and are, mostly in series, issued on an annual basis. In spite of warnings of judging panels against the excessive use of these cards in competitive exhibits, the number of these cards issued annually should be weighed against the Chinese population numbers.

When including some of these cards in a competitive entry, the number of cards must not only be limited, but primarily used to convey and illustrate the thematic theme and to demonstrate the knowledge of the exhibitor.

These cards are scant in the use of English in explaining the depicted subject. In Vegter (2015), a key to understand some of the key elements of the Chinese postcards is provided.

Fig.1



However, specific details of the geological strata, location and estimated ages of the fossils were lacking. Also puzzling was the pristine condition of both fossils. Usually insect fossils are preserved incomplete,



Fig.5.

often present as mere negative or positive impressions in sedimentary stone, the remains only consisting of part of a wing or body. In the case of these two items the excellent condition and complete preservation, especially the furry covering of the moth's body and wings, the presence of antennae, normally lost in most insect fossils, including the retention of their colouring, raised my suspicion that these fossils were probably unreal and fabricated.

During a visit in 2019 by my professional colleague and friend, Dr Rienk de Jong

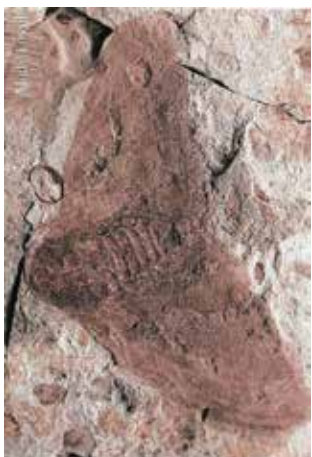


Fig.2.



Fig.3.

As a detailed description of the depiction is lacking, one should thus make use of available aids and rely on one's own or shared thematic knowledge. An illustrative example will serve the reader.

I collect postal items, including stationery, depicting butterflies and moths. Great was my delight some years ago to find two Chinese picture postcards, one showing a fossil moth, (Fig.2), the other a fossil skipper butterfly (Fig.3), both cards produced in 2006.



Fig.6.

of the Natural History Museum of the Netherlands (*Naturalis*), being the world authority on the skipper butterflies, I showed him these two cards, voicing my suspicions. To him these fossils were unknown, even impossible, except that the fossil butterfly depicted was that of an extant South American skipper of the genus *Phocides* (Fig.4), shown on an unlikely fossil substrate, the fossil moth appeared to be an Eggar or Lappet moth (*Lasiocampidae*). To date, the only fossil skipper

butterfly known to science is from Denmark, and is estimated at 55 million years of age (de Jong, 2016, 2017). Other depicted fossil butterflies shown on postal items have all been described from the North American and European Miocene (24 to 25 million years ago)(Figs.5&6).



Fig.7.

The only two fossils of moths depicted on philatelic items are of a zygaenid moth from Germany (Fig.7) and a recently discovered Brazilian fossil moth (Fig.8), regarded as a probable member of the primitive moth family *Hepialidae* (Fig.9).



Fig.8.

Fig.9.



Upon Dr de Jong's return to the Netherlands, he contacted two of his colleagues, Dr M Heikkilä, a specialist on fossil butterflies, and Dr Guoxi Xue, a specialist on Chinese skipper butterflies, about known details of these two fossils. Dr Xue also provided an English translation of the Chinese text printed on the reverse of these cards, but no detail as to the insects was given. The mystery was subsequently solved after it was pointed out by Dr Heikkilä, also doubting these depictions, that on the website of Photoshop a design competition was launched some time ago on the internet (<https://www.pxleyes.com/guide/28165/the-making-of-Moth-Fossil.html>), the site detailing the successive production stages of "amazing fossils", some of resulting images being those shown on the Chinese post cards discussed.

Acknowledgements:

I thank my colleagues, especially Dr de Jong, for their specialised input.

References:

- De Jong, R. 2016. *Reconstructing a 55-million-year-old butterfly* (Lepidoptera: Hesperiiidae). *European Journal of Entomology* 113: 423-428.
- De Jong, R. 2017. *Fossil butterflies, calibration points and the molecular clock* (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea). *Zootaxa* 4270 (1): 001-063.
- Vegter, W. 2015. Postal stationery in a thematic exhibit – Part 3. *ThemNews* 16(2): 3-5.



JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

NEW REPUBLIC
1887 £1 TETE-BECHE PAIR
with double print
S.G. 94a

"FROM A SPECIALISED STOCK"

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR
P.O. Box 37324,
London N1 - 2YQ.

Tel: 020 7226 1503
Fax: 020 7359 7456

email: markjtaylor@btinternet.com



VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Part 6: Registered Mail

The postal system of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) is providing collectors of postal history an opportunity to put together very interesting collections. The RSA had a very sophisticated and well managed postal system. This is confirmed by reading through the Post Office Guides where all the services provided by the Post Office from 1961 onwards are described. The aim of this series of articles is to illustrate that this period is a fascinating period and illustrate how modern postal history (from 60 years ago) can be as interesting as the older and classic periods. Registered mail is providing such an opportunity.

INTRODUCTION

The Post Office provided a very effective registration service which rendered transmission of articles committed to the post more secure and in the event of loss compensation was guaranteed in most cases for the sender. For this purpose the Post Office provided linen-lined registration envelopes to the public. The fee for registration was 5c for each letter or packet and in addition the ordinary postage had to be paid. This fee was introduced on 14 February 1961 (Fig.1).

REGISTRATION

All articles, with the exception of parcels, could be registered. All articles to be registered must be handed to a postal official and must on no account be posted in a posting box. The accepting officer will hand a signed receipt to the sender (Fig.2). In the case of loss, the sender of a registered item may, within one year, and upon payment of a fee of 5c, make application for an inquiry to be instituted to investigate this loss. Should it be found that the inquiry was rendered necessary through the fault of the Post Office, the fee will be refunded on application. Furthermore the Post Office made sure that no registered item will be delivered until the addressee, his agent or other person, considered to be authorised to receive the item shall have signed a receipt for it. Provision has also been made for the non-delivery of items.

Registration fees

Date	Fee	Date	Fee	Date	Fee
14.02.1961	5c	07.07.1987	75c	01.04.1995	R3-75
01.04.1971	10c	01.04.1989	R1-00	01.07.1996	R4-40
31.03.1975	15c	01.04.1990	R1-20	07.04.1997	R4-50
01.02.1980	20c	01.04.1991	R1-50	01.09.1997	R7-50
01.04.1982	40c	30.09.1991	R1-60	14.04.1998	R8-30
01.04.1984	45c	01.05.1992	R2-25	01.04.1999	R9-00
01.04.1985	55c	01.04.1993	R3-00	01.04.2000	R9-75
01.04.1986	65c	01.04.1994	R3-50		

This table, taken from a previous article, serves as an example of the different rates for that period.

DECLARATION OF VALUE PROHIBITED: REGISTERED COVERS TO MOZAMBIQUE

According to the *General Rules and Regulations* it was prohibited to indicate the value of the contents on the outside of registered articles except for registered parcels to Mozambique and green label parcels. (Fig.3).



Fig.1: Registered cover illustrating the 5c registration fee. The 7½c pays: 5c registration fee plus the 2½c inland letter rate. The cover was registered at Mobile Post Office No. 9 in Johannesburg on 7 June 1962.

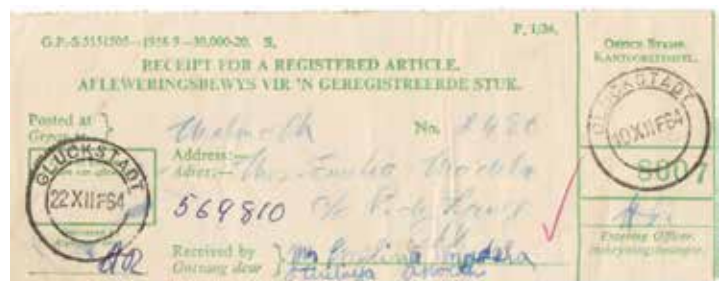


Fig.2: Example of a receipt handed over by the Entering Officer to the sender which should be carefully preserved for reference purposes in case of an inquiry. This receipt was for an item handed in at the GLUCKSTADT post office on 10 December 1964 and delivered at the same post office on 22 December 1964.

THE TRANSPORTATION OF PRECIOUS METALS THROUGH THE POSTAL SYSTEM

According to legislation a person may not transport or in any manner convey any semi-fabricated or unwrought precious metals outside the boundaries of any mine, works or property or place where such a metal is mined, refined or worked with, unless he or she is in possession of the prescribed documentation. Furthermore if such material is posted via the Post Office, such package must be submitted first to the South African Police to be sealed. A sample is normally also taken to be submitted to the Forensic Science Laboratory of the Police.

Argen Precious Metals Industries in Edenvale was a company dealing in precious metals specially related to dental requirements. The contents of this registered cover (Fig.4) was probably gold that was reworked for dental purposes.



Fig.3: Registered cover posted from RIVONIA on 20 April 1972 to MOZAMBIQUE. Cover opened for investigation by the post office in Johannesburg and sealed afterwards by a wax seal with the inscription: 'INVESTIGATION/ONDERSOEK HPK/GPK J.H.B.'. The sender was Sprighton Philatelists from Rivonia and the postal officials suspected that the items were liable to Customs Duty. This cover was opened for customs purposes and also probably based on the exception that was applicable to Mozambique for registered items. Cachet applied in Mozambique: 'C.T.T. Registos, Lourenço Marques'. Postal authorities are empowered to open Registered Letters for examination if it is suspected that the contents are dutiable.



Fig.4: Registered cover posted from Cape Town circa 1983 to Argen (Pty) Ltd in Edenvale and sealed by a wax seals with the inscription: 'South African Police/Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie' and a serial number in the middle of the wax seal for identification purposes. The 60c pays: 40c for the registration fee introduced on the 1/4/1983, 10c for standardised mail per 10g and 10c for the inland airmail rate.

The date stamps are not legible. The wax seals were applied first by the SA Police before the covers were submitted for registration (Fig.4).

REGISTERED ITEM POSTED USING THE 'ADVISE OF DELIVERY' SERVICE

The postal regulation made provision that: "The sender of a registered item may arrange, either at the time of posting or within a year of posting for an advice of its delivery to be obtained from the addressee, his agent or other person considered to have been authorised to receive the item, by completing the advice of delivery (Avis de réception) card in ink or typewriter (Figs.5A & 5B).

If a return card by air is required a blue air mail label must be affixed to the front of the card which must be boldly marked 'RETURN BY AIR' and the endorsement 'RENOVI PAR AVION' must be added in the case of a card to be returned from a place

outside the Republic of South Africa.

The Advice of Delivery Service and charges introduced in 1961 were as follows:

- Advice of delivery card accompanying a surface mail item: 5c plus the postage on the registered item. All charges had to be affixed in postage stamps to the cover of the item.
- Advice of delivery card accompanying an air mail item: Return of Advice card by surface mail, 5c plus the registration



Figs.5A & 5B (below): Cover registered in Rondebosch per: 'Advice of Delivery Service' (See pink card) on 11 April 1980 to Sea Point. The 35c postage pays: 20c registration fee, 5c normal postage rate plus 10c fee for the Advice of Delivery Service. In this case the item was never delivered (see cachet with inscription 'No attendance' and 'Advised to call') due to the fact that the addressee was not available. Therefore the item with the pink card was returned.



fee plus the air mail postage on the combined weight of the registered item and the advice of delivery card. In the case of delivery card by air mail the fee was 5c plus the registration fee plus the airmail postage on the combined weight of the registered item plus the air mail postage for a post card to the country of destination.

COMPULSORY REGISTRATION – POSTED OUT OF COURSE LABELS AND HANDSTAMPS

It is stated in the *Post Office Guide* that packets other than parcels, which there is reasonable ground to believe contain coins, precious stones, gold (raw or manufactured), jewellery, gold or silver watches, bank notes, uncrossed postal orders exceeding 10c in value in which the name of the payee has not been inserted, postage stamps exceeding 10c in value, or cigarette coupons having a marketable value, are subject to compulsory registration.

Packets other than parcels bearing the word 'Registered' or any other word, phrase, or mark to the like effect, written or impressed on the cover are, if posted unregistered, they are compulsorily registered and surcharged double the ordinary registration fee, i.e., 10c in addition to any deficient postage at double rates. The value of any postage stamps in excess of the ordinary postage affixed to such packets is deducted from the compulsory registration fee (Fig.6).



Fig.6: An illegal Registered cover mailed from Durban on 30 June 1987, directly into a posting box with two cachets applied: 'Posted out of course' and the Durban boxed cachet: 'Compulsory Registration' and taxed 67c. At that stage the registration fee introduced on 1 April 1986 was 65c. The item was supposed to be taxed double the registration fee $65c \times 2 = R1-30$. The stamps of 81c affixed to the cover paid for the 65c registration fee introduced on 1 April 1986 and the 18c normal postage rate introduced on 1 July 1986.

was introduced with effect from 1 April 1976 between Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban for the urgent dispatch of computer and business documents etc. It was later extended to Pretoria and Port Elizabeth (Fig.8).

• **Fastmail:** This new postal service was introduced on 1 November 1993. Fastmail could be sent registered mail from 1 November 1993 to 30 June 1995 (Fig.9).



Fig.8: Cover posted Priority Mail from Pietermaritzburg to Pretoria on 30 May 1986. The total postage fee of R2-29 pays: R1-50 priority mail fee + 65c registration fee + 14c inland postage fee.



Fig.7: Registered cover posted from Dundee on 9 August 1986 using the Express Delivery Service. The R2-59 franking pays for: Registration fee of 65c plus Express Mail fee of R1-80 and the normal inland postage rate of 14c. All these rates were introduced on the 1 April 1986.



Fig.9: Registered cover posted via the Fast Mail service from East London on 4 March 1994. The R10-40 franking pays: R6-50 express delivery fee, R3-00 registration fee and 90c fastmail standard letter postage set on 1 November 1993.

REGISTERED MAIL USING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES: INSURED PARCEL SERVICE, EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE, PRIORITY MAIL SERVICE AND FASTMAIL SERVICE

- **Insured Parcel Service:** The insured parcel service applied to all parcels including COD parcels addressed to destinations in the RSA and SWA.
- **Express Mail Service:** Registered items could be posted via the Express Mail Service (Fig.7).
- **Priority Mail Service:** The Priority-Mail Service which

OFFICIAL REGISTERED ENVELOPES

In terms of franking regulations the franking of letters, other items and parcels were allowed for free transmission by post if they were 'on the public service'. This means on behalf or in the interest of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. Letters and other items on the public service posted by any Government Department must bear an impression of a franking stamp approved by the Postmaster-General in the bottom left corner. The covers or letters must also bear the superscription 'Official'.

Letters and other items, excluding parcels on the public service, franked in accordance with these regulations and marked for registration by a franking officer, may be registered without prepayment of the registration fee (Figs.10 and 11). During the verification process between postmasters, the following could also be indicated on the verification note: missing mail, missing registered articles or letter bills, mail tampered

with and bags torn or in a bad condition (Fig.11).



Fig.10: Official Remittance/Amptelike Geldsending-enveloppe posted from the Postmaster in Potchefstroom to the postmaster of the North End post office in Port Elizabeth dated 23 February 1984. These official envelopes had to be sealed by a wax seal because normally cash was involved. Note the wax seal with the POTCHEFSTROOM P.O. imprint.



Fig.11: Registered cover posted from the Postmaster in Johannesburg to Hamburg in West Germany. Date unknown. The Bulletin de Verification registered envelopes were used to verify the batch of overseas mail between postmasters. For this purpose specially designed registered envelopes were used.



Fig.12: Returned Letter Office Cape Town officially registered envelope used to return undelivered registered mail to the sender.

This is another interesting aspect of registered mail where items could be registered within the Post Office System for official purposes between postmasters and post offices and between Government Departments.

REGISTERED WITH AN INSURED OPTION

The Post Office introduced a 'Registered with an insured option letter' service with a specially designed envelope for that purpose. The insured letter option had to adhere to the following conditions: Only counter posting; no coins; identification and signature at delivery and insurance available up to R2,000 (Fig.13).



Fig.13: Specially designed registered cover posted with an insured letter option from Virginia on 30 April 2000.

REGISTERED MAIL WITH THE SECURE SERVICE INDICATED AS 'S'

As part of the Registration system the Post Office had a separate 'S' system. The following are classified as 'S' registered items: Official remittances, Registered letters sent to and from the Manager: Post Office Savings Bank, Bloemfontein containing Savings Bank books, Registered articles sent to and from the Senior Director: Buying and Supplies (Stamp Section) Pretoria and containing face-value credit stocks, and Registered diamond packets (Fig.14).



Fig.14: Registered mail cover with the 'S' secure option posted from Johannesburg.

The author would like to thank Johan Joubert from Pretoria for his assistance with the research for this article.

Sources:

- Gerhard Kamfer, 'Postal Rates and Regulations' Published in the RSA Stamp Study Group 25th Anniversary Issue, December 2007.
- Various Post Office Guides: 1961 to 2000.

PLEASE NOTE: Images are not placed at their full 100% size: reduced due to space constraints.



VRIJSTAAT 2021 NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

Bloemfontein • 21 to 23 October 2021

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

An enthusiastic committee consisting of six members performed a small miracle by organising this year's National. During the preparation phase, some members had fallen ill and were only able to contribute from home. The organisation was carried by Neil Cronjé, Garry Osthoff, Joof van der Merwe, Nicolene Barnard, Dennis Green and Johan Otto.

THE VENUE

This year the National Philatelic Exhibition took place in the OFS, only 12km from Bloemfontein, the 'City of Roses'. The Kopano Nokeng offered a perfect environment for the Vrijstaat 2021 National, which took place in mild weather conditions and the venue set in beautiful gardens. The National, together with JUNASS 2021 was hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society in its 120th Anniversary year.

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition was officially opened by Dr Niel Cronjé RDPSA, at 15:00 on 21 October 2021. The venue offered adequate space for all the required activities, both for the exhibition as well as the dealers. It provided ample areas to sit and study material. The venue lighting was enhanced by additional lights provided by Federation above the frames. The veranda, directly along the outside of the hall, offered easy access to a relaxing, cool area.

MEMBERS OF THE JURY 2021

Michael Wigmore RDPSA - chairman, Hugh Amooore RDPSA - vice-chairman, Joof van der Merwe - secretary, Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA, Richard Johnson RDPSA, Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA, Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Jan van Beukering and apprentices André du Plessis RDPSA, Victor Millard.

DEALERS IN ATTENDANCE

Eight dealers were in attendance namely Spink of London, Richard Johnson of Filat AG, Paul van Zeyl, ably assisted by his wife Kathy, of Rand Stamps. Clinton Goslin from Atlas Auctioneers, Michael Wigmore of Crocker and Wigmore, Francois Friend of Stamps Friend from Gqueberha (Port Elizabeth), Dominic Martino from DM Philatelics and Kenny Napier. The Orange Free State Philatelic Society thank the dealers for their attendance.



THE EXHIBITION

Following the extensive Covid 19 lockdown over the past two year, the Vrijstaat 2021 Exhibition, showed the importance of maintaining face-to-face contact between the philatelic community. It provided an opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas. It also illustrated the importance of hosting regular exhibitions that provide an opportunity for collectors to benchmark their collections and to see what others are able to do with their material.

All-in-all, there were many positive aspects to the exhibition and it needs to be said that it has been a job well done. Everyone involved can be thanked and congratulated. From the setting up of the frames, through the judging process as well as the opening to the public, all aspects ran smoothly.

AWARDS LISTINGS OF EXHIBITS

Awards Exhibition Title / Exhibitor Society

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS

- King George V Stamps of St. Helena
Friend, Mr Francois
Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society

LARGE GOLD

(90+)

- British Bechuanaland and Stellaland
Bührmann, Mr Emil RDPSA
The Orange Free State Philatelic Society
- * **SA Post Office Shield (best Exhibit SA Philately)**
- Rhodesian Philately to 1924 - The British South Africa Company Period
Flanagan, Mr Patrick RDPSA
Witswatersrand Philatelic Society
- * **Jonas Michelson Literature Award (best Literature)**
- A Chronology of Events Relating to the Cape of Good Hope
Rosenberg, Dr Mervyn
Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town
- * **The Grand Prix President's Trophy (best of show)**



Dr Mervyn Rosenberg.



1.



2.



3.



4.

So it begins: (1)willing volunteers. (2) Guardians of the Bin Room. (3) Thoughtful viewing of the exhibits. (4) Judging taking place - Ian Matheson.

Awards Exhibition Title / Exhibitor Society
LARGE VERMEIL *continues* (80-84)

- Bloemfontein Around the Turn of the Century
Van Zeyl, Mr Paul RDPSA
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society
- * **SAPRG Archie Atkinson Trophy** (*best Picture Postcard Exhibit of Southern Africa*)
- ANGLO BOERE OORLOG - Korrespondensie van 'n Boere Egpaar -
Zerbst, Dr Nick RDPSA
George Philatelic Society

VERMEIL (75-79)

- Camera Stories Down Memory Lane
Steyl, Ds Pauw RDPSA
George Philatelic Society
- Southern Rhodesia: The Issues of the Reign of King George VI 1936 - 1952
Brodovcky, Mr Keith
Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town
- The Plating of the Third Definitive Series, 1977, Proteas, of the Republic of SA
Van der Merwe, Mr Joof
Orange Free State Philatelic Society

LARGE SILVER (70-74)

- Table Mountain as the Backdrop
Hugo, Mr Gabriel
Paarlse Filatelievereniging
- Tramways of the Eastern Cape, An Illustrated History
Oliver, Mr Richard
Orange Free State Philatelic Society

SILVER (65-69)

- Die Britse Invloed op die Naamgewing van Dorpe in die Kaapkolonie sedert 1795
Colyn, Mr Chris
Orange Free State Philatelic Society
- Sending Money Home - South Africa to Sekakes from 1972 to 1973
Erasmus, Dr Louwrence
Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging
- Label the Message
Mitchell, Mr Vernon
Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society
- Deutsches Reich 1919 - 1923
Osthoff, Prof Gernot
Orange Free State Philatelic Society

SILVER BRONZE (60-64)

- Horses: Their Classification and Utilisation
Butcher, Mr Graham
Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society
- Union of South Africa: King George VI Coronation of 1937
Da Fonseca, Mr Carlos
East London Philatelic Society

- FLIGHT- South Africa Flight Star Covers
Laubcher, Mr Xavier
SAPDA
- Varieties and Errors of the 2nd Definitive and Commemorative Issues of South Africa, 20/11/1974 to 18/05/1977
Williams, Mr Jon-Michael
Orange Free State Philatelic Society
- Three Queens of the Netherlands 1890 - 2013
Schuurman, Mr Dirk
Orange Free State Philatelic Society
- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
Zerbst, Dr Nick
George Philatelic Society

BRONZE (60-64)

- Union of South Africa: 1947 Royal Visit to Southern Africa
Da Fonseca, Mr Carlos
East London Philatelic Society
- The 1/2c Stamp of the First Definitive Series of the Republic of South Africa - The First Design
Lubbe, Prof Samuel
Philatelic Society of Kwazulu Natal
- Koeverte: Netheid, Respek en Passie
Massyn, Mr Frans
Orange Free State Philatelic Society

AWARDS LISTING OF ONE FRAME EXHIBITS

POINTS AWARDED SHOWN AT FAR RIGHT IN RED

- **Suttill, Mr Malcolm** - *Wensleysdale with Bedale - It's Post Town*
Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town 80
- * **Vrijstaat Trophy** (*best One Frame Exhibit*)
- * **Royal Medallion** (*best British Commonwealth Exhibit*)
- **Erasmus, Dr Louwrence** - *Union of South Africa's Christmas Seals on the 1979 Golden Jubilee Seals*
Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging 58
- **Erasmus, Dr Louwrence** - *A Decade of 12½c and then they were gone!*
Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging 65
- **Van Zeyl, Mr Paul** RDPSA - *Randlord Sir Lionel Phillips, a reflection on his life and times*
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society not judged
- **Williams, Mr Jon-Michael** - *Greeting Stamps and Label Booklet Stamps of Great Britain*
Orange Free State Philatelic Society 55
- **Zerbst, Dr Nick** RDPSA - *Blikkies-pos - 'n Vorm van Posvervoer van en na Niuafouu - 'n Deel van Tonga in die Vertes van die Stille Oseaan*
George Philatelic Society 71

A special word of thanks to all the willing volunteers, participants and photographers who so diligently contributed to the success and publishing of this even.



The official opening of the exhibition, attendees enjoying the shade.



Vernon Mitchell and others intently following the programme.

The 83rd National Congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA)

This Congress was on Saturday, 23 October 2021 at Kopano Nokeng Conference Centre, Bloemfontein at 09h00

THE OFFICIAL OPENING

OPENING ADDRESS AT THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS – 23 OCTOBER 2021 – by Dr JIM FINDLAY RDPSA

Looking back over the last 4 years there are several philatelic events that are part of a significant history now.

(i) **The South African Post Office:** We start with the uncompromising style trade union postal strike where the ‘workers’ destroyed their own customer base with a 5-month strike (2018). The South African Post Office forced their captive customers to develop or find alternate service providers for a postal system. This caused a huge disruption in civil society but there was soon evidence of entrepreneurship with the development and expansion of courier services and facilities such as PostNet. According to Mark Barnes, the Postmaster General in 2018, before the SAPO strike, there were two courier services between Johannesburg and Pretoria concentrating on legal and financial document deliveries. After the strike was over there were 22 courier services now catering for the general public. Three years down the line the SAPO is a shambles – new stamp issues are not made available on the advertised date and are not available at the majority of post offices – mail delivery is non-existent because of a poor work ethic and theft – postal services to the public are almost totally ignored – the money-generation in the SAPO relies on the delivery of social grants and the issuing of motor car licences. Now the minister has announced that 210 post offices will be closed because they are not profitable.

The mandate of having a postal service for the people is totally ignored by a politician who has little or no understanding of a service to the people! Is there hope for the SAPO recovering and giving the people a service similar to Europe, the United Kingdom or the United States where a letter is delivered to the addressee within 3 days? I am afraid the answer is ‘No’.

A problem associated with the collapse of the postal system is that it is now extremely difficult to collect used modern South African stamps. Courier companies do not use stamps!

(ii) To me the next ‘historical event’ was **the National Exhibition in Centurion** (or Pretoria) where the new display frames were introduced. The effort of Peter van der Molen in driving this initiative and the great support of André du Plessis, the Exhibition Chairman, in making it all happen started the upgrade of South African exhibitions. This was a new standard with new frames, the entire exhibition was at a single venue with accommodation and happy philatelists and dealers.

This was followed by the exhibition in Benoni where Steve “Let-there-be-light” Marsh introduced the individual lighting system for each exhibition frame. Without doubt, this made for world-class exhibition facilities and exhibits were shown with excellent lighting. This certainly was noticed by international visitors and has made South Africa an excellent venue for exhibiting.

(iii) It was at the **Benoni Congress** in 2019 that the decision was taken to appoint a full-time philatelic administrator. Our thanks and appreciation for driving this initiative must go to Pat Flanagan. The result was the appointment of André du Plessis as Chief Operating Officer of the Federation Management Committee. This has had a major impact on South African philately and has been well received all round. Congratulations to André for making a big difference.

(iv) Along came the **Covid -19 Virus** to create chaos in 2020 and 2021 with government dictatorial lockdowns. Societies could no longer hold Face to Face meetings, the SA Post Office went to sleep again, and organised philately struggled. In addition, there was the unfortunate cancellation of ‘Algoapex 2020’ Exhibition and Congress due to the constraints imposed by lockdown legislation.

The SA Philatelist kept going with excellent articles and a new newsletter made its appearance in the form of “Stamps South Africa” published in tandem with *The SA Philatelist* each in alternate months. This put SA philately on the world stage.

Two results of the lockdown have been the resurgence of ‘stamp collectors’ and Zoom meetings. Dealers report that there are many new collectors on the local scene and business is booming. Because of the world-wide accessibility, Zoom meetings and presentations are the future for all societies. Inter-society co-operation and mutual support to stimulate philately is the future and Zoom and other similar programmes will make it happen. Societies can now invite other societies to join and see their members’ exhibits – the new philately is worldwide participation and in the comfort of your own home! But is this what stamp collectors want without social interaction at society meetings?

(v) 2020 saw a **Congress in Johannesburg** but no exhibition. This was the opportunity to have a close look at organised philately and see what needs to happen to secure a favourable future for philately. Closer co-operation with the various European federations is necessary; philatelic funding is of concern as Foundation cannot be the only financial source to support national philately; how can organised philately in the



Attendees at the Dealers and Jury dinner. Centre: Judges - (back row L-R) Richard Johnson, André du Plessis, Herwig Kussing and Garry Osthoff
Neil Cronjé. (Middle row) Victor Millard, Ian Matheson, Joof van der Merwe. (Front row L-R) Hugh Amooore, Michael Wigmore and Emil Minnaar

form of Federation represent and support the stamp business as in collectors, philatelists and dealers?

(vi) The undoubted success story this year is the **South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition – SAVPEX 2021**. Since starting six years ago there were 117 exhibits from 23 countries this year. Under the guidance of Emil Minnaar and Joof van der Merwe this format of exhibiting has grown in popularity and is being adopted by many other countries. A certain success story and, again, showing how South Africa is adapting to new innovations.

(vii) **'Cape Town 2022'**: Next year the world's philatelic focus will be on the FIP International Exhibition in Cape Town with theme *'The Road to Democracy'*. This is our chance to put South Africa and South African philately in the world's spot light as in 2010. All appears to be on track for this prestigious event. My wish is that the South African Post Office can re-invent itself and make a major contribution now in 'Cape Town 2022' and in the future to our postal service and to philately.

(viii) **'Vrijstaat 2021'**: Again, as in many previous local exhibitions, South African collectors and exhibitors continue to collect and show a very wide variety of what stamp collecting entails. This makes for interesting viewing for everyone. The traditional stamp collections are still here but there is a growing trend for 'Open Class' collecting where there is much flexibility and, invariably, there is an associated good story to tell. The introduction of 'Social Philately' is a very good innovation and should become permanent and not remain an experimental class. This again will have a good story to tell and bring more interest to the hobby.

(ix) In summary, **South African philately is alive and well**. There are, as usual, some challenges but I believe we are on the right track to move with the times and changes will come. We need to manage the changes to the advantage of all stamp collectors and dealers.

(x) On that note, I have the honour of declaring the Congress open.

MESSAGE FROM THE PFSA PRESIDENT, MR HUGH AMOORE RDPSA, FRPSL.

Vrijstaat 2021

The prospect of a real Exhibition where we see the stamps, cards, and covers, and not projected images on screens, and where we can meet F2F (yes, we have become accustomed to a new vocabulary during the long months of the Covid19 lockdown) is, quite simply, exciting!

For this we must thank the organisers of Vrijstaat 2021 for courage and perseverance; they must have wondered on many occasions what lockdown regulations would prevail at the end of October 2021, who would enter, who would come, and what support the show – and remember it is a show – would attract. I, for one, was undecided six months ago; but not Neil and Joof and their team. So, I looked forward to coming to Bloemfontein to Kopano Nokeng. The pandemic has shown the value of our hobby; locked down



Speakers at the official opening of the exhibition - far left: Jim Findlay, middle: Neil Cronjé and at right, Peter van der Molen

as we have been we have found new ways of pursuing the hobby; virtual meetings have worked well, and it has not been uncommon to join a meeting with philatelists from around the world. These meetings have stimulated new interest and we have seen a deluge of new publications. But just as we yearn to have F2F meetings with our family members and friends, so too we have yearned to get to a show, to exhibit, to see other exhibits, to visit dealers' stands, and to make new, and renew old, friendships.

This show will host the 83rd Congress of Federation, where we will have to make some important decisions for the future of organised philately.

It is my privilege as President of Federation to welcome you to this show and to congratulate Neil and Joof and all those involved in putting it on.

Hugh Amooore RDPSA, FRPSL

President; Philatelic Federation of South Africa

CONGRESS MOTIONS AND PRINCIPAL DEBATES:

Overview of debates and reports that are recorded in the Minutes of Congress.

- Financial Reports as circulated were discussed and the treasurer reminded Congress that final financial statements for 2019 had not been presented to the 2020 Congress. Although the 2020 accounts had been reviewed by an independent reviewer, the comparative figures for 2019 had not. The accounts for 2019 will be submitted for independent review.
- The Annual Financial Statements had been approved by the Management Committee. The AFS for 2020 showed a modest surplus.
- The Federation held the surpluses achieved after SAVPEX exhibitions on behalf of the Free State Society under whose auspices SAVPEX exhibitions had been held.
- The Management Committee had decided, in consultation with the Philatelic Foundation,

that the subsidy payable for frame fees for exhibitors at future international exhibitions would, if approved, be for a maximum of 50% of the costs by an exhibitor in any calendar year.

- The report was adopted with acclaim to Derek Roth for his work in bringing order to the Federation's financial records and to Emil Minnaar for helping him to do so.
- A motion for 2022 fee structure was proposed and accepted as follows: Affiliation fee will be R100.00 per member that include an electronic copy of *The SA Philatelist*.



Hugh Amooore



Emil Bürhmann. Hugh Amoores congratulating Alan Rose on receiving the WE Lea trophy. SAPDA dealers in attendance.

- Subscription to *The SA Philatelist* for a printed copy, including an electronic copy together with affiliation fee would be R570.00 p.a. for SA and R1,350.00 for foreign subscribers.
- Privacy statement to ensure that Federation protects the privacy of members and complies with the Constitutional guarantee of privacy and the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) and the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) was issued.
- A proposed new Constitution was accepted with a minor change. It was distributed and is available on the website or from the COO.
- Recommendations about taking certain trophies permanently out of use were accepted.
- Judging & Ethics Committee is to arrange on open forum, on Zoom, at which members would be invited to explore the existing standards, applied by juries, for judging exhibits.
- Possible failure of the Post Office to provide postage stamps suggests that the SAPO might be in breach of its obligations under the UPU Convention.

- Reports from Standing and other Committees were presented by their respective Chairmen.

The Report by the Chairman of the Management Committee, Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA, advised the 'Incoming' Management Committee and Standing Committee Chairmen for 2022 as follows:

Incoming Management committee for 2022

- Hon Life President - Mr Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL
- Hon Life Vice Presidents - Mr Howard Green RDPSA and Mr Emil Minnaar RDPSA
- President - Mr Hugh Amoores RDPSA, FRPSL
- Chairman - Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA
- Treasurer - Mr Derick Roth
- COO - Mr André du Plessis RDPSA

Portfolio Functionaries:

- Expert Committee - Mr Michael Wigmore RDPSA
- Judging & Ethics - Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA
- FIP/FIAP - Mr Emil Minnaar RDPSA



Attendees to the Vrijstaat 2021 Conference: Back Rows L-R: Pauw Steyl, George Philatelic Society; Leon Jacobson, Sasolburg PS; Alan Rose, East Rand PS; Howard Green, Hon. Life Vice President; Peter Oppenheim, Witwatersrand PS; Ian Matheson, PS of Johannesburg; Diederik Viljoen, Bellville PS; Andrew McLaren, Royal PS of Cape Town; Lourens Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria; Victor Millard, Royal PS of Cape Town; Ronél Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria; Dave McWilliams, East London PS; Joof van der Merwe, OFS PS; Adél Bulpitt, Pretoria PS; Herwig Kussing, Port Elizabeth PS; Emil Minnaar, Hon. Life Vice President; Garry Osthoff, OFS PS, Vernon Mitchell, Port Elizabeth PS; André du Plessis, COO; Trevor Harris, Sasolburg PS; Seated Derek Roth, Treasurer; Neil Cronjé, Chair Management Committee; Jim Findlay, President of Foundation; Peter van der Molen, Hon. Life President; Hugh Amoores, PFSA President; Michael Wigmore, Chairman of the Jury.

- Exhibitions - Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
- Membership - Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
- The SA Philatelist Editorial Committee - Mr P van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL
- Awards Custodian - Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA, FRPSL
- Heritage - Mr Leon Jacobson (Newly elected)
- Publications - Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
- SAPDA - Mr Kenny Napier
- SAPO Liaison - Prof Alex Visser RDPSA

Vice presidents

- Region 1: Gauteng and NW Province: Peter Oppenheim (Newly elected)
- Region 2: Eastern Gauteng: Colin Bousfield
- Region 3 : Pretoria, Mpumalanga, Limpopo: André du Plessis RDPSA
- Region 4: Free State and Northern Cape: Dr Leon Jacobson
- Region 5:, KwaZulu-Natal: **Vacant**
- Region 6: Western Cape: Diederik Viljoen
- Region 7: Eastern Cape: Vernon Mitchell
- Region 8: Outside Areas: Richard Stroud RDPSA
- Report from the Philatelic Foundation of SA, presented by the President Dr Jim Findlay RDPSA
- Regional Vice Presidents reports
- SAPDA report presented by their President, Kenny Napier.

FEDERATION AWARDS

NOMINATION FOR SIGNING THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Dr. Keith Klugman, a member of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg was invited to sign the Roll of Honour. A citation was read by Howard Green RDPSA in recognition of the very significant philatelic achievements of Dr Klugman.

The report of the signing of the Roll will appear in the next issue of The SAP.

CITATION FOR ELECTION TO THE ROLL OF HONOUR OF DISTINGUISHED SA PHILATELISTS (RDPSA)

Following the 1939 publication *The Victorian Postage Stamps of Natal* by E.W. Mann, very little research was done on the stamps and postal history of Natal. A revival took place when the book *'The Postal Markings of Natal'* by Bill Hart, Basil Kantey and A. Leslie Leon published in 1977.

This publication, based largely on the Natal collection of Hart, brought to light the numerous gaps in our knowledge of the Colony's philately, and that what an incredibly rich, intriguing field the collecting and research of Natal philately is.



Dr. Keith Klugman

Certainly, some philatelists were stimulated into forming superb collections of Natal stamps and postal history. Keith Klugman was one of those, and in 2007 exhibited his *'Victorian Natal'* at the Postage Stamp Mega Event in New York, receiving a Grand Award.

Keith has been fortunate in being able to source information on most of the philatelic gems of classic Natal not only from his own collection, but also those of other leading Natal collectors. This large but limited source of philatelic data has allowed for a census and the compilation of lists of the great Natal rarities. This would not have been possible if it had not been for the rigorous work he has done. Today our knowledge of the philately of early Colonial Natal has grown exponentially, which is partly due to his substantial contribution of numerous published articles, presentations and displays at international exhibitions.

He was invited to lecture on Victorian Natal to the Royal Philatelic Society of London where he received the Presenter's Medal in 2012, and in 2013, the Lee Medal for the best paper titled *'Classic Victorian Natal 1836-1899'* read before this Society.

Keith Klugman has published extensively, particularly on Natal philately (84% of his articles) in some 14 philatelic journals, such as, *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal, Natal and Zululand Post, London Philatelist, The South African Philatelist, Stanley Gibbons Monthly*, and several others.

The subject matter has been wide-ranging and has included articles on Namibian aerophilately, South African first day covers, stamps of Dutch West Indies and Nova Scotia, Zululand and the Boer War. He also formed an impressive collection of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick prior to commencing his Natal studies.

He contributed to the Royal Society of London, *'The De La Rue Collection'* in 2014, and made proposals for changes in Stanley Gibbons' listing of Natal stamps. In 2011 his comprehensive and beautifully illustrated book *Classic Victorian Natal* was published in Geneva in the series of Great Philatelic Collections.



Awards presented by Ian Matheson and Peter van der Molen to ds Pauw Steyl



Peter van der Molen congratulating Joof Van Der Merwe on his Award for The Plating of the Third Definitive Series, 1977, Proteas, of the Republic of South Africa and the successful organising of the Vrijstaat 2021 Nation.

Keith Klugman received a Grand Award for his first stamp exhibit of Danish West Indies at NOJEX in New Jersey in 1989, and in 2008 at the World Stamp Championship held in Tel Aviv, Israel, his exhibit on 'Victorian Natal' received a Gold award.

In 2010 this exhibit earned a Large Gold at the International Stamp Show in London, and the Grand Prix Award at the Johannesburg 2010 International Stamp Show. In 2016 his exhibit achieved Large Gold at the World Stamp Show, and again at the China FIP Exhibition in 2019.

He was invited in 2019 to exhibit at the Royal Philatelic Society London Sesquicentenary Americas Event in Washington DC where he received the RPSL 150th Anniversary Medal for his one frame exhibit. Acknowledged as a world authority on classic Victorian Natal Philately, Keith was elected in 2010 to the Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Keith is a Fellow and Veteran Member of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, which he joined in 1973, and is proposed as a worthy signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

- Proposed by: Roger Porter RDPSA
- Seconded by: Richard Johnson RDPSA, Pat Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL, Jim Findlay RDPSA, Ian Matheson RDPSA, FRPSL, Joachim Frank RDPSA, FRPSL, and Clive Carr, President, of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg.
- Following the election procedure, it was announced that Keith was invited to sign the Roll of Honour, but since he was not able to attend the Palmars, later arrangement have been made for him to sign the Roll.

NOMINATION FOR THE SKINNER CUP - 2021

Dr John Barry, Philatelic Society of Pretoria
CITATION FOR THE SKINNER CUP

Dr John Barry is a long-standing member of the Pretoria Philatelic Society (PPS), having joined in 1979. He is also a non-home member of Sandton Philatelic society and Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria.

He collects in a somewhat unique way by collecting a country and the colonies of such a country i.e. Portugal, and Angola, Mozambique, Brazil, etc.

In the PPS he became involved in the Exchange Section becoming a circuit manager, and has served for many years.

In the late 1980s John initiated and computerised the exchange packet records and reports running the Visual Basic programme until 2005. He has served as Honorary Exchange Superintendent from 2010, and also on three Pretoria Stampshow Organising Committees.

In 2017 together with Steve Marsh, John was instrumental in replacing the old PPS computer package with a Web-based, universally accessible, multiuser administration programme. This package has reduced the administrative record keeping load associated with the 2,100 books currently in circulation. It is also available to other interested Societies.

The PPS Exchange Section under his supervision extended routes beyond the Pretoria area to include parts of



Dr John Barry with the Skinner Cup

Johannesburg, KZN, the Western Cape and Welkom.

He served as AFV route manager for their Pretoria route. In 2019 John was key in negotiating with the AFV for amalgamation of their exchange section with that of PPS. The successful merger took place in 2020 to form the "Stamps Exchange" with John as the Exchange Superintendent and PPS continuing to manage the exchange packets.

Again, John accepted the challenges the merger triggered, effectively integrating AFV's Western and Eastern Cape routes into the whole. The Stamps Exchange currently caters for approximately 50 contributors of material and many more buyers. Since amalgamation, the number of routes has increased to 16, serving collectors in the Eastern and Western Cape, Natal, Gauteng, Limpopo, OFS and the Northwest.

This has helped stimulate a resurgence of interest in philately in South Africa, especially because of John's focus on interpersonal interaction in addressing queries.

John's selfless efforts contribute to promote Philately in South Africa, making it possible for collectors with limited access to dealers and stamp fairs, to be exposed to new material on a regular basis.

John's contribution to philately over a long period merits the awarding of the Skinner Cup.

- Proposed by Alex Visser RDPSA, Secretary, on behalf of the Pretoria Philatelic Society.

Following the election procedure and the announcement that John was awarded the Skinner Cup, he was unfortunately not able to attend the Palmars, and later arrangement were made to present the trophy.

HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

Elected are Howard Green RDPSA, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg and Emil Minnaar RDPSA, East Rand Philatelic Society.

Manfred Weinstein Medallion (*Literature award*)

- Prof Alex Visser RDPSA (Pretoria PS) for online updates to Ralph Putzel's 'Postmarks of South Africa'.

W E Lea Cup

- Dr. Alan Rose (East Rand PS) for Involvement with and mainstay of the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist* since early 2000s.

Jack Hagger Award

- Roger Porter RDPSA, Postmark & Postal History Society for best article in *The SA Philatelist* in the past year.

Federation Plaque

- Xavier Laubscher (SAPDA) for Recording and listing of modern RSA and Namibia FDC's and other material over many years.

PFSA - EXPERT COMMITTEE REPORT CONGRESS 2021, BLOEMFONTEIN

The Expert Committee's work for this reporting period has, of course, been largely guided by effects and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst we kept functioning as best we could, submissions have been a small percentage of the past. A stark indicator of economic effects of the health crisis has been many 'desperation enquiries' received from people

believing they had a rarity to sell that would 'do much better' if certified. Sadly, these were nearly all items misidentified and frequently in poor condition. (The few of merit were referred on for assistance). Acknowledged are colleagues on the Committee who have helped deal sensitively with these approaches. Representing a considerable amount of this year's work this was frequently not a pleasant task – 'creatures under stress tend to bite randomly.'

For years, our Congress reports have recorded those using us preferred reliance (mostly re costs) on SAPO's delivery systems. Even as staunch supporters of our national PO, it cannot be ignored that their service reliability record has been greatly diminished. For the sakes of speed and security, it is felt unavoidable that we should be looking to use commercial courier services for the immediate future. Decisions in this regard and the inevitable change to cost structure will be presented as soon as available.

The 2020 Income & Expenditure Statement for ExCo was submitted to the PFSA Treasurer earlier this year and incorporated into the general PFSA financial statements. All ExCo operational costs (catalogues, stationery, printing etc) continue to be self-funded from revenues received. The limited use of our services this year results, at the end of this reporting period, in a break-even position.

In closing, I take this opportunity to honour, on behalf of the Expert Committee, the memory of a great servant to our hobby. Amongst various 'philatelic hats' that the late Coen Slagt RDPSA wore, many members today may be unaware of his past work on the Expert Committee during the 1970s and 1980s.

He retired from the Committee to create more time for his family and business but remained, for me, an informal yet intrinsic part of the team. Over the intervening years, Coen and I consulted each other regularly. In particular his knowledge of Republic issues was amongst the best I have encountered. Coen was a good friend who truly will be missed.

- Michael Wigmore, RDPSA - Chairman, Philatelic Federation of South Africa Expert Committee.



Michael Wigmore



Master of Ceremonies, Garry Ostihoff. Awards presented by Ian Matheson RDPSA and Peter van der Molen RDPSA.

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

by Emil Minnaar RDPSA

LONDON 2022. 19 - 26 February 2022.

FIP Patronage Specialised WSC. Patrick Flanagan RDPSA as Commissioner and myself on the Jury.

HUNFILEX 2022 31 March-3 April 2022.

Budapest, Hungary. FIP Patronage Specialised. *Not supported.*

TAIPEI 2022 6-10 May 2022.

FIP Recognition (38th FIAP) International. *Not supported.*

HELVETIA 2022 18-22 May 2022.

Lugano, Switzerland. FIP Patronage Specialised WSC. *Not supported.*

CAPEX 2022 9-12 June 2022.

Toronto, Canada. FIP Recognition (FIAF International). *Not supported.*

INDONESIA 2022 4-9 August 2022.

Jakarta, Indonesia. FIP Patronage Specialised WSC.

Joof van der Merwe Commissioner

LIBEREC 2022 13-16 October 2022.

Czech Republic. FIP Recognition (FEPA International). *Not supported.*

CAPETOWN 2022 8 - 12 November 2022.

FIP Patronage Specialised.

With the exception of the London exhibition, frame fees for all future exhibitions will only be subsidised to a maximum of 50% per exhibitor and only for a single exhibit in any year. Application for the subsidy will be considered by the Philatelic Foundation on recommendation by the Federations FIP Committee.

Acceptance of our entries for both London and Jakarta have been received and are closed to new entries.

The S.A. PHILATELIST EDITORIAL BOARD TO CONGRESS 2021 AT BLOEMFONTEIN

Over the past year the required 6 issues were compiled and issued. By extensive use of email and telephone facilities, the Covid restrictions did not greatly affect our work and there were no significant delays in any issue.

I wish to record my appreciation to all members of the Editorial Board who gave much of their time to compile these issues to a high standard and to Ms Janice Botes, our Production Editor, to achieve near editorial perfection in every issue and also to persuade reluctant advertisers to commit.

The Editorial Board over the past year comprised:

Moirá Bleazard for early issues; resigned for personal reasons. Robin Messenger, Dr Alan Rose, David Wigston, and Peter van der Molen.

We also welcomed our COO André du Plessis to most meetings and appreciated his valuable input. Philatelic Services in Pretoria assisted with franking with stamps and mailing the hard copies for each issue.

We thank our loyal contributors over the past year and hope they will continue, supplemented by new authors who will be greatly welcomed.

- Peter van der Molen RDPSA, Chairman of *The SA Philatelist* Editorial Board.

THE PALMARES

The Venue

One of the halls at Kopano Nokeng was the venue for the Palmares evening on Saturday, 23 October 2021 where the award winners were honoured for their achievements.

The attending members mingled before the event and renewed old acquaintances at this black tie affair that started at 6:30 pm.

The Roll of Honour

As Keith Klugman, who now lives overseas, did not attend the Palmares, there was no 'signing of the roll' at the time, arrangements have been made for a special event in Cape Town where the signing will take place.

The Activities

The Master of Ceremonies, Garry Osthoff maintained the momentum of the evening not with standing all the activity in the background. The exhibition awards were handed out by the Honorary Life President Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL and Ian Matheson RDPSA, FRPSL. This was the first time that new printed certificates were presented in lieu of the hardware.

The chairman of the jury, Michael Wigmore RDPSA, gave a short report back on both activities of the Jury and JUNASS jury.

Howard Green RDPSA gave a short overview of the main awards that were handed out at Congress.

The two new Honorary Life Vice Presidents, namely Emil Minnaar RDPSA and Howard Green RDPSA, were introduced to the attendees under great applause.

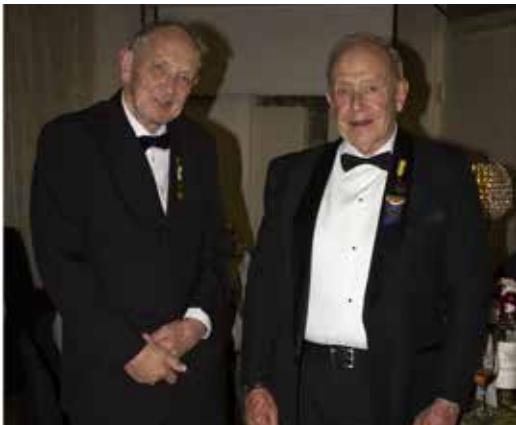
As the chain of office of the President of Federation has stayed in the Cape with Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL, no handing over took place and the event was closed with the taking of a group photo of the RDPSAs present.



President of Federation - Hugh Amoore



The best of show - The Grand Prix President's Trophy award for 'A Chronology of Events Relating to the Cape of Good Hope' presented by Ian Matheson and Peter van der Molen for Dr Mervyn Rosenberg of the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town, who could not attend the awards ceremony.



Life Vice Presidents Emil Minnaar RDPSA and Howard Green RDPSA



Dr Danna Strydom of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society, winner of four top awards being congratulated by Ian Matheson and Peter van der Molen.



Emil Bührmann, of the Orange Free State Philatelic Society awarded the SA Post Office Shield for his British Bechuanaland and Stellaland.



Ian Matheson and Neil Cronjé auctioning the beautiful, original art by Mrs J. Birkhead for the Cape Town 2022 postcards.



A feast of wholesome buffet Free State food served at the Palmares.



A short overview of the main awards handed out at Congress where winners were honoured for their achievements, was given by Howard Green RDPSA to end the successful Vrijstaat 2021 National and Congress.

WITH THANKS

To my Philatelic Friends and Colleagues

By means of this letter I would like to express my gratitude for being nominated and elected to the position of Honorary Life Vice-President of our Federation. I am sincerely humbled by the confidence shown in me. I need to add that I have the greatest respect for the two persons who nominated me, namely Hugh Amoore and Jannie Hofmeyr. Also, my thanks to the Management Committee who supported this nomination to Congress.

I will endeavour to fill the shoes worn by remarkable persons such as the late Joh Groenewald, the late Danny Swart and the late Harry Birkhead who previously held this position.

To all those delegates who attended the Federations 83rd Congress and voted to approve my election, I thank you.

Kind regards

Emil Minnaar



Attending Signatories of the RDPSA 2021



Back row of RDPSA's present at Vrijstaat 2021: Paul Van Zeyl, André du Plessis, Herwig Kussing, Dr Neil Cronjé, Dr Ian Matheson. Middle row: ds Pauw Steyl, Dr Jim Findlay, Richard Johnson, Hugh Amoore, Emil Bührmann
Seated: Emil Minnaar, Peter van der Molen, Howard Green and Michael Wigmore.

JUNASS 2021 (25 October 2021) Exhibit Points (by Class)

Exhibitor Name	Exhibit Title	Frames	Points	Award
Club Entry				
• OFS Philatelic Society.	Technology	241 - 241	75	Vermeil
Junas Medal Class				
• Bothma, Miss Kyla	Proteas: 3de Vaste Reeks van 1977	233 - 233	76	Vermeil
• Barry, Miss Mia	Max My Beste Vriend	232 - 232	74	Vermeil
• Mabale, Miss Tsego	Lesotho	235 - 235	72	Vermeil
• Marais, Miss Mia	Geboue	236 - 236	72	Vermeil
• Badenhorst, Mr Ryno	Ou en Nuwe Skepe	231 - 231	70	Vermeil
• Greyling, Miss Kytie	Katte	234 - 234	70	Vermeil
• McNeilage, Miss Anke	Wilde Diere	237 - 237	70	Vermeil
• Pitso, Miss Reatile	Wheels	238 - 238	69	Silver
• Van Niekerk, Miss Zandri	Noag se Ark	240 - 240	67	Silver
• Van Der Walt, Miss Marné	Eet Gesond	239 - 239	62	Silver



Kyla Bothma



Mia Barry



Tsego Mabale



Ryno Badenhorst



Kytie Greyling



Anke McNeilage



Reatile Pitso



Zandri Van Niekerk



Marné Van Der Walt



Siyanda Qwelane



Keoratile Thole



Mia Marais

OBITUARY

SIMON EVEREST
1939 - 2021



It was with sadness that the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society President, Herbie Schafler announced the passing of Simon Everest on 21 September 2021.

Simon had been in poor health for some time, but he had such happy memories of the times he spent with all at Sandton and at Wits. He had sold his stamp collection when he realised that he could no longer take an active interest.

Deepest sympathies go to his widow, Barbara, his son, John and their families. The funeral parlour used a programme 'Starleaf' to allow persons, who could not attend, to participate in the service. A small gathering was held at the home of Simon's son.

Simon joined the Wits PS on 17 March 2003 and was appointed secretary of the Society at the AGM in January 2005, an appointment he held until the end of 2006. He remained on the committee until the end of 2011.

An extremely active member at both formal meetings at Auckland Park and the stamp study group at Woodmead. For many years he produced a newsletter on the activities at the Woodmead meetings. He kept his health problem to himself and over the last couple of years his health deteriorated rapidly.

H.S.

JUST RELEASED

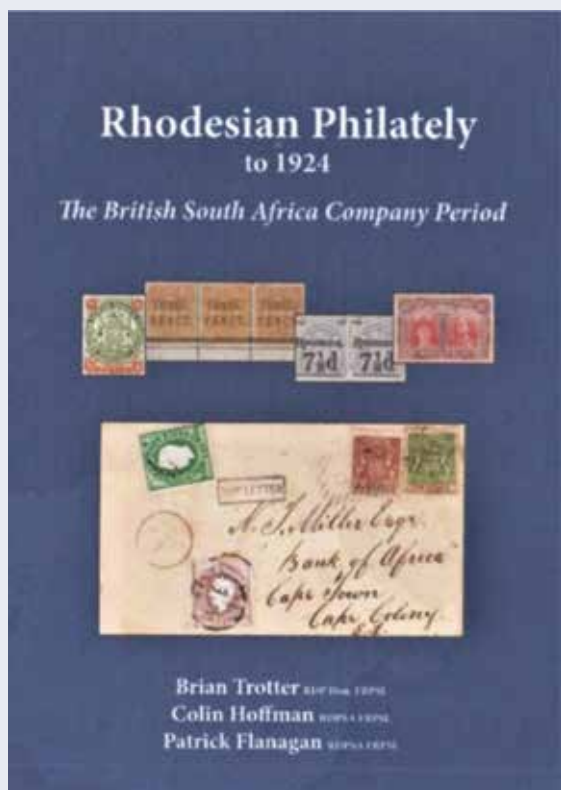
NEW PUBLICATION

"RHODESIAN PHILATELY TO 1924 THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY PERIOD"

This 720 page, full colour, hard bound book on the philatelic aspects of the British South Africa Company in Rhodesia to 1924, provides an overview of the postal history, stamps, and revenues of the period and much more.

Published by the Royal Philatelic Society London, a limited number of copies are now available in South Africa, through Patrick Flanagan FRPSL, RDPSA.

Details from patf@fgprop.com



CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CHINESE INDENTURED MINeworkERS ON THE RAND – 1904 TO 1910

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

This article is the second following the first article 'Chinese Indentured Mineworkers on the Rand - 1904 to 1910' which appeared in The SA Philatelist, December 2019.



Initially, recruitment of indentured mineworkers was focused on southern China, however it was soon realised that they did not represent a feasible labouring group, mainly due to their poor health. Towards the end of 1904 recruitment shifted to the northern provinces of Chihli and Shantung (Fig.1).

Poverty was endemic in these regions as inhabitants were subjected to floods, droughts and severe famine. In 1900 this critical situation had contributed to the Boxer Rebellion, followed by years of oppression.

Traditionally, these regions provided employment for thousands of seasonal Chinese agricultural labourers, but, as a result, they faced starvation and were therefore willing to be recruited.

Despite the short duration of the South African experiment, the Chinese arrived in numbers. Evidence exists indicating that brother followed brother, thus creating a chain migration (Fig.2).

This suggests that the conditions and treatment on the Rand, however appalling, did not overshadow the benefits of the relatively high remuneration.

The demand for a minimum wage per worker was set by the British Government, and was fixed at one shilling per day, and after six months, 1s 6d.

Poverty was a key factor in the lives of the Chinese workers and is demonstrated by the enthusiasm of the Chinese authorities for large-scale emigration and implementation of an effective allotment system.

The Transvaal Administration passed the Labour Importation Ordinance in 1904 to *inter alia* regulate recruiting and conditions of the indentured workers' service contract. Part of this was to conform compliance to the minimum wage demand (Fig.3).



Fig.1: Map indicating northern region.

S.A. No. 473 L.H.		REMITTANCES TO CHINA. As per Contract of Service											
Reg. No.	3192												
Mine No.	176												
Name	Li Chen Han												
Date	Amount Advanced	Amount Paid	Applied Allotment	For Remittances to China	Total	Amount Paid	Amount Remitted to China	No. of Months Worked in Month	No. of Months Worked	Leave	Widened	Arrested	Other
February 1905													
March		1 5 4						29	29				
April		5						26	15				
May		2 2 6						28	4				
June		1 6						26	23				
July		2						26	26				
August		1 5 8						29	29				
September		1 5 2						26	26				
October		1 6 0						26	26				
November		1 5 2						26	26				
December		2 0 0						22	31				
January 1906		1 1 0						28	29				
February		2 2 4						24	29				
March		1 8 0						27	27				

Fig.3 Payment record for LI Chen Han kept from arrival in February 1905 to May 1908 when repatriated back to China. Courtesy of Patrick Flanagan



Fig.2: Postcard showing the loaded ship of Chinese workers. Courtesy of Patrick Flanagan

Although the average monthly wage was less than that paid to African recruits, some regarded it as eight or even fifteen times as much as what they could earn at home.

Despite the alleged level of illiteracy of the Chinese workers, and in the absence of inclusive and accurate archival records on the amount of correspondence, 2015 letters were registered as having been transmitted from China to the workers on the mines.

The recruiting agents in China assured the Foreign Labour Department that every effort was made to ensure that letters reached their addressees. It was also believed that this correspondence, with feedback from the Transvaal mines, increased recruiting prospects (Fig.5).

The cover illustrated in Fig.4 is an opened-out cover from Paoting, China to New Modderfontein Gold Mine, Benoni.

The letter was posted on 3 January 1906 and postage paid with a single 10c green Chinese Imperial Post stamp. It received a Shanghai bilingual handstamp on 8 January and on the same day a Shanghai British Post Office date stamp.

It was re-sorted at Colombo on 24 January 1906 and arrived in Benoni on 7 March 1906 where it received a Benoni handstamp. A pre-printed label for the New Modderfontein Mine was used to overcome the problem of providing an appropriate address.

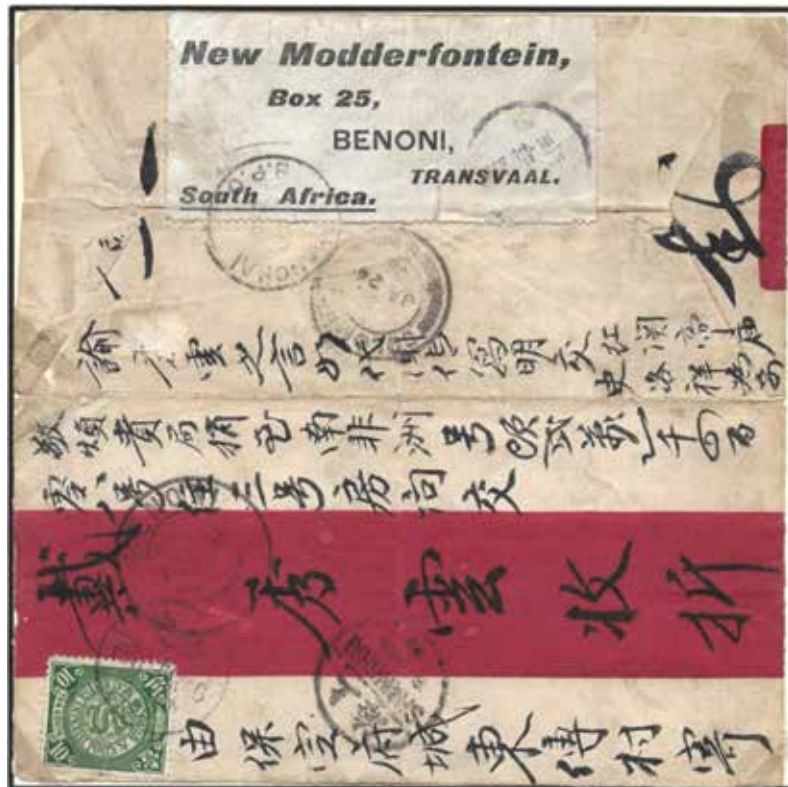


Fig. 4: Opened out cover with destination New Modderfontein Gold Mine in Benoni. The Chinese writing reads: "According to Xiuyun's words, on behalf of the sender, gave the letter to Shi Luoxiang at the Hong Guandi Temple. Please kindly post the letter to South Africa to No. 24108, in room 3, Dai Xiuyun, receiver. Posted from Baoding Chengdongfu village" (Note: There appears no name of the sender; Shi Luoxiang was a Post Office official; Baoding is the Zhili province Governor's residence)



Fig. 5: Chinese workers in front of their compound.

The concern about remittances to their family at home was common among the recruits and their families.

In the only two personal Chinese letters, from the doctoral thesis of Karen Leigh Harris, found in the Transvaal Archives Depot of the South African National Archives, reference is made almost exclusively to the remittance of money. Due to the scarcity of such documents, they have been translated and reproduced below.

The first is to a worker on the mines and the second from a worker on the mines to his wife in China.

"Dear Brother Liu Tsai Chi. Not hear from you after you leave from Africa. We don't know if you want to bring the family settle money back yourself or ask somebody else to send it back. Now without seeing the money your mother is making a tearful scene with me at home. Hope you write a letter back together with money so as to rescue me from bad situation at present. No more to write and with best regards. Your brother Zhu Anran (Use the envelope enclosed in this letter)".

"Dear Madam Wu, tell my wife I am well and sound since departure last year. Don't worry about me. Only after reading the return letter received from you on February 14, have I known that you haven't got money (amount 20 yuans) which I sent back to Hong Kong Tai Gu Bank last August. I immediately remitted 122 gold coin back through Tai Gu Bank on February 15 and March 15 separately. The receiver address is Yuan Qian St, Xie Jiahe. Please notify me if you still haven't received these two remittances so I can get the refund from Tai Gu Bank. Now they tell me you haven't signed for the reception. I will be back to home after three years pass. Take care and don't worry about me. Your husband Hu Yulin October 20, GuangXu".

Unfortunately the system lent itself to fraudulent activities to the detriment of the indentured workers and their families.

Debating the compilation of the Labour Importation Ordinance it was contested that, in the interests of morality, workers should be accompanied by their wives. The regulations made provision for allowances for accompanying wives under the same conditions as that of the workers. The mine magnates reluctantly conceded to this directive that was much against their economic interests.

During the entire experiment only six women were reported to have come to the Rand with their children.

The imbalance in the ratio, male and female, can be ascribed to the fact that only men were employed, and that the Chinese did not usually take their wives away from their homes and ancestral villages (Fig.6).

Although not backed by research, another factor that could have played a role in the reluctance of women to go abroad was the practice of foot binding among Chinese women. This practice limited their ability to walk and capacity to work. It was particularly prevalent in the rural areas of the north Chinese provinces.

In *The Transvaal Philatelist*, v.12 no. 3 pp 71 published in 1977, Dr. Chris Board RDPSA quoted the Annual Report of the Post Office of Imperial China for 1905:

“At the suggestion of the General Manager of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency in China, the Natal Government was asked, in the middle of the year, for special arrangements for the exchange of Chinese emigrants’ letters in closed mails between China and South Africa, to obviate the delays of the ordinary mail route via Shanghai, Colombo and Aden. A short agreement was satisfactorily concluded as required and signed at Pietermaritzburg on 28 October and in Peking on 27 December 1905. Emigrant steamers calling at Chingwantoa, Tientsin, or Chefoo can, whenever, opportunity permit, convey mails via Durban to and from the Transvaal, thus freeing coolies’s* (sic) letters from long delays en route and from the risk of misdirection to which loose Chinese-addressed letters are exposed abroad”.

The opened-out cover in Fig.7 was sent via these channels. It is correctly franked with a 10c green Chinese Imperial Post stamp with indistinct datestamp. It bears no other transit or arrival markings.

As it was sent per closed mails between China and South Africa, it is assumed that it received the ‘South Africa’ and ‘Johannesburg’ cachets as part of the address from the Transvaal Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency in China before it was despatched.

After arriving in South Africa, it was stamped with a red boxed cachet ‘Transvaal Passport Number’, noted 22453 and marked ‘Van Rijn’ in blue, indicating the receiver worked at the Van Rijn Gold Mine in Benoni.



Fig. 7: Opened out cover with destination the Van Rijn Gold Mine in Benoni. The Chinese writing reads: “Inside the envelope there is an important letter, please post it to South Africa safely give to Zhang Jinxu check and receive. From Dengmingsi town, Dong Guang country, Zhou Huandou requested on the 7th of June lunar calendar”.

After passing recruitment conditions, recruits received a unique number. Since the Chinese workers were classified as ‘non-white’, they received a further numbered pass known as ‘Transvaal Passport’ for local identification purposes (Fig.8).



Fig.6: Wife of a Chinese worker.



Courtesy of Patrick Flanagan

Fig.8: A newspaper cutting showing a photo from “The Best of the Sunday Times”, no date pg6 with caption ‘Hard Labour: East Rand Mine Officials with Chinese workers who were numbered, fingerprinted and photographed’.

• I would like to thank Patrick Flanagan RDP SA, FRPSL and Binjun Hu from Rhodes University South Africa, for their support with this article.

*The word “coolie” was commonly used in South Africa and other countries to refer to the Chinese indentured workers. Today it is regarded as an insult and most derogatory.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Fifty Golden Years of the Rand 1886 to 1936: 1936 - pp 83 - 5.
- Doctoral thesis: A History of the Chinese in South Africa to 1912: University of South Africa, Karen Leigh Harris, 1998 pp 152 - 61
- Personal research - Various Internet websites accessed

abacus auctions

Stamps & Postal History, Coins & Banknotes, Sporting Memorabilia & Collectables

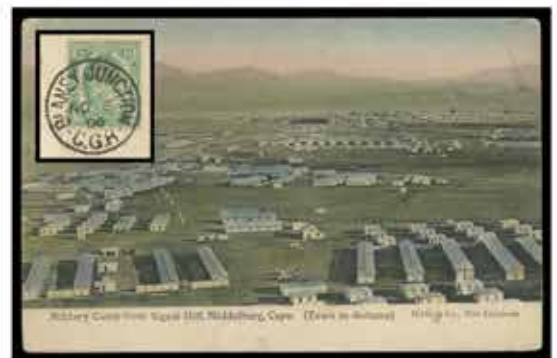
South Africa & Provinces at Public Auction

Melbourne, April 2022

featuring John Fletcher's Cape of Good Hope & Transvaal
Stamps, Revenues, Postal History, Postmarks & Picture Postcards



1841 to England endorsed "Inland Postage paid at Knyena 1/3d" folded entire headed "Belvidere - Knyena" signed "TH Duthie"



We are now accepting further consignments for this auction – contact us for details
Join our mailing list to receive a complimentary catalogue and/or email notifications

abacus  auctions

29 Hardner Road
Mount Waverley, Victoria, 3149
AUSTRALIA

Post Office Box 296
Mount Waverley, Victoria, 3149
AUSTRALIA

Phone: +61 3 8513 0595
Email: info@abacusauctions.com.au
Web: www.abacusauctions.com.au

DECORATED POST OFFICES

by Prof Garry Osthoff, OFS PS Bloemfontein



Lusikisiki, Qumbu and Nqelini

During the 1930s a number of post offices were decorated by artistic ceramic tile panels from The Ceramic Studio of Olifantsfontein. Most of the period post offices were designed in the Baker style. Twenty-seven of these buildings remain, of which several have been re-utilised as shops, cafés and even a home. The artworks normally displayed cultural or historical aspects of the district in which the post office is situated, while historical aspects of the development of post and communication are also shown.

These have been described in detail in 24 parts in *The SA Philatelist* during 2010-2017, and the theme was considered concluded. Information exists that artwork was prepared for other post offices, and that some were installed, however, there is no trace of such lately. These post offices are Florida, Halfwayhouse, Lusikisiki, Nqelini, Qumbu, Randfontein, Roodepoort, Tzaneen and Vaalwater.

While going through a postcard collection, two Transkei postcards caught my eye: Postcard nos. 3 (Fig.1) and 8 (Fig.2) of the series 'Post Offices in Transkei' that were issued on 09 Nov 1983 and 05 Nov 1984, respectively. Both buildings were of the Baker school designs with



Fig.3: Groblershoop post office indicating the position of the panels.

large arches, and buttresses at each end, similar to most of the 1930s designs. Clearly visible on the photographs are rectangular images next to the entrance arches.

These are in the exact positions in which the tiled artworks are found in similar post office buildings (Groblershoop as example, Fig.3).

These cards therefore provide evidence that the artworks were installed on the walls, and that they still existed before 1983. Some time after that date the Qumbu post office underwent maintenance, during which the panels were plastered over or removed, while the Lusikisiki office was completely re-vamped.

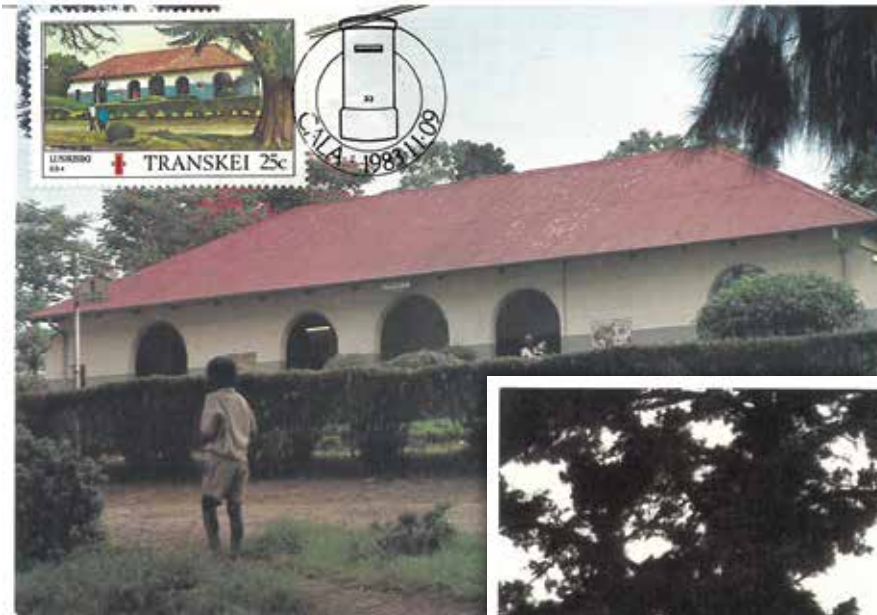


Fig.1: Postcard of Lusikisiki post office.



Fig.2: Postcard of Qumbu post office.



Reference

- Heymans, J. A. *Potterbakkerswerk in Suid-Afrika met spesifieke verwysing na die werk wat vanaf 1925 tot 1952 by Olifantsfontein gedoen is*. MA thesis, Pretoria: University of Pretoria: Vol 2, Catalogue A, Page 3.

Fig.4: Sketch intended for the tiled panel destined for Qumbu post office.

Fortunately a sketch of at least one panel that was destined for the Qumbu post office survived. The panel was painted by Audry Frank in 1937. Apparently the panels at Nquelini post office were also plastered over during renovations.

Fig.5: Lusikisiki post office after reconstruction.





1910-1913 King George V Double Head.
10d. DIE PROOF IN TRIAL COLOURS OF BLACK AND ROSE-CARMINE.
 An outstanding and exceptionally rare exhibition piece.

Doreen Royan & Associates (Pty.) Ltd
(Established 1982)
 Tel: + 27 11 706 1920
 Email: royan@icon.co.za

Great Britain & British Commonwealth
Rarities Errors & Varieties
www.doreenroyan.com






The Evolution of the Grill Stamps of the United States

by Jan Hofmeyr, The Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town



Introduction

The 1c Z-grill of the United States is the most valuable stamp in all of North American philately and the second most valuable stamp in the world (Fig.1). So far, only two have been recorded and one is in the New York Public Library. There is therefore only one available to collectors. In 1998, the Mystic Stamp Co. bought that copy from the Zoellner collection for \$850,000. In 2005, they traded it with Bill Gross for his block of 4 of the inverted Jenny for an implied value of \$2.7 million. The 2021 Scott catalogue prices it at \$3 million.

The 1c isn't the only rare and expensive grill stamp. The 2021 Scott catalogue prices the 3c B-grill at \$900,000, and the 10c and 15c Z-grills at \$750,000 and \$2 million respectively. As it happens, my collection is incomplete without the 3c! So I have a personal interest in the cost of these stamps. In this short article I'll discuss what led to their production and why they're so valuable.

The Prevention of Re-use in the United States

Rowland Hill's revolution of 1840 started the process by which postage stamps replaced money to pay for postage. Unlike bank notes, however, stamps are only supposed to be used once. From the start, therefore, the prevention of re-use has been an important part of the story of postage stamps. The most widely used approach to preventing re-use, is by ink cancellation. In the 1860s, however, cancellation failed in the United States because a shortage of coins caused by the Civil War led to the widespread cleaning of stamps for use as currency. Postal losses due to cleaning seem to have been small and inventors, sensing a commercial opportunity, started patenting ideas for stamps that could not be cleaned and re-used. These included stamps that could not be floated off an envelope without damaging or destroying the design; and ink compositions that would make various combinations of chemical cleaning impossible. In 1868, the USPO set aside all of these ideas and adopted Charles Steel's embossed or 'grill' stamp as the solution.

Charles Steel's idea for an embossed (or 'grill') stamp

Charles Steel ran the stamp production line for the National Bank Note Company (NBNC) in the 1860s. He must have been good at his job because the company wrote a letter to Lincoln's government in 1862, asking that Steel be exempted from the Civil War draft. Steel's experiments with an uncleanable stamp appear to have begun in about 1865. By that time he'd seen the NBNC waste much time and effort on some of the other ideas, most notably those of Henry Loewenberg for decal stamps. Steel's alternative was relatively simple: if you break the fibres of the stamp's paper, then cancelling ink should seep into the fibres and become embedded in the paper. This would make the stamp impossible to clean.



Fig.1: North America's most expensive stamp, the 1c Z-grill of 1868 catalogued at \$3 million. Image courtesy of Siegel Auction Galleries.



Fig.2: Charles Steel's 'first experiments' for what he called 'embossed' stamps that could not be cleaned and reused. This is one of two that have been recorded. Magnification shows the flat, square shape of the grill. Archival correspondence suggests that these date to 1865.

The first indications of Steel's experiments are two essays that he signed as 'first experiments' sometime in 1865 (Fig.2). By the end of 1865 he had enough confidence in his idea, to send samples to Anthony Zevely, the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General in charge of stamp production and distribution. On December 20, Zevely replied that he was 'favourably impressed'. Thus began the process by which the 'grill' eventually became the only patented, re-use prevention technique ever officially used by the USPO. Steel himself never called them 'grill' stamps (the word 'grill' comes from the French 'grille' meaning 'grating'). Steel called them 'embossed'.



As the images in Fig.2 show, Steel's early experiments involved a flat, square embossed impression.

From the start, the idea posed significant technical challenges. First, it was very difficult to print cleanly on Steel's embossed paper, and second, gum leaked into the fibres of the embossed paper and defaced the stamp. You might ask: why not emboss the stamp after printing and gumming? The answer is: embossing would distort the finely engraved, printed picture and lead to an unattractive stamp. To solve these problems, Steel proposed gumming the paper before embossing; and flattening the paper for printing after embossing.

Steel's idea upended the process of stamp production and increased the cost of stamps by 66%. Understandably, the NBNC was not keen. As a result, it took Steel more than two years to get his idea adopted, even with the support of Zevely. During this time, the grill itself evolved which led to the Z-grill.

The evolution of the issued stamps: from first experiments to the Z-grill

As the images in Fig.2 show, the early 'grill' involved a gridwork of indented flat squares. At some point, probably during 1866, the shape of the 'grill' changed to an indented pyramid (Fig.3). This is known as the biscuit grill. We have no record as to why Steel decided to experiment with the new shape, but it may have been due to it having a better chance of producing broken fibres.



Fig.3: Plate proofs for the pyramid shaped A-grill. Magnification shows the pyramid shape.

From the start, Zevely made it clear to both Steel and the NBNC that, while the USPO was interested in the idea, they would not support any of the experiments financially. He argued that the best way to test the idea would be to grill some stamps and distribute them for postage. The NBNC resisted until ordered to produce 10,000 sheets of biscuit grill 3c stamps on July 23, 1867. The resulting stamps are called the 'A-grill'; and the first known use was on August 17, 1867.

The stamps quickly proved to be problematic, mainly because they could not be separated from the sheet without damaging the stamp. Being worried about the public reputation of the Post Office, Zevely therefore wrote to the NBNC on October 7 to request samples of a stamp that was only partially embossed because "The stamps, with the entire surface embossed... will not meet the wants of the Department..." The result was the C-grill which was supposed to cover only the centre of the stamp. It is first known used on November 16, 1867.

Though the A- and C-grills are relatively easy to find on cover, neither was produced for general distribution. Both are considered experimental trials. At the time of the C-grill, the USPO seemed to have decided that Steel's embossed stamps were the future, but the NBNC's contract had run out in 1867. Late in that year, the USPO renewed the NBNC's contract on condition that it produced stamps according to Steel's 'grill' idea. That led to the Z-grill.

What's different about the Z-grill?

From the start, it was clear that Steel's grill idea posed numerous technical challenges. As a result, by the time his patent was eventually granted in 1867, he'd modified it to suggest an entirely new stamp. It would have a fully, unflattened but blank embossed centre so as to absorb cancelling ink. Then it would have a printed frame. Leaving the grill unflattened, was Steel's solution to ensuring that the ink would seep into the paper. Leaving it blank, was his solution to the problem of printing on an the sharply uneven embossed surface.

In the meantime, the NBNC was now faced with the problem of embossing stamps of the 1861 issue that had already been printed. Their solution seems to have been to make the grill ever smaller. As we've seen, the experimental all-over A-grill was quickly rejected. The experimental C-grill that followed was approximately 13x16mm in area. The first grills for general distribution, the Z- and the D-grills were significantly smaller: 11x14mm and 12x14mm respectively. By the time the USPO ordered grill stamps for general distribution, the grill version on which the NBNC had decided, appears to have been the Z-grill.


The Z-grill showed up in January 1868. The earliest known D-grills were used in February. Both were produced in very small numbers. By March, both had been replaced by the still smaller and mass-produced E- and F-grills (11x13mm and 9x13mm respectively). And in 1869, the entire issue was replaced by the new definitives with an even smaller G-grill (9½x9mm). So the very short-lived Z-grill was the first produced for general distribution, but there are very few of them. In the 1c and 15c denominations, none are known unused and only two have

been recorded used. Only six of the 10c have been recorded used (catalogue value \$750,000); and again, none unused. The 2c, 3c and 12c are relatively easy to find, but exceptionally rare in good condition.

Why the odd alphabet sequence; and what about a B-grill?

The first attempt to classify the grills was due to William L. Stevenson in the early 20th century. His idea was that each type should be named according to the sequence of its production. His problem, however, was that while there was enough of a record to place the A- to G-grills into a sequence, not enough was known about the Z-grill to know where it fit. So he called it the 'Z-grill' to signal that it was an outlier. Today we place it between the C- and D-grills because it is known used earlier than the D-grill. Why it was produced in such a short run is a mystery.

The 3c B-grill is the fourth in this stellar group of rare stamps. Only 4 copies have so far been certified as genuine. All four come from a cover that was posted in 1869. At 18x15mm it fits between the A- and C-grills, though it is unusual in that it's the only grill with a horizontal orientation. The fact that only four have been discovered; all from a cover posted in 1869, is a mystery. While the official correspondence shows clearly that the USPO ordered the production of both the A- and the C-grills for experimental purposes, there is no record of an order for the B-grill. Yet its size indicates that it falls between the A and the C. The hypothesis that I favour is that it was produced in the experimental period in 1867, but never distributed. In early 1869, prior to the distribution of the new definitives, the NBNC may have included B-grill waste in its regular shipment to get rid of unsold stock.

Conclusion: Here ends our story. It is a story of a quite tortuous process; and an idea that didn't really work to solve a problem that didn't really exist, but it led to some of the most expensive stamps in the world. I doubt that I will ever try to complete my collection; and I wonder if I'd even have started down this path if I'd known how much it might cost to complete. However it has given me uncountable hours of pleasure and even an opportunity to make a small contribution to the knowledge about postage stamps in the 1860s era in the United States. 

Postcard from the Past

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



Meet Stu Prince (Fig.1). In 2019 Stu was diagnosed with leukaemia which meant heavy chemo therapy. Then came the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. Apart from being extremely exhausted, Stu had to be extra cautious. He needed a distraction and something to keep him busy, that wasn't physically demanding. While browsing through eBay he came across a bunch of old postcards, dating from the 1900s. Soon Stu had amassed over 2,000 postcards.



Fig.1: Stu Prince with a bundle of postcards

During the first half of the 20th Century the postcard functioned like the modern-day SMS or WhatsApp. Sometimes they would thank their host for Sunday dinner, or let a relative know they would be visiting the next day, or there would be a note between loved ones. They were often all from someone's relative. This allied with Stu's interest in genealogy. What if he could trace the addressee of the postcard and their relatives and then reunite them with the postcard?

Stu decided to set up a Facebook page called 'Reuniting Postcards with Families', now closed. He posted six postcards at a time, hoping someone would recognise a name or address. The task was taxing - Stu would be exhausted just taking pictures of the postcards. Soon a small army of volunteers offered to help. "The researchers just stepped in and took a lot of the workload off me and for that I'm very grateful. The only way I could cope was with my researchers" he said.

One of these was Christine Bennett, (Fig.2) a retired chartered accountant with an interest in genealogy. Christine had already tracked down descendants of the recipients of postcards. She used census records and registrations of births and marriages as her source of information, plus digitised versions of local newspapers. "The bread and butter for local papers are births, marriages, deaths, wedding accounts, or funeral accounts telling you who attended and how they were related, even maybe what they did for a living – these are all things that the local papers loved," explained Christine.



Fig.2: Christine Bennett whose hobby is genealogy and connecting old postcards with relatives.

One special postcard was sent a year after World War II ended. On the front was an illustration of a rabbit asleep in a basket under the heading 'You're ONE to-day' (Fig.3). The card was addressed to Miss F Kaye of 12 Northumberland Mansions, Luxborough Street, London, W1.

The postcard's neatly written message: "To our loving grand-daughter, wishing you many returns of the day. And may your future be a happy and peaceful one. And may your parents live to see 'nuchas' from you. From your loving grandparents".

Fig.3: A baby's postcard returned to the addressee 75 years on.



The card was franked with a 2d 1941 King George VI stamp (Fig.4), the correct rate for a postcard at the time. It was postmarked 27.9.1946. The task now was to find Miss F Kaye. The team quickly established the 'F' was for Frimette - an uncommon name. With that information - they were able to find her, now Frimette Carr (Fig.5). And Stu sent the card on to her.



Fig.4: Pale orange 2d King George VI definitive re-issued 21 July 1941 - internal postcard rate. Originally issued as orange on 10 May 1937.

At the time the postcard was sent, Frimette was living with her parents at her maternal grandparent's home. The card was sent by her paternal grandparents. They were Jewish refugees from Pomerania in Eastern Europe - today part of Poland on the southern shore of the Baltic Sea. They could not speak any English. Frimette said "it was obviously written by my aunt - I know that aunt's hand-writing, very, very well".

So, how did the postcard make this journey? Frimette's grandparents died 50 years earlier and she recalls clearing out their home. "We were saying; 'Do we want this? Do we want that?' but I don't remember any documents in her house at all. It's amazing this card has just travelled through time."



Fig.5: Frimette Carr, now 75, recipient of the one-year-old birthday postcard.

Sources

- Amanda Kirton, *Breakfast*, BBC One.24 Sep 2021.
- Dai Yiling. *Postcards in the UK for 75 years: sent there during World War II*. *Wuhan Morning News*, 25 Sep 2021.
- Erica Roffe, WW1 postcard reunited with Bedford relative thanks to FB group *Bedford Independent*.
- Simon Parkin, *Mystery of postcard finally delivered*. *Norwich Evening News*. 14 October 2020.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE

New book chronicling the role of Missionaries of the Paris Missionary Society in Barotsiland (Northern Rhodesia) to 1924.

Some 420 pages, hard bound
And fully illustrated in colour with French / English translations.

Of relevance to the Postal Historian and the Social Historian. A wonderful window into the role of missionaries in Southern and Central Africa at the turn of the century

Price in Southern Africa : R700 includes Courier delivery within South Africa.

Order and enquiries by e-mail to
patf@fgprop.com

ALSO AVAILABLE NOW : Rhodesian Philately to 1924
720 pages full colour - Published by the Royal Philatelic Society London
- enquiries patf@fgprop.com



Kopano Nokeng

COUNTRY LODGE &
CONFERENCE CENTRE

Tel: +27 (51) 813 9130

Fax: 086 656 1906

www.kopanonokeng.co.za

Maselspoort Road, Midway,
BLOEMFONTEIN, Free State

CONFERENCE & EVENTS

events@kopanonokeng.co.za

GUESTHOUSE & RESTAURANT

admin@kopanonokeng.co.za



SOCIETY DETAILS

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

It is important to note that not all Societies have returned to having their regular meetings during this time of lockdown, they do, however, welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website www.stampssa.africa



**WITWATERSRAND
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
P O Box 528, Florida Hills, 1716

Philatelic Meetings of The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

As a result of moving to Corona 19 level 1, all meetings at both venues will start at 19h00 and finish at 21h30. The gates of the Club at both sections will close at 22h30.

If you intend dining before the meetings, please meet in the Club Room at Auckland Park or the Members' restaurant at Woodmead at 18h00.

Formal Monthly Meetings at Auckland Park on the second Wednesday of each month

- 8 Dec - **President's Evening & Cocktail Party.**
- 12 Jan - **One to Five Page Evening.**
- 9 Feb - **Foreign Evening**
- 9 March- **Annual General Meeting**

You can contact the President:
Herbie Schaffler RDPSA, for further information 082 722 7604.

WOODMEAD

Informal Study Group
please send all communication to
haschaff@iafrica.com

All meetings at this venue are held on the last Wednesday of each month, except December.

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 and Society Secretary: Alex Visser.
alex.visser@up.ac.za

Box 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927

DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING

Sekretaresse: Gerrie Conradie
082 952 6700.
Tel / Faks 044 698 1074.
epos: gajcon@gmail.com



AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Aangename en aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter: Dr. Louwrence Erasmus. Sekretaris: Ronel Erasmus. Kontak: Herman van Niekerk by hinvestasta@gmail.com of 072 446 2501

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr,
Tel: 011 789 6357



Until it is considered safe to gather indoors, the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg will hold monthly Zoom meetings. Anyone interested in joining these meetings should contact Clive Carr directly.

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Werner Barnard;
email: president@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 0825670353 (a.h.);
email: secretary@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za
Website: <http://bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za>
Contact the Secretary for Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN



Email: <https://stampssa.africa/rpsct/home/>
President: Ida Potgieter
email: matheyc58@gmail.com
cell: 074 333 4646
Secretary: Victor Millard 0828028882
or *email:* millardvg@gmail.com

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

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



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 021 689 5050
email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



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.info

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.

PostNet Suite #11,
Private Bag X0002, The Fig Tree, Charlo, 6033 PORT ELIZABETH
Daytime Meetings - 10h30/11h00 to 13h00 at same venue.
Dates for 2022: January 10; February 7; March 7; April 4; May 9;
June 6; July 4; August 1; September 5; October 3; November 7.
No meeting in December, reserved for President's Christmas party.

STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Meetings: First Tuesday, every month, 19:00 at Le Donjon, Recreation Hall, La Clemence, Webersvallei Rd, Stellenbosch.
Contact via email:
stellenboschstamp@gmail.com



CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE
ISRAEL PHILATELY

Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef
<akatzef@mweb.co.za>
+27 (21) 4615134 President of CASPIP.

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909 EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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



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: David Wigston
email: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Hammerton
hampaul@ananzi.co.za



WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374.
Chairman/Secretary: Ian Walker. Tel: 0114721161
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

HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN

The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join and get involved in this social hobby of Kings. *German Restaurant open for lunch.*
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

The SA Philatelist, December 2021.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings and auctions are held at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Rd, Bluff, Durban on every 2nd Saturday and last Saturday of each month. Contacts: *President:* Fonda Sonitus 074 347 1388 *Vice President:* Zbigniew Kawecki 079 465 7468. zkawecki57@gmail.com Alternatively, email the Secretary at philatelicsocietykzn@gmail.com for more details on meetings, auctions, sales packets and membership. Everyone is welcome and committee members are always on hand to give advice about evaluations and philately. The club has a very successful Study Group focusing on specific topics. These meetings are held two weeks after the general meeting at 09h00 for 09h30. Please use the contacts above for more details of topics.



THEMATICS SOUTH AFRICA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Vibrant and active group - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. *Group Leader:* Helena Snyman
Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za



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: aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com
2. *President:* Dave Wyllie. davewyllie37@outlook.com
3. Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

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

Chairperson: Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com
Secretary: Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com
Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, corner 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.

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 South African representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

Now amalgamated with the EDENVALE Philatelic Society.

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: secretarypdmgs@gmail.com

THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall, Usually first Saturday of every month (09:00 - 12:30) *Contact:* Ken Joseph. 072 597 1287
email: ken@philatelicroads.com

Smalls' Corner

Wanted: Postal history items - used covers, postcards, letter cards - of ZAR and Transvaal from inception to 1910. *Contact:* Albert Ruijje
Email: a.ruijje@hetnet.nl

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

WANTED: A 44 year old teacher and Mongolian Philatelic Union member who has collected for over 30 years is looking for good philatelic friends from South Africa. Offering in exchange Mongolian mint stamps 1960-1991 against mint stamps from your country. Condition of exchanged: 1. Please, write in English or Russian. If you do not speak these languages, please use # in the 'Scott' or 'Michel' catalogues.
Contact: Jigjid Gantsogt. P.O.Box-314. UlaanBaatar-38. Mongolia.

WANTED: An advanced collector of the 1/2c (Kingfisher) value of RSA 1st Definitive, looking for following:

- a. Group1 -Issue1 (SACC 197)- proving strip with no numbers on margin.
- b. Group2-Issue2 (SACC236a)- Sheet numbers missing on G7 9 16A block.
- c. Group3-Issue1 (SACC281)-block of 6 of the B or D panes with sheet numbers below either stamps 2 & 3 or 1/2&3 or 1&2.
- d. Group3-Issue2 (SACC287)- 1st distribution-Swiss 5mm.
Full sheets of Band C Panes.
- e. SACC 287d - 3mm Harrison-tete-beche but REVERSE WATERMARK on Band D panes.

Contact Phidias Chrysochou at p.chrysochou@absamail.co.za or 0827880187

WANTED: Homelands commercially used covers and reprints of definitives MNH: *Contact* Ralf Kollmann. *Email:* ralf.kollmann@gmx.de

WANTED: Looking for somebody who's has interesting to get fdi from Ukraine. *Contact:* Vadym Govorovskyy. *Email:* govorovskyy@gmail.com

Comic Corner

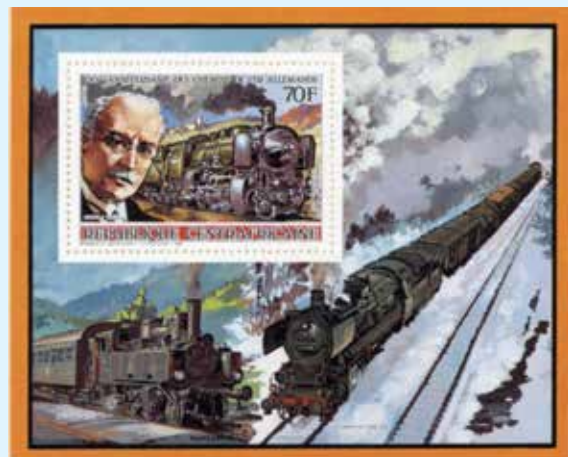
Stamps

that make you **SMILE**

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 67 **Errors on Stamps...**

'STEAM ENGINE by DIESEL'



This beautiful miniature sheet issued in 1986 by the Central African Republic commemorates the 150th anniversary of the German engineer Rudolf Diesel.

He is known as the inventor of the 'Diesel Engine' and had nothing to do with the classic steam engines as shown in three different varieties on the above miniature sheet.

Even the steam engine on the stamp is wrong as it is described as 'Type S 3/6', but it is a later engine of 'Type 18'.

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

OFFERING THE BEST IN PHILATELY

Accepting Consignments for our Upcoming Auctions



Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika
1922-27 £50 black and brown

SOLD £42,000



Southern Rhodesia, 1924-29 Admiral Issue,
2d black and purple-grey marginal pair
Imperforate Between Variety

SOLD £15,600



Northern Rhodesia, 1925-29
4d violet marginal block of six
imperforate between
stamps and margin

SOLD £13,800



Southern Rhodesia, 1953 (30 May) Rhodes Centenary Exhibition,
Bulawayo 6d Essay

SOLD £2,760

For further information please contact:

Nick Startup | nstartup@spink.com | +44 207 563 4073

David Parsons | dparsons@spink.com

Ian Shapiro | ishapiro@spink.com

Andrew Kennedy | akennedy@spink.com | +27 83 560 4500

SPINK LONDON

67-69 Southampton Row | WC1B 4ET

Follow us #SPINK_AUCTIONS



WWW.SPINK.COM