

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

volume 98:6. 975

www.stampssa.africa

The
South African Philatelist.
(Incorporating : "The Union Philatelist" and "Quarterly Review of Philately")

Edited by G. W. REYNOLDS.

Published by H. BLOM, Box 5826, Johannesburg.

OFFICIAL ORGAN : The Johannesburg United Philatelic Society ; The Pretoria Philatelic Society ; The East Rand Philatelic Society ; Philatelic Society of Natal ; The Cape Town Philatelic Society ; The East London Philatelic Society ; The Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society and the West African Philatelic Society.

Vol. I.

February 1st, 1923.

No. 1.

TOPICS OF THE MONTH.

Our First Issue.

THE "Quarterly Review of Philately" has ceased publication, and with this issue the "SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST" makes its first appearance. On this occasion we do not wish to say much about ourselves, but would prefer to let the journal speak for itself. A few remarks are, however, necessary. The "Q.R.P." had many difficulties with which to contend, but a new company with increased capital and a larger staff has been formed, and no pains or expense will be spared to make the new journal as complete a success as possible. Mr. G. W. Reynolds, who needs no introduction to South African Philatelists, has joined the staff as Editor, while Mr. Harry Blom will be the publisher. The management will do everything possible to make the "S.A. PHILATELIST" as interesting as possible. Well-written articles will appear regularly, and our notes on New Names and varieties will be complete and up-to-date. In addition, as far as possible, all South African Societies will be reported. Space will be devoted to reviews of the newest stamp books, while a column will be reserved for the latest news up to going to press. We shall run the journal on air, so we need your support us by sending us contributions as possible. In the "SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST" a real and interesting journal which should supply a long-felt need, and which we trust you will read with confidence to the whole-hearted support of all philatelists.

Our 'Centenary' issue... 1923 to 2023



ISSN 0038-2566

Easter Stamp Exhibition Postponed.



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/>



This issue celebrates the centenary of our flagship and is the first issue available in electronic format only.

As can be seen in the excellent article from page 5, there were many forerunners, but the February 1923 issue is accepted as the first issue of *The SA Philatelist*. I want to join with the authors of the article in paying tribute to all individuals responsible in some way or the other, for the publication of *The SA Philatelist* and their contribution to philately in South Africa over these many years.

Interestingly, the February 2020 issue was the first issue to be published where readers had the option to receive a printed or a digital copy that could be read on the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/>. Since this date the direct subscriber membership has increased from 47 to the current 79.

The Editorial Board's decision not to increase the advertising rates for this 'Centenary' year as well as offering a celebratory special offering on advertising rates and enjoy a further saving when placing a contracted placement - a 'free' extra placement when placing two confirmed adverts - the third is added at no extra cost. Or if four placements are confirmed, two additional placements are included in the rate. How is that for a celebratory year!

Throughout the past year, membership updates received from Societies / Members have been constantly applied. Society Membership 'Lists' were circulated to Societies to confirm membership and payment of the annual PFSA affiliation fees.

Please take note of our upcoming **National Stampshow - 'SA Philatelist 100'** which is planned for 19 to 23 September 2023.



The venue is to be announced and will be in Johannesburg. We are encouraging all Societies and members to participate in this National and be prepared with both their exhibits as well as offering a willing hand and volunteering to assist with the set-up of frames and mounting of the exhibits, which is earmarked for Monday 18 September 2023.

Judging will take place while the exhibits are on display, with jury feedback on Saturday 23 September 2023 followed by a Palmares on the same day, at 19:00. The exhibits will be taken down and frames dismantled on Sunday 24 September.

The **85th National Congress** is scheduled for Friday 22 September 2023. Updates and further developments for these events will be communicated in due course. The Prospectus and Entry Form for the **'SA Philatelist 100'** is now available on the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/> - or email André du Plessis at pfsastamps@gmail.com, cell +27 83 399 1755. The preferred way of communication is via e-mail.

More good news is that the well-established South African **Virtual Philatelic Exhibition - SAVPEX**, hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society, will take place during June 2023. Entries for this event close on 15 June with results promised in July 2023. Viewing of entries will be possible on the PFSA website in July 2023.

Visit the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/> to download the Prospectus and Entry Form - or email Joof van der Merwe at josuav528@gmail.com cell +27 82 824 6350. The preferred way of communication is via e-mail.



PHILATELY ON AIR

View a video clip of the 2022 Cape Town International [here](#)

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.

The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, *'Keeping in Touch'*. 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> email > pfsastamps@gmail.com

PUBLICATION: *The South African Philatelist*, a bi-monthly stamp journal, 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 **1923**.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

• **Affiliation fee:** RSA and World Wide: R125.00

PLEASE NOTE: The PFSA affiliation fee includes six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

• Enquiries regarding **subscriptions and PFSA membership** can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA at pfsastamps@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*, 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

The South African Philatelist

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Awards:

- o Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- o Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
- o Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- o Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- o Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
- o Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
- o Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- o Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012,
- o Large Vermeil Cape Town International 2022.

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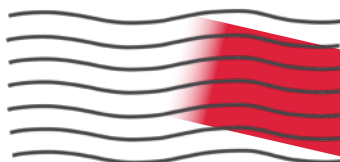
ADVERTISERS

- 10 John & Mark Taylor
- 36 Filat AG
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Please note; Publication closing dates for **FINAL**
 submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist*.

ARTICLES should be submitted
in the month prior:

• **APRIL 2023** - Volume. 99 : 2. 977. **15 March 2023**





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.

Whose signature is it?

The JU-52 formed the backbone of the initial SAA fleet in 1934. In 1980 South African Airways acquired a Junkers JU-52 in the UK, as part of their forthcoming 50th anniversary celebrations. The following year it was flown to Germany where it was disassembled and shipped to Durban. The parts were then freighted, by road, to the then Jan Smuts Airports for reassembly. This was a lengthy process done on a part-time voluntary basis. The first test flight took place on Saturday 14 January 1984. The postcard (Fig.1) shows the third JU-52 to be acquired at Rand Airport, Germiston. The intriguing part is found on the address side of the postcard (Fig.2). The card is cancelled 1 February 1984, the day before the official start of SAA in 1934. There appears to be a signature on the card, in a very spidery handwriting with, what must be the year 1913, below. The question now arises; is this a signature?



Fig.1: Photograph of an original Junkers JU-52 at Rand Airport 1.2.1984. No specific date given for the photo.



Fig.2: The address side of the postcard shown in Fig.1.


If so, by whom? What is the significance of the year 1913? Is T. DEVINE (bottom right corner), the addressee or the printer? Terry Devine was a major force in the aerophil society until a very public fall out with Brian Wilmot, then President, circa 1993. Terry produced a number of aero covers, this could be one. If anyone can help shed some light on this enigma, please drop an e-mail to Janice Botes at janice@gdb.co.za.




Happy Lunar New Year

Register now!

let's meander through the world of stamps



2023 -The Chinese Year of the Water Rabbit



TAIPEI 2023
39th Asian International Stamp Exhibition
August 11-15, 2023 · TWTC Hall 1

South African Commissioner:
Victor Millard
Closing Date for entries 28 February 2023

Celebrating 100 years of TheSAP

Research and contributions are offered here by Cedric Roché RDPSA, Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA and Editorial Board members David Wigston and Dr Alan Rose. Feel free to add your own memories - we look forward to receiving many more golden moments in the next editions of this 2023 Hundredth Year celebration.

In celebrating the Centenary of *The South African Philatelist*, it is appropriate that recognition be given to those responsible for its founding and continued development over the years, often despite adverse conditions and differences of opinion as to its direction.

In this and succeeding issues we pay tribute to those, who over the years have developed and contributed to the journal. These include not only Editors, production teams but also the innumerable authors who have shared their interest, knowledge and expertise in the articles that they have contributed since its inception. This article is a brief description of the changing circumstances and a summary of their efforts to ensure the continuation of a journal which has achieved international recognition and standing within the philatelic community worldwide. It is our wish that *The South African Philatelist* continues as the flagship publication of organised philately in this country, as it has done over the past 100 years.

Forerunners

The journal we currently know as *The South African Philatelist* appeared in 1923, but was preceded by several forerunners aimed at providing information to collectors and promoting philately to the public.

The first South African philatelic journal, appeared on 1 November 1895, carrying the title, *The South African Philatelist*, (Fig.1). It was a slender typewritten document, edited and published by Messrs S. A. Klagsbrun RDPSA and E. Epstein, carrying advertisements from M. Z. Booleman & Co, a Johannesburg dealer, and retailed at sixpence per copy. It survived for only six issues before failing for lack of support in April 1896.

An effort to resurrect this journal, carrying the same title, was made in November 1910, (Fig.2), under the auspices of the Johannesburg United Philatelic Society (JUPS) and the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia. It was a four page continuation of the three JUPS Newsletters issued between May and August of that year, and was edited by T. Henderson. This was also claimed as the official organ of The Bloemfontein Philatelic Society, the East London Society and Exchange Club and the Pretoria Philatelic Society. It included mention of the Philatelic Society of Natal and in 1911, the Natal Railway Philatelic Society; the



Fig. 1: The cover page of the S A Philatelist issued in November 1895. All the issues were typewritten.

latter being described as 'stillborn'. This effort regrettably failed in February 1912 after 16 issues.

Four years later, July 1916, Cecil M. Henderson, published *The South African Stamp Collector*, (Fig.3), from his base in Kimberley. Despite articles by several noted philatelists of the day, this journal too, failed after 12 months in June 1917.

Beginning in 1920 there appeared an abundance of philately related journals, none of which survived for very long:

- *The Union Philatelist* Feb 1920 - Oct 1920 Proprietor & Editor John Robertson (Fig.5)
- *The International Hobbyist* 1920 - Prop. & Ed. John Robertson
- *The Quarterly Review of Philately*, March 1921- Oct 1922. Prop. John Robertson & Editor AHW Blom
- *The New Stamp Monthly* July 1921 Editor Stella Keene



Fig.2: The front page of The S A Philatelist, Vol. 1, No. 1 published in November 1910 under the auspices of the Johannesburg United Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia.

Fig.3: The South African Stamp Collector issued for the first time in 1916 and edited by Cecil M. Henderson. This magazine was based in Kimberley.

The South African Philatelist

The *Quarterly Review of Philately*, founded by Robertson, in March 1921 with H. Blom as Editor, continued until October 1922. At this point Robertson reverted to a monthly journal and *The South African Philatelist* title was resurrected with G.W.Reynolds as Editor (Fig.4). He continued in this role from February 1923 until September 1924 before relocating to Durban. Further issues were edited by Blom until Robertson, concerned at the changes and lack of continuity, took over the Editor's chair from January 1925 through to September 1932, during which time the journal expanded and also functioned as the official organ of several Societies:



The Johannesburg United Philatelic Society
 The Pretoria Philatelic Society
 The East Rand Philatelic Society
 The Cape Town Philatelic Society,
 The East London Philatelic Society
 The Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society
 The West African Philatelic Society.



Fig.5

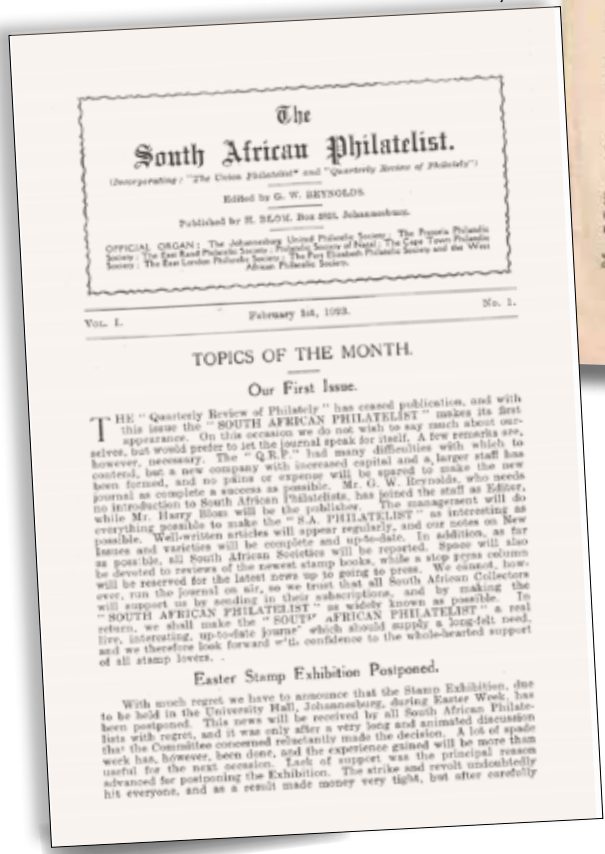


Fig.4: The cover page of *The South African Philatelist* issued on 1 February 1923.

During the depression years, the journal experienced financial difficulties, and ceased publication from December 1928 to February 1931, an event for which no formal explanation has ever been given.



Fig.7: A special edition of *The SAP* issued in July 1928 to create awareness of the National Stamp Exhibition in Durban

At its second National Congress in 1931, the Philatelic Congress of southern Africa (PCSA), forerunner of the current Philatelic Federation, acknowledged the revival in philatelic activity throughout the country and recognised the need for a journal to unify and provide a focus for the growing number of societies.

The decision was made, and by October 1932, the title, *The South African Philatelist*, had been purchased from Robertson (Fig.6) for a nominal sum. Robertson was relieved at the sale as the journal had cost him considerable money over the years, and he realised that it needed a wider and more organised approach to grow it further. This purchase launched the current *South African Philatelist* (SAP) as the official organ of the Philatelic Congress of Southern Africa, which later, in 1939 became the Philatelic Federation.

PAST PRESIDENTS of PFSA

- Until 1951 the President of the hosting society chaired Congress.
- 1928 Durban Mr Percy Williams
 - 1931 Johannesburg Mr William Redford
 - 1932 Johannesburg Mr William Redford
Roll of Honour and Skinner Cup introduced
 - 1933 Durban Mr Percy C Bishop
 - 1934 Pretoria Mr A E Basden
 - 1936 Johannesburg Dr J H Harvey-Pirie
PCSA joined FIP
 - 1938 Cape Town Dr L B Goldschmidt
 - 1939 Pretoria Mr A E Basden
Philatelic Congress changed to Philatelic Federation
- No Congress 1940-1947 inclusive*
- 1948 Jan - East London Dr J H Harvey-Pirie
 - 1948 Oct - Pretoria Dr J H Harvey-Pirie
 - 1949 Port Elizabeth Dr J H Harvey-Pirie
 - 1950 Johannesburg
President, PFSA to chair future Congresses
-----oOo-----
 - 1951 Bloemfontein Mr C A Larsen
 - 1952 Cape Town Mr Arthur V Jacob
 - 1953 Bulawayo Dr A Kaplan
 - 1954 Durban Mr G Milner-Palmer
 - 1955 Pretoria Mr F C Ferguson
 - 1956 Port Elizabeth Mr G Bülbring
 - 1957 Paarl Mr J D Rossouw
 - 1958 Germiston Mr W N Sheffield
 - 1959 East London Mr Leo Hellman
 - 1960 Johannesburg Mr Sam Legator
 - 1961 Cape Town Mr A G Versino
 - 1962 Port Elizabeth Mr A Baer
 - 1963 Durban Mr G Milner-Palmer
 - 1964 Pretoria Mr J H Weinstein
 - 1965 Paarl Mr Nico Combrink
 - 1966 Bulawayo Mr J R Strong
 - 1967 Bloemfontein Mr A L Meyburgh
 - 1968 East London Mr J P Shingler
 - 1969 Johannesburg Mr L Buchen
 - 1970 Port Elizabeth Mr T J Strachan
 - 1971 Cape Town Mr Sam Kaganson
 - 1972 Salisbury Mr Jack Creewel
 - 1973 Durban Mr C A Whysall
 - 1974 Pretoria Mr Manfred Weinstein
 - 1975 Paarl Richard Goldblatt
Foundation established 9.6.75
 - 1976 East London Frank Drusinsky
 - 1977 Johannesburg KEW Lydall
 - 1978 Potchefstroom Fanie Vermaak
 - 1979 Cape Town Len van de Kar
 - 1980 Germiston Harry Birkhead



Due recognition must be paid to John Robertson for his persistent efforts over a period of 11 years to provide South African philatelists with a journal which, in his time, achieved international recognition, and earned him the soubriquet of 'The Founding Father of the South African Philatelist'. Over the period since 1932, 'The Philatelist' has continued to appear regularly, even during the war years 1939 – 1945.

In taking ownership of the *SAP* in 1932 as its official organ, the Philatelic Congress formalised the structure and production of the journal. The latter was delegated to a Standing Committee of Congress with its chairman, the Editor, being a member of the Management Committee.

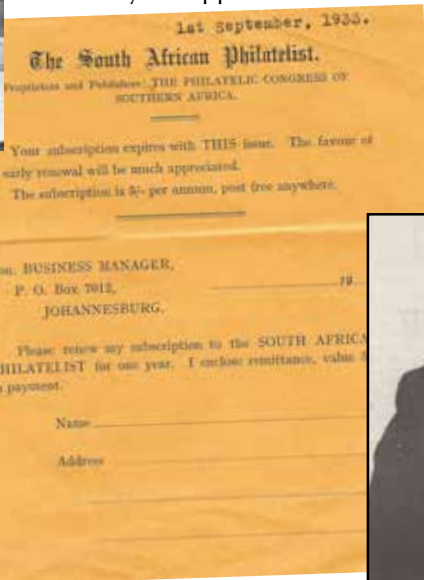
Editors / Chairmen of the Philatelist Committee

- 1932 – 1934 **A.E. Basden** RDPSA (at right)
After proclamation as the official organ of the Philatelic Congress, Basden defined policies and standards for content, layout and production of the journal which formed the foundation for the present journal. He was appointed editor of *The SA Philatelist* in October 1932.



- 1934 – 1965 (at left)
Dr J.H. Harvey-Pirie RDPSA

During his 30 year tenure of his editorship, through the formative period of its development, Harvey-Pirie established the reputation of the *SAP* as a serious journal of record within the international philatelic community. An administrative crisis in 1948 was averted by the appointment of a new Business Manager.



- 1966 – 1972 **Dr T.B. Berry** RDPSA

Tom Berry worked with the assistance of an associate editor, Dr H.J. Raubenheimer, whose regular column 'South African Notes / Tuisfront' helped consolidate the standard of articles. In 1970, this editorial team released a Jubilee issue of the journal.



• **Dr H.J. Raubenheimer** RDPSA played an important role in *The SA Philatelist* during the editorship of Dr. Berry. He was appointed to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist* in 1965.

continued...

1981	Bloemfontein	André Bezuidenhout
1982	Port Elizabeth	André Bezuidenhout
1983	Durban	Eric Holmberg
1984	Roodepoort	Mary Bromfield
1985	East London	Mary Bromfield
1986	Johannesburg	Stan Naylor
1987	Paarl	Richard Knight
1988	Pietermaritzburg	Jonas Michelson
1989	Johannesburg	Howard Green
1990	Kempton Park	Judge Hans Berker
1991	Cape Town	David Crocker
1992	Pretoria	Cedric Roché
1993	Durban	Philippa McIntosh
1994	Benoni	Jill Redmond
1995	Alberton	Danny Swart
1996	Bloemfontein	André Bezuidenhout
1997	Cape Town	Des Hyland
1998	Midrand	Joh Groenewald
1999	Johannesburg	Danie Scheepers
2000	Pretoria	Cassie Carstens
2001	Sandton	Peter van der Molen
2002	Port Elizabeth	Richard Johnson
2003	Sandton	Herbie Schaffler
2004	Durban	Rex Wakely-Smith
2005	Cape Town	David Sinclair
2006	Pretoria	Ian Matheson
2007	Port Elizabeth	Neville Polakow
2008	Pretoria	Alex Visser
2009	Bloemfontein	Neil Cronjé
2010	Sandton	Ian Matheson
2011	Cape Town	Alan Rogers
2012	Port Elizabeth	Vernon Mitchell
2013	Johannesburg	George Cafetzoglou: <i>resigned and Alex Visser was Acting President</i>
2014	Pretoria	Alex Visser
2015	Cape Town	Keith Brodovcky
2016	Edenvale	Steve van den Hurk
2017	Edenvale	Steve van den Hurk <i>passed on/Kenny Napier was acting President</i>
2018	Centurion	André du Plessis
2019	Benoni	Emil Minnaar
2020	No Exhibition due to Covid	Francois Friend
2021	Bloemfontein	Hugh Amoore
2022	Cape Town	Hugh Amoore

The RDPSA title is not given after any name since Presidents had not necessarily signed the Roll at that stage.



• 1972 – 1978

Manfred Weinstein RDPSA

In addition to being Editor, Weinstein also served on the Expert Committee and for two terms as Federation President. He was a perfectionist and continued the standards set by Basden and Harvey-Pirie. The **Manfred Weinstein Award** for outstanding work in philatelic research and for significant contributions to philatelic knowledge was instituted in 1980 as a tribute to his work.



• 1978 – 1989 **Joh Groenewald** RDPSA

Groenewald developed a 'new look' for the journal with advances in make-up and layout. His major contribution was the encouragement of contributors to submit articles in the Afrikaans language. In this, he led by example. As a student of Anglo-Boer war philately he co-authored eight authoritative books on the subject with Harry Birkhead RDPSA and others.



• 1989 – 2001 **Wilhelm Grütter** RDPSA

Wilhelm's reaction to his appointment was that there was little he could do to improve the journal. However, during his tenure he rationalised production costs and advocated improved circulation using spare or unwanted copies. His bibliographic changes, such as a running footline facilitated research via titles, publication dates, volume, part and whole numbers, page numbers etc. for the benefit of future generations. He released a 70th anniversary issue in 1991.



• 2001 – 2004 **Andries van der Walt**

Andries van der Walt was a prolific author in the SAP, and keenly interested in the role of the SAP in organised philately, its relationship with the SA Post Office, their new stamp issuing policy and other topics. Unfortunately many of his views deviated from those of Federation and he resigned the editorship late in 2003.



At this point in the development of the journal, the opportunity was taken by Federation Management to reorganise the structure of the Philatelist Standing Committee. A technically competent Editorial Board comprising Dr A Frank RDPSA, J Michaelson RDPSA, C Mobsby RDPSA and E Minnaar RDPSA - appointed to assist the Editor, Dr A Rose, together with Ms J Botes as Production Editor to oversee page layout, make-up, advertising, and liaison with authors and others.

Published Books:

Joh Groenewald, in collaboration with various authors

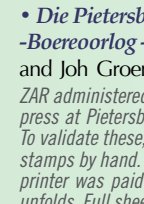


• **Die Machadodorp-briefkaarte van die Anglo-Boereoorlog** - 2006, 56 p by Gerrit H Jonkers & Joh Groenewald.

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.



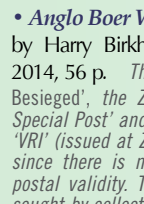
• **The Legacy of Lydenburg** by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald. 2009, 78 p. It was the overprinting of ZA Republiek stamps at Lydenburg which angered the British military authorities and put a stop to 'local stamp issues'. Souvenir covers were made at Lydenburg and while few genuine postal items are recorded, forgeries were quick to appear, especially of the spectacular variety of the overprint letter R with a 'long tail'.



• **Die Pietersburg-seëls van die Anglo-Boereoorlog** - 2007, 109 p. by Carel Breedt and Joh Groenewald. 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 H. Birkhead and J. 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.



• **Anglo Boer War Stamp Souvenirs** by Harry Birkhead and Joh 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. 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 - appeared 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 Joh 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 Harry Birkhead and Joh 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 contemporary record and postal history reveal.

For information to purchase contact André du Plessis RDPSA: pfsastamps@gmail.com Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

• 2004 – 2007 **Dr Alan Rose**

Working with the new Board, Alan introduced a new masthead design, an improved paper quality and a move to colour printing (much appreciated by readers). A bi-monthly production schedule was adopted and a Standards Manual produced to rationalise layout, abbreviations, grammar, syntax and the like. A proposal to revise the journal title was rejected on the grounds of continuity. Alan resigned as Editor in 2007, though has remained an active member of the Board.



• 2008 – 2009 **Chris Mobsby** RDPSA FRPSL RNCPS

In the absence of guidance from Federation Management, the Editorial Board elected a stand-in editor/chairman from its own ranks to maintain continuity of production. An analysis of articles since 2004 indicated that contributors were favouring the limited circulation newsletters of specialist societies over the SA were more prestigious.



• 2010 – on going **Peter van der Molen** RDPSA FRPSL

Under Peter's guidance, production of the SAP continued throughout the Covid pandemic. He also monitored the conversion to an on-line journal and its publication on the Federation website.



The decision by Federation taken at the 2022, 84th Congress to convert to an on-line, fully electronic publication was prompted primarily by financial considerations. A falling demand for hard copy issues made printing costs uneconomical, added to which, the inability of the South African Post Office to offer a reliable service and guarantee delivery of posted journals made postage charges for conventional distribution futile.

On-line publication on the Federation website was not liked by all, but reluctantly accepted as the trend in modern technology. It has the advantage that content is not limited by page numbers and printing costs to Federation are eliminated.

• **Note:** illustrations of the cover pages of the early stamp journals are from the library of Cedric Roché RDPSA (at left).

Research for this and future articles on the history of the SAP, created over the past 100 years, are intended to be featured during this years editions of the journal, and can be contributed to Cedric's vast archival collection. Your contributions are welcome...



The conversion to on-line distribution is unavoidable, as stated, on financial grounds, but the silver-lining is that it allows for an increased content at no extra printing cost.



Reflections

This journal has never commissioned articles for publication but has relied throughout its existence on contributed material for its content.

For this reason Editors over the years have been continually grateful to all contributors for their inputs. Authors have ranged from Philatelists of note to regular society members who wish to highlight a particular interest. Collectively, these writers have demonstrated the extraordinary range of philatelic interests which exist; from classical philately through postal history, post office practice and history, aero, astro, and polar philately, topical and thematic to postcards, postal labels and cancellations and must be thanked for their support. Contributors providing a regular column for each issue have generated followers who eagerly await their offerings.

Although it publishes articles from, and about the philately of foreign regions, the journal is indisputably local, and can claim an enviable - probably matchless - content of authoritative articles dealing primarily with the philately of southern Africa, both contemporary and historical.

Awards received for excellence in the Literature Class have been Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999, Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012 and most recently, Large Vermeil Cape Town International 2022, confirming the journal's status as a product of international standard. However, awards count for less than the undiminished support and contributions of its readers over the past 100 years which have enabled the journal to achieve this milestone.

The SA Philatelist is now justifiably recognised worldwide as a philatelic publication of high repute and standard. Long may it prosper and continue to grow and develop even further in the years ahead.

National / International Philatelic Exhibitions in Southern Africa

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1913 : South African Stamp Exhibition: Durban | 1967 : National : VRYPEX: Bloemfontein | 1998 : <i>International Philatelic Exhibition, ILSAPEX 98: Midrand</i> |
| 1927 : Stamp Exhibition: East London | 1968 : National : ELPEX '68: East London | 1999 : National : JOPEX 99: Johannesburg |
| 1928 : <i>International : Durban</i> | 1969 : National : ZAR 100: Johannesburg | 2000 : National : STAMPSHOW 2000: Pretoria |
| 1931 : Philatelic Exhibition: Pretoria | 1970 : National : SETPEX/SETFU 150: Port Elizabeth | 2001 : National : Egoli 2001: Sandton |
| 1932 : National : Johannesburg | 1971 : <i>International : 1971 – RSA 10</i> | 2002 : National : ALGOAPEX 2002: Port Elizabeth |
| 1933 : National : Durban | 1973 : National : NAPEX/NAFU: Durban | 2003 : National : STAMPEX, 2003: Johannesburg |
| 1934 : National : Pretoria | 1974 : National : SAPHIL 74: Pretoria | 2004 : National : DURSAPEX: Durban |
| 1936 : <i>International : JIPEX: Johannesburg</i> | 1975 : National : Paarl 75: Paarl | 2005 : National One Frame Exhibition: Bloemfontein |
| 1938 : National : Cape Town | 1976 : National : ELPEX/OLFU: East London | 2005 : National : Cape Stamp Show 2005: Cape Town |
| 1939 : National : Pretoria | 1977 : National : Rand 77: Johannesburg | 2006 : National : STAMPEX 2006: Pretoria |
| 1948 : National : East London | 1978 : National : POTCH 78: Potchefstroom | 2007 : National : PEZAPEX : Port Elizabeth |
| 1948 : National : Pretoria | 1979 : <i>International : DISA 79: Cape Town</i> | 2008 : National One Frame: Bloemfontein |
| 1949 : National : Port Elizabeth | 1980 : National : GEBEKS 80: Germiston | 2008 : National : Pretoria |
| 1950 : National : Johannesburg | 1981 : National : VRIJSTAAT 81: Bloemfontein | 2009 : National : Bloemfontein |
| 1951 : National : Bloemfontein | 1982 : National : TELEPEX/TELEFU 82: Port Elizabeth | 2010 : <i>International : Joburg 2010</i> |
| 1952 : <i>S A Tercentenary International: SADIPU/SATISE: Cape Town</i> | 1983 : National : Dursa '83: Durban | 2011 : National : Cape Stamp Show 2011: Cape Town |
| 1954 : National : Durban | 1984 : National : AUPEX/AUFU '84: Roodepoort | 2012 : National : CENTAPEX: Port Elizabeth |
| 1955 : National : TEPPEX: Pretoria | 1985 : National : ELPEX/OLFU '85: East London | 2013 : National : JOMAPEX: Johannesburg |
| 1956 : National : PENAPEX/PENAFU: Port Elizabeth | 1986 : <i>International Philatelic Exhibition, Johannesburg 100</i> | 2014 : National : Pretoria Stamp Show: Pretoria |
| 1957 : National : Paarl 300: Paarl | 1987 : National : Paarl 300: Paarl | 2015 : National : CAPEX: Cape Town |
| 1958 : National : GEPEX/GEPU: Germiston | 1988 : National : Pietermaritzburg 150: PMB | 2016 : National : SAPDAPEX 2016: Bedfordview |
| 1959 : National : East London | 1989 : National : Wanderers 101: Johannesburg | 2017 : National : SAPDAPEX 2017: Bedfordview |
| 1960 : <i>International Philatelic Exhibition, UNIPEX: Johannesburg</i> | 1990 : National : Stamps/Seëls 150: Kempton Park | 2018 : National : Pretoria Stamp Show 2018 Centurion |
| REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA PERIOD (MAY 1961 ONWARDS) | 1991 : National : Cape Town 1991/Kaapstad 1991: | 2019 : National : EAST RAND 100: Benoni |
| 1961 : National : JUBILEX: Cape Town | 1992 : National : Pretoria '92: Pretoria | 2021 : National : VRIJSTAAT 2021: Bloemfontein |
| 1962 : National : PENAPEX/PENAFU: Port Elizabeth | 1993 : National : eThekweni: Durban | 2022 : <i>International Philatelic Exhibition, IPEX 2022: Cape Town</i> |
| 1963 : Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition: Durban | 1994 : National : Benoni 94: Benoni | 2022 : National : Cape Town |
| 1964 : National : PREPEX/PREFU: Pretoria | 1995 : National : Total Stampex '95: Alberton | |
| 1965 : National : Paarl '65: Paarl | 1996 : National : BLOEMFONTEIN 150 | |
| | 1997 : National : Cape Stamp Show 97; Cape Town | |

LOCAL EXHIBITIONS APPEAR ON p 34

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AWARDS LINKED TO PAST EDITORS

J H Harvey-Pirie Memorial Award

Congress 1965, Paarl decided by acclamation to recognise the long and distinguished service to PFSA by Dr JH Harvey-Pirie by establishing an award called the 'J H Harvey-Pirie Memorial Award'.

- First awarded in 1966.

Manfred Weinstein Medallion

Accepted at Congress 1980 for recognised and outstanding work in philatelic research and study

- First awarded in 1981.

Federation Plaques

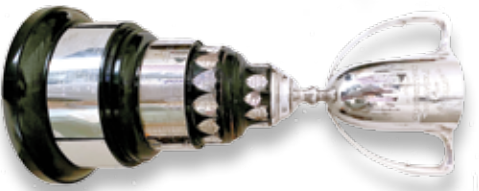
Instituted and sponsored by Joh Groenewald RDPSA in 1987, for outstanding service over a long period of time.

- First awarded in 1987.

Federation awards received:

RDPSA

- 1948 Albert Edward Basden
- 1948 James Hunter Harvey Pirie
- 1959 Thomas (Tom) Butland Berry
- 1968 Jesse Manfred Weinstein
- 1973 Hendrik Jacobus (Henry) Raubenheimer
- 1980 Joh Groenewald
- 1994 Wilhelm Grütter
- 2000 Peter Van Der Molen
- 2001 Chris Mobsby



Skinner Cup

- 1936 JH Harvey-Pirie
- 1948 A E Basden
- 1955 Tom Berry
- 1965 H J Raubenheimer
- 1972 Joh Groenewald
- 1987 Andries van der Walt

J H Harvey Pirie Memorial Award

- 1974 JH Harvey-Pirie RDPSA: OFS Study Circle Handbook, Stamps of the OFS Part II
- 2000 Joh Groenewald RDPSA and Harry Birkhead RDPSA, FRPSL: *Wherewithal of Wolmaransstadt*
- 2008 Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL for philatelic research and writing of a consistently high quality spanning many years.
- 2011 Joh Groenewald RDPSA for seven Anglo-Boer War publications.
- 2013 Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL : book, *Swaziland Philately to 1968*, published 2013.12.24



Manfred Weinstein Medallion

- 1989 Joh Groenewald RDPSA
- 2008 Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL for philatelic research and writing of a consistently high quality spanning many years
- 2013 Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL for prolific research and superb publication on Swaziland



Federation Plaques

- 1999 Chris Mobsby for long service to organised philately at central level
- 2000 Joh Groenewald RDPSA, George van den Hurk RDPSA, Emil Minnaar RDPSA
- 2004 Andries van der Walt: for ongoing contribution of articles in *the SA Philatelist* over and above his normal editorial function.

WE LEA Cup

- 1963 Tom B Berry
- 2007 Joh Groenewald
- 2021 Alan Rose



Phun with postmarks

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



RAIL LETTER POST IN THE INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI

The use of railway stations to handle mail and parcels under the jurisdiction of the post office is well known, as the datestamps are inscribed STATION or RAIL. There is no indication of SAR (South African Railways) or similar, in the Putzel 10-volume set of postmark books and the electronic Addendum contains a listing of these postmarks. Less known is information on the Rail Letter Post, which was a dedicated rail service. Stolk (2020) provided an overview of this service, and Wirz (2020) discussed the use in the Independent Transkei. Permission to use information from these articles is gratefully acknowledged.

The facility to send letters through the rail system was started in 1905 by the Central South African Railway (CSAR) and followed by the Natal Government Railways (NGR). This service was provided as many farms and small towns had no post office nearby. After Union this service was continued by the South African Railways (SAR) with participation by the Post Office. From 23.9.1921 a system was started of affixing a label, the so-called T110 label. The label had to be affixed to the envelope and had to cover the envelope flap. The label and the stamps to cover the rail letter post fee needed to be cancelled with the official station datestamp. Besides completing the required information on the T110 label, the acceptance date, time, addressee's full name and address, month letter number, train number and train guard's signature were all recorded in a register before the missive was handed over to the guard of the train. At the destination station the letters were again appropriately recorded and either handed to the calling postal official or posted in the nearest post office letter box. No rail letter post was to be handed over to the addressee at the destination station (Wirz, 2020).

The service by the SAR attracted a special fee, which is listed by Stolk (2020) who also presented a range of label types and printings.

The listing was more recently updated with the assistance of Hugh Amoore RDPSA. The Rail Letter Post was suspended on 31 March 1994.

A burning question has been, what happened to the rail services in the Transkei and was the service transferred to the Independent State on 26.10.1976. Wirz recorded an SAR goods advice and delivery note with an SA Transport Service (SATS) Umtata goods office cachet dated 27.2.1984. Privately made covers by the Railway Society of Southern Africa Preservation Group for the 1989 Trains issue were cancelled by an SAR cachet. This confirms that the SAR was performing the rail service.

Table 1 gives a summary of the Rail Letter Post labels recorded as used in Independent Transkei. The earliest recorded date is 1978 and the latest is 1981. The Rail Letter Post was discontinued in Transkei from 5 June 1981 as the Transkei Post Office neglected to forward any collected rail letter post fees to the SAR (Wirz, 2020). The Rail Letter fee was 10c during this period. The domestic postage from January 1977 was 4c until January 1980, 5c until January 1982 and 8c from January 1982. Note that the Umtata item was processed shortly before cessation of the service.

Fig. 1a and b show the front and reverse of a Rail Letter dispatched from Idutywa to Claremont, with the receipt datestamp. The dues in 1979 were 14c (4c domestic postage and 10c Rail Letter fee). The Rail Letter label is cancelled with the Parcels, not Station Master, cachet.

Figures 2a and b show the Butterworth Station Master's cancellation on the front, but only a manuscript BW on the label. On the reverse of the Qamata Fig.3b the Station Master cachet is used correctly, but the station is given in manuscript. This is a rare cover, as Wirz states "Qamata could potentially have also been a station to receive rail letter post but no record of rail letter post has been recorded or seen". The Ndabakazi cover shown in Fig.4a and b is also rare. This envelope does not have a Rail Letter label (out of stock, never supplied?), and the label information was provided in manuscript. The information, however, is correct with the Station Master cachet over the envelope flap.

Note that the Rail Letter Post was seldom used as the sequence number is 1 or 2. The covers may be of philatelic nature as they were mostly addressed to the same person. However, postal historians are grateful for the information as it reflected the status in the Independent Transkei. Furthermore, this article confirms that special services such as Rail Letter Post, cash register labels and Express Mail rendered in TBVC are uncommon.

Station	Printer	Label	Date	No. of items
Butterworth	B.P.P.co	2057 10409 070	8.5.1979	1
Idutywa	ELP.	ESM.681.G.	3.5.1979	1
Ndabakazi	Manuscript		5.12.1978	1
Qamata	Compress	6149 E/ SM104G/2/71	27.3.1979	1
Umtata	Hendlers	B8014 labels 2057 122-12 580	26.5.1981	1
Umtata	B.P.P.co	2057 10409 070	20.6.1980	1

Table 1. Summary of recorded labels used in Independent Transkei



Fig.1a and b: Front and reverse of Rail letter from Idutywa to Claremont.

Fig.2a and b: Front and reverse of Rail letter from Butterworth to Claremont.



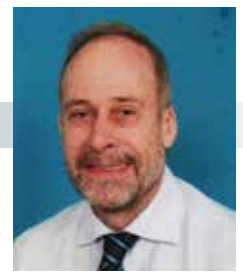
Fig.3a and b: Front and reverse of Rail letter from Qamata to Claremont.

Fig.4a and b: Front and reverse of Rail letter from Ndabakazi to Claremont.

Weereens het relatief moderne posgeskiedenis verrassings opgelewer. Die Spoorwegbriewepos het slegs vir 'n tydperk van ongeveer vier jaar in die onafhanklike Transkei diens gelewer. Dit is op 5.6.1981 opgeskort omdat die Transkeise poskantoor versuim het om Spoorwegbrieweposfooie aan die Suid-Afrikaanse Spoorweë oor te betaal. Dit is moontlik dat ander stasies behalwe die vyf wat bespreek is, ook hierdie diens gelewer het.

References

- Stolk, J (2020). T110 Rail Letter Post Labels, Forerunners #98, Vol. XXXIII, No. 4, Nov. – Dec.
- Wirz, H (2020). The Independent State of Transkei - A Philatelic Inventory. Section 2. Railway thematic items and Rail Letter Post, Transkei Flight issues and Transkei coastline shipwreck covers.



The Crocodile Pools Date Stamp

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The Crocodile Pools lie approximately fourteen kilometres south of Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana, on the road to Lobatse. Today it is a place known primarily for its ecological diversity, but during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, it served as a significant communications centre for British and Rhodesian forces seeking to relieve the town of Mafeking which was besieged by Boer forces. Crocodile Pools was initially opened in 1897 as a telegraph office on the railway line between Gaborones (as Gaborone was known at this time) and Lobatse.

Over the years, there has been considerable debate regarding the dates of usage of the Crocodile Pools circular date stamp on mail. And also over where the date stamp was used, since when Crocodile Pools was occupied by Boer forces. On 25 October 1899 the date stamp was taken north by the British forces under General Symons, and used at locations such as Gaborones, Mochudi and Kanye. The Crocodile Pools date stamp was thus effectively a 'military' cancel applied on mail both originating from the place of application and as a transit date stamp on mail passing through the place of application. In early April 1900, British forces reoccupied Crocodile Pools, and the date stamp was used at this location until December 1901. The siege of Mafeking ended on 17 May 1900, and from that date thereafter usage of the cancellation declined considerably. The last known usage on a loose stamp is 17 December 1901.

A post office was established at Crocodile Pools railway siding some time in mid-October 1899. On 24 October, British troops abandoned Crocodile Pools, taking with them the date stamp, the location of usage thereafter changed as the main force changed location. British forces re-occupied Crocodile Pools on 25 February 1900, and the earliest known usage of the datestamp after this date is 20 March 1900.

The aim of this short feature is to illustrate some of the circumstances in which the Crocodile Pools

datestamp was used during the post-March 1900 period, when it was once again in use at the Crocodile Pools siding.

But we begin with two earlier items. Figure 1 is a postal stationery card written at Mochudi, some fifteen kilometres to the north east of Gaborones, with a very early usage of the Crocodile Pools datestamp, on 30 December 1899. The card was carried north to Bulawayo (transit ds for 11 January 1900) and on to Ireland from where it was redirected to London. Figure 2 illustrates an envelope to Scotland bearing a date stamp for 6 January 1900, when the stamp was in use at Mochudi. The envelope is a mystery since it was unfranked and was therefore initially taxed but then regarded as paid upon arrival in London on 24 February. The envelope is backstamped with a transit Bulawayo datestamp on 11 January 1900.



Fig.1: Crocodile Pools 30 December 1899, carried to Britain by the 'Moer' which docked at Southampton on 24 February 1900.



Fig.2: Crocodile Pools 6 January 1900, carried to Britain by the 'Moer' which docked at Southampton on 24 February 1900.



Fig.3: A cover from a member of the Rhodesia Regiment on active service, showing a Crocodile Pools datestamp for 16 April 1900, carried free of charge to the addressee in London, per the 'Carisbrook Castle' which left Cape Town on 9 May and docked at Southampton on 25 May 1900. The Rhodesia Regiment was part of the force assembled to relieve Mafeking under Colonel Plumer. The Regiment was assembled at Bulawayo in late 1899, and disbanded shortly after the relief of Mafeking.



Figs. 4 and 5: Front and reverse of an envelope showing the crest of MASHONALAND / BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA POLICE, sent by Major H. Hooper to his wife in Salisbury, Mashonaland, correctly franked at the 2d rate for mail from the Bechuanaland Protectorate to Rhodesia, cancelled with the Crocodile Pools cds for 2 April 1900 applied when the date stamp was in use in Mochudi, arriving in Salisbury on 8 April 1900. (illustrations courtesy of Argyll Etkin).



Fig.7: A cover registered from Crocodile Pools to Britain on 20 April 1900, franked correctly at 8d (comprising 4d being the Protectorate rate to Britain plus 4d registration fee), per the 'Carisbrook Castle' which left Cape Town on 9 May and docked at Southampton on 25 May 1900.



Fig.8: A cover from a trooper in the Mashonaland Squadron of the Rhodesia Regiment on active service, and endorsed by the Squadron's Staff Officer, and showing a Crocodile Pools datestamp for 27 April 1900, carried free of charge to the addressee in London, per the 'Dunottar Castle' which left Cape Town on 25 April and docked at Southampton on 12 May 1900.



Fig.6: 1900 (April 17) An envelope to Britain from Mafeking, when the town was besieged, franked 1s for carriage via the northern route showing a Crocodile Pools datestamp for 28 April on front and Bulawayo transit datestamp of 30 April on reverse, together with arrival datestamp of June 8. Carried to Britain on the 'Kinfauns Castle' which departed Cape Town on May 23. Thirteen days in transit from Mafeking to Bulawayo, and 36 days to Cape Town.



Fig.9: A cover from Port Elizabeth posted of 11 May 1900 'via Bulawayo, Beira, Delagoa Bay' to Trooper James Milne at Crocodile Pools, bearing Cape 1d. pair with despatch datestamp and with various redirections on face, the last back to Port Elizabeth, the reverse with eleven datestamps including Bulawayo, Palapye, Mafeking and Kimberley showing the difficulty in finding Trooper Milne. (Illustration courtesy of Spink & Son).

Fig.10: A cover registered from Crocodile Pools on 25 May 1900 to London franked at the correct 8d rate, carried per the 'Tantallon Castle' which departed Cape Town on 20 June and docked at Southampton on 6 July 1900. (Illustration courtesy of Spink & Son).



OBITUARIES

BRIAN FENEMORE 1944 to 2022

Brian joined the Pinelands Stamp Circle in November 1974 and was an active member of our society until his death.

Brian was always willing to exhibit at our meetings, even if it was at short notice. He always had something of interest to show and his knowledge of various subjects was vast.

He was well known for his 'Standard Bank Collection' which he formed from scratch and sold a few years ago, also his extensive Bechuanaland collection.

A keen postcard collector and he was the secretary of the Postcard Society. In fact, at our July meeting when we invited the Postcard Society to join us, Brian showed his collection of WWII postcards relating to the Battle for Crete.

At our meeting in March 2022, Brian showed when he displayed "British Army SA". He also took part in the recent National Exhibition gaining a Large Silver for his "The A – Z of overprinted Postage/Revenue and Surcharged Stamps of Great Britain – from Abu Dabi to Zululand". In fact, the Sunday that we were mounting exhibits for the Nationals, Brian and Glenda were both there. I spoke to him on the phone shortly before his death and he was sounding so cheerful and positive and I thought that he was really going to pull through. So it came as quite a shock to hear that he had passed away on 12th December 2022.

Brian was a long-time member of the Western Province Cricket



Club and he often arranged philatelic functions particularly for the Rhodesian Study Circle there.

Brian's home society was the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town, where he served on their committee as their librarian. This was a position he took very seriously and he kept the library in good order. He served on their committee for many years and was also on the organising committee of several of the National Exhibitions held in Cape Town over the years. He was also a member of the Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and would love his outings down to the "deep south" – especially when they moved to the new venue at the Simon's Town Country Club, as they served a delicious lunch and Brian would often be found having a meal there before the start of the meeting.

Brian was also a regular at the Cape Stamp Fair and he would go from dealer to dealer assessing what they had in stock. When he found something and bought it, that item would be neatly written up and mounted and ready to show within a few days. He was so passionate about his collecting interests.

I think I will always remember the sight of Brian standing next to one or the other of his many exhibits and explaining it to us. People always say that folk who have nothing to do sit and "twiddle their thumbs", but Brian always had plenty to do and the one image I will forever remember is Brian standing in front of the display boards talking enthusiastically about his exhibit and always "twiddling his thumbs" as he spoke!!!

We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife of 48 years, Glenda and also to his brothers and their families. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Marilyn Crawford Pinelands Stamp Circle

PETER DERHAM 1941 to 2022

We were very sad to hear of the sudden death of Peter Derham, who passed away at Vincent Pallotti Hospital while undergoing a routine angiogram on 8 November 2022.

Peter was a long-time member of Pinelands Stamp Circle, having joined in the mid 1970s. Prior to that he was a member of the Kempton Park Society. He collected SA Union commems, Germany, Pitcairn and Ascension Islands. He was an enthusiastic member of our Circle and was always ready to exhibit when asked. He showed part of his German collection (the Hitler period) to us in June along with an interesting display on Urch Harris, the Stamp Dealer.



Peter was a quiet and friendly person who was always willing to help with packing away stamp boards and chairs and he and Cynthia helped us on a number of occasions at our stall at Hobby-X over the years. Peter served on our committee in the past as treasurer. He had sent me an email apologising for not being able to volunteer at this year's International/National Exhibition because of a recent cataract operation and as he was going in for an angiogram on the Tuesday – sadly this is when he passed away.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Cynthia.

Marilyn Crawford Pinelands Stamp Circle

STOP PRESS: The SAP Editorial Board have just been notified of the passing of STEVEN BAKER

We await further details and welcome any readers response. Steven wrote the "Guide to the Stamps of South Africa" and it went through several editions. Unfortunately three days after he passed away, his wife Clare had a home invasion robbery and lost most of her possessions

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Rhodesian Study Circle

by Sean Burke, Editor of The Rhodesian Journal.

In May, 1948, the following announcement appeared in *The Stamp Lover*:

Mr. W.G. Nodder informs us that a *Rhodesian Study Circle* is being formed in this country, and collectors of the stamps of Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland are invited to become members. The aims of the Study Circle will be to encourage and sustain interest in all issues; to circulate information on the discovery of postmarks; varieties and flaws; to advise members of news; to collate all available information in order that a handbook on the stamps of Southern Rhodesia can be published in due course; and to obtain new issues used on cover direct from the Colonies concerned. It is hoped that in due course a quarterly news sheet will be circulated. Mr Nodder has been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Rhodesian Study Circle, and philatelists are invited to write to him.

Later in June, 1948, the following appeared in *The South African Philatelist*: 'We have received an intimation from Mr. W.G. Nodder (Fig.1) of 6 Quarry Close, Hansford Square, Combe Down, Bath, that it is proposed to form a Rhodesian Study Circle if a sufficient number of interested collectors respond. The fields of study will cover the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, all aspects thereof. It is hoped to publish a quarterly news sheet, run an exchange section, and ultimately to publish a handbook. Membership will cost 5s a year, and anyone interested should communicate with Mr. Nodder.

Nodder distributed the first 'Journal' in June 1948; he called it *Bulletin No. 1*. In it, he included a list of founder members: T.H. Bent, K. Edge, L. Dudley Hawkins, O.G. Holmes, F.E. Morley, G.A.D. Moss, W.G. Nodder, G.B. Perry, and K.N. Vine. Later that year, there were nine additional members recorded as joining including: Mrs Margaret Cawood (Southern Rhodesia), B.L.R. Fox (Southern Rhodesia), Dr Alec Kaplan (South Africa), I.T. Hamilton (UK), A.H. Strutt (UK) and Richard Waite (USA) - so, almost from the outset, the Circle went international!

(Late in 1948, Dr Alec Kaplan, was invited to sign the Southern African Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, and ten years later the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the first RSC member to be so honoured. He was later to be followed by Dr Alan Drysdall and Brian Trotter.)

Now in 2023, the RSC, one of the oldest specialist philatelic societies in the World, will celebrate seventy-five years of existence. With over 400 members drawn from across the globe (UK, Isle of Man, Ireland, Finland, Spain, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Vietnam, Thailand, New Zealand, Australia, USA, Canada, Russia, China, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi), the Circle boasts a long tradition of research with nearly forty publications over the decades, and its Journal, which will produce its 300th edition this year. In 2022, *The Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* and the website of the RSC were awarded Gold Medals at the London International Exhibition. Meetings of the RSC occur (in person or virtual) every month in the year. From humble beginnings, the RSC is now a philatelic society for collectors of British South Africa, British Central Africa, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Fig.1: Mr. Nodder.

Links with southern African philately can be well demonstrated by examining the list of RSC members who were or are signatories of the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists of Southern Africa (RDPSA) : W.J. Harrington 1934, C.H. Thornton 1939, Alec Kaplan 1948, B.L.R. Fox 1953, J.M. Weinstein 1968, Vivien Ellenberger 1971, Harry Birkhead 1982, David Crocker 1986, Danny Swart 1987, Richard Knight 1988, Robson Lowe 1990, Alan Drysdall 1995, Colin Hoffman 1997,

Michael Wigmore 2000, Richard Johnson 2004, Neville Polakow 2006, Patrick Flanagan 2008, Emil Minnaar 2008, and Richard Stroud 2015.

Another tangible link with *The South African Philatelist* can be viewed by looking at the case of the former Editor of SAP and member of the RSC, Manfred Weinstein RDPSA. I am busy preparing a history of the Rhodesian Study Circle and came across these passages in Journals past.

In 1974, the Journal congratulates fellow-member, Manfred Weinstein, RDPSA, FRPSL, on taking up the editorship of *The South Africa Philatelist*. That grand old man of Rhodesian philately, Bernard Livermore, wrote:

Was it just chance, or did Providence ordain that we should meet and be friends? About 1935 I found an Edwardian 1 anna stamp postmarked DTHALI I wrote two articles in 'Stamp Collecting'. These raised a hefty crop of letters ... Manfred was one of them. When he came over here in 1970 we met, I gladly accepted an offer of a fiver for my stamp: I had enjoyed the fun of the chase but had no desire to own the quarry. Manfred's collections of Aden and Anglo-Boer War have won major medals; he wanted another good country to collect. I showed him a volume of my Double Heads - and hooked him for the Circle. ... We salute him and congratulate our member on his fine record. I have known him for many years and especially value his letters - they always end "With love from Hilda and me". To a man as old as I am, this is pleasing to read.

In 1974, Colin Hoffman RDPSA recorded Manfred's passing with this tribute:

Manfred Weinstein has been described as South Africa's greatest and most respected philatelist. He was not only a collector, but a student and a researcher, and a recognised authority on South African postal history. His contributions to the Rhodesian Study Circle's Journal have the hallmark of his expertise. . .

In 1968 he was the youngest signatory ever of the Roll of Honour of Distinguished South African Philatelists. In 1970 he became Hon.

Editor of 'The South African Philatelist', and in 1972 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Others who have known him well have paid tribute to his warmth and friendship; the manner in which it was extended to the Rhodesian Study Circle is amply demonstrated by the prominence he has given to its affairs, and in the last few issues of 'The South African Philatelist' edited by him there have appeared several items about the Study Circle and Rhodesian philately, contributed as a result of the extremely generous encouragement he extended to the Study Circle and its members.

The RSC has always been more than just the stamps, the covers, the perforations, the routes, the rates, etc. It has been about gathering as friends and sharing. A number of celebrations and publications are planned for 2023.





UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STAMP VARIETIES

by Andre du Plessis RDPSA , Pretoria Philatelic Society

HUGUENOT COMMEMORATION FUND, 1939 (UHB 17)

A semi-postal set of three denominations, with designs symbolic of the French Huguenots, was issued on 17 July 1939 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of their landing in South Africa.





The designs were by J. Prentice from photographs supplied by the Huguenot Festival Committee. The stamps were inscribed alternatively in English and Afrikaans.




They were sold for 1d, 2d and 3d. Half of which amounts was their postal value and the other accrued to the Huguenot Commemoration Fund. They remained on sale until 14 October 1939 and were the last of the fund-raising stamps issued by the Union of South Africa.

Cylinder numbers in order of interior (Head Plate)/exterior (Frame plate): 1/2d (+ 1/2d) - 6933/52; 1d (+ 1d) - 7014/36; 1 1/2d (+ 1 1/2d) - 30/6920.

The first stamp on the sheet for the 1/2d was printed in English and that for the 1d and 1 1/2d in Afrikaans.

(None of these varieties are listed by Gibbons).

1/2d ENGLISH  Small break in top frame line over 'U' of SOUTH ex Row 1/1 UHB 75 - V1	1d AFRIKAANS  Carmine dot between 'A' and 'F' of AFRIKA Ex Row 1/5 UHB 76 - V1	1d ENGLISH  Large red dot on horizon at left Ex Row UHB 76 - V2	1d ENGLISH  Green dot in the reflection of the sun on the sea Ex Row 14/1 UHB 76 - V3
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1 1/2d AFRIKAANS & ENGLISH  Purple dot in larger '1' of both value tablets Ex Row 1/5 UHB 77 - V1	1 1/2d ENGLISH  Small white spur on vertical leg of 'R' of AFRIKA Ex Row 1/6 UHB 77 - V2	1 1/2d ENGLISH  Green blob on edge of mountain in centre Ex Row 20/1 UHB 77 - V3
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WATERMARK	PERFORATION	SHEET
Multiple Springbok head Upright	1/2d and 1d - 14 1 1/2d - 15 x 14	120 Stamps in 20 rows by 6 columns



1/2d - Old Parsonage



1d - Symbol of the Reformation



1 1/2d - Huguenot home at the Cape



1d - Specimen



1 1/2d - Photographic essays

'Draft' image proposals were used for evaluation and approval of stamp design prior to authorisation of final print. Often differences exist between the photo essay versus the actual stamp



Pan Am Test Covers

by Dr Alan Rose, East Rand Philatelic Society



At a recent society meeting an American flight cover aroused interest and comment as few members were aware of the history behind it. The cover, shown here, front and back, has an interesting story.

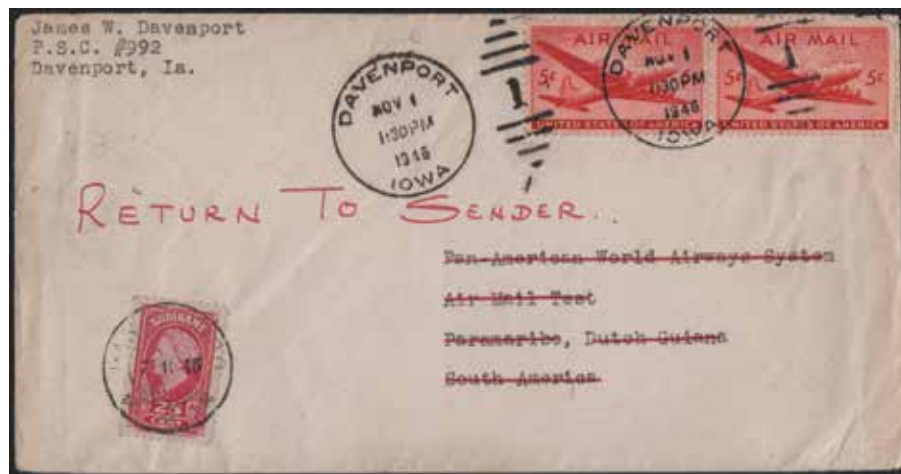


Fig.1: Pan Am Airways airmail test cover showing local return postage.

Prior to World War II, airmail rates from the US to the Caribbean, Central and South America were somewhat erratic, with franking varying widely between 20c and 40c per ½oz. depending on the final destination.

In an attempt to rationalise rates and encourage the use of airmail, the US Post Office cajoled Pan Am Airways into participating in an exercise to demonstrate the efficiency and speed of airmail to destinations south of the United States. For one day only, 1 November 1946, the US public was invited to send covers, with return addresses, to any one of 28 designated Pan Am offices in Caribbean, Central and South American countries at a set rate of 10c per ½ oz.

On receipt of these covers, the Pan Am offices were instructed to record the arrival date with a backstamp, delete its own address on the front, and to add a cachet or manuscript instruction 'Return to Sender'. Local airmail stamps were then to be affixed to the bottom left corner of the covers (at Pan Am expense), and the items returned via the normal Post Office airmail system.

By checking the different datestamps the senders would have hard evidence to hand, demonstrating the speed and efficacy of the airmail postal system. Simultaneously, both the US Post Office and Pan Am hoped to benefit from an anticipated increase in airmail volume.

Whilst the general public were impressed, the philatelic community was up in arms, complaining of the indecent short time (23 October to 1 November), between the announcement of the test and its completion. As a result, many collectors and philatelists were unaware of the event until after it had occurred and were unable to participate.

A secondary complaint was that several of the Pan Am offices down south did not use local airmail stamps for the return leg as instructed, but added local definitives. It is worth noting that only mail to the 28 nominated Pan Am offices was handled in this way, and only for the one day. Late comers, hoping for the same treatment were disappointed, as mail on other days and to other centres did not qualify. Such was returned, but treated as conventional



Fig.2: Reverse of the cover showing Paramaribo and P.A.A. receiving stamps.

undeliverable and underfranked mail and did not carry the local return postage.

These covers are not rare, scarce maybe, but surface from time to time on electronic sites and in dealers' scratch boxes. Significantly, few dealers know of their story, and often offer exaggerated histories to impress prospective buyers.



Postage paid by Pan Am as a publicity exercise.



HOW EUROPEANS ENCOUNTERED SOUTH AFRICAN BUTTERFLIES IN THE 18TH CENTURY

by Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

Light in flight, diverse in shape and size, and often attractively coloured, butterflies are a rare exception among insects, inspiring wonder, and delight. The variety of colours and airy flight of butterflies give the environment of any region much of its charm and beauty. With the arrival of Columbus, butterflies of the New World became known to Western civilization.

Human fascination with butterflies has existed for hundreds of years, and butterfly collecting has been the passion of many famous naturalists. The first Europeans to see the exotic butterflies of South Africa were the Dutch. From the 17th century onwards, the Dutch started to colonise many parts of the African continent, including South Africa. They established colonial rule mostly in the coastal areas of Africa. The Dutch increased their activities in colonial territories and laid the foundations of a port city in Cape Town on South Africa's southwest coast by establishing The Dutch East India Company in 1652.

Early collections of butterflies in the Netherlands were created by collectors with a scientific background, such as **Albertus Seba (1665 – 1736)** a pharmacist, zoologist and collector (Fig.1).

Fig.1: Stamp of Guinea depicting Albertus Seba, issued 2008.



Seba asked sailors and ship surgeons to bring home exotic plants and animal products he could use for preparing drugs. So Seba started a collection of natural specimens, many of which were butterflies and other insects, in his house in Amsterdam. Collecting naturalia and rarities became his life work. His scientific interests and curiosity motivated him to amass his collection on a series of travels to the East Indies and West Indies, and from purchases he made of specimens collected by travellers the world over.

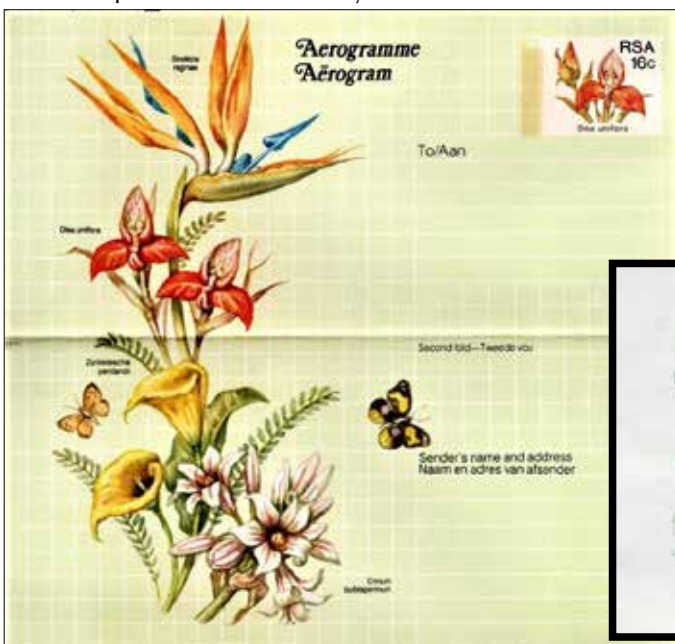


Fig.2: Aerogramme depicting flowers & butterflies of South Africa, issued 1987.

Within a short period of time, he assembled a large collection of exotic natural history objects, including some species of South African butterflies (Fig.2).

Seba allowed his collection to be researched by scientists. Among the many regular visitors to his collection was Carl Linnaeus, who held Seba's collection in high esteem. Parts of it played an important role in his classification of the natural world.

Entomology in South Africa can be traced back to the mid-18th century when the Dutchman **Ryk Tulbagh** was Governor at the Cape from **1751 to 1771**. Tulbagh was interested in nature and instructed, J.A. Auge, the Garden - Superintendent to collect plants, insects, and other animals for scientists at European universities. He also sent specimens to Linnaeus in Sweden, with whom he, as a Dutchman, corresponded in Latin, their only common language. To thank and honour him, Linnaeus named the plant genus *Tulbaghia* after him as well as the beautiful Mountain Pride butterfly, *Aeropetes tulbaghia*, that occurs along the slopes of Table Mountain (Fig.3).



Fig.3: Stamp of South Africa 2013 with butterfly *Aeropetes tulbaghia*.

Ryk Tulbagh was of an intellectual and benevolent disposition, and shared the prevalent general passion for natural history. The Western Cape town of Tulbagh is named after him (Fig.4).



Fig.4: Official letter 1817 bearing an outstanding strike of the TULBAGH handstamp.



Fig.5: Sweden proof 2007 with naturalist Carl Linnaeus.

Swedish naturalist **Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778)** made the first descriptions of southern African butterflies in the tenth edition of his book *Systema Naturae*, published in 1758 (Fig.5).

The butterfly collection of Carl Linnaeus was considered most important. The exotic material that it contained was derived, to a large extent, from his ex-students and correspondents. These included Carl Peter Thunberg and Anders Sparrman for South Africa. Linnaeus named a total of 184 non-European butterflies from 12 areas, which include 18 species from South Africa (Fig.6).

Fig.6: Stamp of South Africa 2000 with butterfly *Papilio nireus*, which was the first described by Linnaeus in 1758.



A Swedish naturalist, **Carl Peter Thunberg** (1743-1828), was known as the 'father of Cape botany', and was one of Linnaeus's favourite students (Fig.7).

Fig.7: Stamp of Sweden 1973 with naturalist Carl Peter Thunberg.



He spent 3 years (1772-1775) at the Cape, during which he amassed an herbarium of 23,510 specimens, as well as 25,000 insects, including numerous moths and butterflies. Thunberg delivered them to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for classification. After his return to Sweden, Thunberg published a series of entomological dissertations mostly based on his own discoveries during the long journey. He described some 160 new insects from South Africa and among them were several exotic butterflies (Fig.8).



Fig.8: South African postcard issued in 2001 showing a butterfly and other natural objects on part of a map of Table Mountain.

Anders Sparrman (1748 – 1820) was a Swedish naturalist and one of Linnaeus's most travelled disciples (Fig.9). In January 1772 Sparrman sailed for the Cape of Good Hope where he studied and explored the flora and fauna. When James Cook arrived later in that year at the start of his second voyage on *Resolution*, Sparrman was taken on as assistant naturalist to Johann and Georg Forster.



Fig.9: Naturalist Anders Sparrman depicted on a stamp of Sweden in 1973.

After the voyage he returned to Cape Town and practiced medicine, earning enough to finance a journey into the interior for collecting new plants, butterflies, and other insects (Fig.10).

In 1776 Sparrman returned to Sweden, where in his absence, he had been awarded an honorary doctorate. He was also elected a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1777.



Fig.10: Aerogramme of Transkei 1976 with southern African butterfly.



Fig.11: Stamp of New Zealand 1969 depicting the HMS Endeavour and naturalist Joseph Banks.

James Cook's ship *Endeavour*, (Fig 11) having bypassed the Cape of Good Hope, on returning to England from a round-the-world trip, anchored in Table Bay, 12 March, 1771.



Fig.12: Post card of South Africa 2001 with bright butterfly and caterpillar *Lycaena orus*, the western sorrel copper.

During the month-long stay, naturalist Sir Joseph Banks was able to collect some South African natural history items, including butterfly specimens from Table Mountain (Fig.12).

Fig.13: Stamp of South Africa 1977 with butterfly *Capys alphaeus*.



Pieter Cramer (1721 - 1776) was a Dutch merchant and entomologist, who created an extensive natural history collection and butterflies were his passion.

He became fascinated by the butterflies of the East and West Indies and purchased many specimens for his own collection. Many were colourful butterflies and moths, collected in countries where the Dutch had colonial or trading links. He described a large *lycaenid* butterfly from the Cape of Good Hope, the Orange-banded protea scarlet *Capys alphaeus* (Fig.13).

Cramer catalogued his collection which he had illustrated by the painter Gerrit Wartenaar Lambertz. Such was the quality of the illustrations that Caspar Stoll encouraged him to publish the set of drawings. Cramer's description was in his four-volume study on butterflies, *Papillons Exotiques*, the first volume of which appeared in 1775 (Fig.14).

The *nymphalidae Catacroptera cloanthe*, presently known as 'Pirate,' was described by Dutch entomologist Caspar Stoll in 1781 from 'the Cape of Good Hope' (Fig.15).

Fig.14: Stamp of South Africa 2013 with moth *Leto venus* described by Cramer in 1775 – endemic species of South Africa.



Fig.15: Stamp of Venda 1980 with butterfly *Catacroptera cloanthe*.

In 1791, Stoll published a supplementary volume to *Papillons Exotiques*, in which several South African butterflies were illustrated in colour.

In the eighteenth century, trade and exploration flourished as the British Empire expanded. However, it wasn't all about creating colonies and importing produce. **Dru Drury (1725-1804)**, an eighteenth-century London silversmith, naturalist, and author, saw the chance to develop an insect collection of unprecedented scope (Fig.16).

As well as collecting English insects, he acquired more 'exotic' samples by persuading other travellers and the officers of ships sailing to other continents to collect insects on his behalf. Beginning in 1770, Drury kept correspondences with entomologists from all over the world from India to Africa and America. It is through these connections that Drury received much of his collection.

His profitable business enabled him to spend significant amounts of money on his hobby and over a thirty-year period he built up a famous collection of over 11,000 insect specimens, including amazingly beautiful tropical butterflies.



Fig.17: Stamp of South Africa 2001 with butterfly *Acraea zetes* from the Drury collection.

The German **Eugenius Johann Christoph Esper (1742-1810)** was an entomologist and phycologist, professor at the university of Erlangen and director of the Natural History Museum, who during his leisure hours, devoted himself to the study of nature and the preparation of manuscripts relating to natural history. Esper was an avid collector of butterflies and published many works, the most comprehensive on butterflies of the time. One of these works was *Foreign Butterflies in Pictures from Nature*, which included some species of South African butterflies (Fig.18).



Fig.16: Stamp of Ivory Coast 2012 with portrait of British entomologist Dru Drury.

By the 1800s, 67 southern African butterflies had been described. The great age of European exploration saw naturalists circle the globe collecting new and fascinating butterfly specimens from remote and exotic locations (such as South Africa), and taxonomists studying and classifying them. South Africa is home to around 700 species of butterfly!



Fig.18: Postcard card of South Africa 2001 with butterfly *Papilio demodocus*, which was first described by Esper in 1798.

The author is always glad to share his experience and help philatelists with a butterfly theme by creating or improving their philatelic collections. Contact the author: vladimir.kachan.1958@gmail.com

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Russia's invasion of
UKRAINE
and stamps

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



PART THREE: UNITY - UKRAINE WAR-RELATED STAMPS

In the second part (December 2022 SA Philatelist), we showcased how other countries expressed their solidarity with Ukraine using stamps. Most of these stamps were semi-postal and were used to raise funds for Ukraine. In this final part we look at more war-related stamps issued by Ukraine and the spin-offs this has had. We conclude with Russian response to the extensive philatelic reaction to the invasion. In the Ukraine some 500 post offices have been damaged with another 450 inaccessible because of Russian occupation. The transportation of mail has been impeded by damaged roads, railways, and bridges. Urkposhta (Ukraine Post) countered this by introducing 372 mobile post offices along with temporary locations in schools and government buildings. In this way essential services were maintained.

Stamps and stamp collecting is having a revival in Ukraine. Davdzon writes that philately was intentionally a highly standardised Soviet pastime. Stamps were the product of a centralised government "intended to shape the popular imagination in the workers' paradise." Basically, they were highly ideological state propaganda. Although Soviet citizens could not travel abroad, they could collect foreign stamps which arrived from the forbidden outside. This interest in stamps remained entrenched in independent Ukraine.

In April 2022, Urkposhta drew strong international interest when it released its first war-related stamp illustrating a border guard giving the Russian battleship *Moskva* the finger (Fig.1). The stamp attracted the attention of global news media which reported on the long lines of people queuing at post offices buying them. Standing for ages in a queue got you a souvenir of hellish and heroic moments in Ukraine history. The stamps sold out quickly. Despite the ongoing war, 340,000 Ukrainians voted for the image on their next stamp, a watercolour image of a tractor recovering derelict Russian tank (Fig.2).



Fig.1: Ukraine's first wartime stamp was issued 12 April 2022 with 500,000 copies each in two denominations. The stamp shows the defiant response of the Ukrainian soldier to a Russian warship that attacked Snake Island, 24 February 2022.



Fig.2: A tractor towing a derelict Russian tank is iconic of Ukrainian resistance against Russia, issued 30 July 2022.

Ukrainian stamp mania is just one more sign that the country, deeply traumatised though it may be, is desperate to get back to its normal cultural preoccupations. Even as the war and the need to repel the Russian invasion dominate everyone's thoughts and actions, Ukraine's cultural and artistic institutions are attempting a return to normality under what are almost impossible circumstances (Davidzon).

The Antonov AN-225 Mriya

The Antonov AN-225 was a strategic aircraft designed in the 1980s by the Antonov Design Bureau in the Soviet Union. The An-225 was the world's heaviest aircraft, being heavier than the double-deck Airbus A380. It was originally developed to transport Buran (Fig.3) (the Russian version of the United States Space Shuttle).

VLADOLF PUTLER

Putin has been compared with the likes of Hitler by overprinting a genuine 1941 German stamp (Fig.A) and by association on a stamp-like label (Fig.B). Putin has been likened to Hitler, as both imposed dictatorial rule and suppressed dissent. Both invaded neighbouring countries, used lies and disinformation to justify their actions and used a symbol to denote their cause, the "Z" in Putin's case (Fig.B) and the swastika for Hitler. Vladolf Putler is a derogatory neologism formed by merging the names of Vladimir Putin and Adolf Hitler, and is often used in the slogan "Putler Kaput!" The word "Putler" had common usage among the opposition in Russia and Ukraine and has been a regular sight at demonstrations against Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.



Fig.A: Recent overprint of a 1941 Adolf Hitler 8 pfennig stamp, (from an unknown source).



Fig.B: Label associating Putin with Adolf Hitler and labelled 'Russische Reich' and overprinted 'Ukraine' (from an unknown source).

Only one aircraft was ever completed, named Mriya, meaning 'dream' in Ukrainian, and was a source of national pride. After successfully fulfilling its military missions in 1991, the aircraft was mothballed for eight years. The AN-225 was sitting unused without a purpose. It was re-engined, modified for heavy cargo transport and placed back in service with Antonov Airlines. Then it was moved to Volga-Dnepr, located in the independent Ukraine, and was used to carry oversized payloads. While a second airframe with a slightly different configuration was partially built, construction was halted more than once due to a lack of funding and interest.



Fig.3: The AN-225 was originally designed to carry Buran in the 1980s. Buran was the Russian equivalent of the Space Shuttle.

The aircraft's last commercial mission was to collect 90 tons of COVID-19 test kits from Tianjin, China and deliver them to Billund in Denmark. From there it returned on 5 February 2022 to its base in Hostomel, near Kyiv, for an engine replacement. The aircraft was scheduled for evacuation from Hostomel on 24 February, the that day Russia invaded. With the airfield being one of their first targets, the runway was rendered unusable and the aircraft was destroyed (Fig.4).



Fig.4: The giant six-engined AN-225 sustained extensive damage. The forward fuselage was completely burnt and destroyed with the wings partly intact.

Two months later, almost to the day, a mini-sheet (Fig.5) was issued 25 April 2022 by Stamperija in Latvia for Djibouti. The mini-sheet showed the AN-225 in four different attitudes against massive explosions in an urban background. This was an obvious case of cashing in on the situation. It was sold directly to dealers and collectors by Stamperija.



Fig. 5: Produced and distributed in 2022 by Stamperija, located in Latvia, the Mriya mini-sheet was available perforated (€6.00, about R100.00) and imperf. (€15.00, about R250). Stamperija is an authorised representative of the Djibouti Post Office.

Coincidentally, on the same day, 25 April 2022, Ukrposhta announced an AN-225 stamp (Fig.6). This was originally an entry in a pre-war design competition, which attracted 6134 participants from 11 countries who submitted 10,276 designs. The winning design, submitted by 11-year-old Sofia Krachuk from the Ukraine, depicted the AN-225 flying towards the stars. The contest took place in 2021 as part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.



Mriya became a symbol of hope in the darkest hours of COVID as it carried vast quantities of life-saving vaccine and PPE around the globe. There are several scenarios for rebuilding the Mriya.

Fig.6: Prize winning stamp commemorating the AN-225.

Independence Day

On August 24, Ukraine issued a mini-sheet titled 'Free, Unbreakable, Invincible' (Fig.7) for the 31st anniversary of independence. The General Director of Ukraine postal service, Ihor Smiliansky, said in his announcement for the stamp "This year this day isn't just an additional holiday, but a reminder for the whole world how expensive human freedom is. On August 24, we will have a kind of symbolic date – exactly 6 months since Ukraine was forced again to defend its independence from enemies in the war that actually has been lasting for not half a year, not 8, not 100, and not even 300 years."



Fig.7: A mini-sheet for the Ukraine Independence Day was issued 24 August 2022. Circulation was limited to one million copies.

The stamp includes a striking image of a Ukrainian soldier accented with colours from the Ukrainian flag. The selvage includes six symbols of Ukraine reflecting the war.

Patron

Two years ago, the Head of the pyrotechnic group of the Main Directorate of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in the Chernihiv region presented his son with a puppy. The four-legged was intended for exhibitions, but because of the war he had to become a sapper.

Patron – a Jack Russell Terrier the mascot of Ukrainian rescuers has become a favourite of adults and children, a welcome guest at public events, at press conferences, meetings with foreign leaders. Patron has visited children in hospitals and been awarded a medal 'For Dedicated Service.'

A sheet of eight semi-postal stamps and three postcards (Fig.8) were issued 1 September 2022 illustrating Patron. The stamps were designed by Oleksander Nikityuk who had to not only illustrated Patron but also draw public attention to the problems of mined areas. The stamps feature a cartoon image of Patron in the field, which despite the danger, is being cultivated by farmers, in a residential area and in children's playgrounds. With the popularity of the stamps, a limit of five sheets per customer was allowed. One million copies were printed and sold out quickly. As reprints of stamps are not permitted by Ukraine law, six of the stamps (Fig.9) were reprinted as poster stamps with the value removed.



Fig.8: Patron postcard with special stamp. A set of three was issued 1 September 2022.

Fig.9: Six Patron cartoon stamps were reissued as poster stamps with the value removed. Ukrainian law restricts stamps to a single printing.



Crimea Bridge

Following the annexation of the Crimea by Russia in 2014, a 19km bridge, the longest in Europe, was built to connect the peninsula with Russia – the only direct link. Seen as a Russian showcase project, it became a key supply route for Russia forces in Crimea. On 8 October 2022 the bridge was damaged by a blast which caused midway sections to collapse into the sea. Currently heavy vehicles are forced to queue for a ferry which can take several days. Russia blamed

Ukraine for the attack, calling it an "act of terrorism." However, Kyiv has denied it was behind the attack; despite widespread celebrations in Ukraine.

Within a week of the attack, Ukrposhta announced a stamp (Fig.10) to mark the event, issued early November as a sheet with seven stamps and two labels. Designed by Yuriy Shapoval the stamp features Titanic movie references plus jibes at the occupying Russian forces. The design makes a double analogy between the vulnerability of the bridge and the sinking of the 'unsinkable' Titanic on the one hand; on the other it reflects Ukrainian efforts at repulsing the Russian advances. Igor Smelyansky, General Director of Ukrposhta said this celebrates the 'Titanic efforts by our people and our armed forces'.



Fig.10: Stamp depicting characters from the Titanic movie on the destroyed Crimean Bridge. Highlighted are several visual comments on the Russian invasion.

The design makes use of the famous scene in the 1997 Titanic movie, where Leonardo DiCaprio embraces Kate Winslet on the ship's bow shortly before the ocean liner hits an iceberg. The stamp shows the bridge's distinctive steel arches behind clouds of billowing smoke. A washing machine is shown falling out of a Russian car (daubed with a 'Z', Fig.14) plummeting into the water. This points to reports of Russian soldiers stealing washing machines as they looted Ukrainian homes.

At the top edge is a Bayraktar combat drone, a symbol of Ukrainian resistance. A cigarette butt in the hand of the heroine indicates that Russian troops 'suffered greatly from smoking in prohibited places, like the passengers in the falling car.' There is also the image of a derelict tank suggesting that Russia has lost a vast number of tanks. To add insult to injury, the stamp was announced on

President Vladimir Putin's 70th birthday!

On the release of the design, Ukraine Post said: 'Following the Armed Forces of Ukraine, who were the first to congratulate Putin on his 70th birthday by presenting him with a fire show on the Crimean Bridge, Ukrposhta announced its gift to the head of the terrorist state.'

Armed Forces of Ukraine

A semi-postal sheet of six stamps (Fig.11) was released 14 October 2022 for the National Day of Defenders Glory to the Armed Forces. Each stamp depicts a branch of the armed

services along with an emblem in the top right-hand corner. The funds collected will support the Armed Forces. The stamps were designed by Anton Khrupin who also designed the Independence Day stamp (Fig.8). The stamps were accompanied by six postcards and first day covers along with thematic merchandise.



Fig.11: According to Ukrposhta General Director, Ihor Smilyanski, this is the first of several issues to be dedicated to the Armed Forces. Future issues will include Main Intelligence Directorate, State Services of Special Communications, Medics, and other units.

Personalised stamps

Ukrposhta offers postal products which can use personal designs. Astute entrepreneurs have taken advantage of this to produce valid war-related stamps (Figs.12 & 13) which are then sold on-line to collectors. The tab below the image makes up the postally valid portion of the stamp in either 'V' value for non-priority local mail up to 50g, or U rates.

Fig.12: A range of personalised postally valid Ukraine stamps available on eBay; prices range from US\$18.00 (± R322.00) to US\$25.00 (± R447.00) each plus US\$6.00 (± R107.00) for shipping!



Russian reaction

To date, no Russian stamps relating to the war have been noted. The pro-Russian regions of Luhansk and Donetsk [part of the Ukraine] have issued stamps since 2014. Russia has declared these regions as independent People's Republics, but, as the Universal Postal Union (UPU) does not recognise these Republics, the stamps have no validity and can only be used within these regions. They cannot be used on international mail, not even to Russia. Donetsk issued three stamps (Fig. 14) for the Russian operation to defend the region. The print run was limited to 4000 priced at 118 rubles (± R31.60) with 2500 first day covers.

The reverse of the first day covers features a quote from Russian President Putin's address to the nation.



Fig.13: Cover with a personalised postally valid Ukraine stamp featuring President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to mark Independence Day, 24 September. A cachet indicates the cover marked the 182nd day of the Russian invasion. Available on eBay for US\$35.00 (± R626.00).

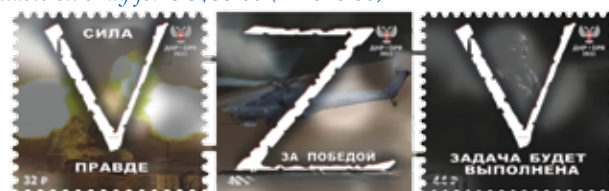


Fig.14: Set of three stamps featuring the letters 'V' and 'Z' issued by Donetsk, issued 24 March 2022. The three stamps appear to be self-adhesive and attached to each other.

The Latin letters 'V' and 'Z' have become a powerful pro-war propaganda symbol for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, first seen on military hardware. It rapidly moved from a military mark to a symbol of public support. The letter 'Z' does not exist in the Cyrillic alphabet. Several theories try to explain what the symbol means. One explanation of the origin suggests that a fly past of Mig-29 planes during the Victory Parade symbolised two '7s' stacked, one of them upside down. Another theory says the 'Z' stood for where the Russian troops were stationed. The most probable explanation is that the letter was an attempt to avoid friendly fire. Russia has not commented on any of these theories. However, it has become a sign of new Russian ideology and nationalism pushed by the regime.



Fig.15a, and overleaf 15b: Ukraine's Post Office has withdrawn from sale and destroyed these joint issues with Russia and Belarus; above a 1994 issue marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Soviet areas during World War II, and overleaf, the 2013 issue for the 1025th anniversary of the Christianity of Russia.



Fig.15b: The 2013 issue for the 1025th anniversary of the Christianity of Russia.

According to an 18 March 2022 press release, Ukraine's post office, Ukrposhta, has asked the UPU to impose sanctions on Russia related to joint issues to prevent the use of stamps for propaganda purposes. Ukrposhta said it has withdrawn and destroyed two joint issues (Fig.15): the 1994 joint issue commemorating the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Soviet Union during World War II and the joint issue marking the 1025th anniversary of the Christianity in Russia. Ukraine also asked the UPU to remove these two issues from the numbering system. Three months later this was still to happen.

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AN APPEAL and a REMINDER

The proposal for a National Stamp Exhibition, earmarked for September 2023, encourages philatelists to enter their exhibits. As Congress coincides with the National Exhibition, Societies are also encouraged to submit **nominations** for Federation positions and **citations** for awards.

This reminder is for each Society to bring out the best there is and an opportunity to highlight what talent South Africa has in the philatelic world.

Its time to promote the many great collectors and show that in philately as in others area, from sport, medicine or invention - as South Africans, we have what it takes to be champions!

Similarly at *THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST*, without your involvement and input, we are limited. We can only publish what we receive from authors ...

Remember - there is an entire team of willing 'ghost-writers' that can assist your efforts with grammar and construction - we can help you polish or shape your article if that's what is needed to bring it to publication.

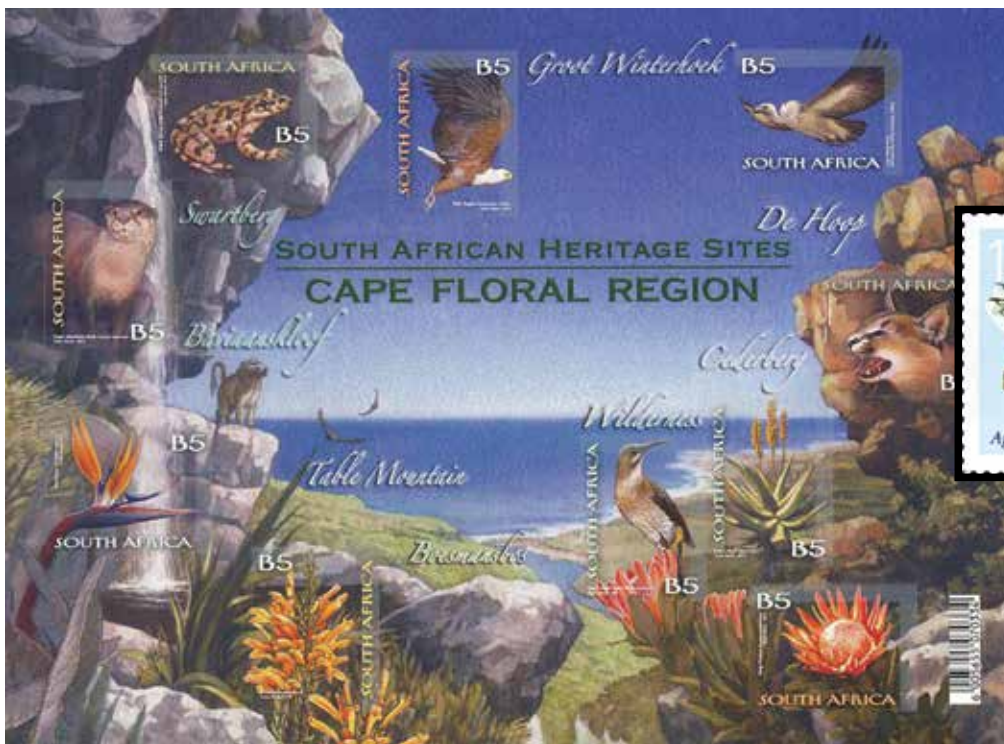


Collect a Bouquet of Ericas

by Garry Osthoff, OFS Philatelic Society

Erica flowers, also named heath, heather or Heide (German), have been mentioned in Greek literature as "ereike".

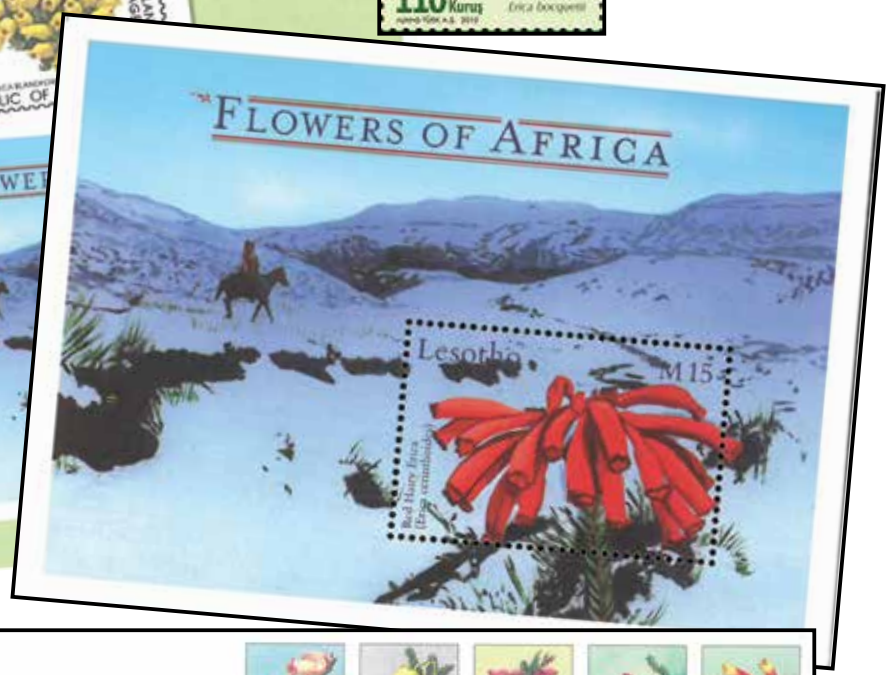
Erica is a large genus of approximately 857 species and occurs from Europe and the Mediterranean to Africa and Madagascar. About 690 of these species are endemic to southern Africa, of which 636 grow South of the Limpopo and 580 in the southern Cape, with 103 concentrated in the Cape peninsula.



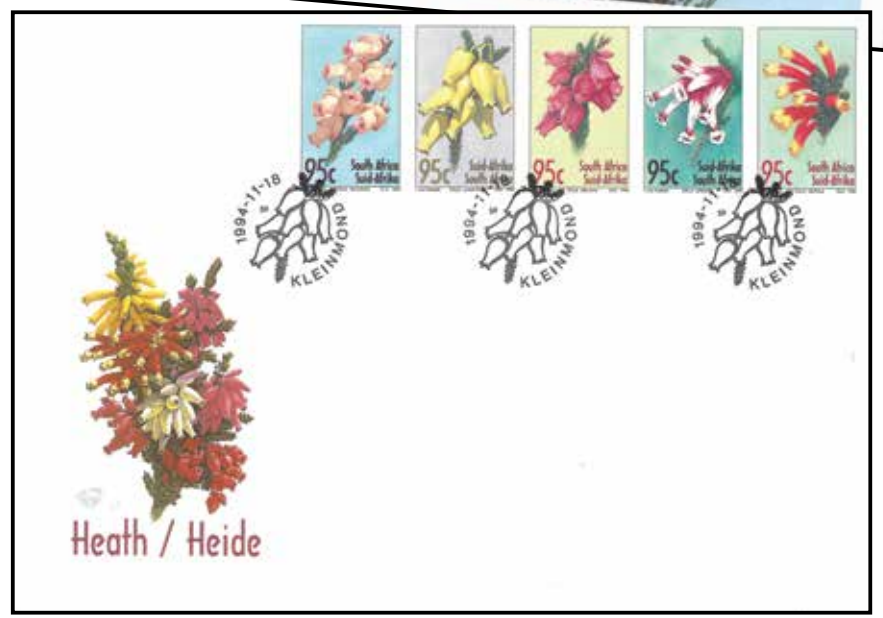
To floral philatelists who do not want a collection with never ending limits, the ericas provide a compact topic. Only a few stamps have been issued by Northern countries, eg. *E. erigena* by Ireland, *E. maderensis* by Portugal and *E. carnea* by Germany. From the above species numbers, it is appropriate that South Africa issued a number of stamps, cancellers and postal stationery on which some 37 erica species from 17 botanical sections were displayed; too numerous to be covered in this short article.

The collection can be expanded to a thematic with town names, ecological aspects such as pollinators and feeders, or the environment, that describes *E. cerinthoides* to occur from the Cape and Table Mountain ecologies (sheets not shown) to the Malutis in Lesotho. The inquisitive





collector will notice that some stamps were issued by countries where the depicted *Ericas* are not endemic, eg. *E. bocquetti* by Turkey, which is endemic to England, and *E. tetralix* by Lithuania, which occurs from Portugal to Norway. In Africa, *E. ardens* is endemic to the Western Cape. The stamp was issued by the Republic of Guinea, with an additional inscription of 'Europa' (!?). While 'Erica' describes the genus, the names heath or heather include a group of closely related plants. For the collector this means that this floral theme can be expanded to the closest relatives: *Daboecia* (one or two species) and *Calluna* (one species), which are endemic to the Northern countries. Once the Erica collection is complete, the collector is encouraged to invest in more stock books to collect the whole *Ericaceae* family with 124 genera containing 4250 species, of which the best known are the cranberry, blueberry, huckleberry and rhododendron.





THE 'NATAL WITNESS' NEWSPAPER AND ITS PERFINS

by Roger Porter RDPSA, Postmark and Postal History Society

There are four types of perfins used by the firm of P. Davis & Sons, Pietermaritzburg publishers of *The Natal Witness* newspaper for about 30 years at least. These are a 'PD&S' / 'D&S' that have been seen only on QV Natal stamps, a 'D' and 'W' seen on both QV and KE VII stamps, and pair of vertical parallel holes found on KE VII stamps of Natal.

The *Natal Witness* is South Africa's oldest newspaper. These perfins may be found on stamps used on letters, postcards, or parcels. The 1d, 2d QV, ½d, 1d, 3d, 6d, and 1s KE VII stamps are recorded with the 'Witness' type perfins. Businesses would perforate stamps with letters or other symbols to prevent them being pilfered.

David Dale Buchanan (Fig.1) the founder of the *Natal Witness* newspaper, wrote to Donald Moodie, Secretary to the Governor of Natal on 23 Feb 1846 informing him that he was about to publish a newspaper in Pietermaritzburg. Three days later the first issue of the newspaper appeared on 27 February 1846 (Anon. 1981). Buchanan came from Scotland and together with his brother arrived in Cape Town where David worked for the *Cape Town Mail*, but became dissatisfied and ventured to Natal with his wife and children arriving in January 1846. He brought printers type and a hand-operated press that produced 200 copies per hour which were handed out free.

The paper was carried to Durban together with mail (charged 6d / sheet) by runners. Initially the 'Witness Private Mail Service' left at noon on Saturdays returning on Thursday. Later the arrangement was for a runner from Pietermaritzburg and one from Durban to meet halfway and exchanged mail bags. They were each paid 6d per trip.

In 1852 Buchanan handed over control of the *Natal Witness* to the firm of John May and Peter Davis but he remained as editor. May retired in 1860 and Davis remained in charge (Fig.1). He established the firm P. Davis & Sons. In 1868 Buchanan left for England and when he returned he found that his law practice had diminished. He contacted malaria and later died in September 1874.

Peter Davis (senior) was mayor of Pietermaritzburg on three occasions and retired in 1873. In 1876 a steam press was acquired which allowed for a larger production of the newspaper. Peter Davis junior (Fig.1) took over control when his father retired and is credited with being a pioneer of journalism in South Africa. The business expanded its commercial activities and advertised that they were also lithographers, illuminators, booksellers and stationers. Davis retired in 1916 and at an age of 82; he died in 1919.

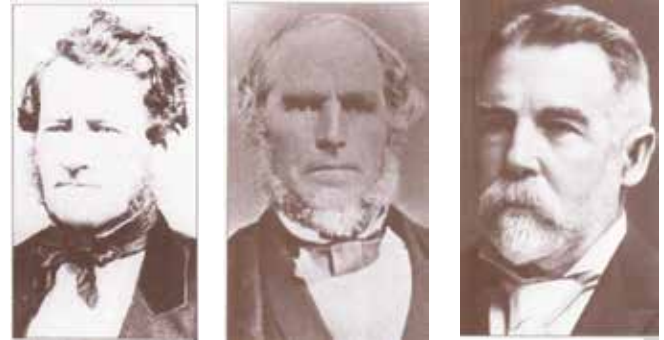


Fig.1: From left to right: David Dale Buchanan (1819-74) founded the *Natal Witness*. Peter Davis senior (1814-85) established the firm of P. Davis & Sons. Peter Davis junior (1837-1919) ran the business for 42 years (ex Anon 1981).

THE PERFINS

It was during the time Peter Davis junior was in control of *The Natal Witness* that the first perfin was used reading either 'PD&S' or 'D&S' (Fig.2). Four copies are recorded the earliest dated AP 12 88 and the latest * 1 90, three of the stamps with perfin 'D&S' were cancelled G P O. The fourth item with perfin 'PD&S' has the numeral 2 mark of Durban.

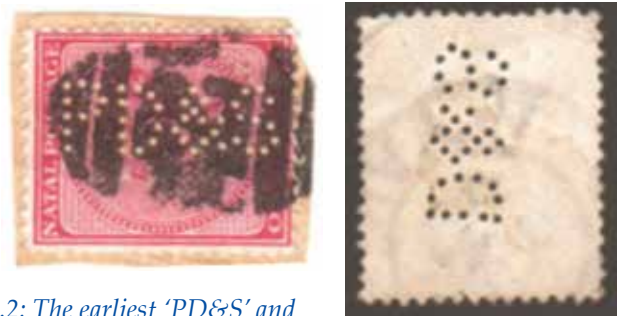


Fig.2: The earliest 'PD&S' and 'D&S' perfins used by P. Davis & Sons of Pietermaritzburg.

THE 'D' PERFIN

The 'D' perfin is composed of 13 holes, the earliest date recorded is 28 AP 1902 (Figs.3 & 4) and the latest is JU 4 1907. This perfin is found facing either left, right, up, or down, double, and with missing perfin holes. (Fig.5).



Fig.3: 1904 'P. Davis & Sons, and address of the *Natal Witness*' cover with ½d. perfin stamp cancelled Pietermaritzburg NO 20 1904 to Ladysmith 29 NO 1904.

Fig.4: Earliest use of the 'D' perfin dated Pietermaritzburg 16 SP 1902.



Fig. 8. Perfin varieties; double and missing pins.



Fig. 5: Varieties of the 'D' perfin.

PAIR OF PARALLEL PERFIN HOLES

The earliest use of the pair of parallel perfin is DE 19 05 and the latest use on NO 20 06 (Fig.9). Each row is composed of 13 punched holes. It may be found as a single vertical row of holes (Fig.10). It has, but importantly should not continue to be confused with the stamps being mis-perforated which have been highly priced.

THE 'W' PERFIN.

The 'W' perfin comprises 15 punched holes. The earliest use is on a cover dated 24 SP 1902 (Fig.6) and the latest use on DE 8 1904 (Fig.7). It is found normal, inverted, facing left or right, with missing perfin holes or some blind, and rarely as a double perfin (Fig.8).

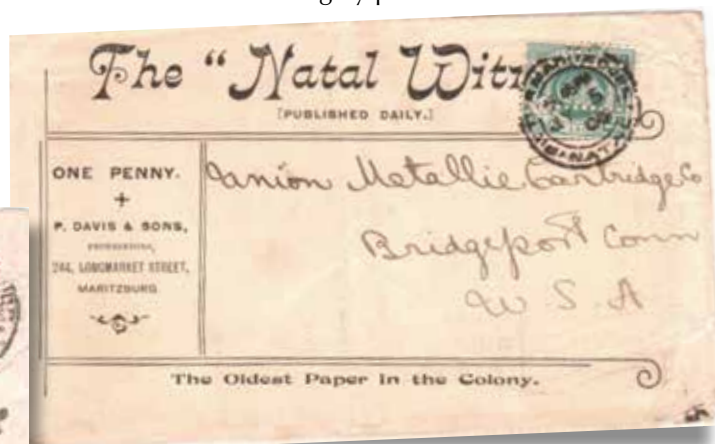


Fig.9: 1906 'The "Natal Witness" commercial cover at 1/2d postage rate. The stamp having pair of parallel rows of perfin holes cancelled Pietermaritzburg JY 5 06 to U S A. Back stamped Bridgeport on AUG 7 1906.

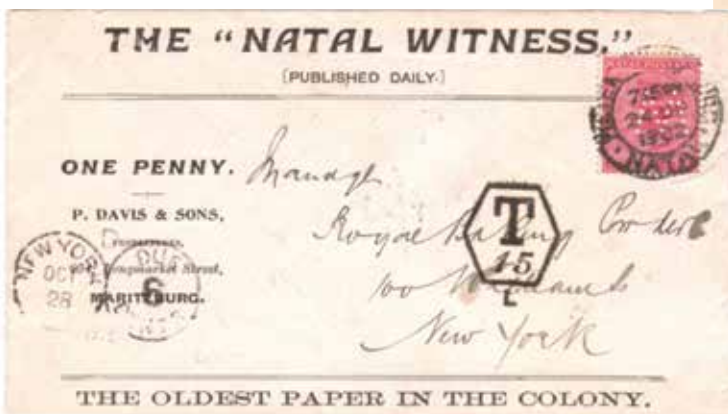


Fig.6. 1902 taxed 'NATAL WITNESS' cover cancelled Pietermaritzburg 24 SP 1902, stamp with inverted 'W', to New York underpaid by 1 1/2d. On arrival on 10 OCT 1902 taxed 6 cents (15 centimes).



Fig.10: Perfin a double and single vertical rows of holes.



Fig.7: 1904 Half Penny postcard having a printed 'Witness' subscriptions message from P. Davis & Sons (confirming company ownership of the 'Natal Witness'). Additional 1/2d stamp with 'W' perfin cancelled Pietermaritzburg MR 2 1904 to Hamburg, Germany 28 3 04.

REFERENCE

Anon. 1981. Open Testimony: The Story of The Natal Witness. Natal Witness PTY Ltd, Pietermaritzburg.

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 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

All meetings at both venues will start at 19h00 and finish at 21h30. The gates of the Club at both sections will close at 21h30.

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 thesecond Wednesday of each month

Meeting dates for 2023

- 8 March: Annual General Meeting.
- 12 April: Open Class Exhibit Evening.
- 10 May: Favourite Covers.
- 14 June: First Competitive Evening.
- 12 July: No Rules One Frame Evening.
- 9 August: Invitation to four other Societies.
- 13 September: One Frame Evening.
- 11 October: Second Competitive Evening.
- 8 November: Invited Exhibitor.
- 13 December: President's Evening & Cocktail.

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 in 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

Renovations of our venue, the Blairgowrie Community Centre, are now completed and we are again holding meetings at 10am on the first Thursday of the month, with the exception of January.



PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr, Tel: 011 789 6357

The society plan to recommence face-to-face meetings at the Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, load shedding permitting, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, except in December at 18h30 for 20h00. Meeting programme and themes are as listed here:

- Feb 15: AGM and invited exhibits
- Mar 15: Open Class, all categories and postal stationery
- Mar 29: 5th Wednesday - Theme to be decided
- Apr 19: Anything relating in any way to the letters 'O &/or P'.
- May 17: British Commonwealth.
- May 31: 5th Wednesday - Theme to be decided
- Jun 21: Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
- Jul 19: Foreign, the art of philately and philately as art
- Aug 16: Southern Africa
- Aug 30: 5th Wednesday - Society auction
- Sep 20: Preview of National Exhibits, World at war and back of the book
- Oct 18: My favourite (Maximum one frame) + thematic exhibits
- Nov 15: Inter-Society Quiz & invited exhibits
- Nov/Dec: Festive Function - To be decided

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: David Wigston
email: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com

Secretary: Paul Hammerton
email: hampaul@ananzi.co.za



EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Colin Bousfield. Cell 083 961 9656.
email: bousfield.colin@yahoo.co.za Secretary: Sandy Robertson. email: sandystampnews@gmail.com

Meet on the last Saturday of the month from 1 to 3pm at Thornhill Manor Retirement Village Hall.

WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374.
Chairman/Secretary Ian Walker. Tel: 011 472 1161
email: ianwalker@vodamail.co.za

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Monthly newsletter, active exchange section, 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

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

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Email: <https://stampssa.africa/rpsct/home/>

President: John Rycroft cell: 0828081320.

email: john@grassrootsgroup.co.za

Secretary: Victor Millard

0828028882 or

email: millardvg@gmail.com

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



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.

PAARLSE FILATELIE

Sedert 1951

Kontak gerus vir: Gawie Hugo;
083 956 2410

gawiehugo@gmail.com of
Riaan Crafford: 082 876 7608
paarlsefilateliste@gmail.com



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! meeting start at 18h30. Contact: Marilyn Crawford at 021 689 5050 email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the 'Deep South' of the Cape Peninsula.

President: Johan de Wet

Secretary: Volker Janssen.

email: janssenp@iafrica.com

Website: www.fhps.info



STELLENBOSCH FILATELIEVERENIGING

Meetings: First Tuesday, every month, 19:00 at Le Donjon, Recreation Hall, La Clemence, Webersvallei Rd, Stellenbosch.
Contact via email:
stellenboschstamp@gmail.com



Established 1890 - Reconstituted 1912 PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Francois Friend, 082 554 8900

email: 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

MEETINGS

- 6 February; • 6 March;
- 3 April; • 8 May;
- 5 June; • 3 July; • 7 August;
- 4 September; • 2 October; • 6 November.

No meeting in December; reserved for President's Christmas do.

Daytime meetings - 10h30/11h00 to 13h00 at same venue.

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: David Preston,

• 082 7742090.

email: prestee@telkomsa.net

Secretary: Carlos Da Fonseca

• 082 334 7603.



GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Willie Mollentze. 0825557760.

email: mollentzewf@gmail.com

Secretariat: Otto Muller. 0832408722.

email: otto1muller@gmail.com

Treasurer: Charles Deacon. 0836304069.

DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING



Chair & Secretary: Gerrie
Conradie, 082 952 6700.
epos: gajcon@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Bobby Dann,
083 288 0600,

epos: bobbymosselbay@gmail.com

CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE ISRAEL PHILATELY

Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef akatzef@mweb.co.za
+27 (21) 4615134 President of CASPIP.

ZIMBABWE BULAWAYO

Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe

email: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com

OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Society meets every 4th Friday monthly, (except December), at 19h15 at the museum of the Boer Republics in Memorium Rd Bloemfontein. *President:* Dr Neil Cronjé
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. Meeting on the 3rd Saturday of each month at St Elizabeth's Anglican Church Hall starting at 09H00.

President: Leigh Hen-Boisen, leigh.hb@gmail.com

Secretary: Bronwen Edwards, edwards@worldonline.co.za

Membership: Barry Livsey, livsey@netsolutions.co.za



Established in 1924

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Dave Wyllie, davewyllie37@outlook.com

The MPS now meets at the Scout hall in Hilton on the 3rd Saturday monthly at 10am. *Secretary:* Ian Horrell, email: ian.horrell@sappi.com
cell - 083 6618122 Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
Society activities can be obtained from the secretary.



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 & 4th Saturday of each month. Contact: *President:* Zbigniew Kawecki 079 465 7468. email zkawecki57@gmail.com or philatelicsocietykzn@gmail.com for details about membership, sales packets, study group topics and auctions. *Everyone is welcome and committee members are always on hand from 09h00 to give advice about evaluations and philately. The club has a very successful Study Group focusing on specific topics on the fourth Saturday of the month while the second Saturday of the month is reserved for a monthly auction.*



THEMATICS SOUTH AFRICA

THEMATIC MEETINGS / TEMATIESE BYEENKOMSTE

- **The Pretoria Chapter** - meets first Saturday of the month at 10:00 in Greek Orthodox Church Hall, corner of Lynwood Road & Roper Street, (opposite UP main gate). *Contact:* Helena Snyman 012 803 8922, 083 990 8953 or helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za
- **The Western Cape Chapter** - meets first Saturday of the month at 09:30 in the Church Hall, DR Church Bellville-Vallei, c/o Postma & St Andrews Street, Oakdale, Bellville. *Contact:* Diederik Viljoen at 021-976-2661, 082-456-6653 or diederikviljoen@gmail.com
- **The KZN Chapter** - meets third Monday of the month at 15:00 in St Matthews Parish Hall, 115 Hesketh Drive, Hayfields, 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, 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: secretarypdmsg@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



SA COMMISSIONER: Ian Matheson RDPSA



SA COMMISSIONER: Francois Friend



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email <andredupfs@gmail.com>



• EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED AT A NON-NATIONAL LEVEL	1977	Vereeniging Philatelic Exhibition	2002	One Frame Thematic: CLUBTHEME
1903 Pretoria Stamp Exhibition	1977	Roodepoort Mini Exhibition	2003	ERPS Mini,
1906 Pretoria Stamp Exhibition	1978	Stanley Gibbons International Stamp Exhibition: Johannesburg	2003	Mini Regional Exhibition: OILFILAT
1911 Pretoria Stamp Exhibition	1978	Israel Philatelic Exhibition Johannesburg	2004	PRETHEMA
1920 Pretoria:			2004	Gaupex
1923 Easter Weekend: Johannesburg	1979	Post Office Flower Philatelic Exhibition: Pretoria	2004	Fish Hoek Philatelic Society, 50th Anniversary, Mini Exhibition
1923 Durban Agricultural Show Philatelic				
1923 YMCA Philatelic Exhibition:	1979	King Williamstown Mini Exhibition: GATRY '79,	2004	OILFILAT
1932 Models, Hobbies and Handicrafts: Johannesburg	1979	Stelpex 300: Stellenbosch Exhibition	2005	PRETHEMA
1934 'Art and Beauty Exhibition: Johannesburg	1979	East Rand Mini Exhibition	2005	Sasolburg Exhibition: OILFILAT
1940 'Stamp Centenary Exhibition': Cape Town	1980	South African Fire Services Institute	2006	GAUTHEME
1944 Liberty Cavalcade Exhibition:	1981	Total Philatelic Exhibition: Johannesburg	2006	Tshwane Single Frame Exhibition
1944 'Speed the Victory Fair' Exhibition:	1981	Bellville Mini Philatelic Exhibition	2006	Mini Regional Exhibition: OILFILAT
1946 Philatelic Exhibition: Pretoria	1981	Stanley Gibbons International: Johannesburg & Cape Town	2007	Gautheme
1949 Philatelic Exhibition: Port Elizabeth	1982	Sasolburg Exhibition: OILFILAT 82,	2007	Tshwane Single Frame
1950 Philatelic Exhibition: Israel Cavalcade	1983	Israel Mini Exhibition	2007	PRETHEMA 2007
1951 Thematic Philatelic Exhibition: Durban	1983	Sasolburg Exhibition: OILFILAT 83, Witbank Exhibition	2007	OILFILAT
1953 Postage Stamp Centenary Exhibition: Cape Town	1983	Sasolburg Exhibition: OILFILAT 84, Cape Spring Show Exhibition:	2008	PRETHEMA
1953 Postage Stamp Centenary Exhibition: Johannesburg	1984	Sasolburg Exhibition: OILFILAT 85, Benoni Mini Exhibition	2008	OILFILAT
1955 Gabbema Philatelic Exhibition: Paarl	1985	Total Gallery Philatelic Exhibition:	2009	The Exhibition with a difference, GAUTHEME
1956 'Rand Hobbies Fair' : Johannesburg	1985	Brits Mini Exhibition:	2009	Tshwane Single Frame Exhibition 200
1957 Postage Stamp Centenary: Durban	1986	Grahamstown Regional Exhibition:	2009	Regional Exhibition: OILFILAT 2009
1958 Society of Israel Philately, Johannesburg	1986	Germiston Centenary Exhibition: Port Elizabeth Exhibition	2009	Thematic Fun: November 2009
1960 Bloemfontein Gold Jubilee Exhibition:	1987	Sasolburg Exhibition: OILFILAT 87, Boksburg 100 Exhibition:	2011	Thematics Galore: May 2011
1960 Port Elizabeth Municipality Centenary:	1987	Klerksdorp 150 Exhibition:	2011	Regional Exhibition: OILFILAT 2011
1963 International Thematic: Cape Town, FLORA 63	1988	Aero Philately Exhibition: Johannesburg		
1964 Mafeking and Bechuanaland	1988	Wanderers 100 Exhibition: Johannesburg		
1965 Philatelic Society Exhibition: Mafeking	1988	Windhoek Exhibition:		
1966 Shell Gallery Philatelic Exhibition: Cape Town	1989	Sasolburg Exhibition: OILFILAT, East Cape Exhibition EC91		
1966 'South African Jewish Board of Deputies' Exhibition	1990	Mini Exhibition OILFILAT		
1966 Republic Festival Exhibition: Cape Town	1991	ERPS Members Exhibition		
1966 Republic Festival Exhibition: Pretoria	1995	ERPS Members Exhibition		
1967 Vereeniging Philatelic Exhibition:	1996	Sasolburg Exhibition: OILFILAT		
1969 Diamond Jubilee: East London	1997	Welkom 50: Regional Exhibition		
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1973 Post Office Tree Philatelic Society :	1997	Pretoria Philatelic Society Centenary		
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1975 Philatelic Exhibition: Cape Town	1998	Anglo Boer War Exhibition: ABOPHIL		
1975 Festival Season '75	1999	PRETHEMA 2000		
1975 Germiston Philatelic Exhibition	2000	Rare Stamps Show: September		
1976 AFV Silver Jubilee Exhibition: Johannesburg	2000	Anglo-Boer War Exhibition 2001		
1976 Kempton Park Mini Exhibition:	2001	PRETHEMA		
1977 Totius Exhibition: Potchefstroom	2001	CLUBTHEME 2002 – Kimberley		
1977 Cape Town Philatelic Exhibition:	2002	PRETHEMA 2002		
	2002	OILFILAT 2002		
				• EXHIBITIONS IN OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES
			1953	Rhodes Centenary Exhibition:
			1953	Rhodesia Centurion
			1954	First Philatelic Exhibition: Lourenço Marques
			1954	Philatelic Exhibition: 'Manica and Sofala', Beira
			1956	First South West African Stamp Exhibition: June
			1957	Philatelic Exhibition: Beira
			1964	Mozambique
			1964	Philatelic and Numismatic Exhibition: Lourenço Marques,
			1966	Philatelic and Numismatic Exhibition: Lourenço Marques,
			1966	Rhodesian Philatelic Exhibition: RHOPEX
			1968	Philatelic Exhibition: MATAPEX
			1972	Philatelic Exhibition: RHOPHIL '72
			1982	National Philatelic Exhibition (SWA): 1982 Swakopmund
			1982	National Philatelic Exhibition: SWA Windhoek
			1984	National Philatelic Exhibition:SWA 100
			1985	Botswana Philatelic Society Silver Jubilee
			1988	National : OTYIMBINGUE 100
			2003	National Philatelic Exhibition: NAMPHILEX

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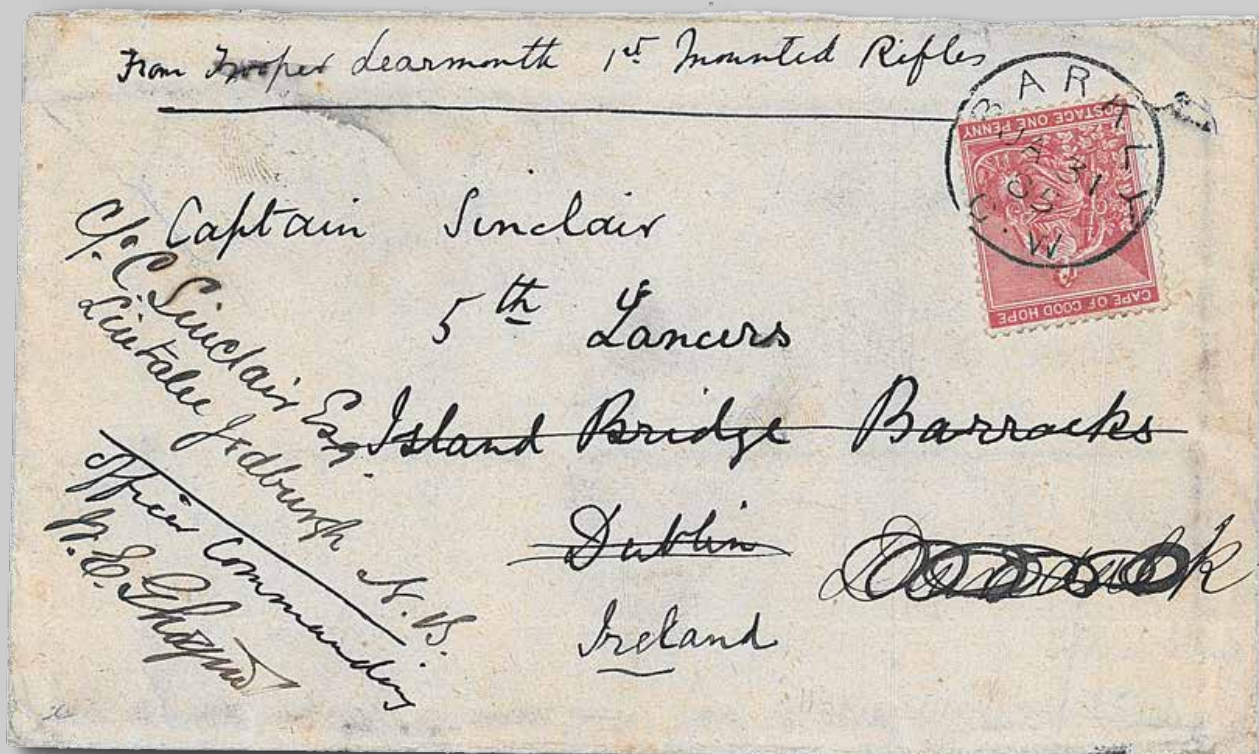
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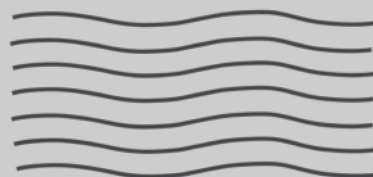
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THE EARLIEST KNOWN OUTGOING COVER WITH A BARKLY WEST DATESTAMP. (page 50)



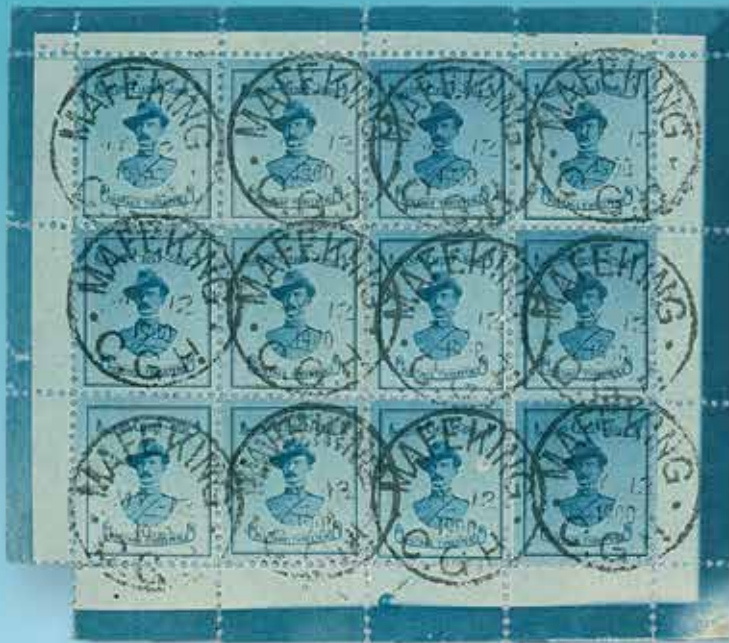
THE PENGUIN POST OFFICE
One of four stamps issued 2001 to
commemorate the restoration of Port
Lockroy.
(page 46)



WAR EFFORT, LARGE SERIES
1941 TO 1943
Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties
(page 53)



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The South African Philatelist

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- o Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
- o Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- o Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012,
- o Large Vermeil Cape Town International 2022.

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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/>



BREAKING NEWS

This month offers a wealth of Philatelic research and history now available on your doorstep! Copies of *The SA Philatelist* from 1923 to 1955, now available on the PFSA website under 'RESOURCES' in the Members Area. The journal has supported interest in stamp collecting since its inception in 1923 and still keeps a well-researched stream of information on South African Philately. Enjoy paging through more than 30 years of South African Philately, I can recommend it! We would also like encourage our readers to submit ideas, requests, and articles for publication in the journal.

The Editorial Board's decision not to increase the advertising rates for this 'SAP Centenary Year', but rather offer savings on advertising in *The SA Philatelist*, creates an opportunity for advertisers to place advertisements. The offer entails a 'free' extra placement when placing two or three confirmed adverts – an extra placement is added at no extra cost. If four placements are confirmed, two additional placements are included in the rate. Please note this offer does not include a one-off placement.

NATIONAL STAMP SHOW - 'SA Philatelist 100'



The date and venue for the National Stamp Show has been set for 11 to 14 October 2023 at the Kyalami Country Club, Midrand. The Organising Committee set the goal for the Exhibition to reach as many collectors and members of the public as possible.

In line with this goal, it was decided to team up with SAPDA and to run concurrently with the Kyalami Stamp Fair and Auction on the second Saturday of the month.

Entries close on 25 August 2023 and exhibits should be delivered to the Organising Committee by 10 October 2023. Emil Minnaar RDPSA has been appointed as chairman of the jury and Joof van der Merwe as Jury Secretary (see page 48).

Congress is scheduled for Friday 13 October at 09:00 with a Prize Giving ceremony on Saturday afternoon.

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.

Updates will be communicated. For further information visit the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/> - for the prospectus - click [here](#) - and entry form - click [here](#)
Contact: André du Plessis - pfsastamps@gmail.com

Specialist societies interested in meeting during the duration of the Stampshow are invited to send their particulars to André du Plessis.

SAVPEX 2023

The eighth and well-established South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition - SAVPEX, hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society is on the road. Entries for this event close on 31 May 2023 and the date for receipt of the uploaded exhibit is 15 June 2023. Results will be announced in July 2023 and all partaking exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website. For further information visit the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/> - for the IREX (Prospectus) - click [here](#) And for the entries form - click [here](#)



Contact: Joof van der Merwe - josuav528@gmail.com
We would like to invite you to support and participate in these two events and look forward to receiving your entries.

THE WORLD'S BEST STAMPS COMPETITION

This is a new event on the horizon and is organised by the organisers of SAVPEX. The competition is for stamps issued in 2022 under several categories. It is open to Post Offices or Postal Administrations of Member Countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and other recognised stamp issuing authorities responsible for the issue of Postage Stamps. PFSA would like to congratulate the organisers with this initiative. For more information, please visit the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/>

The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, 'Keeping in Touch'. 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> email> pfsastamps@gmail.com

PUBLICATION: *The South African Philatelist*, a bi-monthly stamp journal, 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 **1923**.

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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.

Whose signature is it?



Met verwysing na die 100 jarige herdenking artikel in die Februarie 2023 uitgawe, is die feit weggelaat dat die Jonas Michelson Literatuur toekenning in 1989 aan mnr. A Van der Walt toegeken is. Ons vra om verskoning vir die oorsig

APOLOGY Following the appearance of the letter 'Whose Signature' which appeared in our previous issue, *The SA Philatelist* apologises to Brian Wilford for any distress or inconvenience this may have caused.

Cancellations with the day and month missing.



There is a wonderful Afrikaans saying: „Hoe meer dae, hoe meer dinge"! The delivery envelope of the December 2022 SAP, did anyone else pickup this oddity?

Comment on Roger Porter's article on Perfins (The 'Natal Witness' Newspaper and its Perfins) from Diederik Viljoen, Bellville Philatelic Society.

Dear Editor,

I would like to make use of this opportunity to thank Roger Porter for his very informative article on Perfins in your February magazine. Roger was able to confirm with proving covers that the 'W' and the 'Pair of parallel lines' are from the *Natal Witness*. This brings us a step closer in identifying all of the approximate 180 known SA perfins.

For interest, I have attached a newspaper wrapper with the 'D' perfin of P Davis & Sons. It was sent on 3 Nov ?? from Pietermaritzburg to Ladysmith with payment of five pence.

Pleased to show a 'D & S' perfin with a very early date of 21 ? 85 with a G.P.O. cancellation.

One comment that I must make is that collectors of perfins must not pay more for sideways or inverted perfins. These are not scarce (except if there are only a few known perfins of a specific company) but these are the result from the lowly paid admin clerk who had to punch these holes. All they did was to fold the sheets or blocks to initial more than one at a time. If there are missing perfs it just allows one to have a timeline on the usage and lack of maintenance to keep the pins in good condition. Once again thank you for a great article and if you have any spare covers I would certainly be interested.



A donation by Jim Findlay RDPSA

You may be interested to know that the Brenthurst Library now has the Government Gazettes and the examples of material from Jim Findlay's *WWII Paper as a Strategic Commodity* article (*The SA Philatelist* April 2022).

His donation of this contribution supports their archive as there was nothing in the Brenthurst Library archives on paper in WWII.

The Brenthurst Library in Johannesburg at 6 St Andrews Road PARKTOWN 2193.

Editorial note: Well done Jim!





Signatories to the ROLL of Distinguished Philatelists of Southern Africa

Introduced 1932

*Deceased

Distinguished Philatelists, who have made a significant contribution to philately in Southern Africa, are invited by the Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa to sign the Roll of Honour. The Signatories are entitled to use the letters RDPSA after their names. The following is the full listing of Signatories:

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Phun with postmarks

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



Fresh excitement, as new material is found

Natal National Park

I am greatly indebted to my correspondents who assist in clarifying South African postal history. For example, Ian Paterson sent a postcard shown in Fig.1 with the comment that the National Park date stamp has not been recorded. This resulted in a research expedition as neither Putzel nor Reisener listed it. The postcard is dated 13 MAR 1926. The Park is a nature reserve.



Fig.1: Postcard sent from National Park to N Wales (Paterson).

In the Putzel Encyclopaedia Vol.3, it is stated that National Park TtO (Telegraph and Telephone Office) opened 16.2.1925, with head office Bergville. An upgraded Postal and Telegraph Agency (PTA) was opened 26.4.1926. Reisener stated that the office was listed in May 1925 Post Office List, and that a small office was opened in the beginning of 1925 in the reception office of the National Park Hostel, where it functioned for many years. The PTA was renamed Natal National Park in 15.9.1930 (Putzel). Fig.1 was posted in the early days, and from the message it is confirmed that the postcard originated from the National Park. Small discrepancies in dates are as a result of document publication dates rather than actual dates.

The office was upgraded to PO 22.4.1940, PTA in 1945 and renamed Mount-Aux-Sources on 12.11.1945, PO 22.6.1953 and PO closed about 1956. PO reopened 16.6.1958 (Mount). PO name altered to Mont-Aux-Sources 6.4.1959. The latest recorded date stamp is 1992. Besides Fig.1, a date stamp was recorded for Natal National Park (Fig.2), and four date stamps for Mont-Aux-Sources (Figs.3a to d). Reisener stated that Fig.2 "was withdrawn sometime in 1948 and replaced with a new one inscribed "MONT-AUX-SOURCES"". From the date stamp time line this is incorrect, as the earliest recorded date is 1945.

Figure No	Earliest Date	Latest Date
1	13 MAR 1926	
2	27 JUN -36	9 NOV -38
3a	11 XII 1945	19 V A86
3b	06-01-1987	
3c	1988 08 29	1992 09 23
3d	30 XI A92	1 XII A92

Table 1. Use of date stamps

Fig.2: Natal National Park date stamp (Reisener)



Fig.3a.



Fig.3b.

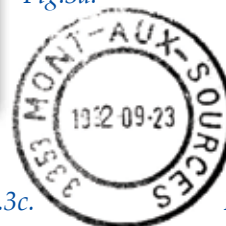


Fig.3c.



Fig.3d.

Figs.3a to 3d: A range of date stamps used at Mont -Aux-Sources.

Another new find

Every time a new find is made there is excitement. I venture to compare it with a T20 cricket match where the Proteas win the encounter with a last ball six. Recently Hendrik Geyer discovered the Gans Bay postcard shown in Fig. 4, with a Barred Oval Numeral Canceller 1251. Gans Bay opened in 1901, with Caledon as head office. In 1932 the PTA was renamed Gansbaai, and continued to serve the community. The current status is unfortunately unknown. I would appreciate an update by any of the local collectors as the latest confirmed date of operation was 2020.

The BONC 1251 is a late issue, and is the only recorded copy. A single circle Gans Bay date stamp was used, and although the office opened in 1901, this is the earliest recorded use. The single circle remained in use until 1935. The postcard was written on 10 April 1909, dropped into the mail at Gans Bay on the 11th, was sent to Stanford on the same day, and arrived in Caledon, the destination, on the 12th of April. Interestingly this BONC was used as an obliterator in the Union period from 1937 to early 1950s, according to Dr Tom Berry, quoted by Frescura and Nethersole.



Fig.4: Gans Bay BONC 1251 (new find) (Geyer).

Wie sou kon dink dat seël en stempelvondse dieselfde opwindung kan verskaf as 'n T20 krieketwedstryd? Daar is nog steeds geleenthede om nuwe stempels te ontdek wat jare lank weggesteek is in waarskynlik oupa se versameling. In hierdie rubriek is daar 'n National Park en 'n Kaapse nommerstempel bespreek.



The South African Philatelist
All about stamps
THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

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OBITUARY

EDWARD (TED) BROWN
 1928 – 2023



Ted joined the Philatelic Society of Natal (as it was known in those days) in the early 1980s and served on the committee for over twenty years. He was President from 2006 – 2008 and 2012 – 2013. Ted specialised in a number of fields such as UK Royalty, Netherlands and Australia to name a few. Ted was always willing to assist and advise members on everything philatelic. One aspect he enjoyed immensely was to solicit new members for the Society by inserting notices in the local newspapers advertising our hobby.

Ted worked as a field manager for Unilever covering mainly the East Griqualand area and this resulted in many philatelic items finding their way to Durban.

When Ted was a youngster living in Port Elizabeth his appetite for Royalty was sparked off when he met Princess Elizabeth during the 1947 Royal Family Visit to South Africa.

At 94 Ted was still daily sorting out the numerous stamps, stock books and albums he had accumulated.

He will be sadly missed by his children, their families and his numerous friends.

philatelicsocietykzn@gmail.com

ROYAL MAIL REVEALS KING CHARLES SILHOUETTE ON FLOWERS SPECIAL STAMPS

A set of 10 stamps celebrating some of the most popular flowers grown in gardens across the UK has been released by Royal Mail.

These Special Stamps mark a significant milestone in British philatelic history as they are the first to feature the silhouette of HM King Charles III. This is the first change of silhouette since 1968.



The stamps feature striking photographs of flowers against a white background alongside their common names and show Sweet pea, Iris, Lily, Sunflower, Fuchsia, Tulip, Peony, Nasturtium, Rose and Dahlia. Royal Mail worked closely with gardening writer Naomi Slade on this issue.

Although steeped in the familiarity of long association, many of the UK's most identifiable flowers arrived from all over the world.

The creation of the new HM King Charles III silhouette was a collaboration

between the illustrator Andrew Davidson, Head of Design and Editorial at Royal Mail, Marcus James, and Ian Chilvers, from design agency, Atelier Works.

The final image was adjusted to ensure a likeness to the new Definitive 'everyday' stamp. The stamps have been available from 14 March at www.royalmail.com/flowers. A Presentation Pack including all 10 stamps in the set, is available on general sale and priced at £10.40.



THE PENGUIN POST OFFICE

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



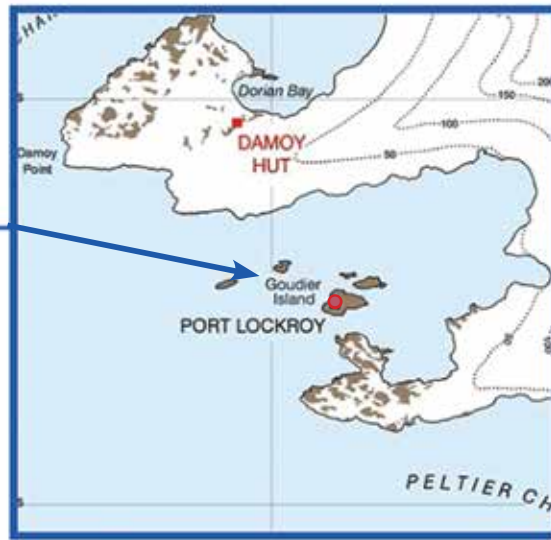
Wanted. Four people to run the world's most remote post office and count penguins. Located on the historic site of Port Lockroy, on Goudier Island (Fig.1), some 14,500 km from the UK in the British Antarctic Territory.

The contract runs for five months, during the southern hemisphere summer. Conditions can best be described as 'rustic': no running water, sub-zero temperatures, almost constant daylight, and a colony of Gentoo penguins.

with approximately 80,000 cards mailed to more than 100 countries each year. Each postal item is cancelled by hand (Fig.4). Port Lockroy is a surprisingly popular spot in this most remote part of the world. In the Antarctic summer season ships with enthusiastic visitors arrive daily.

The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) advertised the positions which attracted some 6,000 applicants.

Kit Adams, the 2019-20 season Postmaster, explained the process and journey a Port Lockroy postcard makes, from



Antarctic post box to delivery across the globe: "Once a postcard has been put in the Royal Mail post box (Fig.5) and the obligatory photo has been taken, it is cancelled, bundled, and put into mail bags. It is then carried down to the landing site (Fig.6), where it boards a ship and travels to the Falkland Island Post Office in Stanley. From here it is sent

Fig.1: Location of the Port Lockroy Post Office located on Goudier Island, British Antarctic Territory.

Named after E. Goudier, chief engineer of the expedition ship *Français*, Goudier Island is a small low-lying rocky island in a sheltered glacial area (Fig.2). The island is not much bigger than a football field with access to only half, as the remainder is reserved for a Penguin Study. At the beginning of the season, ice is likely to surround much of it, making it difficult to access. Snow cover melts back during the summer, allowing for the safe passage of visitors to the island. It is home to Port Lockroy, a historic scientific base, living museum and functioning Post Office. It's not your average post office.

on a military flight to Brize Norton [in the UK] where it goes into the Royal Mail and is dispatched around the world".



Fig.3: Tourists arriving on the island with a cruise ship anchored in the bay. Passengers use Zodiac boats to visit the island, then wend their way up guano-splattered rocks to reach Bransfield House, the main building. One of four stamps issued 2001 to commemorate the restoration of Port Lockroy.



Fig 2: This stamp shows the base nestled in front of the Seven Sisters Mountains. Issued 1 November 2018, part of a set of four landscapes.

Known as the 'Penguin Post Office', the world's most southerly public post office is a popular tourist destination (Fig.3). The historic site receives about 18,000 visitors each season. The Post Office deals



Fig.4: An example of the Port Lockroy canceller and cachet, dated 30 November 2000.

This process can be as swift as three weeks from Port Lockroy to its destination but, can on occasions, take up to six weeks. However, items mailed at the end of the season can easily spend the winter months at the base before they can be delivered.



Practical support is provided by HMS *Protector*. Provisions for the team consisting of tinned and dried food are only delivered once a season (Fig.7).

Fig.5: Tourist posting mail inside the Post Office. On a busy day there can be more than 1000 postcards mailed.



Fig 6: The last mail going out at the end of summer season.

Visiting ships often provide fresh food. The base is not without its hazards. In late November 2022 the buildings were buried in heavy snow where they all but disappeared (Fig.8).

Fig.7: As there is no pier for docking facilities, provisions need to be transferred via a lighter, a flat-bottomed barge used to transfer goods to and from ships.



Fig.8: Royal Marines and sailors from HMS Protector took two days to remove several tonnes of snow.

Port Lockroy's 'Base A' was established in 1944 as Britain's first permanent base in Antarctica and operated as a research station (Fig.9). It is one of several stations, each designated by a letter. The station was originally established as part of *Operation Tabarin*, the purpose of which was to deter access to anchorage by enemy ships (it is a rare Antarctic safe harbour) and provide weather forecasting for south Atlantic shipping. The station was closed in 1962

and abandoned. It was declared historic site, and restored in 1995 (Fig.10). Now, it is managed by the UKAHT which operates the museum and gift shop. Profit from the shop supports renovations of other historic sites in Antarctica. The UKAHT team also monitors the impact of visitors in an environmental study, which includes counting the number of penguins.

Port Lockroy ranks as the smallest post office in terms of the resident population, usually four people.

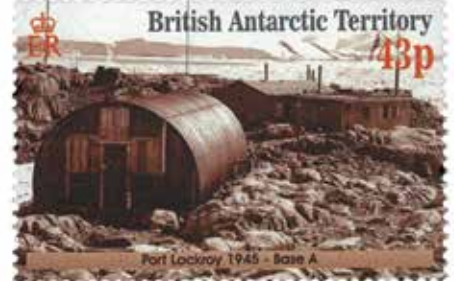


Fig.9: The original Nissen hut from the 1945 Base A.



Fig.10: 'Restoration of Bransfield House' which houses the museum, Post Office and living quarters. 70th Anniversary of Bransfield House'

HMS PROTECTOR

The Royal Navy's only Ice Patrol Ship, HMS *Protector* (Fig.11), calls the freezing waters of Antarctica and the southern Hemisphere home. She is deployed for 330 days a year and is affectionately referred to as the Royal Navy's 'Swiss army knife' – red, versatile, and always there when you need her!

HMS *Protector's* crew includes a team of hydrographers, who undertake exploratory surveys and ensure that environmental guidelines are being upheld. This ice patroller is well-equipped with two cranes capable of lifting 60 tonnes of stores and equipment. Milly Ingham, Captain of HMS *Protector*, made history by becoming the first female captain to command one of the Navy's ships.

HMS *Protector* took part in the annual 'New York Fleet Week' (Fig.12), 25-31 May 2022, when the city welcomed nine ships from the US Navy, US Coast Guard, and the Royal Navy. A range of New York venues host the weeklong itinerary of events for Fleet Week. These included a Parade

of Ships along the Hudson River and ship tours. The ship opened her gangway to New Yorkers, welcoming thousands aboard, providing displays and explaining what the Plymouth-based ship and her ship's company have achieved since leaving home ten months previously.

HMS *Protector* is the seventh ship to receive this name. The previous

HMS *Protector* (Fig.13) was originally a fast net layer, commissioned December 1936, and served in the Mediterranean during World War II. She was modified in 1955 for service as a guardship for the Falkland Islands and a survey vessel for the Antarctic.



Fig.11: Ice patrol Ship HMS Protector A173



Fig.12: From the Antarctic to the Big Apple – ice ship HMS Protector flies the flag in New York’s annual naval celebration. Her identity ‘A173’ can also be seen painted on her hull.

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Fig.13: HMS Protector the Antarctic patrol vessel of the Royal Navy between 1955 and 1968. Originally issued 1963 and overprinted to reflect the introduction of decimalisation 1971.

2023 NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

Celebrating 100 years

‘SA PHILATELIST 100’

KYALAMI COUNTRY CLUB, MIDRAND
11-14 OCTOBER 2023. JOHANNESBURG



Entries close: 25 August 2023
Delivery of exhibits: by 10 October 2023
Chairman of the Jury: Emil Minnaar RDPSA
Secretary of the Jury: Joof van der Merwe

STAMPSHOW 2023
‘SA Philatelist 100’

ENTRY FORM - [Click here](#)
PROSPECTUS - [Click here](#)

Commemorating Democracy in South Africa – exhibition by the South African Post Office Museum

by Talita Fourie and Dineo Poo
of The South African Post Office



The South African Post Office (SAPO) Museum is the only postal museum in South Africa. It is dedicated to, amongst other things, curating the philatelic material of the country. The SAPO Museum focuses on the collection, preservation, study and presentation of Post Office history and philatelic items of South Africa using exhibits, educational programmes and research to make this special history available to scholars, philatelists, collectors, post office employees and local and international visitors.

The SAPO Museum was invited by the *Federation Internationale de Philatélie* (FIP) organising committee to stage an exhibition titled “Commemorating Democracy in South Africa” at the International Stamp Exhibition that was held in Cape Town from 8-12 November 2022.

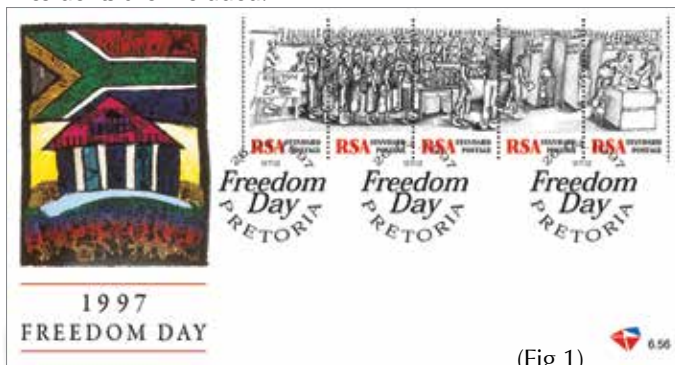
The South African Post Office invites you to come aboard on a trip down memory lane. The trip is characterised by valleys of sadness, plateaus of relative calm, tunnels of dark horror, peaks of elation and a few patches of mundane normality. We invite you to experience the Road to Democracy with us as illustrated via stamps that portray the journey so succinctly.

We commence with the ‘Freedom Day’ (Fig.1) stamp that expressed the attainment of the ultimate goal of a long succession of freedom fighters, ordinary South Africans and the international community and conclude the journey with the ‘Road to Democracy’ stamp issue which captures the essence of freedom and peace in the form of a dove.

The exhibit is arranged chronologically according to when events occurred, not on the date of stamp issue. The stamp honouring Krotoa follows that of Freedom Day because her life story is a narrative of South Africa at the cusp of colonisation.

The decision behind the selection of the stamps for the exhibit was that milestones memorialised, lives celebrated, tales told and items immortalised should encompass what the ‘Road to Democracy’ symbolises to the general public.

Figures such as Chief Albert Luthuli, Nelson Mandela, OR Tambo, Walter Sisulu and John Dube that loomed large in the country’s ‘Road to Democracy’ appear more than once. All Presidents are included.



(Fig.1)

Women played a prominent role in the ‘Road to Democracy’ and Albertina Sisulu, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Helen Suzman plus the four women who led the Women’s March of 1956 have been featured on stamps.

The SA Philatelist, April 2023.

King Shaka, Chief Bhambatha, Enoch Sontonga, Steve Biko, Chris Hani, Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu and the founders of the SA Native National Congress (SANNC) all played vastly different and equally indelible roles in charting the ‘Road to Democracy’.

The settlement in the Cape of Muslim slaves from countries such as Indonesia and the arrival of indentured Indian labourers in the erstwhile ‘Natal’ are events that had a substantial impact on the country as the slaves and labourers were in time permanently entrenched as citizens and also suffered from the effects of apartheid. There would probably never have been the Mahatma Gandhi in this world had it not been for the presence of Indians in South Africa.

The African National Congress and its predecessor, the South African Native National Congress, the Freedom Charter, (Fig.2) the Women’s March, the Soweto Uprising of 1976, the Congress Alliance for a Democratic South Africa and the Women’s Charter, all laid the foundation for the principles imprinted in our progressive Constitution.



(Fig.2)

The hosting of the World Conference against Racism, the Rugby World Cup and the FIFA World Cup were direct results of the attainment of Democracy. The adoption of 11 official languages, the establishment of the Constitutional Court, the commemoration of Worker’s Day as well as the change in the Coat of Arms were inconceivable prior to the advent of Democracy.

The journey would never have been complete without mentioning the Rivonia trialists. At the end of the Rivonia trial, leaders were in jail serving life sentences yet hope

remained and the journey to Democracy chugged on never to end until 1994 when a new Government moved into the Union Buildings. Stamps will forever be the greatest chroniclers of history!

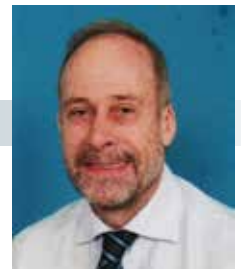
- Contact Dineo Poo dineo.poo@postoffice.co.za for further information regarding philately and stamps.

- Contact Talita Fourie talita.fourie@postoffice.co.za for further information on the SAPO Museum.



Celebrating National Women’s Day

- date of issue 9 October 1996 - ‘Xhosa Woman’ by George Pemba



The Bechuanaland Expeditionary Field Force

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

On 16 August 1883, in a speech to the Cape Parliament, Prime Minister Cecil Rhodes asserted: "I look upon [the] Bechuanaland territory as the Suez Canal of the trade of this country, the key of its road to the interior. The question before us really is this: whether this Colony is to be confined to its present borders, or whether it is to become the dominant state in South Africa – whether, in fact, it is to spread its civilisation over the interior" Rhodes, of course, also had a personal financial interest in the conquest of Bechuanaland and the interior, since the region was reputed to be rich in minerals and thus ripe for exploitation.

Political developments in the region soon prompted the British Government to take action. In 1884, Germany formally annexed all of the territory between the Orange River and the Portuguese colony of Angola, excepting Walvis Bay. And then, President Kruger of the South African Republic announced the annexation of the recently proclaimed petty 'republics' of Goshen and Stellaland. Confronted by these events, Government realised that it was about to lose control over the strategic corridor of land north of the Cape Colony. In consequence, an expeditionary force, under the command of Major-General Charles Warren, was rapidly despatched to establish control over this area.

Warren's instructions were to remove the Boer 'filibusters' from Goshen and Stellaland, and "to reinstate the natives on their own land, to take further measures as may be necessary to prevent further depredation, and, finally, to 'hold' the country until its further destination is known."

The first units of regulars and volunteers were assembled in Cape Town on 12 December 1884 and left by train on the same day for the Orange River. By 13 January 1885, further units had arrived, and Warren had sufficient horses, mule carts and wagons to march northwards to the Vaal River where a forward base was established at Barkly West. Engineers, including the telegraph-laying section and mounted rifles, led the way into the disputed territory. The Field Force encountered no opposition from the Boers and the objective was achieved without a shot being fired.

In March 1885, the land north of the Molopo as far as 22° south was proclaimed to be the Bechuanaland Protectorate and in September, the southern part of the conquered territory south of the Molopo River was declared the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland.

POSTAL HISTORY

The Bechuanaland Field Force comprised men from the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), the 6th Dragoons, detachments of the Royal Engineers and of the Royal Artillery, the 1st Mounted Rifles ('Methuen's Horse'), the 2nd Mounted Rifles ('Carrington's Horse'), the 3rd Mounted Rifles ('Gough's Horse'), and the 4th Pioneer Regiment. In total, there were approximately 4,000 men, a significant proportion of whom were volunteers recruited in the Cape Colony.

In March, 1885, the military authorities took control of the post office at Vryburg, including the stock of Stellaland stamps, although only one military cover franked with a Stellaland stamp is known, illustrated as Figure 1. This cover apart, all other surviving military mail entered the formal postal system at Barkly West in Griqualand West. Military despatch riders and light mule-carts (mostly associated with the 3rd Mounted Rifles) were employed to transport the Field Force mail to the post office at Barkly West.



Fig.1: Military cover franked with a Stellaland stamp.

It is important to note that the Field Force had no Field Post office. However, a description of the operation of the military's postal service is provided by Colonel J. Duncan's report on "The Base and Lines of Communication":

"The mails have been conveyed from Cape Town to Barkly under the Colonial postal arrangements made by the Postmaster-General"

The Field Postal Service has extended from Barkly to the front – the daily mails being conveyed by despatch riders, stationed at intervals from 8 to 20 miles, and the weekly English mails in light mule carts, one cart running between Barkly and Taungs, another between Taungs and Vryburg, and a third between Vryburg and the front.

Barkly, Taungs, Vryburg, and Mafeking have been the sorting stations, where the postal duties have been carried out by

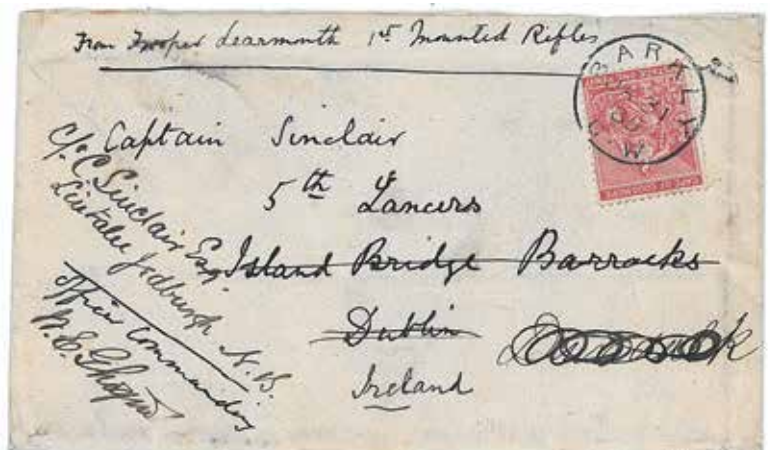


Fig.2: The earliest known outgoing cover with a Barkly West datestamp.

military postmasters, under the direction of Staff Officers of stations....

Owing to the presence in the force of a corps, constituted as are the 1st Mounted Rifles, of which almost every man receives several letters and newspapers by each mail, the strain on the postal service has been very severe in proportion to the size of the force, and ... there have been ... a good many complaints; but inquiry has proved many of such complaints to be unreasonable and unjust."

The military also introduced a mail service northwards between Mafeking and Molepolole in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Personal correspondence to and from members of the Expeditionary Force was also carried by this service. General Orders provided "... a timetable for a service operated by despatch riders between Mafeking and Molepolole, leaving Mafeking at 1.30 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and arriving at Molepolole at 7 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The 'down' service left Molepolole at 6.00 am on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays and reached Mafeking at 11am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays." Assuming that the despatch riders rested at night, they thus travelled along the rough bush roads at an average speed of approximately six miles per hour, a mounted rider being considerably slower than an indigenous runner.

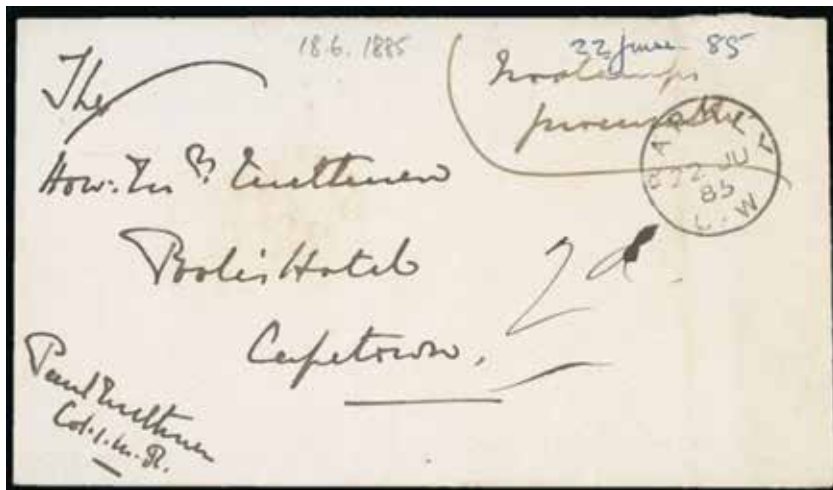


Fig.3: courtesy of Argyll Etkin.



Fig.4: Cover addressed to England, and franked with Cape stamps to the value of 6d.

OUTGOING MAIL

Figures 2, 3 and 4 illustrate covers despatched by members of the Expeditionary Force. Each of these covers entered the

formal postal system at Barkly West. The cover illustrated in Figure 2 is believed to be the earliest known outgoing cover and bears a Barkly West datestamp of 31 January 1885. The cover was redirected from Dublin in Ireland to Jedburgh in Scotland (arriving on 3 March 1885, having been carried from Cape Town on the steamship *Moor* of the Union Line.

There are approximately twenty surviving covers mailed by Colonel (as he then was) Paul Methuen commanding the 1st Mounted Rifles. All of these covers were addressed to his wife, either in England or at the Cape, where she resided at various hotels during the later stages of the campaign. Figure 3 illustrates a cover mailed to Poole's Hotel in Cape Town, endorsed "no stamps procurable". It was treated as an unpaid soldiers letter, and Methuen's wife was required to pay 2d deficient postage.

The most interesting item from the Methuen correspondence is illustrated in Figure 4. It is addressed to England, and franked with Cape stamps to the value of 6d. The manuscript annotation '2/3', indicating the amount it was underpaid, was probably applied at Barkly West. The 'T' handstamp indicating it was underpaid was probably applied in Cape Town on 1 April 1885 (backstamp). The amount of '2/3' must have been a mistake because the Cape rate to Britain was 6d per half ounce. Upon arrival in Britain, the letter was found open

and resealed with an official label by the Plymouth and Bristol Sorting Carriage on 22 April. The manuscript annotation '2/3' was cancelled with further strikes of the obliterator coded 'B6', and a further amount of '2/6' struck to indicate the amount that the addressee was required to pay (note that '6' was added in manuscript to a '2/-' handstamp).

INCOMING MAIL

The only surviving incoming correspondence is addressed to Lieutenant Ralph Anstruther who commanded the Number 1 section of the Telegraph Troop of the Royal Engineers. This correspondence comprises approximately fifteen covers posted at various places in Scotland,

England, Egypt and Gibraltar. Figure 5 illustrates an envelope from Edinburgh (1 April 1885) addressed to Anstruther with backstamps of Cape Town (22 April 1885) and Barkly West / G.W. (25 April 1885). It was carried on the *Roslin Castle* which departed from Dartmouth on 3 April and docked at Table Bay on 22 April 1885.

Figure 6 illustrates a cover from Wadi Halfa in Egypt addressed to Anstruther with backstamps of Alexandria

(17 February 1885) and Kimberley (20 March 1885). The manuscript '1/1' represents the amount due from Anstruther, being double the deficit of the 6½d underpaid

in Egypt for postage to the Cape. The 5d handstamp is an accountancy mark applied in Britain, being the amount due to the British Post Office by the Cape.



Fig.5: Cover carried on the Roslin Castle.



Fig. 6:

In Cape Town, the accountancy mark was cancelled so as to avoid confusion with the amount of postage due to be collected from Anstruther.

Acknowledgements

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ITEM OF INTEREST

A cover from Ndola in 2022

by Sean Burke Editor of the Rhodesian SC



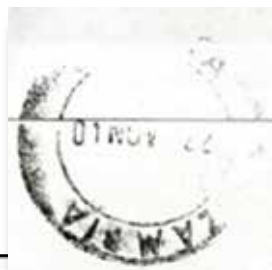
RSC member, Rod Kantor, visited Zambia in 2022.

He writes: *I was well attended to at what is probably the remains of the philatelic bureau in N'dola, there having been no new stamps since about 2015. A well-worn and rather ragged brown envelope was brought to the counter and I was able to work my way through the jumble of stamps it contained, pick the stamps I wanted and then separate them from the sheets. When I'd prepared the three covers I asked that they not be cancelled with a Philatelic Bureau datestamp and was offered either a simple N'dola one or the Parcels stamp.*

The former was well worn so I chose the Parcels. The quality of the datestamp on the covers is indicative of the quality of service and attention I received from the officer. The officer seemed to quite enjoy joining me on the journey through the contents of the envelope, chatting, laughing and offering up new "finds".

I was the fortunate recipient of one of these covers with the rather mysterious backstamp. Posted on the 21 October, 2022, it arrived at my home on 17 January, 2023. Adam Goulding made this comment: *It is lovely to see this cover. Especially so as the Ndola mark is new and an unrecorded type 38jk.*

The interesting back stamp is a partial Lusaka with Zambia arranged backwards and Hal Hoyte gave it a code of its own type 28A. It was around as an extremely rare registered cancel, then it disappeared for a while and



has come back as a backstamp on incoming international mail. This is the first time I have seen one going the other way. The date format got changed too.



As Pliny the Elder (AD 23-79) wrote: *Semper aliquid novi Africam adferre* – Africa always brings (us) something new.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA ILLUSTRATED STAMP VARIETIES

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



War Effort, Large Series 1941 to 1943 (UHB 18, Stamp numbers 80 to 88)

On various dates between August 1941 and January 1943 stamps with values from ½d. to 1/3 appeared with designs depicting aspects of the Union's war activities. Dates of issue were announced in advance and, as use of the stamps was optional, the pictorial stamps of corresponding values were available at post offices throughout the period that this and the later Bantam Series were on sale. (There was, of course, no 1/3 value in the pictorial series.)

Each value was in a single colour, and there were arrows at the centre of each of the four sheet margins. One margin, depending on the format of the stamps, had the four-figure serial numbers printed on it in black.

In all except the 2d. and 1/- denominations, English and Afrikaans alternated on the sheets, and they all, with the exception of the 6d. value, commenced with an Afrikaans-inscribed stamp. The 2d. and 1/- values, being bilingual.

The format was upright in all cases and there were three design sizes: The ½d., 1d. and 1½d. and 1/3 measured 17,5 x 21,5 mm; 240 stamps per sheet in 20 rows by 12. Stamps of the 2d. 4d. and 6d. values were much larger, 21,5 x 27mm; 120 per sheet in 6 rows x 20, and the 3d. and 1/- values larger still, 37 x 20mm in 20 rows x 6.

In the 2d., 4d. and 6d. denominations the watermark was sideways, facing left, and the sheet numbers were on the

bottom margin, while in all the others the watermark was upright and the sheet numbers were on the right margin.

As the 1/3 was only introduced a few months after some values of the Bantam war series had been in use, the first sheets had, to begin with, the same Slogans as the War Bantam series on their margins. The slogan cylinders were those which have been given the numbers 5 and 6 and, as the sheets which appeared after the war had ended had blank margins, there are thus three issues of the 1/3.

The only stamp cylinder was number 37, and the olive brown stamps and slogans (cylinder 6), which appeared in January 1943 were from Issue 1. Issue 2 of January 1944, with slogan cylinder 7 had both stamps and slogans in much darker sepia, the same colour as the blank margin stamps of Issue 3 which came out in May 1946.

Numbers of the other cylinders were ½d. - 7; 1d. - 6922; 1½d. - 15; 2d. - 29; 3d. - 50; 4d. - 37; 6d. - 40 and 1/- - 43.

The author would like to thank Danie Scheepers RDPSA for his contribution with some of the material shown.

SELECTED VARIETIES

Listed in the Union Handbook (UHB)

AFRIKAANS/ENGLISH above the variety indicates the language at top of the stamp on which it appears.



Green (SG 88)

UHB 80 - ½d.



Blue green (SG 88a) July 1942

This stamp was issued on 19 November 1941 and the design depicts a company of infantry marching in formation of threes. It is based on a drawing provided by an unknown artist.

AFRIKAANS	AFRIKAANS	ENGLISH
Hyphen shaped like an 'L' (ex Row 17/5) UHB 80 - V1	White dot over 'D' of SUID (ex Row 18/4) UHB 80 - V2	White dot under 'S' of SOUTH (ex Row 19/2) UHB 80 - V3

UHB 81 - 1d.





The design portrays a nurse, Barbara Palmer, from a painting by the war artist Neville Lewis. The frame was drawn by a Corp. Wagner of the Defence Force printing unit and embraces the Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance with the placing of the symbols of the Red Cross and the Order of St John on the stamp. It was issued on 3 October 1941.

The ambulance represents the work done by the drivers and stretcher bearers, and conveys the idea of equipment, speed and efficiency.



Carmine (Shades) (SG 89)

UHB 81 - 1d.

AFRIKAANS 	ENGLISH 	ENGLISH 	ENGLISH 
White 'Flag' on ambulance (ex Row 2/12) UHB 81 - V1	'Rosette' on nurse's uniform above left wrist (ex Row 14/11) UHB 81 - V2 (SG 89a)	White blob at foot of '1' of 1d (ex Row 19/2) UHB 81 - V3	Carmine mark on veil above right shoulder (ex Row 20/5) UHB 81 - V4




82 1½d.



Myrtle green (Shades) (SG 90)

On 12 January 1942 a 1½d. value was issued. The design of an airman, with two fighter planes in the foreground, depicts the South African Air Force.

It is reproduced from a portrait of Lieut. Bob Kershaw by Neville Lewis, with the frame drawn by Corp. Wagner




ENGLISH 	AFRIKAANS 	GENERAL 
White 'V' sign on right shoulder (ex Row 16/8) UHB 82 - V1	'White spot' in background at left centre (ex Row 18/8) UHB 82 - V2	Much deeper stamps with 'missing' holes at foot in the vertical perfs - caused by the adjustment of the perforator UHB 82 - V3

83 2d.



Violet (Shades) (SG 98a)

The seaman on the 2d. value, by Neville Lewis - is Clive Peter and the frame was drawn by Wagner, issued on 15 September 1941. Being bilingual, the stamps need not be collected in pairs.

BILINGUAL 	BILINGUAL 	BILINGUAL 
White spot on chest (ex Row 5/16) UHB 83 - V1	White 'Ensign' at stern of ship (ex Row 6/5) UHB 83 - V2	Faint horizontal stroke through '2d' (ex Row 6/16) UHB 83 - V3


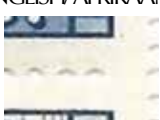
UHB 84 - 3d.

The main feature of the 3d stamp is a photograph of Elizabeth Liebenberg of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (WAC) that was provided by the Postmaster-General. The frame is by Wagner and the stamp was issued on 1 August 1941.

The design depicts various phases of women's war activities at the time. The officer is surrounded by the Union's motto and the figures in the corners illustrate munitions workers, ambulance and driver, medical personnel and an aircraft worker.



Blue (Shades) (SG 91)

AFRIKAANS 	BETWEEN ENGLISH/AFRIKAANS 
WAC "smoking" (ex Row 18/2) UHB 84 - V1 (SG 91a)	Missing perf. Hole - (vertical pair) UHB 84 - V2

UHB 85 - 4d.




The formidable atmosphere created with the placing and shading of the gun, characterises the Artillery and was done by Wagner in its entirety. The stamp appeared on 20 August 1941.



Orange brown (SG 92)



Red brown (SG 92a) June 1942

ENGLISH 	AFRIKAANS 	ENGLISH 
Smudge over second 'A' of AFRICA (ex Row 4/19) UHB 85 - V1	Smudge below upper frame line (ex Row 5/1) UHB 85 - V2	Blurred outlines to 'O' of SOUTH (ex Row 6/1) UHB 85 - V3

UHB 86 - 6d.

The design of a war worker as depicted by a welder, aims to demonstrate an atmosphere of total harshness and to reproduce the rough implacability of steel, symbolic of the coldness of war.

It was done in its entirety Corp. Wagner and appeared on 3 September 1941.



Red orange (shades) (SG 93)

<p>ENGLISH</p> <p>Several spots, 'sparks' above flame (ex Row 1/19) UHB 86 - V1</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p> <p>'Dot' on top frame line (ex Row 4/20) UHB 86 - V2</p>
---	---

87 - 1/-

Designed by an unknown artist, it represents the Tank Corps and other mechanised units. The tank and armoured car give an impression of the power of these weapons. It appeared on 27 October 1941.

Being bilingual, the stamps need not be collected in pairs.



Brown (shades) (SG 99)

<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Vertical line in front of tank (ex Row 2/2) UHB 87 - V1</p>	<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Tank 'firing' (ex Row 2/6) UHB 87 - V2</p>
<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Vertical stroke through 'O' of POSTAGE (ex Row 19/6) UHB 87 - V3</p>	<p>ENGLISH / AFRIKAANS</p> <p>One head very faint in watermark. Occurs in each alternate row of watermarks running through 3rd vertical row of stamps UHB 87 - V4</p>

UHB 88 - 1/3

The stamps appeared on 2 January 1943. An unknown artist designed the stamp of a signaller in steel helmet and battle dress operating his transmitter from an armoured car.

The stamps were released after some values of the Bantam series were in use. The first two issues had the same slogans printed in the margins as the Bantams. Issue three was issued after the war had ended and has blank margins.

The stamps were primarily intended for pre-payment of Air Mail fees.



Olive brown(SG 94)



Blackish brown (SG 94a) May 1946

<p>ENGLISH</p> <p>Broken 'H' of SOUTH (ex Row 3/2) UHB 88 - V1</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p> <p>White spot on left of 'H' of SOUTH (ex Row 4/3) UHB 88 - V2</p>
<p>ENGLISH</p> <p>White dot on tail of 'S' of SOUTH (ex Row 5/2) UHB 88 - V3</p>	<p>AFRIKAANS</p> <p>Broken panel line above hyphen (ex Row 8/6) UHB 88 - V4</p>

<p>SIDE MARGIN</p> <p>Slogan only partly printed UHB 88 - V6</p>
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Reference: *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961: Handbook catalogue, Definitive Issue, 1986, SJ Hagger: pp 167 - 69.*

ASPECTS OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Part 7: The design, printing and distribution of RSA stamps and the role of Philatelic Services (1961 – 1971)

"I regard our postage stamps as important national and international symbols. They are export products which can do much to portray our national way of life, our culture, our history and our development. I realise the vastness and depth of your interest and I should like to assure you that as Postmaster General I shall strive to realise as closely as humanly possible your ideals with regard to this matter. As a first step, I propose to reorganise radically our Philatelic Bureau in Pretoria." (Opening address by the Postmaster General, Mr. Louise Rive, at the Official Opening of the Settlers Exhibition in Port Elizabeth in 1970)

Introduction

After the Second World War a fully-fledged Philatelic Bureau came into existence in Pretoria in 1949 to render philatelic services to stamp dealers and collectors in South Africa and throughout the world. It follows that the amount of work being done by Philatelic Services and the Post Office over the years has increased tremendously.

Since the formation of the Republic of South Africa the amount of postal articles handled by the South African Post Office increased from 902 million to 1,700 million a year. In the same period, the value of stamps sold yearly in South Africa increased from R20 million to R35 million.

The role of Philatelic Bureau in Pretoria

The Postmaster General, Mr Louis Rive, announced in his speech at the opening of the NAFEX/NAFU exhibition in Durban on 28 May 1973 that the number of deposit accounts at Philatelic Services had risen from 631 in 1970 to 4,000 in 1973. This represented a six-fold increase in three years and was indicative of the positive role that Philatelic Services had started to play in philately in South Africa. In the same speech he also mentioned that the circulation of *The South African Philatelist* had increased

from 1,500 to 3,500 in the same period, based on the fact that a resolution was taken at the Congress of 1971 whereby each member of an affiliated society received the magazine as a benefit of membership. He indicated that all of this was a good omen for the future of philately in the country.

Various services were provided by the Philatelic Bureau in Pretoria. Issues of postage stamps, postage due stamps and stamped stationery were sold to collectors and dealers at face value. Postage stamps and postage due stamps could be purchased in any quantity in full sheets, cylinder or other blocks and even single stamps from any part of a sheet. Customers with deposit accounts could place standing orders for new issues of postage stamps and commemorative covers. Philatelic Bulletins announcing new postage stamps, official date stamps etc were also distributed free of charge (Fig.1).

Linked to all of this was the 'South African Notes' published by Dr Henry Raubenheimer in *The South African Philatelist* on a monthly basis where he discussed all the technical details of the new stamp issues as well as reprints. In this regard he worked very closely with Philatelic Services as part of the Post Office to gather all the information.



Fig.1: Example of the top part of a Philatelic Bulletin distributed by the Post Office Publicity Branch in January 1969.

Simultaneously a number of specialist philatelic groups serving Southern African collectors started during this time. Both the SA Stamp Study Circle and the SA Postmark Society were founded by Dr Tom Berry RDPSA, the Editor of *The South African Philatelist* and also the Hon. Life President of the Philatelic Federation. The SA Collectors Society pioneered the study of South African stamps in the UK. It published a bi-monthly magazine *The Springbok* which as a specialist publication also covered the RSA stamp issues.

The PMG in 1970 also expressed his appreciation “of the excellent relations which exist between organised philately in this country and the Post Office. The Department’s Philatelic Bureau in Pretoria is always at your service and it affords us pleasure to co-operate with you in every possible way”. He also mentioned that many requests made by the Philatelic Federation were incorporated in the new policy and the approach to stamp issues.

The entire issue of the quality of the designs of stamps was discussed. The PMG indicated in 1970 regarding this matter that: “It is a frequent and to a degree justifiable criticism of our postage stamp designs. By and large, the Department receives as much praise as criticism, but, as can be expected all of the criticism is balanced and fair”. Even the editor of *The South African Philatelist* in his Editorial column indicated that: “...our record for stamp design since the mid 1930s in not one which could be described as particularly impressive, to say the least”.

To begin solving this problem a representative from within the ranks of organised philately and its governing body the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, was included in the Post Office Stamp Design Committee. The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr Marais Viljoen, gave the postage stamp advisory committee two years to fulfil the expectations. In the meantime Mr. Herman Steyn the Head of Philatelic Services, said that South Africa had excellent design artists but due to the limited stamp issues of the past, few if any creative artists have had experience in the designing of stamps.

The design and printing of stamps

Modifications to, as well as the printing of, new and special issues were considered very carefully beforehand by the Stamp Design Committee of the Post Office.

The task of the committee, which was instituted in 1965, was to examine stamp designs and to make recommendations to the Postmaster General. Five members of the public (including prominent connoisseurs of art), four officials of the Post Office and one of the Government Printer constituted this committee.

After the stamp designs or any modifications had been approved, the Government Printer in Pretoria took over. The Republic's First Definitive series printed at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria on photogravure paper, watermarked with the Coat-of-Arms of the Republic was issued on 31 May 1961. The 2½c value was printed on the new Albertina machine.

This value was perforated by a single comb Grover perforator (Fig.2). Other values, for example the R1 stamp, appeared in vertical sheet format of 20 rows x 5 stamps and was printed on the Goebel 840 machine (Fig.3). The photogravure printing was in use during those early years.

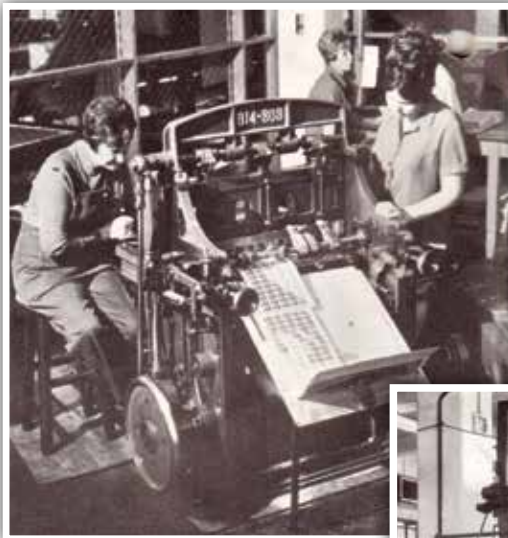


Fig.2: The Grover perforator.

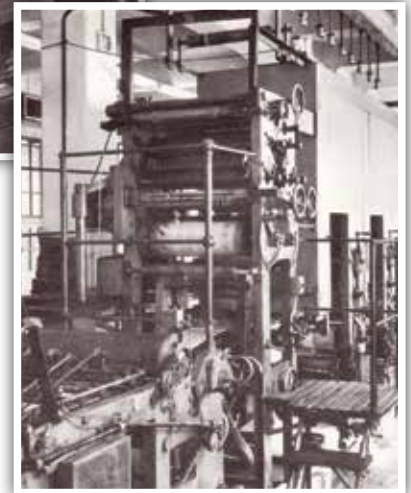


Fig.3. Goebels 840 printing machine.

Depending on the stamp requirements and the size of the cylinders, 2,200 sheets (100 stamps per sheet) could be printed in an hour. After this, perforations were punched by a machine that could handle up to 5,000 sheets an hour.

The stamps were then checked for possible errors but it can sometimes happen that the collector's eye will find something that should not be there or which was missed in the printing process. If a cylinder should break or wear out, the philatelist's interest is newly stimulated. New cylinders have to be made which of course, means a new cylinder serial number, depending on the various colours of the stamp concerned. To facilitate the automatic facing of postal items, an additional cylinder in the printing machine has been used since 1969 to print a phosphorised frame around every stamp.

Different printing presses used by the Government Printer in Pretoria				
Printing press	Goebel KM II	Goebel	Chambon	Albertina
Printer's machine number	830	840	822	815
First taken into use as from	1930-1970	1940	1951	1960
Stamp quantity on cylinder	240 or 200	240 or 200	-	400
Postcard quantity on cylinder		32	36	40
Letter code for cylinder number	S (Until 1970)	G	D	Y
Number of colours for printing	Two	Three	Three	Five
Control number made up of	Four figures	Five figures		Six figures

Table 1: Summary of the rotogravure printing presses in use at the Government Printer during the period 1960-1961. Source: W.J. Quik, Rotogravure and Planographic Printing Presses of the Government Printer Pretoria, 1930-1990, The SA Philatelist, June 2004.

The phosphorised stamps were thus additional philatelic items and another variety in the then definitive series. Since 1961, various kinds of imported paper have been used for the

printing of stamps, something else of which stamp collectors also made a careful study. The initial stamps were printed on paper with the Coat of Arms of the Republic as 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.4).

For the first Republican series there have been four different types of paper used in the period from 1961 to 1971 and no definite period of use can be allocated to any of them (See table 2). The dates of their first appearance, however, have been established but every one has been used even long after having been superseded by others. An example of this is that it is believed from one reel of paper the 5c stamp issued to commemorate the 10 years since the establishment of the Republic of South Africa appeared on the arms watermarked paper in May 1971. Another example was on the 2½c Constantia stamp from cylinders 17/23 in April 1967, where the RSA watermark faced right instead of left. Despite intensive research no official explanation was given, so this stamp remains one of the great rarities of the Republican Series.

Types of watermarks and papers used by the Government Printer: 1961-1971		
Type	First used	Paper producers
Coat of Arms	31 May 1961	U.S. Paper Corp, U.S.A
Without Watermark	August 1961	U.S. Paper Corp, U.S.A
RSA Upright	September 1963	Harrison & Co, England
RSA Tête Bêche	July 1967	Weiner Kupferschmidt Switzerland
RSA Tête Bêche (Matt)	April 1970	Harrison & Co, England
RSA Tête Bêche (Gloss)	January 1971	Harrison & Co, England

Table 2: Source: Pamphlet "Seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika/ Stamps of the Republic of South Africa (1961-1971)" published by Philatelic Services, GPO, Pretoria, 1971

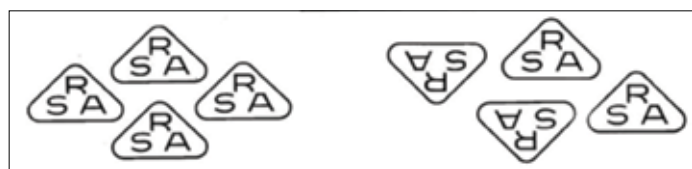


Fig. 4: The new type of watermark that appeared in September 1963.

In the first 10 years after 1961 commemorative stamps held an important place. They were issued together with official commemorative covers. Furthermore, the stamps were cancelled on the cover with a special datestamp designed and used only for the specific occasion.

Three stamp issues will be used as a case study for the sake of this article: The 50th Anniversary of the Volkspele stamp that was issued on 1 March 1962, the 50th Anniversary issue for the Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens issued on 14 March 1963 and the issue of the 2c and 4c stamps in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Republic of South Africa in 1971.

The 50th Anniversary of the 'Volkspele' in South Africa issued on 1 March 1962

The Chairman of the Council for 'Volkspele', Dr Sam Pelissier, approached the office of the PMG on 20 November 1961 for the issuing of a postage stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary in South Africa.

On 18 December 1961 the Minister of Posts and Telecommunication has approved the issue on 1 March 1962

of a 2½c postage stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first organised display of 'volkspele' (folk dancing) in South Africa.

A requisition for printing was submitted to the Controller of Stores in Pretoria on 18 December 1961 to prepare design and provide proofs of the 2½c postage stamp (Fig.5). The size to be double that of the 1c postage stamp. At that stage Treasury approval No. F14/551 of 14 December 1961 was also confirmed. An order for the printing of 500 000 sheets of 100 stamps was also placed.



Fig.5: Colour proof of the Volkspele stamp printed in blue.

In January 1962 the Philatelic-section announced in a bulletin that the 2½c Volkspele-stamp would be issued. It was also announced that that at Bloemfontein a special commemorative date-stamp would be used. Members of the public who desired to obtain an impression of this special date-stamp on covers were required to send addressed envelopes to the Postmaster (Philatelic) G.P.O., Bloemfontein not later than 26 February 1962 (Fig. 6).

A number of articles appeared in newspapers about this stamp. On the 16 March 1962 'Pure Rooinek' from Walmer wrote the following in the *Eastern Province Herald*: "We hear so much about apartheid these days. I gather that it has been relaxed for an Asiatic race and now it seems as if other races are also being exempted. I refer to our latest 2½c stamp which shows a White Afrikaner girl dancing with a male who is certainly not pure white"

A short letter written in the *Daily Dispatch* on 30 March 1962: "The Government has spent a lot of money in advertising South Africa overseas. They have now added to this by printing the ugliest stamp I have ever seen, so that anyone seeing it will ask from where it comes. I am referring to the new two and a half cent stamp. Why must a beautiful country have such an ugly stamp?"



Fig.6: Approved colour - signed by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Dr Albert Hertzog. Albert Hertzog served as the SAf Minister of Post and Telecommunications from 1958 to 1968.

On 22 March 1962 a reader from Port Elizabeth responded in the *Eastern Province Herald* about the negative comments: "I would like to reply to 'Pure Rooinek' ... It is a great pity that

'Pure Rooinek' is so out of touch and thus wants to besmirch our young women. I would advise him to buy a pair of spectacles and he will see that the stamp depicts a genuine Afrikaner girl and boy in 'folk dancing' costume. I hope he will look at the stamps again, apologise, and himself join a folk dancing club".

The 50th Anniversary issue for the Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens issued on 14 March 1963

The Postmaster General announced in a Post Office bulletin that a 2½c commemorative stamp would be issued on 14 March 1963 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment near Cape Town of the National Botanical Gardens, known as Kirstenbosch. A commemorative datestamp was in use at the special Post Office that was provided at the 'Flora 63' stamp exhibition in Cape Town.



Fig.7: Original art work of the *Disa Grandiflora* by Miss Ethel Dixie used on the Kirstenbosch stamp.

The artwork of Ethel May Dixie (1876 - 1973) a South African botanical artist was used for this stamp (Fig.7). Dixie was largely self-taught unlike her older sister who enjoyed the benefits of tuition by Thomas Bowler. Nonetheless, she was the principal artist for Rudolf Marloth's book *The Flora of South Africa*. She was also a lecturer at the Cape Town School of Art.

The stamp was designed by Capt Milton Stern the well known philatelist, and depicted in multicolour, a view of the lawns and gardens at Kirstenbosch, with the mountain peak 'Castle Rock' in the background. Superimposed in the lower portion of the design is a picture of the famous red disa - *Disa Uniflora*, which is one of the best known orchids (Figs.8 and 9).



Fig.8: One of the proposed designs submitted by Capt Milton Stern.



Fig.9 Commemorative datestamp available at the special Post Office at the 'Flora 63' stamp exhibition in Cape Town.

The Kirstenbosch stamp was bilingually printed on white unwatermarked paper by the Albertina machine in quadruple format of four panes: A, occupying the top left quadrant; B, the top right; C, the bottom left, and D the bottom right. The four cylinder numbers are inscribed in their respective colours: No. 4 in red, No. 15 in blue, No. 14 in yellow and No. 6 in black - on the bottom imperforate margin. (Fig. 10).



Fig.10: Cylinder block showing the four cylinder numbers inscribed in their respective colours.

The issue of the 2c and 4c stamps in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Republic of South Africa

On the 31 May 1971, 2c and 4c postage stamps in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Republic of South Africa were issued. The 2c postage stamp depicts the landing of the 1820 British Settlers from a drawing by Thomas Baines. The 4c postage stamp shows Presidents Steyn and Kruger as well as the Treaty of Vereeniging Monument designed and sculptured by Coert Steynberg – the design on the postage stamp symbolises the growth to independence. Both stamps were printed in double sheets of 100 (Figs.11 and 12 overleaf)

Commemorative Cover No. 18 issued on 26 October 1971

This cover was issued on 26 October 1971 to lend lustre to the first S.A. International Garden Show and to focus the world's attention on the country's flora and its export potential. The show was held in Milnerpark, Johannesburg. The coloured cover bears an impression of the datestamp designed by Major George van Rhijn. A collection of indigenous flowers in colour, appears on the stiffener card inside the envelope. The postage stamp was the 9c Protea-stamp (Figs.13 and 14).



Fig.11: Two of the colour trials that were printed for consideration.



Fig.12: Approved colour scheme of the 4c stamp approved by the Director of Postal Services Mr. G de Kock on 31 March 1971.



Fig.13: Original artist sketch for the First Day Cover.



Fig.14: Commemorative cover No. 18 issued for the International Garden Show in Johannesburg in 1971.

The period after 1971 regarding the design, printing and distribution of RSA stamps up to the present day will be covered in a separate article.

Illustrations used as Figs.5, 6, 11 and 12 are from the Post Office Museum and Archives in Silverton, Pretoria. All the other material illustrated are from the author's collection.

Conclusion

The period 1961 to 1971 in the RSA can be regarded as one of the most interesting periods from a philatelic point of view. During this period the foundation was laid between the Post Office and its marketing arm Philatelic Services and the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa for the hobby to grow into the future. It was also announced that South Africa is to get a new stamp issuing policy, while the services and facilities of the Philatelic Bureau in Pretoria are to be expanded and modernised.

Sources:

- Article published in *The SA Philatelist* July 1973: 'Rive promises better designs – Post Office seeks foreign markets for stamps'.
- Pamphlet 'Seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika/Stamps of the Republic of South Africa (1961-1971)' published by Philatelic Services, GPO, Pretoria, 1971.
- Post Office Museum and Archives, Silverton, Pretoria, South Africa.
- W.J. Quik, *Rotogravure and Planographic Printing Presses of the Government Printer Pretoria, 1930-1990*, *The SA Philatelist*, June 2004.





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COVID-19 Telling the Story

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

An aspect of philately that is overlooked is that it is also an historical artefact. Stamps and postal history can be used to chronicle events and developments over time. Postage stamps also act as a window on social change. On a second level, stamps are used as a means of raising awareness and providing information. This is true of the recent COVID-19 pandemic which, amongst other aspects, severely disrupted postal services across the globe. Within the first year of rising case numbers, fatalities and various attempts to fend off the virus, many countries issued COVID-19 themed stamps, slogans and cachets.

The Coronavirus are normally found in mammals and birds. It was first detected in chickens in North America during the 1920s. The virus has characteristic spikes that project from the surface (Fig.1), which in electron micrographs create an image suggestive of the solar corona. The term corona comes from Latin, meaning a 'crown' or 'wreath'. These spikes attach the virus to a host cell.



Fig.1: Vatican City aerogramme; 14,000 copies were issued 10 September 2020. The illustration shows a doctor, a nurse and a priest assisting a patient. The inscription, translated from the Italian, reads: 'The martyrs and heroes of the Corona virus'.

In December 2019, a pneumonia outbreak was reported in Wuhan, China (Fig.2). On 31 December 2019, the outbreak was traced to a new strain of coronavirus, which was given the name 'Covid-19'.

Fig.2: S Tome e Principe stamp showing the location of Wuhan on a map of China – the epicentre of the Covid-19 pandemic.



The virus has a 96% similarity to a bat coronavirus, so it was widely suspected to originate from bats (Fig.3). In humans the virus causes respiratory tract infections (Fig.4) that can range from mild to lethal.

Fig.3: S Tomé e Príncipe. O nascimento do COVID-19 = The origin of COVID-19. The Rhinolophus hipposideros or lesser horseshoe bat is a small European and North African insectivorous bat. It tends to roost in old buildings, such as barns.



Mild illnesses in humans include cases of the common cold (which is also caused by other viruses, predominantly rhinoviruses), while more lethal varieties exist. Infection begins when the viral spike protein attaches to the host cell.



Fig.4: (above) The virus attacks the respiratory organs. 'Republique Gabonaise'.

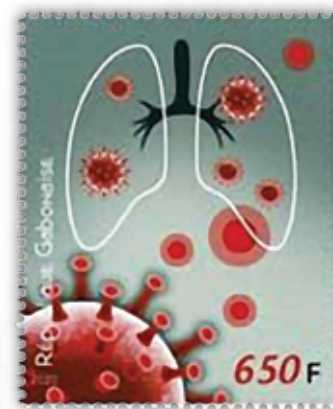


Fig.5: Covid-19 symptoms are illustrated on this Brazilian stamp, issued 8 July 2020, one of a series dedicated to combating the pandemic. The purpose of the issue was to counter false information and rumours about the virus.

The virus is transmitted by air and is highly contagious. On 11 March 2020 the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic. Preventative measures included social distancing, wearing face masks and hand washing (Fig.6 & 7).

Fig.6: Preventative measures were illustrated on this Vietnam stamp as part of an informative campaign.



Early in the pandemic, the Diamond Princess (seen in Fig.8) a cruise ship, gained notoriety following an outbreak of Covid-19 on board.



Fig.7: When coughing or sneezing, do it into your elbow to prevent the spread of airborne droplets.

On 20 January 2020, an 80-year-old man boarded in Yokohama and left the ship in Hong Kong on 25 January 2020. Six days later he tested positive for Covid-19. On the return trip, when in Japanese waters, 10 passengers were diagnosed with Covid-19 on 4 February 2020.

The ship was quarantined in the Port of Yokohama for a period of one month with 2611 passengers and 1100 crew confined to their cabins. At least 712 were infected and there were 14 deaths. The ship eventually left Japan, 30 March 2020, having been disinfected and has been bunkered in the outer port of Singapore.

The event revealed two important aspects; close confines help to spread the virus while a lockdown was effective in containing the virus (Fig.9).

Fig.8: The tab shows a microscopic image of the Covid-19 virus. The inscription reads; "The cruise ship Diamond Princess is the first big focus of the virus outside of China. Of 3711 people initially on board, 621 passengers contracted the virus."



The sticker applied by Auspost provides contact details where the sender can get more information. Of interest is the inverted Waikoa Island stamp with a value of 35 tanos, cancelled Golden Beach, Queensland. Waikoa is an island in the South Pacific. Is this a label or a genuine postage stamp? Waikoa stamps are not catalogued.

For local mail, India Post applied a cachet in Hindi setting out precautions to be followed regarding the Covid-19 virus.

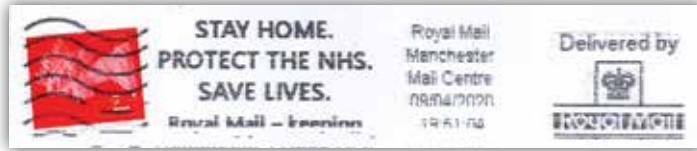


Fig.9: Postal slogan - 9 April 2020: "Stay home. Protect the NHS. Save lives. Royal Mail - keeping communities connected".

The international movement of mail is dependent on transportation provided by airlines and shipping companies. Schedules were in a high state of flux, depending on the levels of infection being experienced. This caused major disruptions to the delivery of mail because of the closure of borders. Most airlines had to suspend as much as 90% of their routes. The result was a significant drop in capacity for freight and mail but with a spike in rates. In accordance with this, Post Offices worldwide had to suspend many services, hence mail was returned to senders.



Fig.10: Registered letter addressed to Latvia, franked at R82, returned to sender, "No Flights Available". As the item was not delivered, was postage refunded? From anecdotal evidence, it would seem not. Note the absence of the blue lines which are normally drawn across a registered cover. Is this a new action by SA Post Office?

SAPO just applied a 'No Flights Available' sticker to the cover (Fig.10). There are no details given, unlike that from Australia Post seen on this cover (Fig.11), addressed to India.



Fig.11: An international airmail cover addressed to Goa, India, from Australia, returned to sender.



Fig.12: Extensive cachet in Hindi applied by India Post, with instructions regarding the precautions to be taken to avoid contracting the Covid-19 virus. The cover is postmarked Dharmsala, in Himachal Pradesh, dated 8 June 2020.



Fig.13: Covid-19 advisory produced by Royal Mail, presumably attached to mail.

Royal Mail produced the following "advisory" (Fig.13).

As the virus is highly contagious, restrictions of movement and the gathering of people was implemented. This led to the cancellation of many functions and activities. The postmark in Fig.14 records the cancellation of a major event, illustrating how postmarks can contribute to historical records.



Fig.14: 'Fleet Week' is a US Navy tradition where ships deployed in overseas operations dock for a week in a major US city. The crew get a week's leave while visitors can tour the ships. The USS Theodore Roosevelt is a Nimitz class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Two cases were detected amongst the USS Theodore Roosevelt crew while docked in Vietnam during March 2020. By May 2020, 1156 sailors tested positive for the virus with one death. The Captain was relieved of his duties for using non-secure communication channels regarding the infection.

The everchanging testing and quarantine requirements became a headache for travellers globally. This led to pressing issues for travellers and airline crews as guidelines and requirements often changed mid-flight.

Strict border rules were imposed (Fig.15), and many travellers were left stranded or could not return home.

Fig.15: Hotel quarantine became mandatory for all arrivals resulting in a lockdown of up to two weeks.

Society restrictions included several interventions known as lockdowns which included, *inter alia*, stay-at-home orders, curfews and quarantines.

While effective at reducing the spread of the virus it disrupted the freedom of movement. People were required to work or learn from home via video-conferencing software (Fig.16). This also resulted in cases of loneliness (Fig.17) when people were isolated.



The wearing of a mask became compulsory world-wide along with social distancing, illustrated in this French stamp (Fig.19) showing the inside of a post office.



Fig.19: French stamp issued 11 September 2020 for a 'green letter', with a face value of €0.97 (±R17.00); an ecological alternative to the regular rate, using 15% less CO2 than first class mail, taking two days for delivery in place of the normal one-day service.

The stamp comes from a booklet of twelve stamps to thank and honour essential workers. Designed by artist Miles Hyman, an American who now lives in Paris having attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

The rules and restrictions were rigorously enforced by police (Fig.20) and security officials.



Fig.16: This booklet cover shows a family connected via Zoom. Christmas booklet of five international stamps priced at €8.50 (± R148.14) issued by Ireland. One of the five stamps featured the same image as the booklet cover. This was accompanied by a booklet of 20 national stamps. The stamps were designed by Liz Rackard and designed by Detail Design Studio. The booklets were available from 11 November 2020.



Fig.20: From the same set as the stamps shown in Fig.19. Of interest, the gendarmes are shown wearing protective gloves, coloured light green. But they are not wearing masks!

In conclusion we need to heed the words of Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Chief Medical Advisor to the US President.

"One of the things that still completely baffles me is the lack of acceptance by some people ... that COVID is a problem.



Fig.17: The importance of keeping people and communities connected was the message in this slogan.

The pandemic brought lifestyle changes to prevent the spread of the virus. We rapidly had to learn how to social distance (Fig.18) and be sanitised before entering a shop or public building.

Fig.18: Singapore, 'Quirks in the City', issued 23 January 2021, part of a set of five different designs, issued to celebrate Singapore's 55th year of independence.



Singaporeans queue up as if it's second nature! The stamp shows social distancing and the wearing of face masks while queuing.

There are people who think that this is a hoax, that this is some made up-up thing for one reason or another, when the facts are staring us right in the face.

I don't think not understanding [COVID-19] is a failing. It's just the way life is. Unless you're connected with something directly, it doesn't mean much to you. The COVID-19 epidemic is like nothing we have experienced in the past 102 years.

Let us not forget that we were not prepared as we thought we were or as we should have been".

Fig.21: Issued 27 February 2021 by French Andorra, the inscription, in Catalan, reads "Tribute to efforts against COVID-19".



Andorra is a small country located in the Pyrenees mountains and bordered by Spain and France. Postal services in Andorra are not operated by the country itself, but by Spain and France side-by-side using their own French or Spanish Andorra stamps. ...continues p64

CAPTAIN SIR THOMAS MOORE

(30 April 1920 – 2 February 2021)

Better known as Captain Tom, he was a British Army Officer having served in India and Burma during World War II. On 6 April 2020, at the age of 99, Moore began to walk one hundred lengths of his garden in aid of NHS Charities. Together, with the goal of raising €1,000 by his 100th birthday on 30 April (Fig.22). In his 24-day fundraising, he became a popular household name in the UK and further afield, and attracted over 1.5 million individual donations. On the day of Moore's hundredth birthday, the total raised by his walk was over £32.79 million.



Fig.23: Knighted 17 July 2020. (GETTY IMAGES)

His birthday was marked by Royal Air Force and British Army flypasts. He received over 150,000 cards and was appointed as Honorary Colonel of the Army Foundation College. On 17 July 2020, he was personally knighted by the Queen at Windsor Castle (Fig.23). He died on 2 February 2021 at Bedford Hospital where he was taken after being treated for pneumonia and then testing positive for COVID-19.

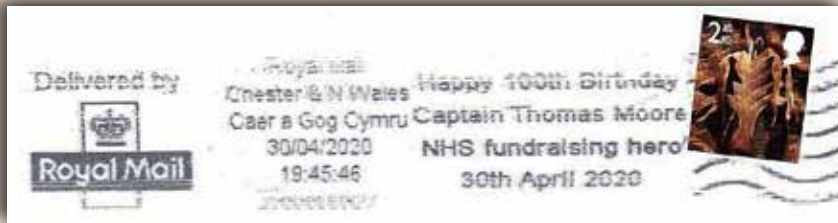


Fig.22: Postal slogan applied in Chester UK, wishing Captain Tom a happy 100th birthday.

NOTE:

- Several countries are unable to produce their own postage stamps for various reasons. These countries contract the production of their stamps to Stamperija located in Latvia and/or the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation based in New York who have *carte blanche* in the selection of themes and production of stamps. This is primarily an economic function as these stamps are often sold directly to collectors without being available in the country of issue. Several such stamps have been included in this article as they feature appropriate and relevant illustrations.

- The images have been sourced from the Internet.



REMINDER and an APPEAL

The proposal for a National Stamp Exhibition, earmarked for October 2023, encourages philatelists to enter their exhibits. As Congress coincides with the National Exhibition, Societies are also encouraged to submit **nominations** and **citations** for consideration by Federation.

This reminder is for each Society to bring out the best there is and an opportunity to highlight what talent South Africa has in the philatelic world.

It is time to promote the many great collectors and show that in every area, from philately as well as sport, medicine or invention, as South Africans we have what it takes to be champions!

Without YOUR involvement and input, we are limited... keep in mind that, *THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST* can only publish what is received from authors...

and remember - there is an entire team of willing 'ghost-writers' that can assist your efforts with grammar and construction - we can help you polish or shape your article, if that's what is needed to bring it to publication.



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A HUMBLE RECEIPT

by Sean Burke, Editor of RSC

A few years ago, I began to learn how to plate and position the one penny Rhodesia Double Head stamp. With over 14 million of these stamps printed from two plates between 1910 and 1913, their colours and the multitude of flaws, provide a rich field for research.

Literally dozens and dozens of printings from the two plates occurred. The multitude of printings led inevitably to a deterioration of the plates which, along with the use of many different inks, resulted in many flaws and a wonderful spectrum of colours. The reason for my engagement in this exercise was to experience some in-depth philatelic research and analysis. Well, it soon became apparent that I was totally out of my depth!

The American philatelist, Stephen Reah-Johnson, once reflected that "the Penny Double Head stamp is like a desert into which great philatelists wander and are then never heard from again." I know the feeling. The purpose of this article is to share a small 'oasis' in that desert that I discovered along the way.

Some of the finest copies of the stamp that remain today are those which are found on fiscal documents. They often reveal the glory of the original colours (which are even lost in most mint examples) due to the fact that they have been long-buried in files and cupboards.

Now the most common use of the penny Double Head stamp in a fiscal sense was on a receipt. So I have been gathering such items as they pass by and as my purse permits. Here I share one with you which has multiple 'stories' in this humble receipt.

It was issued to The Manager of the Alice Mine, Essexvale, on the 31 March, 1913, by A.F. Davis & Co., Motor Garage and Livery and Bait Stables. A motor car had been hired for £2.

Let us 'visit' some of the information provided by the document.

The Alice Mine, a gold mine, was established in the Mazoe (now Mazowe) district of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1899. It closed in 1916.

The first gold mine to be pegged in the Mazoe valley was the Jumbo Mine, named after a famous elephant of that name at London Zoo. The Alice Mine was pegged two weeks (1899) later and is named after a song of the music-halls that was popular at the time. A mate was found for Jumbo called Alice, but Jumbo was bought by Barnum's Circus and taken to America and so the song went:

Jumbo said to Alice, 'I love you!
Alice said to Jumbo 'I don't believe you do
For if you only loved me, As you say you do,
You wouldn't go to America, And leave me at the Zoo!'

Alice Mine and the so-called Mazoe Patrol feature prominently in the lore of early Rhodesian history during the June 1896 Rebellion, but that is a story in itself.

Now what are Bait Stables? Motor Garage, Livery, Cape Carts, Victorias are known to me, but Bait Stables was a mystery. A visit to the internet suggests that they were a service to owners of horses where a horse could be stabled and fed for a price when the owner did not have to have stables of his own.

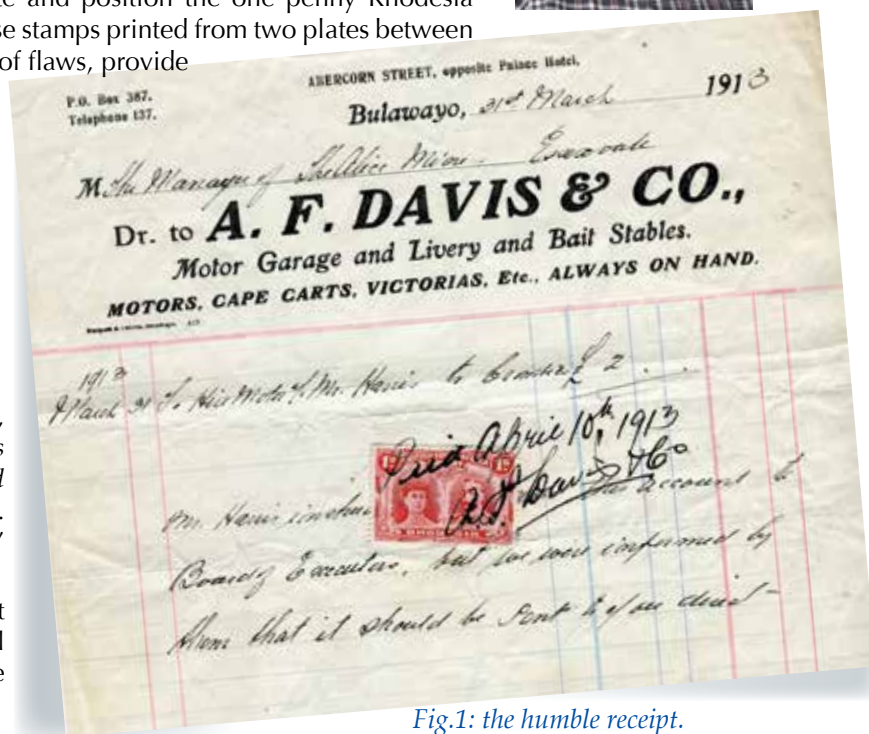


Fig.1: the humble receipt.

Moving on, what about A.F. Davis? Some research in early editions of the *Bulawayo Chronicle* provides these 'snapshots':

17 July, 1897

Mr A.F. Davis has arrived in Bulawayo from Sydney, N.S.W. Mr Davis will join his brother in the livery stable business. A.F. Davis.



Fig.2: 1914 excerpt from the *Bulawayo Chronicle*.

& Co beg to inform the Public of Bulawayo, etc., that they have started running Motor Taxies on Cab Ranks at Municipal rates. Special orders or Trips received at Office, Abercorn Street, opposite Palace Hotel. Box 887.

14 April, 1916

News has been received that Mr A.F. Davis, formerly of Bulawayo has joined the Army Veterinary Corps for service with the Imperial Forces.

Having dealt with the Australian, A.F. Davis, a brief word about Abercorn Street. Named after the man not the place, the 2nd Duke of Abercorn, James Hamilton (1838-1913) was President of the British South Africa Company. The BSA Co. received a Royal Charter modelled on that of the British East India Company to administer the territories that became Southern and Northern Rhodesia. Its first directors included the Duke of Abercorn, Cecil Rhodes and the South African financier, Alfred Beit.

And then, if you fancy a stint in the desert, the stamp is from Plate B, position 38 – a fairly late state.

2022 ROAD TO DEMOCRACY STAMP – DESIGNED FOR SPECIFIC PRODUCTION SETUP

by Thea Clemons, Graphic Designer, Philatelic Services of the South African Post Office



Development of the Road to Democracy stamp artwork:

Stamp designs always start as sketches. In the first design round, we always prepare a few different design concepts which are presented to the Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) for comment or approval.

The Road to Democracy stamp is one of those very difficult subjects to visualise as an artwork, because it is an abstract concept. It is always easier and faster to create artwork for animals, plants, landscapes and natural features such as mountains, waterfalls, and so forth because everybody knows what these life forms look like.

But what does “road to democracy” look like? The design process starts with research to find the correct information and also looking at many examples of artworks from other artists. Gradually samples of colours, textures, compositions and visually expressed abstract concepts are gathered in a ‘mood board’ from which the inspiration for the stamp artwork evolves.

My first few design concepts were rejected outright by the SAC because they felt the designs were too literal with a lack of imagination. They requested a design that rose above the obvious to depict the culmination of our country’s struggle for freedom.

So, my thought process had to change to look for symbols and ways of expressing the deeper meaning of what was achieved through the struggle for freedom. This led me to base my artwork on the symbol of the peace dove, because an open-winged dove is widely recognised in religious traditions, political spheres, and historical context as a message of peace.

The second very important element I found through my research is the importance of the South African Constitution. South Africa’s Constitution is regarded as one of the most advanced in the world, and it entrenches fundamental rights, freedoms and civil liberties while guaranteeing the independence of watchdogs such as the Public Protector and Auditor General.

I decided to combine words from the preamble of the South African Constitution with the image of the peace dove. When I sent the first draft design for this concept for comment to the SAC, they unanimously approved it.

After this approval, I was free to finalise the artwork by spending more time on refining the visual effect and legibility of the words flowing around the curves of the image of the dove.



Formatting the stamp for print:

Finding a way to get the approved design printed was the second challenge, because we knew that it would not be possible to use our normal practice for printing stamps with international security printers.

We had to find a way of printing the stamp in South Africa. Because stamps are security items with a monetary value, they have to be printed by a security printer. The only security printer in South Africa is the Government Printing Works (GPW), which for many years printed South African stamps until it became more cost effective to print our stamps abroad.

At the time, overseas printers also offered new technologies and printing techniques that improved the security features of stamps. The GPW therefore lost the capability and knowledge to print stamps through phasing out of finishing tools such as perforating machines.

In spite of this, we at Philatelic Services knew that for this stamp the GPW was our only option. So, I decided to make an appointment to visit the GPW in Pretoria in order to speak to the print technicians and to see the printing presses and security features currently in use, and on my part to clarify our needs to them.

This visit was a wonderful eye-opener for me because I saw the incredible printing presses and the opportunity to apply the various types of security features currently in use at the GPW. These tools are used in the printing of many different self-adhesive security documents for the South African Government.

I spoke in detail with the Head Print Technician, who showed me step-by-step the different units of the large nine-colour Müller Martini Concepta printing press, all the while explaining to me what the function of each unit on the machine was.

This helped me to see how I could adapt the design of the stamp sheet for the Road to Democracy stamp issue to fit in with the print process, paper and format current in use for the printing of security documents for government.

The printing press was set up to print from a roll of self-adhesive security paper specially ordered for government’s security documents.

The paper contains many security features such as phosphor fibres and it is pre-printed at the back during manufacturing with the South African Coat of Arms using phosphor ink that lights up red under UV light. In addition the roll of paper allows pairs of A4 size sheets next to each other along the length of the roll of paper.

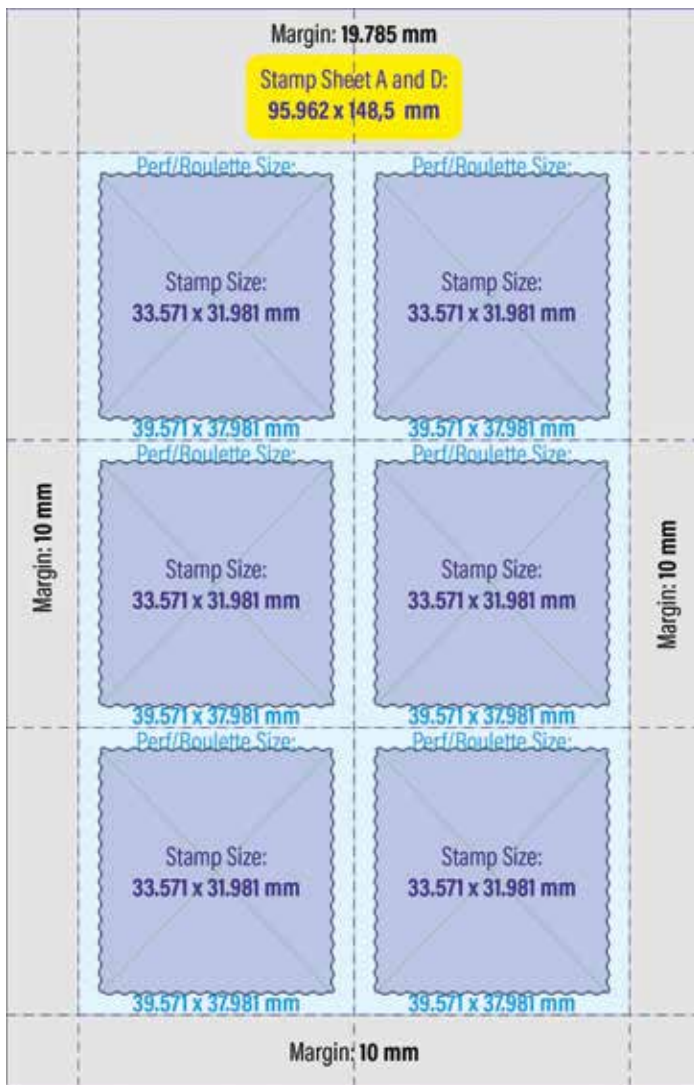


Fig.2:



Above - The final printed Road to Democracy stamp sheets.

I therefore had to fit our stamp sheets in the most economic way onto these A4 sheets. For this reason, the Road to Democracy stamp sheets have six stamps per sheet, and the size of the stamps are slightly off from a perfect square shape.

Size specification for a single stamp sheet

After hours of calculating and drawing up different configurations, I arrived at the final imposition of four stamp sheets per A4 page. The sheets were printed in pairs with the width of the stamp sheets placed head-to-head against each other, where it was guillotined with a single cut (Fig.2).

Guillotining along the length of the stamp sheets, required a double cut resulting in only one thin 18mm strip of paper per A4 wastage. These strips are indicated in white on the image below (Fig.3).

The experience of designing this stamp issue has made me appreciate the innovation, creativity and endless possibilities within the security printing industry. I look forward to future challenging opportunities.

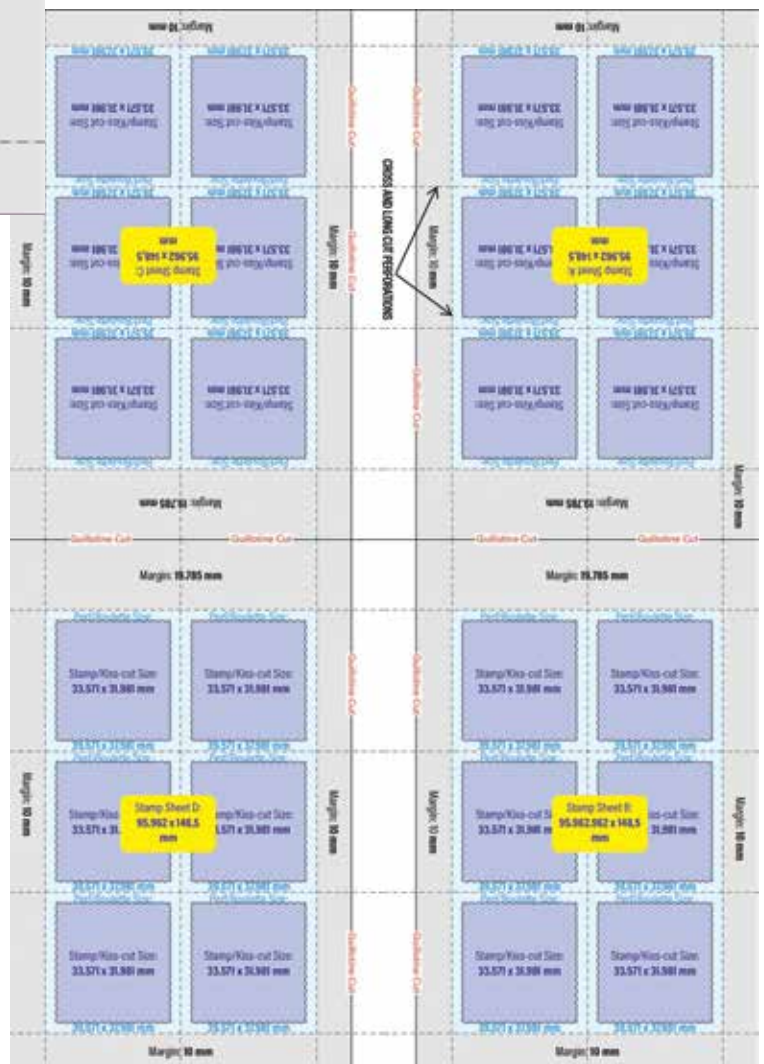


Fig.3: The Imposition grid. The imposition of four stamp sheets on an A4 sheet of paper. The white strip indicates the 18 x 297mm strip cut out as wastage.





RMS QUEEN ELIZABETH II

by Lawrence Barit, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

INTRODUCTION

On 15 January 1969, Great Britain issued a set of six stamps depicting different ships. The purpose was to commemorate the sailing of the RMS *Queen Elizabeth II*, on her maiden voyage. Though the set had six different stamps only three monetary values were involved. They were a 5d stamp, three 9d stamps, and two 1s stamps. As the construction of this new ship (and its anticipated sailing) created a great deal of interest, the stamps also drew considerable attention. The fact that the 5d stamp depicted the new ship, its historical connotation as well as resultant errors, added to its philatelic value.

The illustration forms part of the Douglas Latto collection. The 5d value had the greatest circulation by far. Philatelic interest, due to a small number of errors, has further thrown the spotlight onto this particular value. A corner block of the issued 5d stamp, has been endorsed to "Douglas Latto from David Gentleman" (Fig.5).



Fig.1: 5d stamp.



Fig.2: 9d strip of 3.



Fig.3: 1s pair strip of 2.

Fig.4: Illustration from Douglas Latto collection.



BACKGROUND

The set was designed to illustrate the development of British Mercantile Shipping. Five of the six stamps each depicted a ship illustrating the history of British Mercantile Shipping over a 300-year period. The sixth stamp depicted the new RMS *Queen Elizabeth II* – usually referred to as *QE2* – which was built as part of the Cunard fleet. At 65,000 tonnes the liner operated as a transatlantic cruise ship. *QE2* went out of service and retired on 27 November 2008.

THE SET

The three values of the stamps were as follows:

- The 5d stamp (Fig.1) *QE2*; 67,584,528 copies were sold.
- The 9d stamp (Fig.2). Issued in a strip of three. From left – *Elizabethan galleon*, *East Indiaman* and *Cutty Sark*; 4,783,720 strips were sold.
- The 1s stamp (Fig.3). Issued in a pair: the *SS Great Britain* and the *RMS Mauretania*; 5,392,240 pairs were sold.

THE 5D VALUE

The set was designed by David Gentleman, and the original copy of the 5d stamp as signed by David Gentleman illustrates how he conceived the particular stamp (Fig.4).

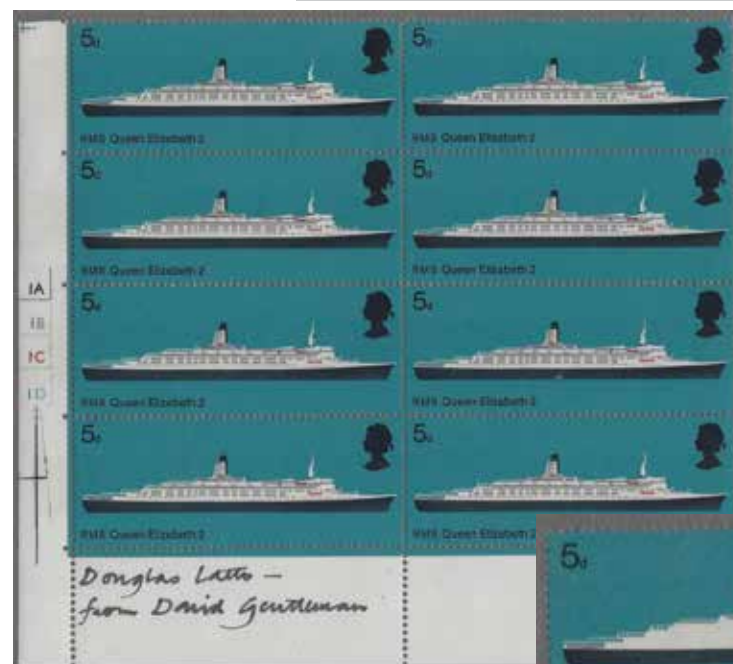


Fig.5: Corner block of the issued 5d value endorsed to Douglas Latto and signed by David Gentleman.

THE ERRORS

- *The missing grey.* This affects the decks and windows of the ship (Fig.6). A total of 247 of this colour omission error are believed to exist.
- *The missing red.* This affects various parts of the ship including the inscription on the ship itself (Fig.7). A total of 288 of this colour omission error are believed to exist.
- *The missing black.* This results in the Queen's head, value, hull and inscription being omitted.



Fig.6: Grey omitted.



Fig.7: Red omitted.



Fig.8: Black omitted.



The presentation pack.

This stamp is very scarce, with a total of 72 copies known to exist. By the very nature of the stamp, it can be seen to be spectacular in appearance (Fig.8). Figs 9 and 10 show perforation shifts.

Summing up

The British ships issue of 1969, is of historic significance with respect to Britain's shipping industry. The 5d stamp, stands out as the main feature of the set. The added importance of this is the fact that a limited number of errors were discovered.

Fig.9: Perforation shift, resulting in the RMS Queen Elizabeth II description - which should be below ship, now seen above it.

Fig.10: Perforation shift, obliterated the top of value and top of the Queens head.

However, looking at the huge number of this stamp that was issued (almost 70 million copies sold) clearly indicates the scarcity value that can be gauged by the small number of errors that have been discovered.



POSTAL RATES – VALID FROM 1 APRIL 2023

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

Domestic Letter	New Rate	Old Rate	Increase
	R c	R c	%
Small DL	5.95	5.65	5.31
Medium B5	12.00	11.40	5.26
Large B4	14.65	13.95	5.02
Domestic Postcards: Same rates as letters.			
Registered letters, with insurance option (up to a maximum of R2,000.00).			
Small DL (5.95+35.75)	41.70	39.70	5.04
Medium B5 (12.00+35.70)	47.70	45.40	5.07
Large B4 (14.65+35.60)	50.25	47.80	5.13
Insurance Fee			
Up to R100.00	Free	Free	
Up to R250.00	29.15	27.75	5.05
Up to R500.00	59.75	56.85	5.10
Up to R1,000.00	120.10	114.30	5.07
Up to R1,500.00	178.75	170.10	5.09
Up to R2,000.00	238.50	226.95	5.09

	New Rate	Old Rate	Increase
	R c	R c	%
International			
Registration Fee	56.55	53.80	5.11
<i>There is no insurance option for international letter post.</i>			
Aerograms	8.95	8.50	5.29
Postcards - Airmail	12.10	11.50	5.22
Postcards - Surface	7.35	7.00	5.00
Airmail letters - Southern Africa			
Small DL	10.90	10.35	5.31
Medium B5	39.50	37.60	5.05
Large B4	61.30	58.35	5.06
Small packets (per 100g)	34.75	33.05	5.14
Airmail letters - Rest of the world			
Small DL	14.10	13.40	5.22
Medium B5	47.70	45.40	5.07
Large B4	80.80	76.90	5.07
Small packets (per 100g)	61.15	58.20	5.07
New rates taken from ICASA General Notice, dated 2023/01/30.			



LOOKING AT INTERESTING ^{international} ISSUES:

by William Silvester, The American Philatelic Society

William is a retired printer and active freelance author. He has been collecting stamps for most of his life with varying degrees of intensity. When the first Disney stamps were issued, he began a 40-year obsession with gathering as many of the stamps, related philatelic material and information as possible. As the amount of information grew he began writing articles for various philatelic and historical magazines in Canada, the U.S. and Great Britain, as well as online. Bill also collects numerous other topics, worldwide to 1970 and writes the 'New World Issues' column for The American Philatelist. He presently resides in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and now, with his kind permission, a thematic column in The SA Philatelist. In this issue, we have select a few thematic stamps from his vast collection, focused on 'youth' - with many other interesting topics in his future articles ...

• **BRAZIL - International Year Ending Child Labour**
 Brazil issued a single stamp in booklet form to publicise the fight against child labour and the United Nation's International Year Ending Child Labour. The worldwide symbol for the fight is the colorful five-pointed pinwheel shown on the left side of the stamp. On the right are ten children representing the diversity of the problem. Though child labour has decreased over the last decade by 38%, it still affects 152 million children worldwide, half of whom reside in Africa doing agricultural work. Most of the remainder live in Asia and the Pacific. (at right, the booklet cover.)



At the global level, national expenditure on social protection for children amounts to only 1.1% of GDP. In Africa, the region with the largest share of children in the population, the highest prevalence of child labour and the greatest need for social protection, an equivalent of 0.4% of GDP is spent on social protection for children. It is estimated that without mitigation strategies, the number of children in child labour could rise by 8.9 million by the end of 2022, due to higher poverty and increased vulnerability. (Source: 52 Key Messages flyer from the ILO campaign materials)



• **NEW ZEALAND – 20th Anniversary of filming The Lord of the Rings**

It has been about 20 years since the filming of J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, the first released film of Peter Jackson's epic Lord of the Rings trilogy. Released on September 1, 2021, the six souvenir sheets feature original hand-painted artwork by New Zealand artist Sacha Lees showing scenes from the movie: \$1.50 The Journey Begins, \$1.50 Hiding from the Black Rider, \$1.50 The Prancing Pony, \$2.80 Flight to the Ford, \$3.60 The Bridge of Khazad-dûm and \$4.10 The Gates of Argonath. The epic films produced an unexpected boost to New Zealand's economy and tourist industry. The miniature sheets comprise the 10th series of stamps released by New Zealand to commemorate films based on Tolkien's works.

• **SWITZERLAND – 2022 Scouts Jamboree**

The Swiss Guide and Scout Movement National Jamboree, known as BuLa, is only held an average of once every 14 years. Some 30,000 Scouts and Guides were expected to attend the two-week jamboree 23 July to August 6 and set up a gigantic campsite. A 1.10 CHF stamp was printed with a rub-off aroma smelling like a campfire and was the winner of a competition. The image shows "five young people sitting around a campfire – a place symbolising a sense of togetherness." The stamps were issued 28 April 2022 in sheets of 10 with a scouting theme border.



• **CANADA – Vintage Carousels**

Canada Post used a round carousel-inspired design to complement the set of four vintage carousel horses and one lion issued on July 21. Drawn from carousels at five locations across Canada, the images include animals from Lakeside Park Carousel (St. Catharines, Ontario), Bowness Carousel (Calgary), C.W. Parker Carousel No. 119 (Burnaby, British Columbia), Roseneath Carousel (Roseneath, Ontario) and Le Galopant (Montreal). These stamps feature the notable technological advances and high artistry of their era.

These images may appeal to children but were originally developed for military training games in the 12th century. The carousel became a fairgrounds attraction during the mid-1800s. The stamps were issued in several formats



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1937 COVER WITH THREE NATAL NATIONAL PARK CANCELLATIONS DATED 12. MAY. -37 ON THE GEORGE VI UNION CORONATION SET (page 82)



DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE DESIGN PROCESS *Various Aspects of the Postal System of the Republic of SA* (page 94)



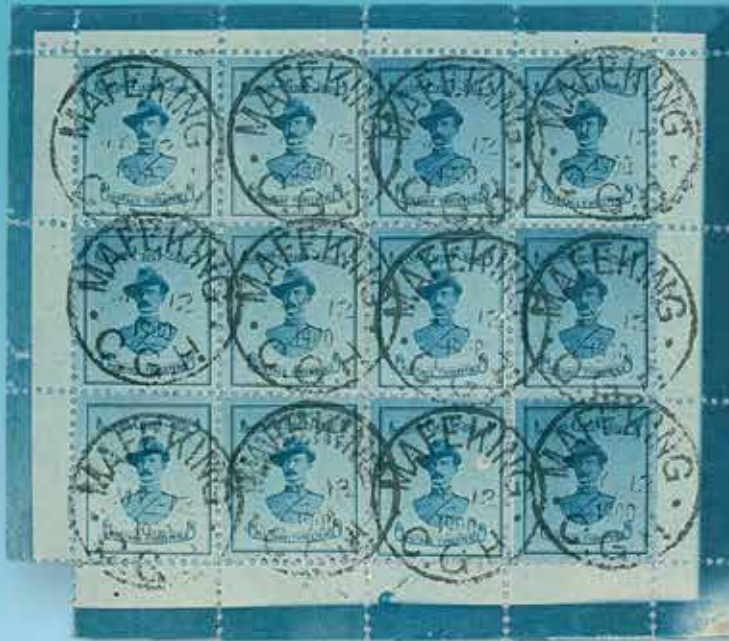
THE FIRST AIRMAIL IN SA
The first aerial post in South Africa, flown from Kenilworth to Muizenberg (page 100)



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The South African Philatelist

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ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:
 • **AUGUST 2023** - Volume. 99 : 4. 979. **17 July 2023**

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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/>



Copies of *The SA Philatelist* from 1923 to 1955, as well as 2016 to current, are now available on the PFSA website under 'RESOURCES' in the Members Area – [click here](#)
Enjoy paging through more than 50 years of South African Philately, I can recommend it!

We would also like encouraging our readers to submit ideas, requests, and articles for publication in the journal.

BY-LAWS

Articles 3.10 and 19.1 of the PFSA constitution determines that: *'The Management Committee shall determine bylaws for the functioning of the Federation, which shall become effective four (4) weeks after written notification to members as defined in article 4.5...'*

The bylaws were revisited in 2022 and was accepted and approved by the Management Committee (MC) at their meeting on 18 May 2023. Please note that the constitution as well as the revised bylaws are available here on the PFSA website under 'ABOUT US'.

The MC would like to take this opportunity to thank Hugh Amoore RDPSA, FRPSL for his infinite contribution reviewing both these documents.

THE BENNIE ILLMAN & FEDERATION PHILATELIC LIBRARY

Since 2005 the PFSA is party to an agreement with the Sandton Public Library that the library had established a Philatelic Centre of which the Bennie Illman and PFSA Library's materials have been placed on loan in this centre. However, the library informed PFSA that they will be moving the Philatelic collection from the Sandton Library to the Johannesburg Central Library Heritage section.

At the same meeting above, the MC in principle accepted and approved a motion to donate the Philatelic Centre to the Pretoria University Library, where it will be preserved in their 'Africana Collection' that covers all disciplines while focussing on Africa south of the Sahara.

PFSA EXPERT COMMITTEE

Notice is given that the Expert Committee's PO Box (Montagu #304) is no longer to be used for submission of philatelic items requiring certification. This decision has been made reluctantly but because of the overall declining reliability of the Post Offices registered mail system.

The Committee's services continue to be offered, as before, to the philatelic community. There are several courier-based options that we are considering using.

Any enquiries to the Committee, both general or regarding future submissions, may be made to the chairman, Michael Wigmore on 0234 614 1424 or 082 522 9850 (office hours, please) or e-mail (subject: Expert) at dcrocker@lando.co.za

OPEN CLASS PHILATELY

Hugh Amoore RDPSA, FRPSL will give a presentation on Open Class Philately and the judging thereof at the Pretoria PS monthly zoom meeting on 8 June 2023 at 19:00.

To join the Zoom Meeting on 08 June 2023, [click here.](#)

(The link is also available on the 'WELCOME' page of the PFSA website)

WITH THANKS TO SPINK

We are thrilled to announce that SPINK will once again be the primary sponsor for the 2023 National Stamp Exhibition - The 'SA PHILATELIST 100' that is happening at the Kyalami Country Club in Midrand on the 11 to 14 October 2023.

In addition to the traditional support from SPINK over many years, they have also secured a booth and will be present at the National.

We encourage other interested parties to stake their participation as soon as possible.

'SA PHILATELIST100' KYALAMI COUNTRY CLUB, MIDRAND. 11 -14 October 2023

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.

The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, *'Keeping in Touch'*. 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> email > pfsastamps@gmail.com

PUBLICATION: *The South African Philatelist*, a bi-monthly stamp journal, 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 **1923**.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

• **Affiliation fee:** RSA and World Wide: R125.00

PLEASE NOTE: The PFSA affiliation fee includes six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

• Enquiries regarding **subscriptions and PFSA membership** can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA at pfsastamps@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*, 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 will be considered for publication.

Dear Editor,

I wish to add to Andrew Briscoe's interesting and original article, **The Bechuanaland Expeditionary Field Force**, SAP April 2023, p50.

I am not convinced by Andrew's explanation for the taxing of the cover illustrated in Figure 4. The system in use at this date at the Cape and the UK for underpaid letters to and from the Cape was to charge the deficient postage plus a fine of 6d. (See for example Trotter, *Southern African Mails*, pp 225-227). Given that the rate was 6d per 1/2oz and that the Cape Post Office applied a T mark, this must have been overweight. The fact that it was found open suggests that it may have been considerably overweight and the M/S '5' may indicate five times the rate (for a letter over 2 ounces). For five times rate the postage would have been 2s 6d and the deficient postage 2s. The 2/3 marking is a puzzle. It may simply have been applied in error and once the error was recognised it was cancelled. But the 2s 6d fine may be, and I suggest was, the correct result of using the system of charging the deficient postage (5 x 6d less the 6d actually prepaid = 2s) plus a fine of 6d.

I think there may be a different explanation for Fig.6.

The rate for a single 15g letter from Egypt - a founder member of the UPU - was 1 piastre; this was fully paid by two 20 paras stamps (SG 57) in the then prevailing currency where 40 paras = 1 piastre. There is no Egyptian Tax mark, so we may assume a single rate letter. The 1/1 marking may simply be 1 rate paid at the rate for one rate. This letter was from Egypt not the Cape, so if any amount was due from one postal administration to another (which I suggest it was not) then it

would have been due by Egypt (to the UK? to the Cape?) but by this date Egypt was in the UPU, so I don't think this is an accountancy mark.

Rather it may be an example of a 5d Cape due mark that was then found to be wrongly applied and cancelled. The barred diamond canceller used to cancel it appears to have been used for this purpose in Cape Town. An accountancy mark for 5d is unlikely. On letters from the UK to the Cape at this time the accountancy charge was usually 1d; and when accountancy marks were applied, they were usually though not invariably in red.

Kind regards

Hugh Amoores RDPSA



Fig.4: Cover addressed to England, and franked with Cape stamps to the value of 6d.



Fig.6. (These Fig. numbers apply to the 'original' text from Andrew Briscoe's article).



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Phun with postmarks

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



PUTTING NATAL ON THE MAP

The renewed interest in postmarks of the Provinces has resulted in significant updates of the specialist earlier works. The need for such updates is important, (i) to correct errors or dismiss or confirm past speculations; (ii) record new information that has come to light, thus adding to our understanding of the development of the postal system from the early pioneer days to the present. The recent publications are: the Cape of Good Hope (Frescura); the Orange Free State/Orange River Colony by the OFS Study Circle with Kevin Price as editor; ZAR/Transvaal being published in the Transvaal Philatelist with Bas Payne as author, and Natal update of Hart, Kantey and Leon (HKL, 1977) by Roger Porter and Prof Keith Klugmann. Completed sections are available on the Federation website www.stampssa.africa under the RESOURCES tab. In addition to the specialist listings, the website also contains the Putzel and later Putzel and Visser Postmarks of South Africa, GSWA/SWA/Namibia and Swaziland up to independence in 1968.

P.O.A. 25

An amazing amount of new information has come to light from the Natal study, and this column will discuss some of the new information. The contributions made by Roger Porter RDPSA and Prof Keith Klugman RDPSA are gratefully acknowledged. Fig.1 shows a postcard sent from Underberg Store on 4.10.1896 to Harrismith requesting that a box of milk biscuits be sent by the following day's train. The stamps are cancelled by P.O.A. 25, and on the reverse there is Van Reenan circular date stamp (CDS). First impressions are that P.O.A. 25 belongs to Van Reenan. Van Reenan was the Head PO for Underberg Store at this time. So outgoing mail from the Store entered the postal system at Van Reenan with a transit mark. This is a confirmation of a similar P.O.A. 25 item that did not indicate the place of origin.



Fig.1: Natal P.O.A. 25 dispatched from Underberg Store (ex Bill Hart collection).

REGISTERED CROWN NATAL

In an article by Klugman and Porter (2020) published in *The Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal* (CNPJ) entitled 'The Nineteenth Century Registration Markings of Natal. Part 1. Different Crown in Circle O.1 Markings used in Durban and Pietermaritzburg'. A Crown Registered Natal mark in a circle for Pietermaritzburg was illustrated and described as being different from the Type O.1 mark (HKL. 1977) used at Durban (Figs.2a and c). These were the first official registration markings used in the Colony of Natal. The Type O.1 was used at Durban from at least March 1867 till the mid-1880s and only seven items have been recorded with this registration mark.

The circular registered crown mark used at Pietermaritzburg is similar to that used at Durban. For the first time this unique mark in black was described based on a mark on a single 1866 cover (Fig.2b). A second cover with the Type O.1 registered mark in violet ink used at Pietermaritzburg in 1868 has now come to light. The main differences are that the Durban mark has two crosses at the side, and the Natal inscription at base is larger. A more comprehensive discussion of these items will be published in a future CNPJ.



Fig.2: The Type O.1 REGISTERED CROWN NATAL marks used at (a) Durban (b) Pietermaritzburg and (c) the drawing of the Durban mark (HKL, 1977).

TYPE G NUMERAL 18

An early use of Type G numeral 18 is shown on a cover (Fig.3) sent to Scotland in 1866 via Mauritius. The Little Tugela crown in circle is evidently used after the PO moved to Cathkin, so it is supposed that the cover originated in Cathkin but the Little Tugela postmark (very smudged) was still used there. The cover is a Packet Letter (not a Ship Letter). It was taken under contract with the Union Steam Ship Co from Port Natal by the ship *Mauritius* to Mauritius, then by the P&O *Norma* to Suez, overland through Egypt to Alexandria and then by the *Pera* to Marseille, at a postage rate of 1s 4d. (See Klugman, Polizatto, Porter and Solomon 2022. *The London Philatelist*).



Fig.3: 1866 Cover originating from Little Tugela / Cathkin with Type G numeral 18 to Scotland (ex Klugman).

Fig.4 shows a cover dispatched on 27 Jan 1889 with 7½d rate to USA and 2½d due in red manuscript to UK. Type G numeral 18 unrecorded for use at Gourton by HKL. This is a late use previously allocated to Little Tugela and the Cathkin. Proving cover with Gourton dispatch, Estcourt 28 Jan transit, GPO (PMBurg) 29 Jan and NY Mar 9 arrival.

Fig. 4. Proving cover with Gourton dispatch 27 Jan 1889 and Numeral 18 (ex Klugman).



Die vreugde van stempel ontdekkings is onbeskryflik. In hierdie rubriek word drie items beskrywe, naamlik:

- Die gebruik van P.O.A. 25 is bevestig vir die Underberg winkel naby Van Reenan;
- 'n Tweede Natalse geregistreerde kroon-stempel en eerste in pers ink gebruik in Pietermaritzburg;
- Bevestiging van Tipe G Natalse nommerstempel 18 aanvanklik gebruik in Cathkin in 1866, maar heelwat later in 1889 in Gourton.

OBITUARY

STEVEN BAKER 13.7.1949 - 19.12.2022

News of Steven's death was received and briefly mentioned on p16 of the February issue of The SAP. We have since heard from Herbie Schaffler RDPSA, President of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society, who published further information in the society newsletter; Steven died from Covid complications.



The news was received when his widow, Dr. Claire Berman Baker of Benoni, sent a sad email to Moody Tidwell, our member in Sturgeon Bay in Wisconsin in the USA, advising that Steven had died. She asked whether Moody would be able to inform the philatelic community in South Africa of her husband's death, as three days after he passed away she had a home invasion robbery and her car, cellphone, laptops and papers with contact details of fellow philatelists were stolen and the only address she still had was that of Moody. Moody copied her email to Herbie Schaffler, who followed up. Condolences were expressed at the Wits Society AGM on 8 March 2023 and all present stood for a moments silence in honour of the deceased.

Steven was a member of the East Rand Philatelic Society and ERPS records indicate that Steven had joined the junior society in 1963. In later years he served as both a Regional Vice President, and President of the society. It should also be noted that Steven had written and published a number of pamphlets and self-published books on early Union philately and SWA.

He joined the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society in October 2000 and remained a member for a number of years. Whilst he was a member, he was awarded two of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society trophies, being the Giesenow Trophy in 2000 for the best thematic exhibit for his exhibit entitled 'The ABC of Philately' and in 2005 the Herbert Horne Memorial Bequest, a biennial literature award for Southern African material, entitled 'Proof of South West Africa Archives'.

Our deep and sincere sympathies are hereby expressed to his widow and family.

STOP PRESS: Dear Readers - Sad news received on the passing of **Andrew Botma**. He had been critically ill in intensive care for some time, fortunately he had his family with him at the time of his passing. Andrew was a Fellow and a Veteran of the PSofJ and also the oldest at 98. At the time of going to press we had not received an obituary notice - which will now appear in the next issue.



**ARMED FORCES DAY IN RICHARDS BAY FROM
15 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 21 FEBRUARY 2023**
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Special date stamp available for the event

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) held its annual Armed Forces Day commemorations in Richards Bay this year. Over 8,000 troops were involved in what was regarded as a large-scale force deployment exercise.

The South African Navy organised this year's event, which was centred in Richards Bay in KZN. The Chief of the SANDF, General Rudzani Maphwanya, said Armed Forces Day (AFD) started out a decade ago with the purpose of bringing the SANDF to the people, and has grown since the first edition was held in Atteridgeville when a single company's worth of soldiers took part. This year a brigade size force was involved

The SANDF, with Armed Forces Day, purports to, among other things honour serving members and pay tribute to soldiers who paid the ultimate price and lost their lives in the line of duty, such as Corporal Tebogo Edwin Radebe, killed in Mozambique while serving with SAMIM, and more recently, Flight Sergeant Vusi Mabena, who was killed by a sniper's bullet in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Armed Forces Day has continued to grow over the years, with capability demonstrations and night shoots being added as well as gala concerts, sports clinics, interfaith services and community projects. Foreign militaries and the the diplomatic corps were also invited.

From 16 to 19 February 2023, four navy ships (the frigate *SAS Mendi*, hydrographic survey vessel *SAS Protea*, inshore patrol vessel *SAS King Sekhukhune I* and inshore patrol craft *SAS Tekwane*) were open to the public to view.



Fig.1: Special date stamp used during the Armed Forces Week in Richards Bay.

Armed Forces Day events culminated with President Cyril Ramaphosa laying a wreath at the Empangeni Civic Centre on 21 February 2023, a date commemorating the sinking of the *SAS Mendi* in 1917 with the loss of 614 SA Native Labour Corps members and 33 crew. This was followed by the main military parade along the streets of Richards Bay, followed by the Presidential address.

A special date stamp and a specially printed postcard for the event were available at the stand of 11 Field Postal Unit (FPU) in Richards Bay. This unit is based next to the Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria (Figs.1 to 3).

Fig.2: (below) Postcard printed for the event.

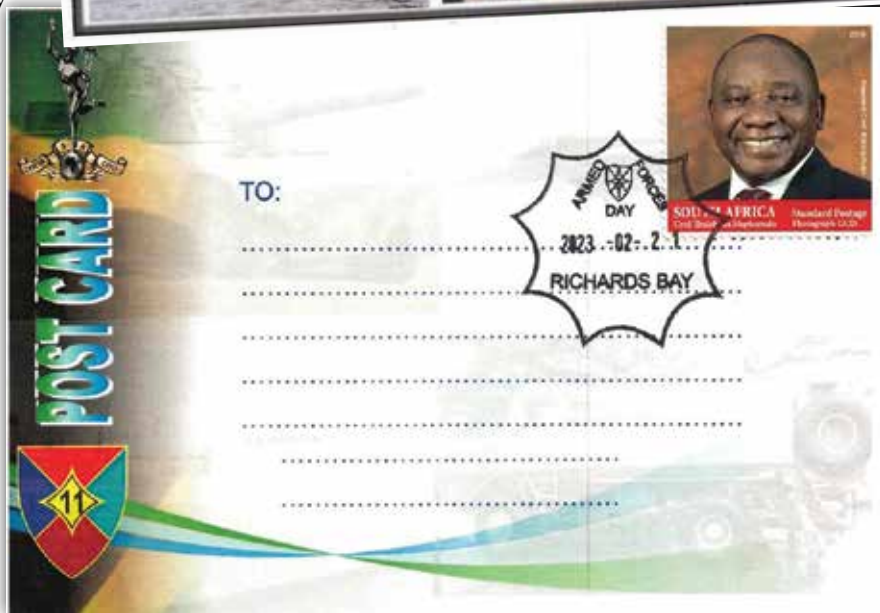
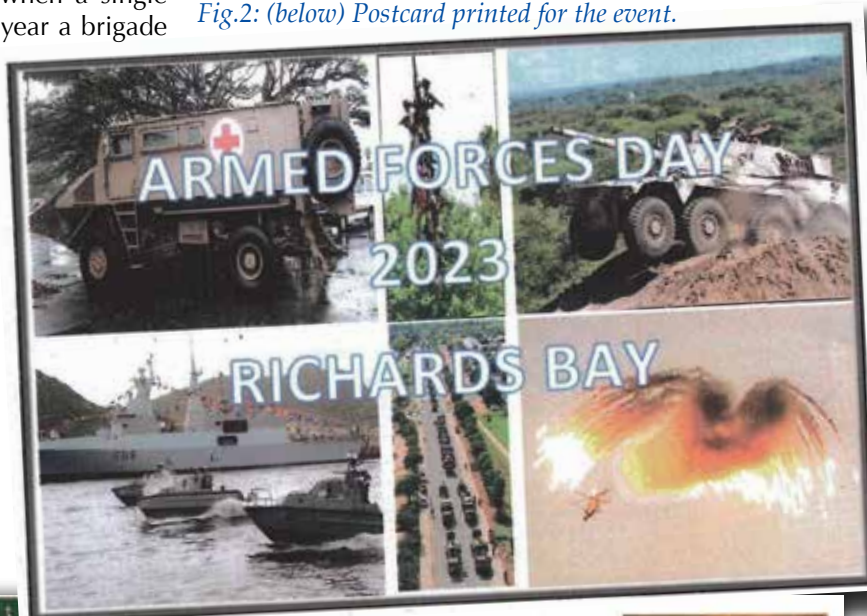


Fig.3: Date stamp used on 21 February 2023 on the day that President Ramaphosa took the salute as the main functionary at the parade in Richards Bay. Franked with a stamp from the miniature sheet issued on 9 October 2018 for the swearing in of the President (SASCC 2316).



NEW ZEALAND 2023

REPORT from SA COMMISSIONER: Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA



The 38th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition was held from 4-7 May 2023 at the Eilerslie Event Centre in Auckland, New Zealand under the patronage of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP). South Africa submitted eight competitive exhibits. The South African commissioner was Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, who also served as a jury member (Postal History and Revenue sections).

The results of the South African exhibits were

- Hugh Amoore: Large Vermeil (85%)
South African Postal Rates and Charges in the Period of Union.
- Neil Cronje: 86% (one frame)
Postage Due Stamps of the Transvaal
- Andre du Plessis: 81% (one frame)
Life and Times of Chinese Indentured Workers on the Rand
- Louwrence Erasmus: 75% (one frame)
Sending money home – SA to Sekakes January to September 1973
- Andrew McLaren: Silver (73%)
Galloping German Inflation Period 15 Dec 1922 to 30 Nov 1923
- Vic Sorour: Vermeil (82%)
South Africa, Protea Definitive Series
- Danna Strydom: 88% (one frame)
The V.R.I. overprints on Transvaal postage stamps
- Joof van der Merwe: Vermeil (83%)
The plating of the 3rd RSA definitive series (Proteas)

South Africa had donated a set of Federation publications as a Special Prize. This prize was awarded to Patricia Capill for her Gold Medal exhibit entitled 'Barbados – The George V Line Engraved Definitive Series'.

The event had been scheduled for 2020, but, like the Cape Town International, became a casualty of Covid. The organising committee therefore had many years to prepare for the show, even although Covid had presented a moving target.

The show was a success with over 220 exhibits being judged in 1076 frames. Seven Large Gold Medals were awarded and 31 Gold Medals. A break from normal practice meant that medals were awarded to one frame exhibits although they were not recorded as such in the Awards List. Visa complications led to a number of exhibits arriving late, but the organisers had substitute displays to fill the frames until the exhibits arrived.

The weather in Auckland has been horrid this year. Many roads and homes have been washed away. The clay soil on the volcanic rock base led to numerous landslides. We had rain on every day of the show, so problems were persisting. A state of emergency was declared in Auckland the day after the show. However, this did not deter the stamp enthusiasts from attending. It appeared that dealers were busy; naturally most of the material on offer was from New Zealand, so the hobby is thriving in the Land of the Long White Cloud.



Postal stationery Commemorative cover and Gandhi cancellors.

These two articles were prompted by articles in the most recent SA Philatelist - April 2023.

NATAL NATIONAL PARK

by Roger Porter RDPSA, Cape and Natal Study Circle

The feature 'Phun with postmarks' by Alex Visser in the April edition of *The SA Philatelist* (page 44) described (i) a previously unrecorded National Park postmark (ii) the Natal National Park postmark illustrated (Fig. 2) from a drawing in Reisener (1975), and the various Mont-aux-Sources postmarks. The purpose of raising this matter is to inform that the drawing of figure 2 in Reisener is not entirely accurate as the solid bar at the base of the double circle postmark is absent (Fig.1). Illustrated below (Figs 2 & 3) are two items clearly showing the bar within the Natal National Park postmark.

The Natal National Park / Mont-au-Sources Post Office was situated near the hotel in this protected area of the Drakensberg. Within the Park is 'The Amphitheatre' one of South Africa's outstanding and spectacular natural features. After the British Royal family holidayed here in 1947 the protected area name was changed to Royal Natal National Park.



Fig.1: The illustrated Natal National Park postmark from Reisener (1975).



Fig.4: The 2008 miniature sheet of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site depicting views of the iconic Amphitheatre.



Fig.2: 1937 cover with three Natal National Park cancellations dated 12. MAY. -37 on the George VI Union coronation set showing the solid bar as part of the postmark.

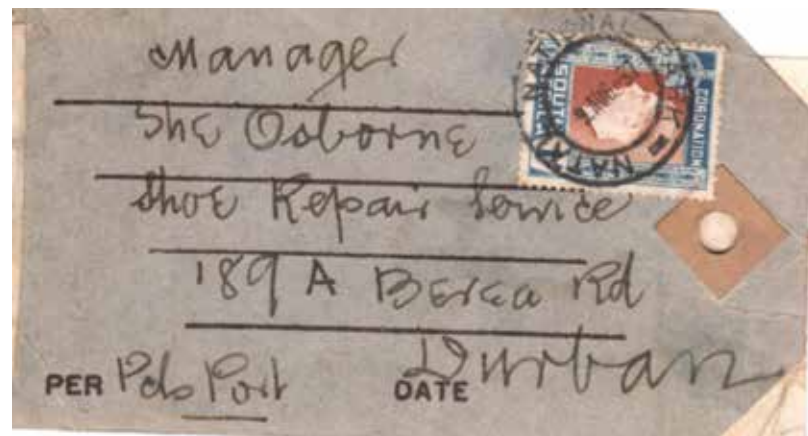


Fig.3: 1937 parcel label with 1s Union KG VI cancelled by Natal National Park date stamp of 9.AUG.-37 showing the solid bar as part of the postmark.

In 2000, the 243,000ha uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park (including the Royal Natal National Park) was recognised as a site of superlative natural beauty and inscribed as South Africa's fourth UNESCO World Heritage Site, meeting several natural and cultural criteria for World Heritage inscription. The stamps (Fig.4) designed from panoramic photographs by Koos van der Lende depict four views in mystical light of the iconic Amphitheatre namely 'view overlooking the Eastern Buttress with Devil's Tooth', 'view from the Sentinel overlooking the Eastern Buttress', 'Amphitheatre from the Royal Natal National Park', and 'view with the Sentinel in the foreground and the Amphitheatre stretching out to the back'.

References

- Visser A. 2023. Phun with postmarks. *The SA Philatelist*, April 2023, page 44.
- Reisener HO. 1975. *The special & commemorative postmarks, cachets & covers of South Africa 1892-1975*.





PORT LOCKROY POST OFFICE: BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

by Roger Porter RDPSA, Cape and Natal Study Circle

The article by David Wigston in the April 2023 edition of *The SA Philatelist* on 'The Penguin Post Office' was a wonderful reminder of my visit there in 2008. We had sailed on 1st December 2008 from Usuaia, Tierra del Fuego via the Falkland Islands and South Georgia to the Antarctic Peninsula and Port Lockroy. Our ship, the *Aleksey Marysher*, was manned by a Russian crew. On 5 December we arrived at Port Stanley (Falkland Islands) to re-fuel. Our voyage from South Georgia to Port Lockroy crossing the Scotia Sea should have taken about two days but actually took five days due to violent winds and a tumultuous sea that caused the contents of the bar and the crockery in the galley to crash onto the floor, while most of the passengers suffered horrendous sea-sickness. The calmer waters of the Gerlache Strait, Neumayer Channel and sheltered Bay of Goudier Island was a welcome relief allowing for most passengers to recover.

Before we were allowed to disembark, the Royal Mail (Fig.1) (which had been carried from Port Stanley) was given priority and taken by two crew on an inflatable Zodiac. Zodiacs took us to a small jetty (Fig.2) from where we made our way over rocks, through snow, ice and guano to Bransfield House and the Port Lockroy Post Office (Figs.3 & 4).



Fig.3: Gentoo Penguins in the grounds of Branfield House home of the Port Lockroy Post Office.



Fig.4: View from the post office (left) across the calm waters of the sheltered bay.

I took the opportunity to send registered letters to South Africa (Fig.5) and was given a Certificate of Posting (Fig.6). Postage was 65p and the registration fee was £3.00. The ship departed that evening but did not carry any mail given that our destination was Usuaia, Argentina. The letter was taken by an unknown ship to Port Stanley and then flown to Britain. It was received in Hilton on 28 January 2009 taking 43 days from Port Lockroy.



Fig.1: Delivery of the Royal Mail Bags placed on the deck of the Aleksey Marysher on 16 December 2008 that had been brought from the Falkland Islands to Port Lockroy.



Fig.5: 2008 Registered cover cancelled Port Lockroy 16 December 2008 to Hilton, South Africa and received 43 days later on 28 January 2009



Fig.2: The Aleksey Marysher and Zodiacs at Port Lockroy.



Fig.6: Certificate of Posting a Registered Letter No 004002 dated 16 12 08 issued at the Port Lockroy Post Office.



On Zeederberg, Komatipoort, Tuli and more – an early mail route to Rhodesia via the Transvaal

by Colin Hoffman RDPSA, FRPSL, is the Hon Life President of the Rhodesian Study Circle.

THE 1891 ZEEDERBERG COACH SERVICE - Established by four brothers of Swedish descent, the Zeederberg Coach Company was a South African horse-drawn mail and stage coach service operating during the late 1800s and early 1900s. In 1891, they established a service to incorporate Mashonaland into their existing schedule. They extended the coach service Pretoria / Pietersburg as far as Tuli in April, 1891, via a pontoon built by the Zeederbergs over the Limpopo River, and thence via Fort Victoria and Fort Charter to Salisbury. According to the yearbook *Guide to Southern Africa for 1893*, the fare - Tuli to Salisbury was £15 and the journey took 14 days.

TRANSVAAL POST

In 1891 the PMG Cape Town reported that posts had been established between Pretoria and Fort Tuli via Pietersburg and Hendriksdal. BSAC postal notice 13 May 1892 referred to Tuli postmaster 'affixing Bechuanaland and Transvaal stamps free of charge'.

This card sent 8 Sept 1894 was cancelled Pietersburg 18 September, 1894, Tuli (date not readable), Salisbury 6 October, 1894 and The Standard Bank of Salisbury 8 October, 1894 (Fig.3).



Fig.1.

Two covers are known with Transvaal stamps cancelled at Tuli in 1893. (*Rhodesian Philately to 1924* p 117). A number of postcards exist which travelled this route. Mail from Lourenço Marques to Salisbury travelled via Transvaal - either by rail via Komatipoort to Pretoria and then by coach via Tuli or by sea via Durban and then rail to Pretoria and coach via Tuli.



Fig.2.

This 1894 card from Lourenço Marques (4 Aug 94) was cancelled at Komatipoort (4 and 6 August 1894), Pietersburg (10 August, 1894), Tuli (12 August, 1894), Salisbury (25 August, 1894). (Note the spelling of Komatipoort!).



Fig.3.

This card sent 29 Sept 1894 went via Durban 1 October, 1894, Pretoria 4 October, 1894, Pietersburg 9 October, 1894, Tuli 11 October, 1894 - reversed and upside down, and Salisbury 20 October, 1894 (Fig.4).



Fig.4.

Outgoing card to the Transvaal

Of the few items of outgoing mail known, many were sent to M.Z. Booleman, a stamp dealer in Johannesburg. The example below, possibly one of only half a dozen reported, is from Victoria, 15 March, 1894, with a Tuli transit, 24 March, 1894, Pretoria transit, 4 April, 1894 with arrival in Johannesburg on 5 April, 1894 (Figs.5&6).



Figs.5&6.

By coincidence Keith Harrop has another Booleman card in his collection sent the same date and with the same backstamps (Fig.7).



Figs.7.



Fig.8.

And another Booleman card from Keith Harrop which may not have gone via Tuli (Fig.9) (reduced back).



Fig.9.



TAIPEI 2023
39th Asian International
Stamp Exhibition
August 11-15, 2023 TWTC Hall 1



Taipei World Trade Center,
Taipei, Taiwan

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMISSIONER
Victor Millard

A 1916 LETTER FROM PRETORIA, RUSSIA

by JP van Niekerk, direct PFSA subscriber

I recently had the opportunity of acquiring a rather interesting cover at an auction in Pretoria. It was posted in 1916 in Pretoria (*Pretorija, Pretoriya*) in Russia.

The cover displays two 1908 10 kopec Russian Coat of Arms stamps, cancelled by three identical circular postmarks indicating that it was posted in *Pretorija-Orenburg* on 6 June 1916. It is addressed, in both Russian and French, to the Danish Red Cross' Agency for Prisoners of War in Copenhagen. (The Russian address adds 'Denmark'). Further, the cover is registered and contains, in addition to the word 'Registered!', a *Pretorija* registration label 'No 23'. Finally, albeit rather faintly, there is visible a purple, boxed handstamp indicating that the letter was opened by the military censor, 'No 19', in Orenburg.

Pretorija is a small village or hamlet in the Orenburg Oblast (administrative region) in the federal district of Volga, in the Ural Mountains, some 1200 km south-east of Moscow on the border with Kazakhstan. The nearest city is Orenburg, some 70 km away.

The area around *Pretorija*, as elsewhere in the region, was settled by German Mennonites, a conservative Christian religious group, in the late eighteenth century. They were mainly farmers. During the Anglo-Boer War, Russian - and German - sentiment was generally well disposed towards the Boer cause. Many nationals from both countries went to South Africa to fight against the British. In 1902 or 1903, the settlement, then with a population of less than 200, was named, or possibly renamed, '*Pretorija*', after the capital of the Transvaal. One landmark in the village was the Mennonite secondary school (*Pretoriya Zentralschule*), founded in 1907 by Peter Dyck, a local merchant and preacher.

The First World War broke out in June 1914. The belligerents were, on the one side, the Allies which included France, Britain and Russia, and the other side, the Central Powers which included Germany, Austrian-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. Among the neutral nations were Switzerland and Denmark. As a result of the war, the Russian authorities detained enemy nationals. This included German civilians. In *Pretorija*, then with a population of around 450, they were housed in the secondary school.

At the outbreak of the War, the International Committee of the Red Cross established the International Agency for the Assistance and Information of Prisoners of War, in Geneva. Its aim was to centralise and facilitate assistance to prisoners of war and to collect and disseminate information about them. As a result of its activities thousands of letters containing such information arrived in Geneva, sent by its representatives behind enemy lines. The Red Cross had a rather broad definition of the notion of prisoners of war and included also civilian enemy alien internees, hostages, refugees and deportees. Because communication with Russia was slow and unreliable at the time, the Committee in Geneva requested the Red Cross in Denmark to open an independent information bureau in Copenhagen to gather information on prisoners of war in Russia.

(Although often referred to as a branch of the Geneva Agency, as addressed on the cover, the Copenhagen bureau was entirely separate from the Geneva office and under direct control of the Danish Red Cross.) As a result, lists of, and information on, prisoners of war in Russia were sent to Copenhagen and from there further disseminated to the relevant national Red Cross offices which, where possible, informed families of the whereabouts and welfare of relatives held captive in Russia.

The cover under discussion therefore in all probability contained one such communication, from the prisoner of war detention centre in *Pretorija*, in Russia, to the Red Cross in Copenhagen. Such covers are not scarce. A quick trawl of philatelic market places on the internet revealed at least half a dozen similar covers offered for sale or which had been sold in the recent past, including one sent from Orenburg in 1916.

A final mystery remains. How did the cover end up in South Africa and, ultimately, in Pretoria? One can only speculate. The explanation may be mundane: a recent philatelic exchange between collectors. Or it may be more prosaic: it was forwarded in 1916 by the Danish Red Cross - under a separate cover, now lost - to the family, in South Africa, of the prisoner or prisoners on whom it contained (one can only hope, positive) information.



Sources

I acknowledge with gratitude the assistance received from, and detailed information provided by,

- Dr Boris Gorelik of the Centre for Southern African Studies, Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow.
- Peter P Dyck *Orenburg am Ural* (1951), an English translation of which is available online at the Mennonite Heritage Archives (www.mharchives.ca); it contains a lovely photograph of the school in *Pretorija*.
- Ian LG Baillie 'Registered Mail' (December 1975) 52 *British Journal of Russian Philately* 6-10 (and see also the addendum in November 1976) 53 *British Journal of Russian Philately* 15-16)
- Francois Bugnion *The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Protection of War Victims* (2003), English translation (2014) at 84-85 and 178.

RHODESIAN STUDY CIRCLE by Patrick Flanagan RDPSA

EXPANSION OF ITS SPHERE OF ACTIVITY – INCORPORATION OF THE PHILATELY OF **BECHUANALAND** AND **BOTSWANA**



Following the demise of the Bechuanaland Study Circle and after approaches from persons who have the philately of Bechuanaland and Botswana as their collecting interests, the Council of the RSC after consultation and discussion proposed at the AGM on 20 April, 2023, that the Rhodesian Study Circle should expand its areas of interest to include Bechuanaland and Botswana. This proposal was passed unanimously by the members. Accordingly, a motion to change the Rules of the RSC was proposed and adopted at the AGM.

The Rhodesian Study Circle will now be known as:

A philatelic society for the collectors of British South Africa, British Central Africa, Bechuanaland, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Bechuanaland is significant in the context of early Rhodesian philately having been an important link in the route to the South – the route through which mail passed on its way to Cape Town and onwards to world-wide destinations. Postal history of the British South Africa Company era was inextricably linked to Bechuanaland. These links remain important to this day in a regional context with the recently opened Kazungula Bridge acting as a significant link between Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana and on into South Africa.

The RSC welcomes this extension of the sphere of its activities and welcomes all those interested in the philately of the new territory – Bechuanaland, now Botswana.

Consequent on the decisions taken, the following are, inter alia of relevance:

1. Membership of the RSC is available to the previous members of the Bechuanaland Botswana Society and of course to any persons interested in the study of Bechuanaland and Botswana.

2. Membership shall be on terms identical to those for existing members of the RSC.

3. The annual subscription (unchanged for the last decade) payable shall be the same as that for all members and is currently:

- Digital Journal - £15 pa
- Printed Journal (UK) - £28 pa
- Printed Journal (Europe) - £40 pa
- Printed Journal (Other International) - £44 pa

Members who take a printed Journal all get access to the digital version at no extra charge.

4. Other Membership benefits can be viewed on the RSC website where you can also apply online:

www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk

5. The journal of the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society, *The Runner Post*, has been digitised and is available on the RSC website

6. The RSC Journal, which is produced four times a year (often more frequently), is available on line and/or in hard copy to all members.

As Chairman of the Rhodesian Study Circle it gives me great pleasure to make this announcement, in this year when we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, and to extend a warm welcome to new members. We look forward to embracing these most interesting areas into the activities of the RSC.

SAVPEX 2023

The eighth *South African Virtual One-Frame Philatelic Exhibition* – **SAVPEX 2023**, will be proudly hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society on 15 June 2023. Results will be announced in July 2023 and all partaking exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website. Entries for this event have closed and for further information visit the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/> - or contact: Joof van der Merwe - josuav528@gmail.com



THE WORLD'S BEST STAMP COMPETITION

The organisers of SAVPEX 2023 are organising 'The World's Best Stamp' Competition for stamps issued in 2022.

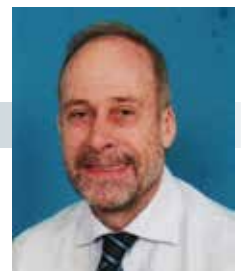
The competition is open to Post Offices or Postal Administrations of Member Countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and other recognised stamp issuing authorities responsible for the issuance of postage stamps.

Entries have closed. Results will be made known during August 2023 and published on the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/>

Participants compete in these categories:

- *World's Best Stamp. (Category 1)*
- *Most Innovative Stamp Format. (Category 2)*
- *Best Stamp Design. (Category 3)*
- *Best Souvenir Sheet. (Category 4)*
- *Best Hand Engraved Stamp. (Category 5)*
- *Best Offset Stamp. (Category 6)*
- *Best Mixed Printing Stamp. (Category 7)*
- *Best Stamp using other Printing Techniques, e.g. plastics and other synthetic materials (Category 8)*

Contact person is Joof van der Merwe at josuav528@gmail.com



The History of Postal Services in the Bechuanaland Protectorate to 1888 - Part 1

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

By 1821, the London Missionary Society (LMS) had established a mission station at Kuruman in the northern Cape. The mission became a 'gateway' to the interior, a place that passing travellers invariably visited to take advantage of the hospitality provided and to exchange information. The majority of letters written at the mission were taken to Cape Town by persons going that way. At Cape Town, mission correspondence was handled by the Reverend John Philip, the LMS representative, who acted as a forwarding agent and facilitated its delivery to Europe or America. Letters other than for Cape Town were carried south to enter the formal postal system at Colesberg, some 180 miles away in the Cape Colony. To the north of Kuruman lay the homes and lands of various tribes, some friendly to European visitors and others not. Most of the visitors were hunters and aspirant traders; not the sort of people who wrote letters home.

This last letter, written on 1 October 1851, is of note because it was written near Lake Ngami, some 320 miles north of Kolobeng, and Livingstone records that it was entrusted to "the kindness of a party of Griquas who leave this river tomorrow and proceed directly to Philipolis" [Schapera 1961: p174]. These Griquas probably originated from an area north of the Orange River and were on a hunting expedition to the Okavango Delta. The letter was presumably put into the postal system of the Orange River Sovereignty (later known as the Orange Free State) upon arrival at Philipolis. Most of Livingstone's other letters to Britain were routed via the mission at Kuruman. Letters from Kolobeng to Cape Town typically took around three months to reach their destination. Several of Livingstone's letters were entrusted to passing hunters: "We shall write by Vardon and Oswell. They will soon be here." [Schapera 1959 vol 1: 18].

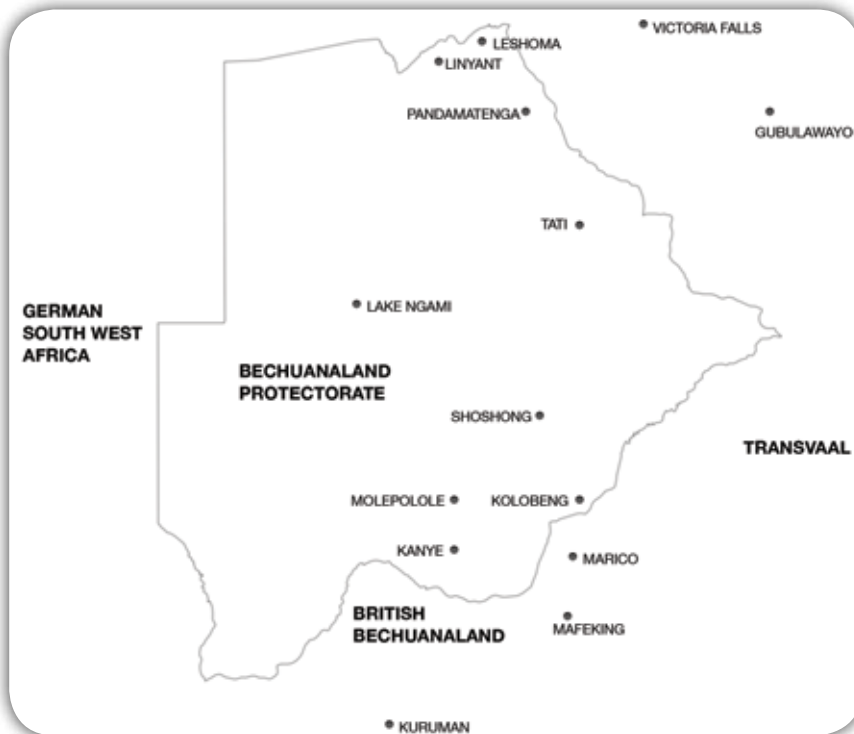


Fig.1: A sketch map of the Bechuanaland Protectorate indicating the location of places referred to in this article

Livingstone's Letters

The earliest reported letters written from the vast landlocked territory which was to become the Bechuanaland Protectorate are those of the renowned missionary-explorer Dr David Livingstone. I have managed to trace 31 such letters, written between November 1845 and September 1885. Most of these letters were written at Kolobeng ('the haunt of the wild boar', close to present day Gaborone, the capital of Botswana) and are addressed to Kuruman, to the LMS directors in Cape Town, to the LMS headquarters in England, or to Livingstone's family members in Scotland. The letters to Britain took on average just under five months to arrive. The slowest took 6½ months, and the fastest three months.

This letter was written on 8 September 1846. Captain Frank Vardin of the 25th Madras Light Infantry was a frequent visitor during the hunting season (June to August), and became one Livingstone's closest friends. Other letters were received from or passed to trusted native carriers: "By the recent arrival of Monye Mabole we were favoured with communications from the South, and by the arrival of Montseabona & party from the Bamangwato [at Shoshong] we have an opportunity of returning you thanks ..." [ibid: 252]. "... Sechele's brother Basiamong took the letter on towards the Bamangwato Sechele sent a particular request to Sekhomi to forward it punctually" [Schapera 1959 vol 2: 100]. "Wrote to you per Sehunelo & again by Nkuenyane" [ibid: 104]. Another letter includes an intriguing statement: "This goes early tomorrow We had written [a previous letter] some time ago and intended to send it out by an express, but as that would have cost us a calf, we thought [of] it better" [ibid: 28].

Whilst at Linyanti in the far north (almost 600 miles distance from Kolobeng), Livingstone apparently arranged for his letters to be carried to the west coast. On 11 October 1853, he wrote: "I think this goes by Walwich [Walvis] Bay." And on 27 September 1885, he begins a letter: "I have just learned that my Arabian post-office man is detained at Sesheke by the sickness of one of his party, so I am glad of the opportunity to write a little appendix to that hurried note of the 13th Only think of the way this letter goes - by an Arab from Zanzibar who takes charge of a party of Makololo with ivory for Loanda." [Schapera 1961: 255, 285]. Travellers at this time, and later, utilised 'letter trees' as depositaries for their mail. The trees had notches or holes in which letters could be left. Sometimes a tin box was attached to the tree. There was an expectation that someone travelling in the appropriate direction would carry the letter

with him to the nearest place hosting some type of postal service. We know of at least three such letter trees, situated near Molepolole and near Shoshong; the third – a giant baobab – was located on an island in the Chobe River. This giant baobab was utilised by Livingstone as a rudimentary ‘post office’. Runners bearing letters for Livingstone would bury the mail bag under the tree, to be eventually collected on his return trip. Thus, Sir R. I. Murchison, President of the Royal Geographical Society, posted a copy of an address he had made to the Society on 25 May 1852 to Livingstone. On the inside page of the address is written in Livingstone’s hand: “This address was sent by the author to me through the Cape Colony and was delivered by the Revd. Robert Moffat to some Matabele who laid it down on the south bank of the Seeanibye just above Victoria Falls. It was taken by the Makololo and placed on the island about 14th September 1854 and remained there till me returned from Loanda when I received it from the Mokololo about the same date in 1855. It was then brought home and delivered by me to Sir Roderick Murchison 19th February 1858. David Livingstone.” [Murchison]

via the smaller missions at Shoshong and Molepolole. This service utilised passing travellers, and operated initially on an ad hoc basis, as described in 1861 by Robert Moffat, then heading the Kuruman mission, in a letter to the Colonial Secretary in Cape Town: “We receive the post regularly at this place [Kuruman], and the letters and papers for the missionaries at Inyati are either forwarded direct by parties going in that direction or sent to the care of [the missionary at Shoshong], who again embraces opportunities of persons going to Inyati. It is now more than five months since the date of last letters from Inyati brought by people of this station.” [Wallis: 257]

Another early explorer passing through and around the Bechuana territory was Frank Oates, who had previously spent 12 months collecting birds and insects in Guatemala and the Californian Rockies. He also mapped his journeys which led to his election as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. Oates spent many months in the Tati area and corresponded with relatives in England from 1873 until his death in 1875. The discovery in 1961 of the Oates correspondence has provided, as Wright and Drysdall comment, “unique information relating to mail originating in the territories then known collectively as the ‘far interior’, which had no formally organised postal service” [p 28]. On his outward trip to the interior, Oates passed through Pietermaritzburg in Natal where he made arrangements for mail to and from England to be forwarded. In a letter from Pietermaritzburg, he wrote: “Mr Hathorn [of the Standard Bank] has been very kind and obliging and promises to forward letters to us and us to you, charging postage to our account.” However, by the time of his arrival at Shoshong, Oates had evidently changed his mind and noted in a letter

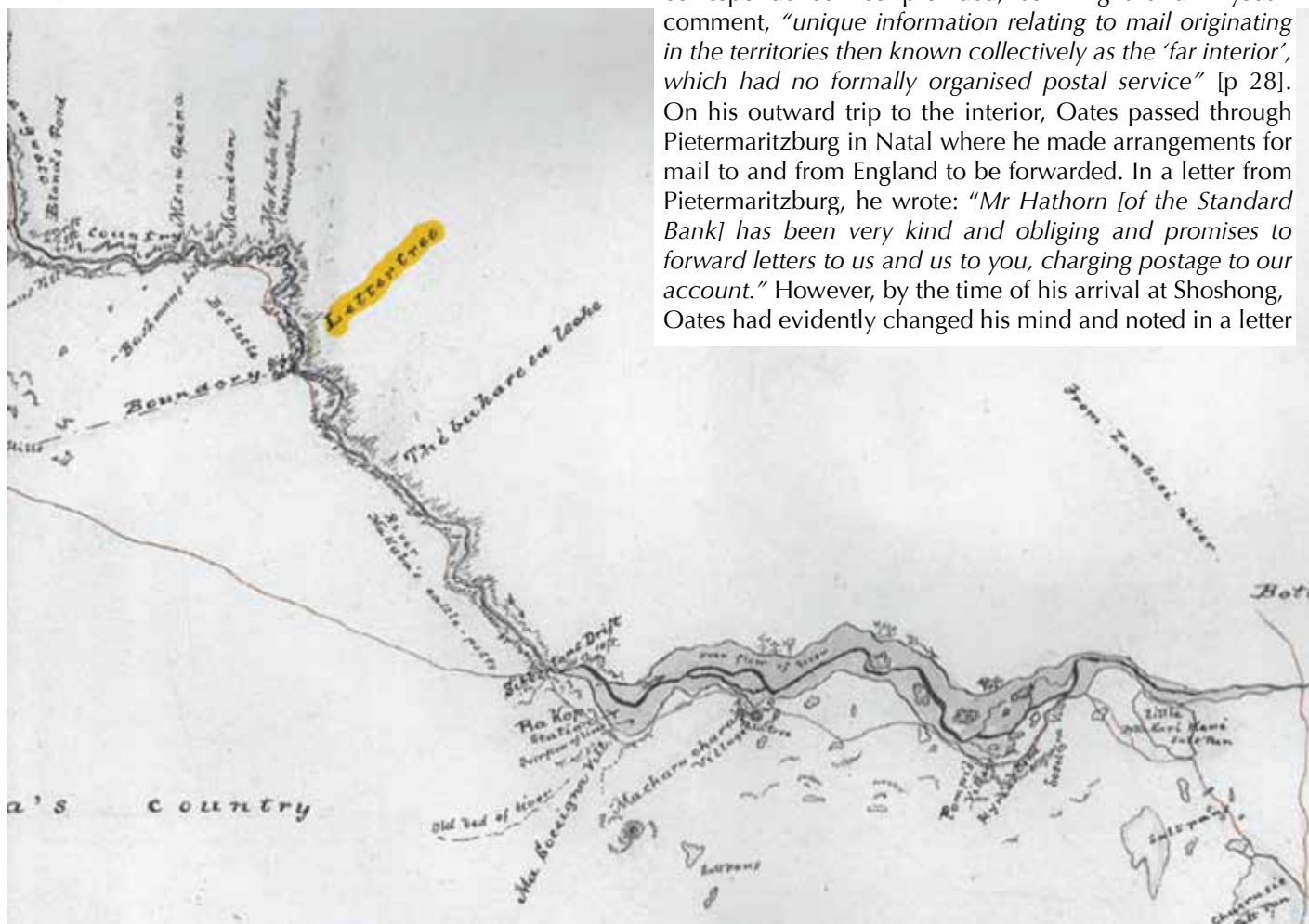


Fig.2: A ‘Sketch Map of Ngamiland’ showing the position of the Letter Tree, drawn by Robert J. Hicks of the Bechuanaland Border Police (1888-92)

The Missionary Posts

In 1859, the London Missionary Society established a northern mission station at Inyati, ‘the place of the buffaloes’, situated near Gubulawayo. A service was introduced between Inyati and the main mission at Kuruman, passing

to one of his brothers: “I am going to get my letters sent to Hepburn [a missionary stationed at Shoshong] and any letters of mine written from where I am going, he will forward to England Mr Hepburn is even trying to establish a monthly post. The first was sent out a few days ago by a messenger to Secheli’s [the chief at Molepolole]” [Ibid: 20]. Oates’ letters contain several references to mail carried by a passing ox-wagon being despatched southwards for

supplies, or an occasional party returning from a hunting trip. These wagons using two or more oxen generally averaged eight miles per day over long trips. From time to time, Oates himself acted as the postman for other travellers; he also refers to resident traders and missionaries paying native runners to carry the mail.

Letters from Pandamatenga in the north and from Gubulawayo in the northeast were 'sorted' at the Shoshong mission station and despatched by runner or wagon to Marico (later known as Zeerust) in the South African Republic (known as the Transvaal from 1877) where a formal post office had been established in 1860.

Although there is no direct evidence as to how Oates paid the postage for carriage of his mail to Britain, it seems likely that he gave the carrier the appropriate payment, or established an account with the mission at Shoshong, or paid a trader in Shoshong to send the necessary funds with the letter to Marico. A clue is provided by several of Oates' letters which are endorsed in manuscript "Betaald 1/6" (Paid 1/6), probably so as to inform the Marico Post Office of the amount in cash which accompanied the letter.

Confirmation that a regular missionary postal link between Shoshong and the South African Republic had been established before 1875 is provided by Major Henry Stabb of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry who travelled via Shoshong and Tati to the Victoria Falls. In a diary entry dated 18 June 1875, he recorded "McKenzie acts as a postmaster here [Shoshong] Between this and the South African Republic I found that letters were received and despatched every fortnight, being conveyed through Secheli's country by Kaffir runners from one missionary post to another, and that beyond Shoshong as far as Gubulawayo [sic] there was a monthly post. The postal arrangements are managed principally by the missionaries and supported by annual subscriptions from among the traders and white residents." [Tabler: 24].

Much of the mail from Livingstone and all of Oates' letters were addressed to Britain. The only other cover recorded from this region at around this time is one addressed to Bohemia (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) by Dr Emil Holub, a botanist and collector of bird skins and insects. Holub visited Victoria Falls in 1875. On his return journey, Holub was at Leshoma (near Linyanti) on the travellers' route known as the 'Westbeech Road', from where he addressed the cover illustrated in Figure 3. The cover is endorsed on the front at top left: "From Dr. Holub's travel to the interior, No. 48, Leshumo Valley for my return from Sepopo to Pandamatenga, 31 of August 75." Holub travelled on to Pandamatenga where he met George Westbeech and Westbeech's wife.

Westbeech was a trader and hunter who lived in Pandamatenga from 1870 to 1888. He was also a leading figure in organising the posts in the north west. Holub and met Westbeech and his wife then travelled to the Victoria

Falls, whilst Mrs Westbeech and some others journeyed southwards down the 'Westbeech Road'. Mrs Westbeech then continued on to Marico where her father had a farm, which she reached on 22 November 1875. Holub's letter entered the formal postal system at Marico where the Transvaal 6d stamp received the '8' concentric circular canceller, and the cover was impressed with the single circle MARICO/ZUID-AFRIKA datestamp for 17 December 1875. The Cape Colony stamps were cancelled at Kimberley, the office of exchange. The cover bears 6d in Transvaal postage to pay the internal rate, and 1/6d in Cape stamps to pay the Cape internal rate of 4d plus the rate from the Cape to Austria of 1/2 per half-ounce. On the front there is a red crayon endorsement '1/0 1/2', being an accountancy mark applied in Cape Town to indicate the amount due to the British Post Office. The cover reached Cape Town on 30 December 1875, in time to catch the *Asiatic* of the Union Line which departed Table Bay on 6 January 1876 and docked at Plymouth on 2 February. The reverse of the cover bears the datestamp of Kimberley (23 December 1875) and an indistinguishable mark which appears to be a datestamp of arrival.



Fig.3: Holub's cover endorsed "From Dr. Holub's travel to the interior, No. 48, Leshumo Valley for my return from Sepopo to Pandamatenga, 31 of August 75."

The Postal Service at Shoshong

At around this time, the Reverend James Hepburn of Shoshong attempted to establish a monthly post between Shoshong and Kuruman via the mission stations at Molepolole and Kanye. By mid-1875, this had become a fortnightly service supported by subscriptions. Hepburn's successor, the Reverend John MacKenzie, had improved the service to operate on a fortnightly basis by 1876, with mail despatched northwards to Gubulawayo every month. MacKenzie regularly corresponded with a certain James Wainwright in Cape Town. In a letter of 27 July 1882 written at Shoshong, MacKenzie refers to sending the letter care of a 'zambesian' on his way to the Diamond Fields. In another letter, dated 3 April 1883, he wrote: "The tracts together with some letters we sent for Edwards [in Tati] were seized by a raiding party of his impis and taken to Lobengula [at Gubulawayo] who chastised them and demanded our carriage of some (illegible) to Her Majesty in England." On

1 August 1885, MacKenzie advises “.... your previous did not arrive. Remember that express [letters] will be carried by night and day, but do not trouble to send during the rainy season.” And on 23 December 1885: “..... they [the runners] lost the letter bag in the river when they were chased by a crocodile” (these letters in private hands). It is believed that by 1888, between 7,000 and 8,000 letters per annum were being handled by MacKenzie at the mission in Shoshong.

A further insight into the organisation of the mails is provided in a letter written by a Jesuit priest in Gubulawayo to Fiesole (near Florence in Italy) in late September 1879: “I received your note on the 20th. It was dated 15 July. So letters from you arrive here in a little over 2 months. There is now a fortnightly post from here to the [Cape] Colony. The Europeans had reduced the post to a monthly one from want of funds. But now the government gives 100£ a year and our party gives 18 guineas a year – 3 for each priest – so now they are enabled to have a fortnightly one. It would be quite sufficient to direct ‘Zambesi mission – Gubulawayo. Via Cape Colony – Transvaal and Marico’ but at present we add ‘Care of Francis and Clarke Shoshong’. Francis forwards them at once by the same post – so there is no delay” [Gelfand: 129]. This quotation merits three comments.

Firstly, regarding the length of time the letter from Fiesole took to arrive in Gubulawayo. Mail from Italy to Southern Africa at this time went via Britain (usually 3 days in transit), by packet post to Table Bay (approximately 30 days), by rail, cart and runner to Marico (perhaps 8 days), and then by missionary runner post to Gubulawayo via Molepolole and Shoshong (in this case approximately 25 days). Secondly, the reference to a government subsidy. This remains a mystery, since it was surely not supplied by King Lobengula of the Matabele (who had neither the funds nor the interest in subsidising the Europeans’ post), and if it was by the Government of the Cape Colony, it is surprising that there is no reference to such payment in the Annual Reports of the Cape of Good Hope Postmaster-General. The third is the reference to the role played by the firm of Francis and Clark in Shoshong. The firm were prominent traders, and Clark later acted as an interior forwarding agent at nearby Palapye (Fig.4).



Fig.4: Clark’s advertising cachet

At Gubulawayo, the Reverend C. D. Helm acted as the informal postmaster from about 1875. Helm charged regular users of his runner post an annual subscription of between 30 and 50 shillings, and temporary residents five shillings per letter. The runners employed by Helm between Gubulawayo and Tati completed the return trip of 252 miles in a week, an average of 36 miles a day. The complete route of almost 500 miles from Gubulawayo to Mafeking was generally accomplished in 17 days, an average of almost 30 miles a day.

References will be listed at the end of Part 2 of this article, to be included in the next issue.

2023 NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

*Celebrating
100 years*

‘SA PHILATELIST100’
KYLAMI COUNTRY
CLUB, MIDRAND
11-14 OCTOBER 2023.



Entries close: 25 August 2023

Delivery of exhibits:
by 10 October 2023

Chairman of the Jury:
Emil Minnaar RDPSA

ENTRY FORMS - [Click here](#)

PROSPECTUS - [Click here](#)

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA ILLUSTRATED STAMP VARIETIES

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Victory Issue, 1945 (UHB 20, Stamp numbers 97 to 99)

A set of three values, 1d, 2d, and 3d was issued on 3 December 1945 to commemorate the end of World War II.

The designs were by an unidentified artist of the printing department of the Union Defence Force. All stamps were bi-coloured and of the same size (27 x 21,5 mm). the designs symbolising 'Victory', 'Peace' and 'Hope' respectively.

The sheets consisted of 120 stamps (20 rows x 6), perforated 14 and inscribed alternately in English and Afrikaans.

There were arrows in the colours of the frames at the centre of all four margins and four-figure red serial numbers on the right-hand one.

Numbers of the cylinders - in the order interior/exterior - were: 1d -12/3; 2d - 7019/7023 and 3d - 6922/6928.

The author would like to thank Danie Scheepers RDPSA for his contribution with some of the material shown.

SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB))

AFRIKAANS/ENGLISH above the variety indicates the language at the top of the stamp on which it appears.

UHB 98 - 2d. (SG 109) SASCC108



Slate-blue and violet



a. Brown and Carmine

b. Brown (aniline ink) and carmine.
(Vignette showing through to back of stamp)

ENGLISH Tiny projection on top of mountain (ex Row 1/2) UHB 98 - V1	ENGLISH White mark over 'P' of POSSEEL (ex Row 6/1) UHB 98 - V2
---	---

AFRIKAANS White spot near edge of mountain (ex Row 7/3) UHB 98 - V3	AFRIKAANS White 'ear' on 'S' of SUID (ex Row 11/4) UHB 98 - V4
---	--

ENGLISH Red spot on 'R' of AFRICA (ex Row 1/5) UHB 97 - V1	ENGLISH White accent mark over 'G' of POSTAGE (ex Row 5/1) UHB 97 - V2	AFRIKAANS White spot over second 'S' of POSSEEL (ex Row 5/6) UHB 97 - V3
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ENGLISH Red mark through 'R' of AFRICA (ex Row 8/4) UHB 97 - V4	AFRIKAANS Additional 'Barbed Wire' in base of 'V' (ex Row 9/6) UHB 97 - V5 (SG 108a) SASCC107a	AFRIKAANS/ENGLISH Vignettes only partly printed UHB 97 - V6
---	---	---



AFRIKAANS White mark over 'S' of SUID (ex Row 13/2) UHB 98 - V5	ENGLISH Two faint almost vertical violet lines forming a 'V' through stamp (ex Row 17/5) UHB 98 - V6
---	--



UHB 99 - 3d. (SG 110) SASCC109



Deep Blue and blue

AFRIKAANS	ENGLISH
 <p>White accent mark over 'P' of POSSEEL (ex Row 2/1) UHB 99 - V1</p>	 <p>White spot 'Extra star' above man's nose (ex Row 3/3) UHB 99 - V2</p>

AFRIKAANS	AFRIKAANS
 <p>Blue spot above man's eye (ex Row 12/3) UHB 99 - V3</p>	 <p>White dot 'Distant star' in sky (ex Row 14/1) UHB 99 - V4</p>

ENGLISH	AFRIKAANS
 <p>White 'Hyphen' between '3' and 'D' at left (ex Row 14/6) UHB 99 - V5</p>	 <p>Blue 'Scar' on woman's forehead (ex Row 18/1) UHB 99 - V6 (SG 108a) SASCC107a</p>

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VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society
and Thea Clemons, Graphic Designer, Philatelic Services, SAPO



Part 10: The Development of stamp design and printing from 1971 to 2023 - Part 1

“Stamps are part of a nation’s heraldry and, like its flag and national anthem, need to be designed in such a manner as to portray, for the international community, in a symbolic manner, the aspirations, positive values and achievements of its people”. (Prof Franco Frescura, Head of Philatelic Services in Pretoria from 1995 - 1999)

Introduction

In the ten years after 1961, the Post Office laid down a firm foundation for the design and printing of postage stamps in South Africa. With the improved designs after 1972, the Postmaster General indicated that the Post Office sought foreign markets for South African stamps. The issuing of stamps has always been the exclusive privilege of the Post Office which created a philatelic unit to design and issue stamps. The philatelic services offered by the Post Office provided an essential source of revenue.

The Post Office also promoted a new art form - miniscule art. However, due to the limited stamp issues in the 1970s, few, if any, creative artists had experience designing stamps. Stamp designing requires the artist to limit himself to a tiny format. With the new procedure, the Post Office commissioned no less than four artists at a time. In this way the Post Office also contributed to developing a new art form in South Africa. This practice was the norm before the computer age.

At the *Egoli 2001 National Stamp Show* held in Sandton, the South African Post office displayed an invited exhibit entitled ‘Progress in Stamp Production.’ It illustrated the three main processes used when producing stamps. These included stamps made without the benefit of computers, stamps produced using both manual and computer techniques, and finally, stamps produced entirely from computer-generated images.

The unique and varied nature of South African society, history, culture and institutions were mirrored through philatelic services. In consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Minister appointed a Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC), a body representative of South African society and with appropriate expertise. The Committee advises on events and themes that should be celebrated on stamps and operates in conjunction with the Philatelic Business Unit of the Post Office.

The SAC formulates a comprehensive stamp programme two years in advance which is finalised a year before implementation. Written proposals and suggestions for postage stamp themes are invited each year from members of the public. These are submitted to the Stamp Programme Advisory Group (SPAG) which selects the most suitable themes annually in conjunction with the SAC, which encourages and promotes the participation of the public, organisations, interest groups, civil bodies and individuals in the annual search for stamp ideas and concepts.

The SAC may consider applications up to six months before the proposed date, but these should only be in cases of

Part 2 will covers aspects of the printing process.

extreme national importance or concern, and must be approved by Cabinet.

Artwork and Stamp Layout

Stamp design from the 1950s to the 1990s.

For decades before the desktop computer, graphic designers brought type, images and all design elements together by meticulously preparing a ‘mechanical’ (also known as a paste-up or a keyline), by hand, but assisted by various incredible machines and tools. This ‘mechanical’ is the master from which the printing plates are made and thus contains all the design elements for the final product i.e. artwork, photographs, lettering etc. All these elements are meticulously pasted onto an artboard to produce the final layout (Fig.1).



Fig.1: Graphic Designer working at the drawing board, pasting together text and images.

The stamp artwork, received from the external commissioned artist, is sent from Philatelic Services to a reproduction house where it is photographed using a special process camera (Fig.2) and at the same time reduced or enlarged to the size specified by the graphic designer. The black and white picture produced, the bromide (Fig.3) is returned to Philatelic Services where it is used by the graphic designer to prepare the mechanical master.

Building the mechanical

The mechanical is built progressively in a series of layers.

1. **Artboard:** Guidelines for the stamp or miniature sheet are drawn out on the artboard with a blue pencil and a metal T-square. A blue pencil is used as the colour blue is not picked up by the process camera and therefore the guidelines are not visible on the film negatives.

2. **Cropmarks:** Also known as trim marks, these marks are drawn in black at the outer corners of the stamp sheet’s



Fig.2: The Process Camera at the Government Printing works, Pretoria.

print area using a T-square and a draughtsman's pen. They indicate to the printer where the completed job should be guillotined into stamp sheets after perforation before delivery to Philatelic Services.

3. **Artwork bromide:** Using a cutting triangle and a sharp single-edge razor blade the designer cuts the bromide of the artwork to size. This is then pasted onto the artboard, aligned to the layout guidelines.

4. **Lettering:** To add the lettering, a sheet of Velvetone (a smooth see-through paper, made of cellulose) is placed over the artboard. Any lettering such as RSA and the stamp denomination is applied in the chosen typeface using Letraset (Fig.4).

5. **Masking film:** Colour separations are now adding using masking film.

a. Masking film consists of two films that are sandwiched together. The bottom layer is clear film and the top layer is a translucent red sheet which can be cut and peeled away from the bottom layer (Fig.5)

b. This is done by carefully cutting through the soft top layer without damaging the bottom film.

c. The designer carefully removes the top red layer covering those areas that should not be exposed to light during plate making. The remaining red covered areas will be printed. In effect, this step produced a hand-made film negative.

6. **Colour overlays.** Each colour overlay is given a Pantone colour number to indicate to the printer the Pantone colour to be used with each plate during printing (Fig.6).



Fig.5: Masking film (Rubylith) being peeled away.

When the mechanical is finally approved, it is sent to the printer whose first step in plate making is to photograph the different overlays. This may be done by the platemaker or the engraver using a process camera (Fig.7).

Photographs and Hand painted Artwork combined with Computer Layout – 1996 onwards.



Fig.6: Pantone colour specification.

Philatelic Services generally outsource the creation of artwork to artists who specialise in portrait, animal, bird, botanical, landscape, technical or conceptual art. The in-house Philatelic Graphic Design studio is mostly responsible for refining and preparing final artwork delivered by external artists on computer.



Fig.3: Bromide from the original artwork for the 1995 Gandhi stamp, created by Alan Ainslie.

After receiving delivery of stamp artwork it is sent to a reproduction house to be scanned digitally at high resolution (Fig.8). Specialised design software is used to position the lettering on the stamp, and the configuration of the stamp sheet.

The design software contains all the tools previously used in the manual building of a mechanical for printing. It is possible to add as many layers (previously called overlays), as needed to make it easy for the printer to understand the intention of the graphic designer.



Fig.4: Letraset being applied.

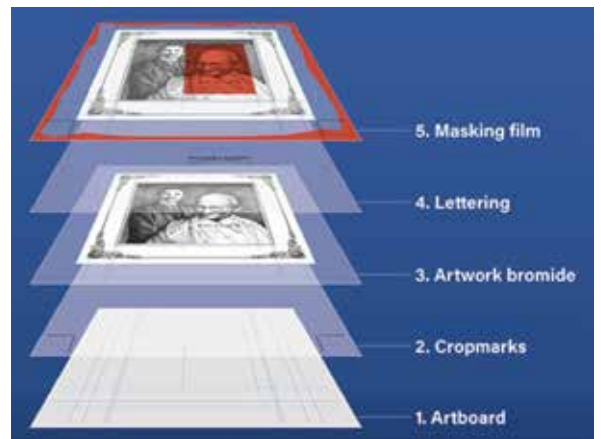


Fig.7: Overlays of the 1995 Gandhi stamp's mechanical

The software contains print-quality fonts, and it is possible to work in CMYK mode or to use flat colour to design for printing. Similarly it can work in RGB mode (red, blue, green) to create designs for digital media such as websites, social media, television mobile devices etc. Professional imaging software is used for final touch-up and colour correction work on the digital scans. Finally, print-ready digital documents are saved and



Fig.8: A photograph of a Mirage for the 2020 South African Air Force stamp issue being scanned on a drum scanner.

sent to the printer by courier. Since the 2000s courier services have no longer been used as new technology makes it possible to upload print files directly through File Transfer Protocol (FTP) to the printer's computer server from where they are downloaded by the printer for preparation to commence printing of stamp sheets.

Computer-generated Artwork

The first South African stamp artwork that was created purely on computer was the 1995 Rugby World Cup stamp. Other examples of stamp artwork that has been created purely by this means include:

- Springbok World Champions 2019 stamp issued in 2020.
- The Mandela stamp on the 2018 Indian joint stamp issue miniature sheet commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Pietermatritzburg Gandhi incident.
- The 2017 50th Anniversary of the First Heart Transplant stamp
- The 2004 gold medal-winning FIFA Centenary Commemoration miniature sheet

Since the start of the COVID pandemic in 2020, it has not been possible to outsource stamp artwork to external artists. The result is that artwork for stamps since then is created digitally on computer by the Philatelic Graphic Design Studio. The latest specialised design software is used to do this.

Professional illustration software makes it possible to digitally draw artwork using a pressure sensitive digital pen and trackpad. The pressure sensitivity simulates drawing darker lines when pressing down harder and lighter lines when pressing down lightly on the pen. The software contains a wide choice of paper and canvas textured digital surfaces to create artwork on. As in the past, the various features of the artwork are built up using as many layers as is needed. It is possible to mask out certain parts of the artwork using layer masks, similar to what was done in the past using masking film.

An example of stamp artwork purely created on computer is The Road to Democracy stamp, which was issued on 8 November 2022 at the Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition (Fig.9).

Part 2 - on Printing, to be continued in the next edition of the SAP.



Fig.9: The Road to Democracy digital artwork, created purely on computer, showing the 'Layers' to the right of the artwork with some of the elements used in the creation of the artwork. (The stamp article on p66 of the April 2023 issue '2022 ROAD TO DEMOCRACY STAMP').

Early lithograph-printed postcards of Central Africa

by Sean Burke, Rhodesian Study Circle



I am uncertain as to when the first postcards depicting images from Central Africa were first published. I have, however, done some research on the postcards associated with the Paris Missionary Society (PMS) in Barotseland (now north-west Zambia, formerly Northern Rhodesia).

The PMS first established mission stations along the Zambesi River from 1885. The missionaries were prolific photographers and a number were artists. To sponsor their endeavours a number of support groups (reaching over one hundred at the height and called 'Zambezia's') were established across Europe who helped raise funds and materials to support the missionaries. As part of their work, they produced a series of postcards to assist in their raising of funds and awareness. These three lithograph printed cards with undivided backs, are I believe, the earliest known cards. They depict scenes from Barotseland inspired by early photographs. They may be some of the earliest cards reflecting this area of Central Africa.

This first card, inspired by a PMS drawing of Lealui, was used in Paris on 14 August, 1899 (Fig.1). This is the earliest known example of a PMS related postcard.

Similar to the previous postcard, this example (Fig.2) contains an invitation to a meeting (8 December, 1903) of the Geneva 'Zambezia' which was to be addressed by the missionary, Juste Bouchet. A wonderful example of the practical use of these cards.



Fig.1 (reverse above & below the front): The earliest known example of the Paris Missionary Society (PMS) postcards.

Fig.2: Postcard sent as an invitation (reverse above & below the front).



Bouchet was part of a large group of missionaries who went out to Barotseland in 1899. Their party, the 22 March, 1899, a column of twenty-one wagons, drawn by 330 oxen driven by sixty Africans, started the two-months from Bulawayo through the arid semi-desert journey to the Zambezi. Many of the party died in the next few years or returned home sick. In fact, Bouchet's wife died after only six weeks! The photograph (Fig.3) features this party after arriving in Barotseland in 1899.



Fig.3: Photograph of the last of the group of missionaries who arrived in Barotseland in 1899.



Fig.4: (reverse at left & above the front) the final known postcard of the PMS.



The final known card of this type features a scene from the Church at the Sefula mission station. It was used in Paris in 1904.

Sasolburg Philatelic Society

PUBLIC EXHIBITION 17 – 21 April
by Leon Jacobson

The Sasolburg Philatelic Society held its annual public exhibition in the Sasolburg Public Library from 17 to 21 April 2023. The frames and exhibits were set up on the weekend of the 15th whilst closing down was carried out the following weekend. The Librarian allowed us full weekend access as the library is closed Saturdays and Sundays.

There were 21 frames - 7 came from members of the OFS Society. Our thanks to Prof Garry Osthoff, Dr Neil Cronjé and Joof van der Merwe for their support.

The exhibition was non-competitive and was specifically targeted at learners in the hope that they would be attracted to our hobby. To this end, Johan van Wyk obtained the addresses of all the local schools and sent them emails advertising the show and offering guided tours to school groups. Unfortunately, we were disappointed to receive no response. However, many learners who came to the library in the afternoons did show an interest especially when the displays were explained by club members who were on duty. Other learners were brought by their parents who had read about the exhibition in *Die Ster* and the *Parys Gazette* which carried illustrated reports. In addition, learners who showed an interest were given a free take away packet containing a couple of FDCs and stamps. Approximately 85 of the gift packets were given out. These were donated by club members.

A smaller exhibition did not overwhelm the public who were not philatelically literate. Thematic displays were the most popular for this group although the fact that you could collect envelopes with stamps (SWA postage dues on cover) and single country stamps (Germany, SA) also had an impact mainly on adults.



It was important to have someone continuously present to communicate with people who showed an interest, especially learners. It became obvious that many learners, from all backgrounds, did not understand what a postage stamp is (or was) or how it was used. By speaking to them and finding out what interested them, one could link that interest to the thematic displays. Hopefully, we may have influenced a future collector.

The local newspapers gave us good coverage resulting in a number of people phoning in to enquire about the display and bringing along their children. A number of people phoned in with queries about collections that had been inherited. As these are often FDCs and mint stamps from Philatelic Services or schoolboy collections, they were encouraged to pass them on to their children or grandchildren.

All in all, it was a very worthwhile exercise. Two grandmothers who came all the way from Parys and were quite knowledgeable about collecting promised to influence their grandchildren and 'get them away from their obsession with their cell phones'. Hopefully, we may have influenced a future collector.

Acknowledgements: Our thanks go to the Librarian for access to the library, the OFS Philatelic Society members who supported us, the press for their publicity, Federation for their financial support and the club members who donated material and assisted with the running of the exhibition.

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The First Airmail in South Africa

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



The year 1911 is significant in the annals of aerophilately as it marks the start of regular airmail, albeit only token services. The first took place in India where French pilot, Pequet, and a Captain Windham started a regular airmail, 22 February 1911. This was between Allahabad and Naini Junction, some eight kilometres, as part of the Universal Postal Exhibition using special envelopes. On his return to the UK, Captain Windham organised the first airmail service, 9-26 September 1911, from Hendon to Windsor using a Blériot XI monoplane. This was to mark the coronation of King George V.

In Cape Town three flying buddies, Evelyn 'Bok' Driver, Guy Livingstone and Cecil Compton-Paterson formed the African Aviation Syndicate. The purpose was to promote aviation in South Africa and offer flying lessons. They had two aircraft; one built by Crompton-Paterson, the other a Blériot XI monoplane.

To help promote aviation, the Cape Town Publicity Association organised an 'Aviation Fortnight' at the Kenilworth Racecourse. The exhibition ran from 21 December 1911 to 3 January 1912. Inspired by the UK Coronation flight, the Post Office agreed that an aerial post could be carried between Kenilworth and Muizenburg as part of the exhibition – a distance of some 13.5 kilometres. As the mail was to be flown between two points of no real postal importance it was not considered a serious practical proposal. Rather the intention was like that in the UK, to have an historical record of a first airmail service in South Africa. This made the Muizenburg Post Office the first in Africa to receive airmail.

The proposed flight captured the public's imagination. Special postcards (Fig.1) were printed by Whitehead, Morris & Co. (SA) Ltd, official printers to the Government. The postcards went on sale at 1s. each at post offices, the Cape Town railway station bookstall and the Publicity Association. The closing date for posting was 8pm, 26 December 1911. The cards had to be franked with a ½d stamp for South African addresses and 1d for overseas.

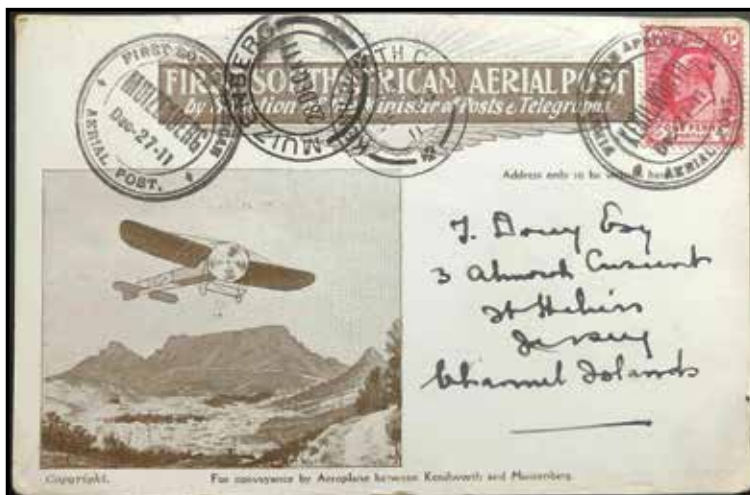


Fig.1: A postcard from the first airmail post in South Africa, franked 1d for overseas address. Flown from Kenilworth to Muizenburg.

A special hand-stamp was provided by the Post Office which, like the postcard, was modelled on that used for the Coronation airmail in the UK.

The first flight

Originally scheduled for a morning flight, heavy rain resulted in a postponement. The weather finally cleared and in the early evening, at 7.15pm of Tuesday, 27 December 1911, Driver took off from the Kenilworth racecourse with the mail. The bag with the postcards and secured to the back of the pilot's seat (Fig.2). Born in Pietermaritzburg, Driver travelled to England early in 1911 where he worked with the Grahame-White Aviation Company at Hendon as a flying instructor. Considered an outstanding pilot, he was invited to be one of four who flew the Coronation airmail in the United Kingdom. Originally a mining engineer, Driver was advised to give up mining for health reasons.



Fig.2: Loading the first aerial mail into the Blériot monoplane at the Kenilworth Racecourse.

The flight to Muizenburg (Fig.3) took 7½ minutes to cover the distance, landing at Oldham's Field north of Muizenburg. Over 1,000 people, including the Mayor of Muizenburg, were at Oldham's Field to welcome Driver. A charge of 1s was made for admission to this makeshift airfield. Also awaiting the flight was the local postmaster, PJ Hutchings. After congratulatory speeches Driver was

presented with another bag of mail. The return flight to Kenilworth arrived at 8.10pm, taking longer at 12½ minutes due to unfavourable winds. He was greeted by a jubilant crowd who waited for his return. Amongst the crowd was none other than the Minister of Defence, General Jan Christian Smuts, who immediately saw the military possibilities of the aeroplane.

Cards from the first outbound flight were taken to the newly opened gabled post office at Muizenburg (Fig.4). They were sorted the following morning, receiving the special hand-stamp dated 27 December 1911. The postcard also received a regular Muizenburg cancellation dated 28 December 1911. The postcards were then entered into the regular post for delivery. Cards from the return flight only carry the Muizenburg hand-stamp of 27 December 1911 (Fig.5).

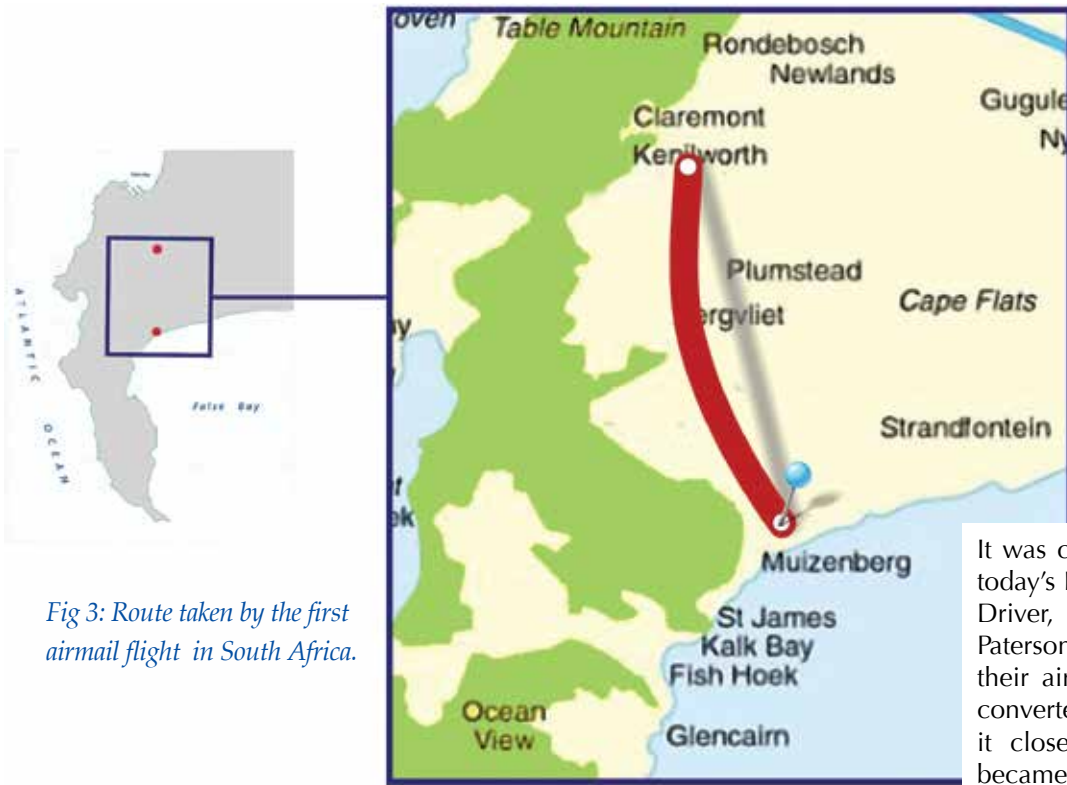


Fig 3: Route taken by the first airmail flight in South Africa.

It was close to Oldham's Field, near today's False Bay railway station, that Driver, Livingstone and Compton-Paterson built a hangar to house their aircraft. The hangar was later converted into a garage (Fig.6). When it closed is uncertain; in 2010 it became the Blue Bird Garage Market, specialising in artisans, crafters and food. Oldham's Field has long since disappeared under housing.



Fig.4: The original Muizenberg Post Office at 184 Main Road, which opened in 1911. The building was subsequently used as a police station and Magistrate's court. It was converted into a Police Museum in 1990. The Muizenberg Post Office was closed March 2022 without any warning to clients following a termination of the lease.



Fig.6: The Blue Bird Garage in 1929 which was originally used as a hangar in 1911.

The Vacuum Oil Company saw a publicity opportunity in the first flight. They considered the special postcard provided a way of conveying greeting to their customers. They had a small number of cards specially printed on the correspondence side (Fig.7 & 8). Vacuum Oil was founded in 1866 in the US and originated the Mobil trademark.



Fig.5: Cards from the first return flight were not postmarked on arrival at Kenilworth. This postcard used a Transvaal 1d for overseas mail, the item sold for £280.



Fig.7: Special greeting card printed by the Vacuum Oil Company. It has not been recorded how many cards were produced. Now considered a rarity.



Fig.8: Address side of the Vacuum Oil Company greeting card, with Cape Town and Muizenburg strikes of 28 December 1911 in addition to the special hand-stamps. Originally posted at Kenilworth 23 December 1911.

The second flight

It was announced on 27 December 1911 that the aerial post had been re-opened. Cards posted up to 8pm on 29 December 1911 would be carried on a second flight to be made on New Year's Day (Fig.9). This deadline was as later extended to 4pm, Saturday 30 December 1911. However, this second flight had to be postponed to the next day due to adverse weather conditions. At 7.38pm on Tuesday 2 January 1911 Driver once again took off from Kenilworth with the mail. This time he circled the race-course for eight minutes before heading off towards Muizenburg where he landed at 7.56pm. Meanwhile the weather turned bad and darkness set in. Driver decided not to risk the return flight. He set out on the morning of 3 January 1911 for the return flight. When nearing Kenilworth he ran into dense fog and despite several attempts could not locate the landing field. He was obliged to return to Muizenburg where the fog was not so thick, having been airborne for some 35 minutes.



Fig.9: Postcard carried on the second flight, post marked 30 December 1911, the closing date for the air mail; it was only flown 2 January 1912 and postmarked the next day. It also has an arrival cancellation for Mossel Bay, 4 January 1912, giving a transit time of one day.

While Driver arrived unharmed, the fabric of the Blériot was damaged making the return flight impossible. The machine had to be taken back to Kenilworth by lorry. Driver accompanied the lorry and personally delivered the mail. Unlike the first return flight, these cards did receive a Kenilworth arrival hand-stamp dated 30 December 1911.

A total of 2597 cards were carried on the four flights, distributed as follows:

- First outward flight, 27 December 1911, Kenilworth – Muizenburg: 729
- First return flight, 27 December 1911, Muizenburg – Kenilworth: 210
- Second outward flight, 2 January 1912, Kenilworth – Muizenburg: 1479
- Second return flight, 3 January 1912, Muizenburg – Kenilworth: 179

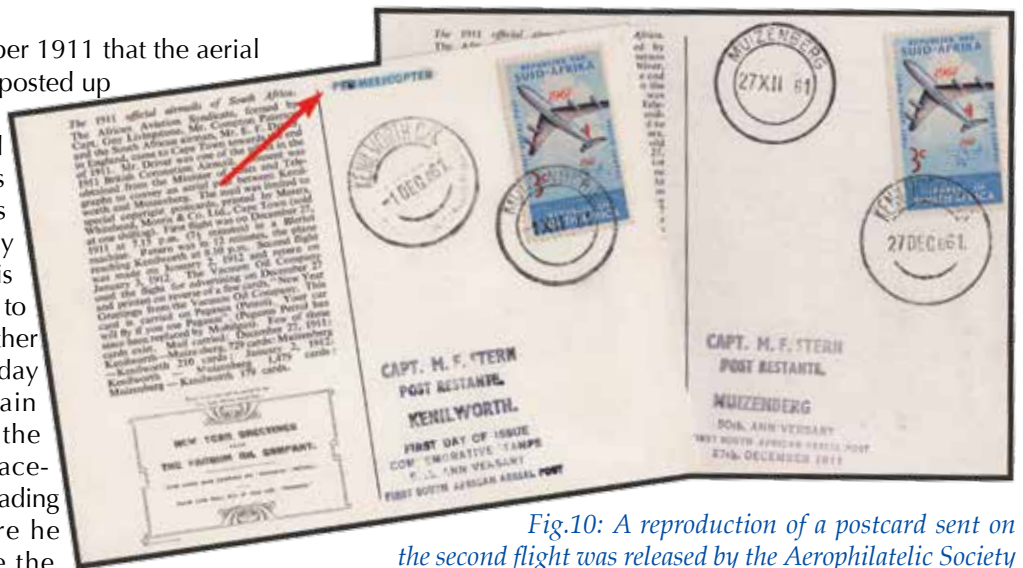


Fig.10: A reproduction of a postcard sent on the second flight was released by the Aerophilatelic Society to commemorate the 50th anniversary. The cards were carried in each direction on the two dates to make up the set of four.

Commemorative stamps and items

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary in 1961, a set of four postcards with a reproduction of an original postcard carried on the second outward flight was produced by the Aerophilatelic Society (Fig.10). A commemorative stamp was also issued to mark the occasion (Fig.11). The card on the left was carried by helicopter on the day the commemorative stamp was issued, 1 December 1961. The card on the right marked the date of the first flight.

Fig.11: Commemorative stamp issued 1 December 1961 for the 50th anniversary.



In 1986, Sunrise Beach at Muizenburg, became an airport to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the first flight. It was also a near catastrophe. A micro-light Skypup 25 VKZ aircraft, piloted by Peter Westerman, was used to recreate the original Kenilworth - Muizenburg flight.

The aircraft suffered engine failure as it was coming into land at the car park. The plane was damaged during a bumpy landing but managed to deliver 1000 commemorative covers to mark the occasion (Fig.12). These received an Muizenburg arrival mark on the reverse. While a reception was held in the committee room at the Pavilion, the damaged aircraft had to be taken away by road.

To commemorate the centenary, a miniature sheet (Fig.13) was issued by the Post Office in 2011. The sheet took the shape of a Blériot monoplane while the stamp was valued for use on airmail postcards. Given the size and shape of the mini-sheet one can but wonder how it would fit onto a postcard! To mark the historic event, on Sunday 25 September 2011, three de Havilland DH.82A Tiger Moths re-enacted the Kenilworth – Muizenburg flight. This was held in September to coincide with a huge Aviation Convention in Cape Town at that time.



Fig.12: A cover produced by the Aerophilatelic Society of South Africa to commemorate the 75th anniversary, back-stamped Muizenburg, 27 December 1986. The covers were sold for R5.00 each.



Fig.14: A framed and signed copy of the commemorative mini-sheet and FDC was presented to Simon Driver-Jowitt by the SA Post Office, great-grandson of Evelyn 'Bok' Driver. Left-to-right: SAA Senior Training Captain Andrew Coleman and Captain Simon Driver-Jowitt, Nippon Cargo Airlines.

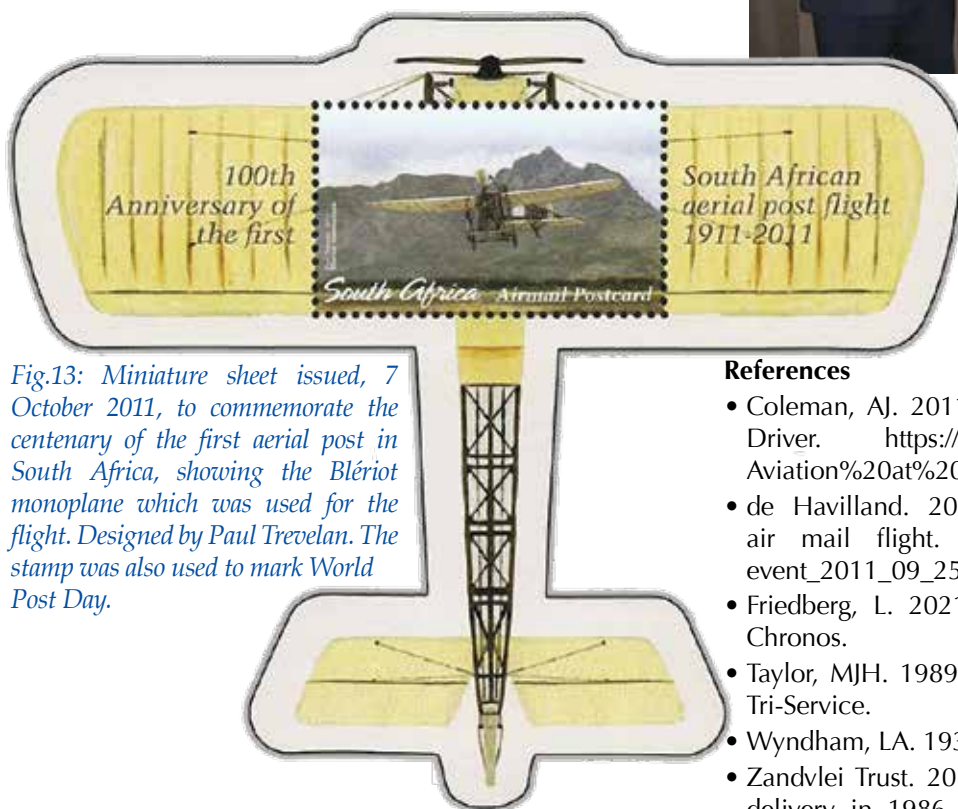


Fig.13: Miniature sheet issued, 7 October 2011, to commemorate the centenary of the first aerial post in South Africa, showing the Blériot monoplane which was used for the flight. Designed by Paul Trevelan. The stamp was also used to mark World Post Day.

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A New Stamp Era

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



The Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May 2023 marked the formal beginning of the Carolean Era. As the UK makes the transition from the Elizabethan Era, new coins and banknotes featuring the King are being phased in. This also marks the first time a new monarch has been featured on British stamps in 70 years. Historically, it has been commonplace for stamps and coins featuring the new monarch to appear at the same time.

The new 50p coin featuring King Charles III was released 8 December 2022, Royal Mail revealed the first King Charles III definitive stamps on 8 February 2023.



Fig.1: The image of Charles adapted from a portrait by British sculptor Martin Jennings created for new UK coins, which are already in circulation.



Fig.2: Queen Victoria at age 15.

Royal Mail CEO, Simon Thompson, said: "Ever since the Penny Black was issued in the reign of Queen Victoria, British stamps have carried the image of the reigning monarch. The definitive stamp has become a recognisable symbol of each reign. Uniquely, British stamps do not have the country of origin printed on them as the image of the monarch is sufficient. So it is a hugely important milestone for Royal Mail and the country as we reveal the image of the new King Charles Definitives" (Fig.3).

This makes King Charles III the seventh British monarch to feature on definitive stamps; Queen Victoria was the first in 1840 when her profile was used for the 'Penny Black'.

(See the side-bar: A TIMELINE OF BRITISH MONARCHS AND STAMPS). The image used was based on a sketch when she was 15 (Fig.2). This design continued to be used until her death at the age of 81.



Fig.3: The first King Charles III definitive stamps.

Five self-adhesive stamps of the new definitives (Fig.3) went on general sale 4 April 2023. This came a day after an increase in postage rates, with first class increasing by 15p to £1.10 (±R25.00) and second class rising by 7p to 75p (R17.25). The colours of each value were retained from the Machin definitives that feature Queen Elizabeth II.

The four non-denominated stamps were also issued as a set:

- First-class stamp - plum purple (£1.10 - ±R25.00, at the time of issue),
- Second-class is holly green (75p - ±R17.25),
- First-class large is marine turquoise (£1.60 - ±R36.80),
- second-class large is dark pine green (£1.15 - ±R26.45).

A fifth stamp, valued at £2.20 (±R50.00), was included for the new international letter rate, effective from 3 April 2023, for standard letters weighing up to 100 grams sent worldwide.

Royal Mail adapted the image, showing the new monarch facing to the left, from the Martin Jennings portrait created for new coinage from the Royal Mint. Royal Mail said in a press release announcing the new definitives "The new coin effigy was carefully adjusted and digitally re-lit to make it suitable for use on definitive stamps, with the aim of creating a worthy successor to Arnold Machin's classic image of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth".

It has been a tradition that the image used on coins is

adapted for use on stamps. The use of the coin image is a continuation of a long tradition stretching back to the creation of the Penny Black in 1840. Since the release of the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, in 1840, there has been a close association between British coins and definitive stamps. The portrait of Queen Victoria on the Penny Black was based on that designed by William Wyon, chief engraver at The Royal Mint, for the 'City' medal of 1838, which commemorated Queen Victoria's first visit to the City of London the year before.

Each stamp has a barcode printed in a matching colour and separated by a wavy line. The barcode associated with the stamp is an innovation to ensure the security and traceability of mail. The barcode can also be scanned with a smartphone. The result is a 'King-size' stamp that is much larger than the classic stamp: it measures 39mm x 30mm with perforations gauge 15 x 14.5. The self-adhesive stamps were printed by Cartor Security Printers, of France, using gravure processes.

In a continuation of the previous definitive stamps, the design is similar to that used for Queen Elizabeth II, featuring the image the King's profile (Fig.4). Although it looks the same, it is different.



Fig.4: Comparison of the QEII and King Charles III definitive stamp featuring the security bar code.

What marks these new definitives is the absence of a crown. King Charles III is the first monarch to be featured on stamps without a crown. As well as a lack of a crown, there are no other royal symbols. The pared-back design shows the king with a steady gaze and neutral expression. Commenting on the design, the King personally approved the stripped back image which shows no lavish clothing and crops the Royal at the neck as he faces left. David Gold, Director of External Affairs, Royal Mail, said "The feedback we got [from King Charles] was he wanted it to be simple. It's a very human image, with no embellishment". The image is quite different from the one used during the Queen's reign. In the stamp profile created by artist Arnold Machin in 1967 she chose to wear a crown in the image along with earrings, a necklace and a formal gown.

The KCIII definitives were intended to show continuity with the Queen's stamp – hence the similar angle of the image and as is traditional with British stamps, no country name is shown. David Gold added "I think it's quite special that we're the only country in the world where it's enough to have the monarchy on [stamps] to designate it's from the UK". Past monarchs shown without a crown, would still have it shown somewhere on the stamp (Fig.5). Traditionally stamps featuring British monarchs would include images of their royal status. It is rare that a stamp design has been so simple and unadorned. David Gold continued: "Personally, I think what marks this stamp is that there is no embellishment, no crown, just simply the face of the human being, on the plain background, almost saying, 'this is me and I'm at your service', which in this modern age is actually rather humbling".

The crown has long been one of the most instantly recognisable signifiers of the monarch. However, King, Charles opted not to wear one for his stamp portrait. Even his great uncle, Edward VIII, had an image of the crown on his stamp (Fig.11) despite abdicating before he was crowned.



Fig.5: Stamp featuring King George V, - an embellished frame incorporating an image of a crown above the King's head.

The choice not to wear a crown in the portrait, unlike his mother before him, is an interesting one. It could be perceived as the King choosing to show a more human face of the monarchy. However, there is a precedent for male monarchs not to wear a crown in their portraits. Nor do they not wear any typical Royal regalia (see sidebar 'A TIMELINE OF BRITISH MONARCH AND STAMPS'). As well as a lack of a crown there are no other Royal symbols. The design merely shows the King's head, the value of the stamp and a barcode. Peter Cockburn, President of the Royal Philatelic Society London said of the King Charles III definitives "It's as significant as anything else Charles III touches. The design is very suitably modern, the design has serious merit. Charles is a person who has a great deal more substance than people think. He's spent 70 years working out how the world ticks and I think he's pretty unsatisfied with it, so to have an image of him looking straight forward but reasonably serious is quiet a good one". The no-frills portrait has been hailed as a bold design which couldn't be simpler or more effective.

The King Charles III definitives have also come in for some severe criticism. Grapheine Graphic Design lambasted the design: "While the realism of the portrait is indeed striking, with the fatness of the neck and the large ears of Prince Charles clearly recognisable, the result is a certain austerity, not to say coldness. And why look to the left when we learn from the first course in semiology that in an image, the future is always located on the right? The monarchy always looks to the past... in the end it seems logical". Regarding the direction King Charles is facing, this is based on tradition and continuity.

A discussion on the Postage Stamp Chat Board suggested that this was an ideal opportunity to break with tradition. Instead of taking the image from that used on coinage, it was suggested the engraved portrait which features on bank notes be used (Fig.6). It was generally accepted that this presented a more flattering image of King Charles.

"The banknote portrait is just miles ahead more flattering to Charles compared with the coin, which really makes Charles' face look very fat and jowly. The banknote portrait ... takes about 25 years off his age and hair! The coin head 'feels' too clunky ... needs finessing. Let's not try and replicate the Machin - it was good, but it's been a long time."

Historically, when the Penny Black came out, the money

managers in government wanted to print it by letterpress but the argument was that only engraving would give a quality to the stamp that was worthy of Queen Victoria. This sentiment also holds good for the new King Charles III definitives! "It would be nice if that argument resurfaced as the UK still does an occasional engraved stamp and the engraving on the banknote is very nice. Of course it's flattering. He is the king after all."

One commentator wrote: "One way to handle a slightly ugly profile picture of Charles III, is to make it smaller, and place it inside a decorative frame. This seems to work reasonably well for these Edwardian definitives, using the older Jubilee frame designs." At the same time it was mooted that the pseudo 'perforations' between the portrait and the code be removed as "they serve no real purpose. There was absolutely no reason to include that simulated perforation line - unless Royal Mail wanted to confuse people even more. The number of non-philatelists who have asked me if they're supposed to cut that bit off before using the stamp highlights that".

Regarding the Machins, a commentator wrote: About 35 years ago there were moves to update her likeness on the Machin stamps - after all it had then been used for about 25 years. The Queen's Private Secretary is quoted by Royal Mail as responding in part: "Her Majesty is very content with the Machin effigy on the stamps, and thinks that a work of real quality is required, if this is to be replaced".

Needless to say after that - Britain [was] stuck with the same Machin bust design to this day, and the never aging Queen - who after 53 years has not changed one iota on definitive stamps, or added a single wrinkle line! I feel sure no-one has ever dared to raise it with her again. Her Majesty's image has seen her age gracefully on UK coinage, but oddly not on the stamps - I am sure there is a reason - someone will know! "Never underestimate



Fig.6: A suggested mock up of a possible King Charles III definitive stamp using the banknote portrait.

VANITY in the Windsors. Queenie point blank refused to change her image on stamps for 55 years! Design a new style of portrait as both look very dated. The King is something of a traditionalist, so I assume we will get some traditional-looking definitives".

Royal Mail offers a royal succession commemorative cover with the four King Charles III stamps. Individually numbered covers were printed in a limited run of 20,000.

A presentation pack contains the set of four non-denominated stamps along with a fold-out pack exploring the close association between British coins and definitive stamps since the creation of the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, in 1840. The first-day covers for the set of four non-denominated

A timeline of British monarchs and stamps

• Queen Victoria (Reign: June 1837 – January 1901)



Fig.8: Penny Black, 1840, portrait of Queen Victoria (1819-1901).

Princess Victoria became Queen a few weeks after her 18th birthday in 1837 following the death of her uncle William IV. Postage stamps were only introduced a few

years later, 6 May 1840. Victoria's image appeared on millions of 1d and 2d stamps. The portrait of Victoria remained the same throughout her reign. The image of Queen Victoria was based on a sketch made when she was 15 years old and continued to be used until her death at 81. The 1d Black, (Fig.8) being the world's first adhesive postage stamp, and all of Britain's subsequent stamps, do not include the country's name. It is reported that 68-million copies of the stamp were printed. This means the Penny Black is not a rare stamp. However, examples in mint condition and with neat margins can command very high prices.

With no perforations, each Penny Black stamp had to be cut from the sheets of 240 using scissors. This means the margins of each stamp can vary greatly, depending on the dexterity of the postal worker.

• King Edward VII (Reign: Jan.901 - May 1910)



Fig.9.

Victoria's son, Edward VII, took over many of the public duties of his mother when she withdrew from public after Prince Albert's death. The first stamps featuring Edward VII were issued

stamps and the £2.20 stamp feature postmarks from either Tallents House or Windsor (Fig.7).

The non-denominated stamps are purchased as a set of four, in booklets of four or eight, for the first-class stamps: in booklets of eight for the second-class stamps, and in booklets of four for both the first-class and second-class large stamps. The new stamps will be used along with those of Queen Elizabeth until stocks are sold out. Post Offices have to sell their existing stocks of definitive stamps featuring Her Late Majesty The Queen before they will be supplied with the new stamps. The King gave very clear instructions he didn't want existing stock shredded or pulped. Stocks of existing QEII stamps are expected to last until autumn 2023.

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• Grapheine Graphic Design. 2023. A king-size stamp for Charles III. <https://www.grapheine.com/en/graphic>

• Hartwig, D. 2023 *Royal Mail* reveals King Charles III definitive stamp. *Linn's Stamp News*, 8 February. <https://www.linns.com/news/>



Fig.7: First day of issue postmarks for the King Charles III definitive stamps.

A number of additional internet sites were researched regarding King Charles III becoming the first monarch on stamps without a crown.

1902. The definitive set was the King's only British issue (Fig.9). A second set of definitives were prepared in 1910, but with the death of the King the issue was destroyed.



• **King George V**
(Reign: May 1910 – Jan. 1936)

Fig.10.

As the introduction of King George V stamps were delayed, stamps featuring King Edward VII continued to be used as late as 1913. The first King George V stamps featured a three-quarter facing portrait. The design proved to be not very popular at the time. These were followed by a second issue using a profile image (Fig.10). King George's reign also saw the issuing of the first British commemorative stamps in 1924 for the British Empire Exhibition.

• **King Edward VIII**
(Reign: Jan.1936 – Dec.1936)

Following the death of King George V, his eldest son, Edward VIII, became king. However,



Fig.11.

his romance with an American divorced socialite Wallis Simpson led to his abdication in December 1936. A plain-looking definitive set was issued in September 1936 (Fig.11).

• **King George VI**
(Reign: Dec. 1936 – Feb.1952)



Fig.12.

With the abdication of Edward VIII, his brother, Prince Albert, became King George VI. His reign saw commemorative and definitive sets (Fig.12), including the 1948 Silver Wedding which featured the King and the Queen.

• **Queen Elizabeth II**
(Reign: Feb.1952 – Sep. 2022)

The reign of Queen Elizabeth II started in 1952 following the death of her father. Most noticeable during her reign was in the introduction in the 1960s of more commemorative issues with the Queen's head relegated to the corner of the



Fig.13.

stamp. However, the bust of the Queen, created by sculptor Machin became an iconic stamp (Fig.13). Arnold Machin created an effigy of Queen Elizabeth for decimal coinage before designing the definitive stamps that would be reproduced billions of times. Introduced in 1967 the design basically remained unchanged. The Queen Elizabeth II definitives designed by Arnold Machin were so prolific with different denominations, varieties and more, hence the stamps are nicknamed Machins. The series become so complex: in the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* there are more than 500 major listings in the Great Britain section of the catalogue. This makes it one of the most widely distributed stamps in the world!

• **King Charles III** (Reign: September 2022 -)

The first set of definitive stamps to feature King Charles III went on sale to the public, 4 April 2023, but the new definitive stamps will only be supplied once existing stocks of QEII stamps have been exhausted.



Fig.14.

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THE UNITED KINGDOM - A MEMORABLE DATE IN HISTORY

Saturday 6 May 2023 had the worlds attention focused on the Royal Coronation

THE CORONATION STAMPS *(extracts from the Royal Mail press release).*
Royal Mail issued four new stamps to mark the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla at Westminster Abbey. The stamps illustrate the Coronation ceremony and the traditional street party, as well as some causes His Majesty has dedicated his years of public service to.

THE CORONATION: Representing the monarchy, continuity, longevity, heritage and tradition. The stamp depicts the moment of Coronation, with St Edward's Crown being lowered onto His Majesty's head by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The King holds the Sceptre with Dove and the Sceptre with Cross and sits in the Coronation Chair. The scene is set in front of Westminster Abbey, with fireworks above. In the background, a gun salute is being fired by members of The King's Troop, while crowds watch the ceremony and celebrate.

DIVERSITY & COMMUNITY:
Reflecting a multi-faith community and the cultural diversity of contemporary British society. The stamp features figures representing Jewish, Islamic, Christian, Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist religions and is representative of all faiths and none. The background shows aspects of both rural and urban Britain and includes different places of worship that are found around the UK.

THE COMMONWEALTH:
An outward-looking United Kingdom, global trade, cooperation, democracy and peace, the stamp features an imagined Commonwealth meeting, a representation of the Commonwealth Games, some of the flags of the Commonwealth nations, and a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery.

SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY:
Highlighting the importance of conservation, biodiversity and a society that works with nature. The stamp depicts natural landscapes, sustainable farming methods and features renewable

sources of energy. Images of diverse forests, wildflower meadows and pollinating insects highlight the importance of wildlife conservation, while traditional crafts such as hedge-laying and beekeeping also feature prominently. The stamps had been available to view at the Postal Museum from 28 April, as part of The King's Stamp Exhibition. This is only the third time in history that Royal Mail has issued stamps to mark a Coronation. The previous two occasions were for King George VI in 1937 and Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Designed by Atelier Works and features newly commissioned wood engravings by British artist Andrew Davidson. A special postmark for stamped mail, was run from the 28 April to Wednesday 10 May.



The miniature sheet for the four new stamps (Royal Mail/PA)



A specially decorated postbox in Hillsborough, Co Down (Jonathan McCambridge/PA)

FOUR DECORATED POSTBOXES:

To celebrate the Coronation, postboxes in Westminster, central London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Hillsborough, Northern Ireland, display the occasion's official emblem.

The Westminster postbox is situated close to Westminster Abbey where the coronation took place on 6 May 2023.

RAND STAMPS

Special thanks extended

to my fellow SAPDA members, lead by Kenny Napier, who continued to fly the RAND STAMPS brand during our recent challenges and, just as rewarding is encouragement like this from Sven F Tollin:

<svenftollin@gmail.com> Sent in November after the 'Great Cape Exhibition'

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The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

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British Central Africa – Nyasaland to 1938. (page 158)



Posted during WWII, 23 October 1942, from Johannesburg to New York. (page 162)



Cover from British Guiana posted to Pafuri. (page 164)



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Please note; Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist*.

ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

- Volume. 99 : 6. 981 - The **DECEMBER 2023** issue
- 5 NOVEMBER 2023**



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/>



NATIONAL STAMPSHOW 2023 'SA Philatelist 100' - Midrand - 11 to 14 October 2023.
Venue: Kyalami Country Club, 433 Maple Rd, Kyalami AH, Midrand, 1684.

Entry is free and will be open every day from 09:00 to 18:00 with plenty of secure parking.

It is the Organising Committee's (OC) sincere hope to see as many philatelic friends as possible, and look forward to welcoming all visitors, dealers and exhibitors to this annual event. Make the most of your visit to this impressive Country Club, whose slogan is 'out in the country but close to home' - it is well worth the visit. Enjoy the stamps, meeting the Dealers and take advantage of the quality of the catering, and best of all, the club is only about a 20-minute drive from Sandton.

The Exhibition promises to be as exciting and offers us an opportunity to meet and greet friends, partners and making new friends.

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.

The Palmares takes place at **Glenda's Guest Suites** in Beaulieu, Midrand. Tickets are available at R370.00 per person and can be obtained from André du Plessis at andredupfs@gmail.com. Tickets are available during the Exhibition - please remember to secure your tickets!

The jury consists of Emil Minnaar RDPSA (Chairman), Emil Bührmann RDPSA, Howard Green RDPSA, Neil Cronjé RDPSA, Hugh Amooore RDPSA FRPSL, Michael Wigmore RDPSA, Danna Strydom (apprentice), Gary Pienaar (apprentice), Anton Putter (apprentice). The secretary is Joof van der Merwe. The judges will be happy to discuss aspects of the material on show and offer advice.

In total 14 International and Local dealers with SAPDA credentials, have a lot to entice even the most discerning collectors - don't miss this opportunity to see what's on offer.

The always popular stamp auction by Kenny Napier and Clinton Goslin begins at 11:00am on Saturday 14th October.

This year is the 95th Anniversary of the PFSA and its 85th Congress, scheduled to take place on Friday 13 October 2023 at 09:00.

In the beginning it was not a regular annual event however, in 1932, it was decided to meet annually. In the 1940s it was disrupted by the second World War. No Congresses were held from 1940 to 1947 inclusive.

Over the years that followed, PFSA awards were established which are awarded at the annual Congress. These Awards are:

<i>Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of SA</i>	<i>Long Service Awards</i>
<i>The Skinner Cup</i>	<i>Federation Plaques</i>
<i>The WE Lea Cup</i>	<i>Jack Hagger Cup</i>
<i>Manfred Weinstein Medallion</i>	<i>Federation Certificates</i>
<i>Harvey Pirie Memorial Award</i>	<i>SA Philatelist Awards</i>



Exhibition canceller

It would be remiss of me not to thank sponsors, societies and advertisers for their financial support.

A special thanks is extended to Ian Shapiro of our main sponsor, Spink of London, Kyalami Country Club for the venue, Kenny Napier of SAPDA and the efforts and dedication of the Organising Committee and all members who assisted in some way or another. Without all this support, a successful exhibition is just not possible!



STAMPSHOW 2023 'SA Philatelist 100'

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 10 October 2023.

- 09:00 - 18:00: Erecting frames/Mounting.
- 10:00: Delivery of exhibits to Bin Room.

Wednesday 11 October 2023.

- 09:00: Exhibition opens.
- 09:00 - 10:30: Judging.
- 10:30: Official Opening.
- 11:00 - 18:00: Judging continues.
- 18:00: Exhibition closes.
- 19:00: Jury Dinner.

Thursday 12 October 2023.

- 09:00: Exhibition opens.
- 18:00: Exhibition closes.
- 19:00: SAPDA Dinner.

Friday 13 October 2023.

- 09:00: Exhibition opens.
- 09:00: PFSA 85th Congress.
- 18:00: Exhibition closes.
- 19:00: Palmares.

Saturday 14 October 2023.

- 08:00: Exhibition opens.
- 09:00: Jury critique.
- 09:30: Foundation Meeting. (By invitation)
- 11:00: Auction.
- 18:00: Exhibition closes.

Sunday 15 October 2023.

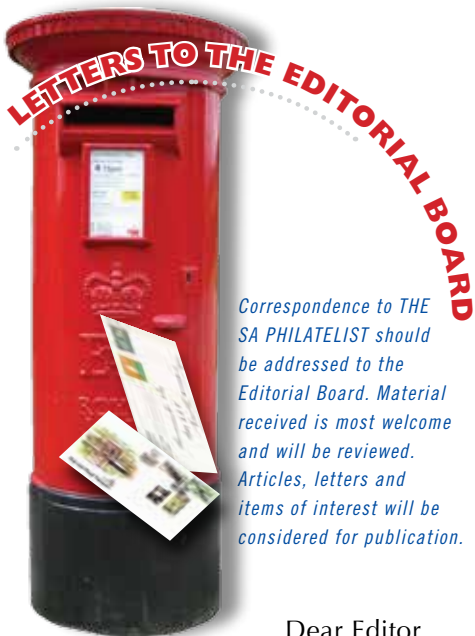
- From 09:00: Collecting of exhibits from Bin Room.
- SEE YOU THERE!

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The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.

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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 will be considered for publication.

Dear Editor,

While looking through items of past Philatelic Shows, I came across an envelope of a Post Office Souvenir Telegram from the Empire Exhibition of Johannesburg 1936.

The envelope had a 1d. stamp cancelled at the Empire Exhibition. The envelope was empty.

I asked around and no one really knew what it was all about. There seems to be some different examples. Does anyone have the story and any information about it?

Victor Millard



Points to Ponder:

DO YOU KNOW: That 'staples' are a problem for recyclers of paper ?

Paper 'receipts' use ~3.7 million trees and 38 billion litres of water annually, according to a 2022 [Skip the Slip report](#) by Green America. People also absorb harmful chemical coatings from touching paper slips.

The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, '*Keeping in Touch*'. 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> email > pfsastamps@gmail.com

PUBLICATION:

The South African Philatelist, a bi-monthly stamp journal, 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 **1923**.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

• **Affiliation fee:** RSA and World Wide: R125.00

PLEASE NOTE: The PFSA affiliation fee includes six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

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

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Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, email: janice@gdb.co.za

IN MEMORIAM



EDWIN STRYDOM

1934 – 2023

It was a sad day when we heard of the passing of Edwin Strydom, one of the oldest members of the Philatelic Society of Natal. A quiet, humble man who served on the committee for many years and contributed many hours helping with the circuit books.

His particular interest was in France and the USA. He was a regular contributor to our monthly displays and discussions with excellently researched and displayed content.



He was the 'go to' person if you wanted to know something, always happy to share his extensive knowledge of philately.

A true gentleman, he will be missed by his family and friends.

Phun with postmarks

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



REFINING IMAGES

Steve Hannath from the South African Philately Club recently shared the results of using PhotoShop to study postmarks. There may be many postmark students who use this or other packages to enhance the visibility of postmarks. However, this column does not intend to train you with this technique, but rather to alert you about the capabilities.

The example is a postmark of Malmesbury Station, which is lightly applied and is difficult to see (Fig.1). Three steps are applied, firstly a circle is drawn on the uppermost layer of the Photoshop image with the same line thickness, then the name is drawn with a pencil tool with a line matching the original, and lastly the date which is a thinner line. Note that at all times only the visible features can be copied. For example, the upper S is different from the bottom S. Both could be made the same but this is not faithful to the original. This technique helps with display, but whenever possible an actual image is preferred as fine nuances may not be reflected during the drawing process.



Fig.1: Example of an original date stamp which was copied using PhotoShop.

Another fruitful application is to determine whether a partial strike matches another example, as shown in Fig.2. The partial strike on the left is drawn in red ink to be able to distinguish the two strikes, as the central image is complete. With care the transparent copy is placed over the complete date stamp and rotated or moved to match, as is shown on the right. It is evident that the match is perfect. This technique was also applied to compare Hooded Circle (HC) date stamps, especially to compare examples that have a dot between names.



Fig.2: Comparing partial strike with a complete Hooded Circle date stamp.

SWA REGISTRATION CACHETS RESURRECTED

Danie van Zyl came across interesting single line cachets on SWA FDCs. He approached me for clarification, as Putzel in his 'Handbook of the Post Marks of German SWA, SWA and Namibia' makes no reference to this handstamp. Danie found that several types of handstamp exist, and there had been correspondence in April and August 1998 *SAP 'From the mailbag'* between several prominent postmark students, amongst others Chris Cordes, Leo Crandel and Dr David de Klerk. The correspondence provided insight but it was not definitive. In the current addendum of the *Putzel Handbook* a number of images are presented. They are complementary to the earlier work by Danie and an in depth study on registered label cachets done by the late Arthur Gaydon (extracts provided by Derick Loteryman). Under the Windhoek section there are various 'Alpha references or codes'! He also mentioned that he did not have much insight to these codes and if anyone could assist it would be appreciated. There are various codes, namely V; RV; VR; NI; S; SO; C; HC amongst others. These codes are shown in Fig.3 in date sequence. Unfortunately

only the cachet is shown, although covers were used to help with the explanation.



Fig.3: (i) to (xiii) Examples of single line office cachets used for registration in Windhoek

Code	Suggested definition	Date used
D		12.5.1937 KGV1 Cor
HC		Undated
SO	Stamp Office?	1.7.1938 without Windhoek (Fig.4) to 14.12.1938, 17.7.1939 Huguenot 1943 War? 3.12.1945 to 18.1.1946 Victory
RV	Royal Visit	14.2.1947
V	Voortrekker Monument	1.12.1949
VR	Van Riebeeck	14.3.1952
C	Coronation	2.6.1953
NI	New Issue?	15.11.1954 Definitive issue

Table 1. Discussion of alpha codes used for registration in Windhoek



Fig.4.

In this analysis several interesting insights are presented:

- A 1937 code 'D', not listed by Gaydon, was found. Since it was not previously recorded it could be a clerk signature. However, it was found on the KGV1 coronation date, and could be a valid code. What the definition represents is not clear.
- Code 'HC' listed by Gaydon but undated. Definition not clear.
- The definition of 'SO' has been a challenge. If all the definitions are considered they are mostly related to stamp issues. 'SO' could be Stamp Office and would explain why it was used over several issues, and there were two types of cachet and a manuscript without single line Windhoek (Fig.4). Previously Savings Office or Standing Orders were suggested as a definition.
- It was found that the 'SO' cachet was used on registered mail, not in all cases on the day of issue.
- De Klerk pointed out that no cachet was seen for the Silver Wedding issue.
- After the 'SO' use only the Windhoek cachet was used, and the other details were entered in manuscript, often by different clerks.

(g). The definitions from the Royal Visit to QEII Coronation are self-explanatory and have previously been confirmed. Although the Royal Visit did not include SWA, overprinted stamps were issued.

(h). The 'NI' is another challenge. The date of use is the first day of issue of the 1954 definitive issue, and 'New Issue' appears logical. There is now only one item, 'S', from Gaydon's list that we have not placed. Who can help? Could S be Silver Wedding, or a truncated cachet?

One unanswered question is why the single line office cachet would be used for registration if conventional registration cachets were also used during the study period. A brief encounter 'First day covers in Swaziland' by CF Skinner, evidently a stamp dealer, in the June 1937 issue of *The SAP* provided insight. He decided to personally supervise the arrangements for the Coronation issue FDC as the Mbabane post office was going to be open for only 1 hour. His agent in Mbabane arranged for a room in a hotel as near as possible to the post office. The agent also arranged for five helpers, three to stick the stamps on the covers and two to assist Skinner and agent to tear the sheets. Early in the morning of issue a queue started to form outside the Post Office.

At 9 a.m. the doors were opened and small and large orders were dealt with at two counters. Skinner had a runner who would bring the stamps to the team in the hotel. There were at least two other Johannesburg dealers going through the same process. At 10 a.m. the doors were closed as advertised. The Postmaster afterward said that he had calculated that there were between 1500 and 2000 covers to be postmarked. This narrative suggests that small post offices were not geared to handle large volumes of registered mail, and interim solutions, similar to the office cachets in Windhoek, were probably used.

Putzel en posstempel studente het in die vroeë dae stempels nageteken, dikwels nie baie goed nie. Hedendaagse tegnologie vergemaklik hierdie taak, en het ek met die hulp van Steve Hannath van die verwikkelinge gewys.

Weereens het ons in die geskiedenis gedelf, want die inligting wat miskien so 80 jaar gelede opgelos is, het ons nou gepootjie want ons kry nie die antwoorde nie. Allerhande kodes is op eerste dag koeverte tussen 1930s en 1950s gebruik in SWA, maar ons moet nou maar raai wat dit beteken. Met die hulp van Danie van Zyl en enkele briewe wisselinge, is 'n prentjie bymekaar gesit wat die kodes saam met Windhoek enkelystempel probeer verduidelik. Daar moet sekerlik verdere kennis by ons kundiges wees wat hierdie prentjie kan voltooi.



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Commissioner's report for TAIPEI 2023 World Stamp Exhibition

by Victor Millard, Royal Philatelic Society Cape Town

Imagine, if you will, an electronic funfair of stamps. Walking into a wonderland of stamps and finally ending up being part of that very imaginary world. This was just the entrance to the Taipei 2023 stamp show. There were interactive activities all day and the queues! People diligently stood in queues forever without complaining just to purchase the issues brought out for the show.

After my duties as commissioner, it was too late to find the end of the queue. It took until the second last day for me to manage to get stamps for letters and postcards. When I finally did get the stamps into my clutches it was just a bit short for the next tier of prizes, so I had to buy another lot. This entitled me to a gift and then a draw for another gift and several vouchers to have a postcard made which you could then post back home with a picture of myself at the show. Again, via the cell phone.

There were several 'FRAMA' machines in an enclosed area where people could make their own labels after purchasing the requisite 'coins'. There were about 100 chairs for the waiting label makers behind the machine.



SA Commissioner - Victor Millard

the lights from above my head and the carpet was being rolled up and trollies and aluminium struts finding the shortest path to the floor. Clutching the exhibits tightly in our arms we made our way to the commissioner's room for the last time and to say good bye to our newly made friends.



South African Entry Results

Joof van Der Merwe	The ½d Springbok of the Union of South Africa	88 points	Large Vermeil
Vic Sorour	South African Protea Definitive Series	85 points	Large Vermeil
Hugh Amooore	How the Cape Treated Official Mail 1800-1910	92 points	Gold
Ian Matheson	Entertainment Tax in Great Britain	90 points	Gold
Gila Orkin	Namibia: The overprints of the 2000's and their origin	70 points	One Frame
Avi Barit	Basutoland: The 1961 Decimal Overprints	80 points	One Frame

Clutching your labels, you could go to an area to paste stamps onto your postal emissaries to the world.

The Chunghwa Post Office supported the show which cost R24 million and took in over R60 million. There were over 330,000 visitors entering via the endless queues to buy their stamps, see the dealers and view the 1200 frames of exhibits. The organisers need to be congratulated on a superbly run show.

Being FIAP, it was orientated towards the Asian contingent of which South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and the Arab countries have a part. There were some landmark Taiwanese and Singaporean exhibits while lurking in the background were our own South African exhibits achieving very credible results.

There were three seminars namely Thematics, Postcards and Aerophilately which highlighted the journey one needs to follow to give the judges what they need so that they can give you what you want. The overwhelming feeling of reciprocity and harmony was palpable.

Once the show was over and we were able to go in and collect our exhibits. The frenzy of removal began. Whilst standing in the queue waiting to get helpers for the taking down of Exhibits, there were riggers on ladders removing



Invited judges from around the world - SA's Emil Minnaar RDPSA, left in the second row from the top.

We were so busy with all the show that we did not have an opportunity to see the sights, so on the day after the show we booked out of the hotel, placed our bags in lockup as our flight was only at midnight and we were free for the day. We decided to go to the Palace Museum. The Palace Museum is a place of wonder and awe with artifacts of incomparable beauty and unsurpassed craftsmanship. We saw so many items which have been depicted on the stamps of Taiwan. A fitting end to a fascinating journey.



Guidelines for Judging Aerophilatelic Exhibits

<https://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/FIP-Guidelines-AERO-Final-09.08.2022-approved-2.pdf>

Glen Stafford of Australia gave this seminar, which is a FIP qualifying seminar and is the same talk given in Cape Town '22

In his experience, to most exhibitors, there is only one medal and these exhibitors often approach him asking why they did not get gold!

His response is to work through the rules until they see what the judges saw. He had three recommendations:

- First, as judges cannot be expected to (and don't) know everything on every subject they need to be guided by the exhibitor through a well-constructed exhibit. The harder it is for the judges to understand your exhibit, the harder it will be for them to mark.
- Secondly, if something is irrelevant to your story - DO NOT PUT IT IN. Do not build an exhibit around material you have but place the elements you have into the exhibit and then look for the material that you do not have to cover your story.
- Thirdly the way to a good exhibit in Aerophilately (or really any other category) is to read the rules thoroughly (at least three times), and to write up your proposed story and then compare it with the rules, ensuring that the story is well constructed with a beginning, middle and end.

Both beginning and end are important in laying the scene and then finishing with a bang. See that all your sub categories in the body are well documented with titles as a logical guide to let your story flow and draw the viewer from point to point. He pointed out that Aerophilately has now been divided into two sub classes.

- a) Sent by air b) Airmail Stamps

There are three eras of Aerophilately 1). Prior to 1900; 2). 1900-1942 and 3). 1943 to date.

Aerograms are generally treated as Postal Stationery but can be exhibited under Aerophilately if the exhibit will be better in Aerophilately than in Postal Stationery. Not all aerogrammes have stamp imprints but are stampless and can be included in an Aerophilatelic exhibit, but only very few of them should be included.

TITLE: Your title needs to be self-explanatory, descriptive and encompassing. Choose a subject, limit the subject (time span; types of flights etc.). Your entire exhibit hangs upon the title. Judges will refer to it to see if you are following your story.

INTRODUCTION: Your introduction must say what you are going to do, and why. the introduction is critical to the exhibit as it is the measure against which your exhibit will be judged and must contain:

Title, Scope, Treatment, and Rarity. Do NOT put anything special onto the introduction page as it will NOT be judged.

JUDGING

1. Treatment 20 points – GREV, Article 4.5 2.

- This is really about how well you tell your story, how well your material tells your story, and how complete it is.
- No duplication or padding.
- TREATMENT = STORY

This is the most important part and the heart of an exhibit.

- Again, it is important that you reference your story and if references do not exist WRITE AND PUBLISH beforehand so that you can then reference them in your exhibit.
- Themes to consider using: Local rate; International rates; any concessions; Start and End dates.
- Try and balance all the sections, treat each section with the same deference
- DO NOT put in 'showy' special items or expensive items if they do not directly fit into your theme

- Make sure that the first frame is strong as it lays the foundation of your exhibit. (Once upon a time....)

- The last frame needs to be powerful and end the story properly. (And they lived happily ever after.....)

- At the top of the pages, you can put in headings which show the logical progression of the exhibit

e.g. **Heading Subheading Sub-sub-heading**

(there is a TITLE so each page should logically have a heading to logically lead one from one section to the next)

They can overlap a little.

- Markings and labels should be explained, e.g. *jus qu'* a markings or getting the exact flight number
- Maps should show where a flight is going
- Adding information such as, how many bags of post etc shows research
- Judges JUDGE YOUR KNOWLEDGE.
- Do not use only first flight covers (unless that is your theme) but show second flights or subsequent ones.

2. Philatelic Importance 10 points - GREV, Article 4.6 3

- Significance of the exhibit in relative development
- How does it relate to the rest of the world.

3. Philatelic & Related Knowledge, Personal Study and Research – 35 points - GREV, Article 4.7 4.

- Personal published research is an added plus as it tells the judges that they can refer to these articles and do not have to guess about the information.
- If there are markings or labels which are different, strange or odd, do explain, even better Publish.
- Adding in actual flight numbers indicates research.

4. Condition 10 Points - GREV, Article 4.8 5.

- Erase any dealers' marks like price of a cover as this is not helpful and people have been known to try and emphasise rarity by adding an extra zero to the price.
- Generally clean up a cover before placing it in the exhibit without removing original markings.

5. Rarity 20 points - GREV, Article 4.8 6.

- RARITY always presents a problem when one uses phrases like 'only one known'.
- Avoid such words as unique or very rare unless you have a means of backing it up through articles that have been written on the subject.
- By your saying that something is rare does not make it so.
- The suggestion is that exhibitors do articles on their subject and publish them in appropriate magazine or journal. This will mean that they can be referenced in your exhibit for all to see and as a guide to the judges.
- The judges cannot know everything; this is especially so with very specialised exhibits.

6. Presentation 5 points - GREV, Article 4.9.

- Spend as much time as everywhere else on ensuring spacing and balance of elements on the page.
- An exhibit viewed from a distance should look good.

COMPETE AGAINST YOURSELF BUT LET YOUR EXHIBIT SPEAK TO EVERYONE.



Helpful hints from the judges for your next exhibit

... seminars from the Taipei 2023, a summary by Adél Bulpitt

There were some interesting seminars at the Taipei 2023 International on how exhibits are judged in terms of what the judges look out for, want, or don't want to see. There are many categories with their subcategories and the following categories were covered: Postcards, Thematic and Aerophilately. Herewith a few pointers that will hopefully help you to improve your exhibit and obtain your desired result. The main message throughout was that you must stick to your storyline, and not to deviate from the message you are trying to portray. Golden rule is that if the story can be told without a specific item, then that item doesn't belong in your exhibit. There is also a feeling that thick black frames around your items isn't favourable, the new trend is to use clear mounts and to put a thin black or grey frame around your item.

THEMATIC

(Kim Chang Han & Tono Putranto)

There are 3 main criteria that the judges look at:

• Knowledge & Research:

- Do you know and understand your material or are you elaborating on irrelevant information?
- Have you researched it or merely just copied the info straight from the catalogue?
- If the story can be told without that information or item, then don't add it in the exhibit.

• Rarity:

- When you state that something is rare or difficult to come by it is good to quantify (only 5 known)
- Remember that by the time that the judge gets to your 'rare' item he has seen hundreds of other 'rare' items, and bear in mind that your understanding of rarity might differ from the judge's.
- It is your job to inform the judge why this item is rare and can be done by quantifying the rarity as well as stating the sources in your bibliography.
- You will often find that an exhibit with more common material will score higher than one full of rare material.
- Don't focus on the rarity of the items, rather focus on the appropriateness of the material to your storyline.

• Presentation:

- Look at the condition of the material before you put it in.
- Ensure that your pages are visually pleasing to the eye: use 2 styles of fonts or 2 different colours to distinguish between the storyline and the technical information.
- Your title page shouldn't look like an index - use three to four words per line rather than one word to avoid it looking like an index.
- Avoid too many unnecessary words and long sentences

Footnote: The judges currently receive the first and the last page of your exhibit prior to the event so they can prepare and do some research. Remember that the judges are experts in their field, but they can't know everything that might turn up at an exhibition. This is why your bibliography is integral in assisting the judges. It is crucial as exhibitors showing an item

that hasn't been presented before, to point the judges in the right direction via the bibliography. It would help if you have written and published an article about it in your local/national philatelic publication. By writing the article your claim would either be refuted or confirmed.

This overcomes the issue whereby judges request to see usage in your next exhibit and have marked you down on the rarity. We have all been there and it is very frustrating if not soul crushing. The published article even if it is written by yourself gives credence to your claim of rarity.

Herewith a link for more detailed information: <http://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/China-2019-for-published-How-to-Improve-thematic-exhibit-Understanding-rule-and-Material.pdf>

(Sharing a few happy snaps of this amazing exhibition)





The queues never end



The SA Philatelist, October 2023.

PICTURE POSTCARDS

(Jeff Long)

The following criteria is important to the judges:

- **Title page:**

Choose your title carefully: It should tell us what the subject is, it should be limited either by topic or date or area for example. Does the plan support the title? Keep to the title and tell the story. Your intention statement should be an expansion/explanation of your title. Show on your title page where the rare items are. Your bibliography is very important here. Put an interesting item (teaser) on the front page, just one postcard as a lead in.

- **Treatment:**

Each postcard must have a connection to the story. It is important that the story flows to the next page.

- **Knowledge and research:**


Do your research properly and tell the story, don't write up what is written on the front of the postcard. On the technical side there should be information on the Publisher, production, Photographer, and distribution of the cards if available. If the technical information is the same on the cards you mention it on the first one, not on each and every one. Supply technical information beyond what is printed on the card. Where and when it was posted is irrelevant, the picture is important: the only time you will show a date stamp is if it proves your timeline and is integral to the storyline. Again, it is useful to use 2 different fonts to distinguish between technical info and the storyline.

- **Rarity:**

There are almost no catalogues for picture postcards. Explain why you think that your items are rare. 2-3 Rare cards for a 5-frame exhibit are good.

Herewith a link for more detailed information: <https://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/PPC-FIP-Qualifying-2023-Taipei-FIAP.pdf>

Footnote: Don't show what you don't know and tell the judges what you do know. Do your research and share the knowledge. The layout should be easy to follow and ensure that your pages are balanced. Try and avoid the railway line effect. Mix it up a bit and don't be afraid to be creative.

A.B. 



Recognition for the SA Commissioner Victor Millard



New Editorial Board members, Adél Bulpitt & Victor Millard



2023 participation medal



A fond farewell to an amazing city and a terrific philatelic exhibition



THE 1918 'OUR DAY' RED CROSS FLIGHTS: A FOOTNOTE

by Hugh Amoores RDPSA, Royal Philatelic Society Cape Town

The *Our Day* Red Cross Aerial Posts held in Cape Town and Johannesburg in October, November and December 1918 are well known, and have been extensively documented,¹ and the flown cards have been studied and collected by aerophilatelists. Telegrams – though a FIP-recognised form of postal stationery² – have been less extensively documented and seldom studied and collected.

The Union Post Office provided the telegram service, following the pattern adopted by the Cape Government in the 1880s.

The Flights

The flights were part of a South African Red Cross campaign to raise funds for WWI wounded soldiers and dependants of the fatally wounded. The aerial postal service carried souvenir postcards sold at 6d each, on which the local ½d, or 1d Empire and foreign postcard postage was also payable.

There were two types of these 'Make your Sixpence Fly' cards: 'large wings' cards flown in Cape Town on 7, 26 October and 2 November 1918 (Fig.2); and 'small wings' cards (Fig.3) used in five Transvaal flights on 20, 22, 24, 27 and 30 November 1918.

The aircraft was a BE 2E biplane, the pilot was RAF Lieutenant –A H Gearing, and he was assisted by two RAF mechanics, Sergeant Way, and Corporal Streeter.

Burrell records that: "the BE 2E biplane was sent north by rail to Roberts Heights ... where it was reassembled."



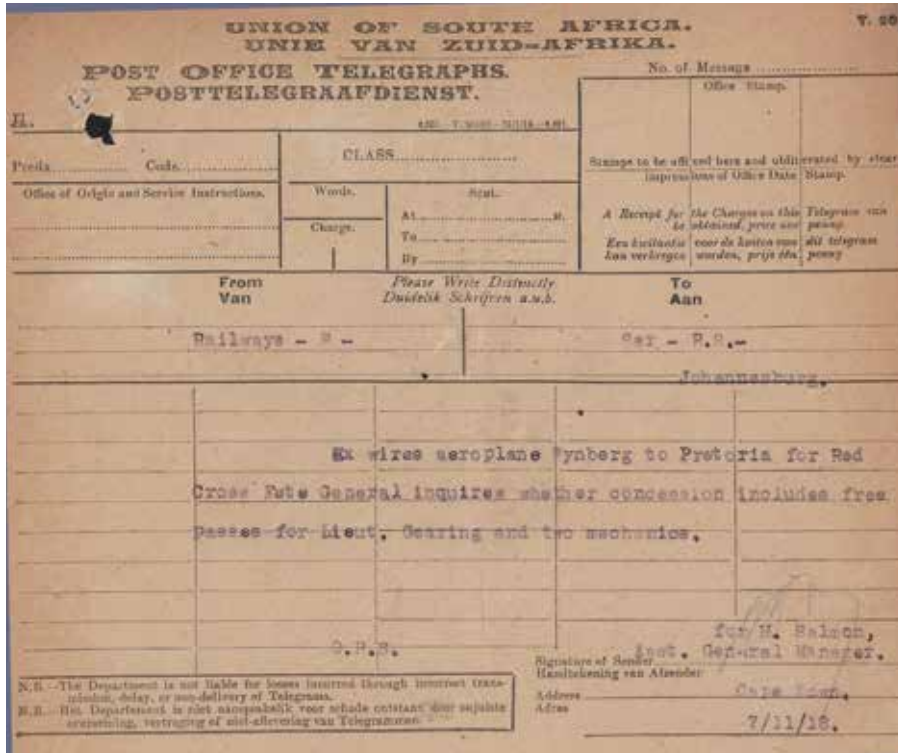
Fig.1: Telegram received in Cape Town on 6 November 1918 reads: "Your wire re aeroplane following send you second instant begins your wire aeroplane from Wynberg to Pretoria for red cross fete free conveyance may be allowed." And then endorsed by the recipient in red: "tel Wynberg today by phone please. 6/11".



Fig.2: (above) Postcard illustrating the 'large wings' with an additional fundraising label top left. Cape Town flight, 7 October 1918.



Fig.3: 2 November 1918 'small wings' - Transvaal flight.



The Telegrams

A set of three Post Office telegrams between the Cape Town and Johannesburg offices of the then South African Railways and Harbours (SAR&H) adds an as-yet-unrecorded footnote to the 'Our Day' Flights story.

The three telegrams tell how the SAR&H agreed to convey the aircraft free of charge from Wynberg to Pretoria, and how a subsequent request for free passage for Lieutenant Gearing and his two mechanics was made and approved.

Fig.4: Cape Town SAR&H copy of telegram sent to SAR RS Johannesburg: "Ex wires aeroplane Wynberg to Pretoria for Red Cross Fete General inquires whether concession includes free passes for Lieut. Gearing and two mechanics" This is endorsed O.R.S. (On Railway Service) to secure free telegram transmission.

1. See for example: *Jack Burrell's Par Avion in Southern Africa* pp 23-29.

2. See FIP Guidelines for Judging Postal Stationery Exhibits which state (1.3.1) that "Telegraph Forms can be exhibited as postal stationery". See also the FIP Guidelines for Postal History Exhibits which list telegram services among the postal history class 2C subjects.

Fig.5: Telegram received in Cape Town on 7 November 1918 reads: "Ex wires aeroplane for red cross ... free passes may be issued to Lieut and two mechanics." This was endorsed: "Lt. Gearing 1st [class] Return. Two mechanics 2nd [class]" [Return].



The Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

is offering **FREE** one-year membership for new applicants. As a member you will receive the award winning journal *Forerunners*, published three times per year. If you have an interest in the Greater Southern Africa philately and postal history go to www.psgsa.org and email piperjohn165@gmail.com to be added to our rolls.



TWO BOOKS BY FRANCO FRESCURA REVIEWED
BY HUGH AMOORE RDPSA

Poste Restante at the Cape and other essays.

(ISBN 978 - 0 - 620 - 99657- 0) (R350 see detail at the end of article)

Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope.

(ISBN 978 - 0 - 620 - 95924- 70) (R350 see detail at the end of article)

Both by Franco Frescura and published by Phansi Museum Press, Durban and available through the Phansi Museum at admin@phansi.com

Frescura, one-time head of the SAPO's Philatelic Services, has recently published two books that are important contributions to the research-based literature on the postal history of the Cape of Good Hope.

He is well-known among students of postal history for his many journal articles, his 2002 monumental two-volume 'The Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope form 1792 – 1910' and his more recent 2018 PFSA publication 'Postal Cancellers of the Cape. 1853 – 1910', a book that destroys any credibility still attached to Jurgens' work on the Cape of Good Hope.

Outside of philately he is perhaps the country's leading student of indigenous, folk, and vernacular architecture, for which he was awarded *The Heritage Association's Simon van der Stel 'Gold Medal for Heritage Conservation'*. This work is characterised by commitment to and expertise in the preservation of historical environments and to researching the nature and relationship between the built environment and the culture and cosmologies of its builders where, as he puts it, "the true nature of an architectural identity can only be found in the use of space".

He is currently Visiting Professor, Department of Architecture, University of the Witwatersrand, Honorary Professor and Senior Research Associate, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

• **Poste Restante at the Cape and other essays**

This is vintage Frescura, not short of opinions but necessary for any student of the postal history of the Cape. It is a collection of seventeen essays all preceded by a lucid historical summary of key dates in the development of postal services from the time of the Portuguese explorers. Chapter two from which the book gets its wry title is an account of early explorers and how they left mail under *post office stones*, to be collected in due course by a passing ship; hence *poste restante!*

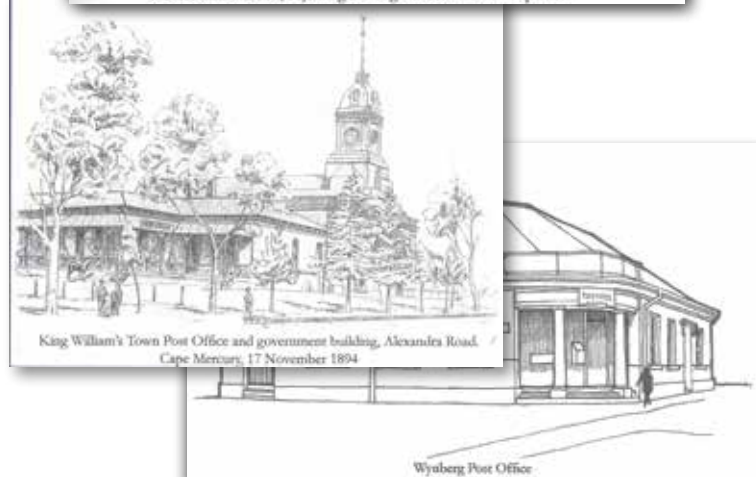
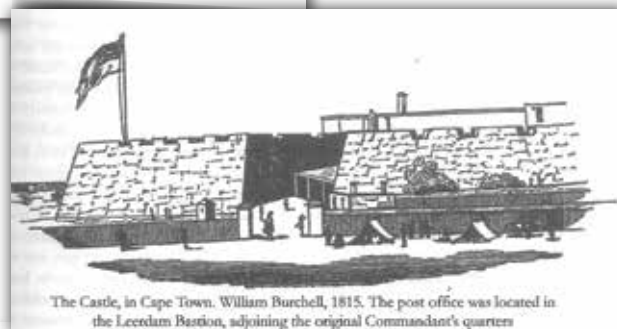
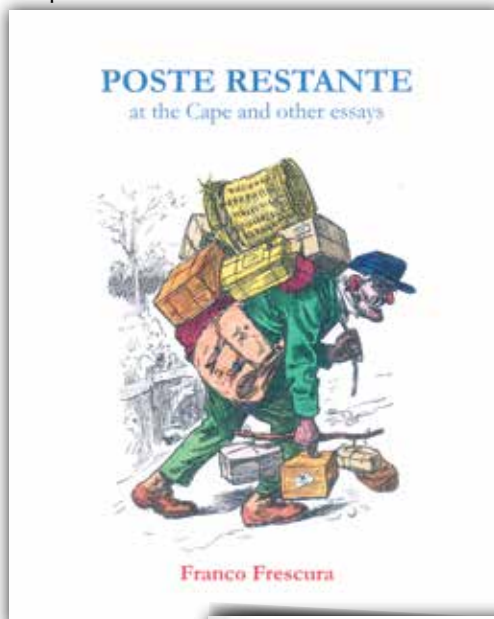
Having introduced the reader to the structures of the State and Government that have some relationship with postal services in chapter 4, he then gives sketches of those who held office as Postmasters General from 1792 until 1910. We get a picture of the scheming John Holland (PMG during the first British occupation) but whose scheming was soon perceived for what it was by Lady Anne Barnard who wrote: "I saw that he wished to get possession of the mind of my husband but as he saw it too her was no danger."; of Caldwell whose wife was Postmaster at Stellenbosch for 38 years; of Crozier, PMG from 1815 to 1852, and in the first 13 years concurrently with his other day job at the Lombard & Discount Bank (*The Bank van Lening*); of the unlucky J A le Sueur who was unfairly dismissed, a fact that was recognised some years later; the able, colourful, and crooked James Sivewright who did much to establish the telegraph network not only in the Cape and also in Natal and the Boer republics but who, after leaving the

civil service entered politics as Rhodes' right-hand man. Frescura is kind to Sivewright whose corruption led to the fall of the Ministry.

Sivewright continued to seek a political role after the Anglo-Boer War and won the Stellenbosch seat but was deposed when it was shown that his agents had been bribing voters. He includes of Somerset French, who having organised a postal and telegraph service for the island of Cyprus, undertook the reorganisation of the Cape's postal system, secured the Cape's entry into the UPU, and had a major role in negotiating the Southern African Postal Union Convention of 1898. Chapter 5 is - or appears to be - a brief survey of the buildings of the General Post Office and

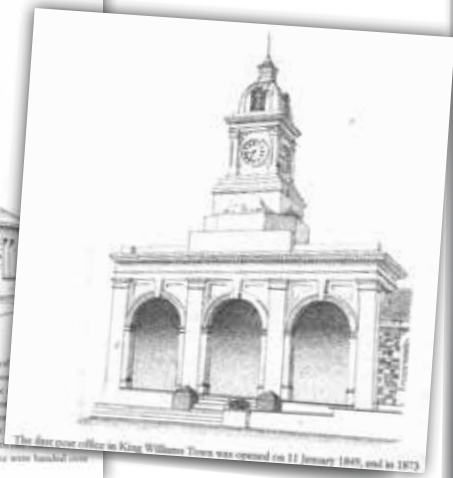
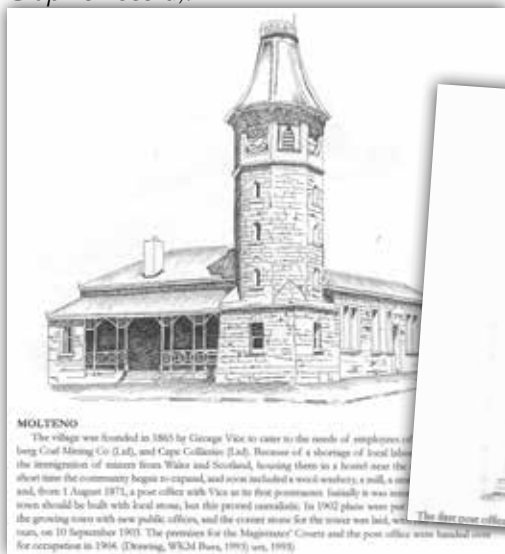


Franco Frescura - author



could only have been written by a person so well versed in the heritage architecture of the Cape. However, it is much more besides, running through it are the stories and anecdotes of a Post Office coming to terms with a fast growing economy,

demanding more and more of the Post Office. Kimberley typifies this, and Frescura takes us from the 'chaotic' service at the New Rush PO – so chaotic that one Harding was easily able to abscond with letters containing 2,381 diamonds, stolen as he confessed in his trial, from the Post Office – to the Kimberley Post Office that was able to continue service during the siege of 1899-1900. The chapter, and the book as a whole, is profusely illustrated, mainly with superb line drawings, many by Frescura himself, but including drawings by WH Schröder and Egersdörfer, from Punch, and by his students which, as only he could put it “*were quite outstanding or, at the very least, just as good as mine, and so ... might be reproduced as a final chapter*”. There is more of this in the final chapter (*the Graphic Record*).



The chapters that follow - on Post Office Management, on *Post Office* office rules and procedure, the TPOs, and the Ocean Post Office, with it a summary of the key ocean mail contracts, are essential reading for any student of the postal history of the Cape. We learn of the rules for adjusting timecodes on cancellers, of how stamp stocks were kept by the Treasury and released to the PMG on requisition as required, and of how limited career opportunities led to a situation where the postal authorities, in the evidence of a newspaper proprietor to a Commission of Enquiry, “*have to contend with the inferior quality of the postmasters in the country*”.

Sandwiched between these are chapters on *Women in the Post Office*, *Convict stations*, from which we learn of these stations that had postal facilities, and *Licensed Stamp Vendors*. Anglo Boer War collectors will find new information in the chapter on *Hostilities and Mail Services 1899-1902*.

It is perhaps as well that what Frescura records and rages like the poem about “*Do not go gently into that good night*

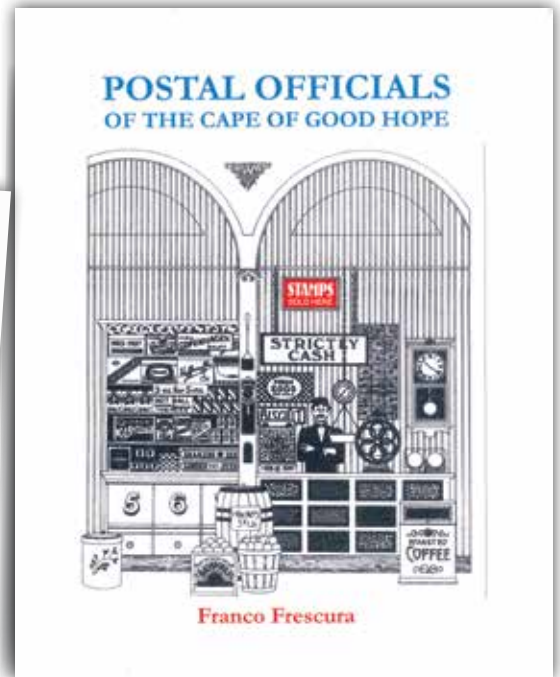
*Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light...*” on the subject

of the plundering of the archives should be the penultimate, but not the last, chapter, for it makes for distressing reading. We get an account of the Jurgens story but see also *Postal Cancellers of the Cape 1853 – 1910*, p89 and following). Frescura accepts here, as he does in his earlier publication, the evidence of Jurgens as told to Lawrence Green as to how he rescued much of the material he had from incineration. I am less sanguine.

What is common cause is that CG Botha, the Union Archivist, allowed Jurgens to take the wrappers off precolonial and colonial

era letters as long as the letters remained in the archives, and it was those wrappers that contain the postal evidence. But while the Jurgens saga is well known and has been since it was exposed by Douglas Roth in the early 1950s, less well known are subsequent depredations of the archives which form the rest of this chapter.

- The companion *Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope* is different in scope and content, being a biographical listing of all those known



to have worked for the Cape Post Office; the listings are in many cases merely that, but we find that Henry Macrae Watson who joined the service as ‘president of sorters’ in PE in 1853, was appointed as successor on the premature death of the Postmaster in 1858, and was given a brief holiday before taking up this appointment ‘*during which he suddenly died!*’ or postmasters Warren, Cable, and Smith whose postal establishments took their names (as in *Warrendale*, *Cadle’s Hotel*, and *Smith’s Mine*). It is in essence a list. So, too, are the chapters that follow simply lists, meticulously collected during a lifetime’s research endeavour. I can do no better than quote from Frescura’s irony-filled introduction: “*Indeed as some people will sadly attest, [the book] ... is woefully lacking in plot, it has no romantic heroines, and its list of protagonists is boringly long.*”!!! Umberto Eco did not live to see it; had he done so I have no doubt that he would have added it to his infinite list of lists!

The books are well produced, elegantly set in Garamond 12pt, and expertly edited by Peter Thy. Frescura is careful to give attribution to his sources each volume contains a comprehensive bibliography.

Editor’s note: These two books were awarded a Large Gold at the American Philatelic Exhibition (Ed).

The books cost R350 each, but will be subject to a discount of R100 for anyone purchasing both together. Delivery to be advised per transaction. Bank details will be provided on order.



Consignee letters

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

In 1710, in order to encourage the development of overseas trade, Britain introduced legislation providing that the letters of merchants and of owners of vessels should be delivered without payment. Such letters became known as 'Exempt Ship Letters' since they were exempt from the ship letter charge, although inland postage still had to be paid. Subsequent legislation extended this privilege to the letters of consignees, provided always that the name of the consignee appeared on the ship's manifest indicating he had goods aboard the vessel carrying his letters, and that there was an endorsement indicating the letter was a consignee's letter on the address panel. Penalties were imposed on anyone convicted of falsely endorsing a letter as being a consignee letter.

addressed to the brewers John Jeffrey & Co of Edinburgh. Upon its arrival in London, the letter was handed to a representative from Mackie and Company's London office and the firm's cachet was applied to the address panel. A 1d British adhesive stamp was then affixed and the letter was posted to Edinburgh at the prevailing 1d inland rate.

Rules applied at the Cape of Good Hope

The Cape legislation was based on the British system. The comprehensive Cape Ordinance No 1 of 1846 entitled *An Ordinance for the Regulation of the Post Office and Postage* introduced specific rules regarding the letters of consignees.

Section 22 of the Ordinance provided that *'all letters of owners, charterers, or consignees of vessels arriving in any of the ports or harbours of this colony, or of owners, consignees, or shippers of goods on board such vessels shall have their letters by such vessels free of postage (except as hereinafter excepted) if to be delivered at the port or place of the ship's arrival; and if to be delivered at any other place within this colony, then on payment of such rates of postage as the said letters would, if prepaid have been liable to pay for conveyance thereof from the port or place of arrival to the place of delivery. Provided always, that all such letters as aforesaid, shall not collectively exceed six ounces in weight, and provided that the owner, charterer, or consignee shall be described as such on the address and superscription; and provided that in the case of owners, shippers, or consignees of goods, it shall also appear by the ship's manifest that they have goods on board the vessel.'* Section 32 of the Ordinance laid down penalties for false declarations of consignee status.



Fig.1: A consignee's letter of 1847 from Sierra Leone to London.

Figure 1 illustrates a consignee letter, originating from Sierra Leone, and dated 20 December 1847. At the bottom left, the cover is endorsed 'Consignees letter, pr Eliza Belo'. On reverse there is a Liverpool Ship Letter date stamp, 14 February 1848. The letter was charged only 6 pence, being the inland postage charge.



Fig.3: A consignee letter of 1859 from London to Cape Town.

Figure 3 illustrates a consignee letter of 1859, from London, addressed to the merchant Robert Muter in Cape Town. This letter complies with the requirements of the 1846 Ordinance, in that the address panel is endorsed 'Consignee's letter pr William Trotter' and the addressor has provided a further endorsement at the lower left corner which reads 'with small parcel of Samples'. The letter bears no ship letter charge and neither was any inland postal charge levied because the letter was collected at the port by the addressee.



Fig.2: A consignee's letter of 1863 from the Cape to Edinburgh.

Different regulations governing consignee mail were being applied in Britain by 1863, as illustrated by Fig.2. Ship letter charges were still no longer applicable, but it was not necessary to endorse the letter as consignee mail. This letter, from the Port Elizabeth merchants Mackie Dunn and Company was written on 15 June 1863, being an order for a consignment of ale, and

Another consignee letter from London (Fig.4.) also addressed to Robert Muter, being written on 20 November 1856. There are two obvious differences between this letter and that illustrated in Fig.3: the letter bears no endorsement to indicate it was a consignee letter, and it shows a '4d' handstamp.



Fig.4: A consignee letter of 1856 from London to Cape Town, courtesy of Spink & Son.

This letter was offered as lot 598 in Spink's *Greca* auction of 8 September 2021, where it was described as showing the only known '4d' Cape Colony Port Charge. This letter does not comply with the 1846 Ordinance in that it was not endorsed as a consignee letter, and was therefore charged four pence, being the basic rate applicable to letters received from overseas.

Subsequent Regulations

Following the Ordinance of 1846, several more statutes regarding postal matters were introduced (in 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1862 and 1868), none of which referred to consignee letters. However, Brian Trotter - in his excellent book on *Southern African mails* - refers (on page 214) to the *Cape Almanac* for 1868 which informed that instead of free delivery of consignee mail at the port of arrival, it would henceforth be charged at 1d per letter, and for any other place in the Cape Colony at the rate paid for prepaid letters, plus the 1d per letter payable at the port. The six ounce limit still applied. This information was repeated in subsequent *Cape Almanacs* up to 1879. I have been unable to locate the legislation which prompted this change in the regulations, but it presumably exists.

Robert Goldblatt in his book *Post Marks of the Cape of Good Hope* (on page 237) confirms this change in the regulations (with the proviso that consignee letters had to be forwarded open), but attributes the change to be operative from 1874 to 1882.

The next set of regulations relating to consignee letters were incorporated in the Act of Parliament No. 4 of 1882 (entitled *To Amend the Law relating to the Post Office*). The Second Schedule of this Act confirmed that consignee letters delivered at the port of arrival should be charged by weight at 1d per half ounce and further provided that any such letters delivered to other parts of the Cape Colony would be charged at the rate of 2d per ounce. Furthermore, Section 5 of the Act provided that *'it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, by Proclamation in the Government Gazette, to take effect at such time as may be mentioned therein, to reduce the Postage in the Second Schedule to this Act so far as to provide that the Postage to be levied upon Inland Letters posted for delivery through another Post Office in the Colony, shall be One Penny.'* So far as I am aware, the Governor never exercised this power.

By Act No. 176 of 1888, the postage rate for consignee letters delivered to other parts of the Cape Colony was reduced to 1d per half ounce with effect from 1 January 1889]. Act No 35 of 1892 (to amend all previously enacted Post Office Acts) - in the First Schedule - referred to consignee letters but merely confirmed that such letters arriving at any part of the Colony should be charged at 1d per half ounce.

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- Goldblatt, R., *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*, Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, Cape Town, 1984
- Spink & Son, Sale 1133, *The Greca Collection e-Auction*, London, 8 September 2021
- Trotter, B., *Southern African Mails - Routes, Rates and Regulations 1806-1916*, Royal Philatelic Society London, London, 2016.

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BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA – NYASALAND TO 1938

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



In 1859, David Livingstone, the famous 19th century Scottish missionary discovered the lake, some 320 miles in length, which he called Nyasa. He opened up the territory to European influence (Ref.2). A protectorate under the name 'Nyasaland Districts' was declared on 14 May 1891, the title being changed to the 'British Central Africa Protectorate' on 22 February 1893, although that name had been in use for some time previously (Ref.4).

The first issues were stamps of British South Africa Company (BSAC) overprinted 'B.C.A.' (Fig.1), which were made available on 20 July 1891 (Ref.3). It is interesting to note that the un-overprinted BSAC stamps were only made available for postage on 2 January 1892. The stamps were printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Company Ltd. of London and a portion of the printing received the B.C.A. overprint there. In August 1892 the 5/- value was surcharged 'FOUR SHILLINGS' (Fig.2) and a BSAC 4/- value was issued in 1893. This was in turn overprinted 'B.C.A. / THREE SHILLINGS' in October 1893. A 3/- BSAC appeared in 1894 (*See footnote*).



Fig.1: BCA overprint on 4d BSAC stamp

The Governor of the Protectorate, Sir Harry Johnston, designed the Coat of Arms and the postage stamps which appeared in 1895 depicting this Coat of Arms (Fig.3). These were printed by De La Rue & Co Ltd in lithography on un-watermarked paper and in 1896 were reprinted on watermarked paper. These two sets also included £10 and £25 values (Fig.4).



Fig.2: BCA 4/- provisional



Fig.3: First BCA Arms definitive issue, litho



Fig.4: £25 Specimen from second BCA Arms definitive



Fig.5a: BCA third arms definitive, 1d to 1/-

De La Rue were also responsible for a set, in a similar design but printed by typography, in 1897 (Figs.5a & b).

Due to a shortage of 1d stamps, later that year, the 3/- value was locally surcharged 'ONE PENNY' (Fig.6). This may explain the scarcity of the un-overprinted 3/- stamp.



Fig.6: One Penny on 3/- provisional

Fig.5b: BCA third arms definitive, high values from 2/6

Further provisional stamps were fabricated using the red one penny embossed stamp, intended for fiscal use impressed on cheques or legal documents, in a type-set frame with the inscription 'INTERNAL POSTAGE'.

These cheque stamps exist in imperforate and perforated (more common) form (Figs.7a and 7b).

After the accession of King Edward VII a new series appeared in 1903.



Fig.7a: mperf cheque provisional



Fig.7b: perforated cheque provisional

Also typographed by De La Rue, the stamps bore a profile of the King in the standard designs as used by East Africa & Uganda and Somaliland Protectorate (Figs.8a, 8b and 8c).

On 6 July 1907, the country changed its name to the Nyasaland Protectorate, necessitating new stamps.



Fig.8a: low values - 1d to 1/-



Fig.8b: (centre) high values - 2/6 to £1



Fig.8c: (far right) £10 Specimen

A further issue bearing the profile of King Edward VII appeared on 22 July 1908, the higher values being in new large key-type designs by De La Rue, which would remain in use until the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, in British Colonies such as Bermuda, Ceylon and the Leeward Islands amongst others (Figs.9a, 9b and 9c).



Fig.9a: low values - 1/2d to 1/-



Fig.9b: (centre) high values - 2/6 to £1



Fig.9c: (far right) £10 Specimen



Fig.10a: low values - 1/2d to 1/- King George V Definitive issue

This issue was replaced in 1913 by stamps bearing the profile of King George V in the same key-types. They were initially printed on Multiple Crown CA watermarked paper. Due to the difficulty in obtaining printing inks during World War I, there are many shades, especially in the low values (Figs.10a and 10b).



King George V Definitive issue

Fig.10b:high values 2/- to £1. Fig.10c: £10 Specimen. Fig.11: £10 Fiscally used.

From 1921 reprints were made on the new Crown Agents' Script CA watermarked paper.

In 1934, the lower values, up to 1/-, were recess printed by Waterlow & Sons in a design showing the Symbol of the Protectorate: a leopard standing on a rock against the rays of the sun (Fig.12).



Fig.12: King George V & Symbol of the Protectorate - ½d to 1/-

Nyasaland participated in the British Colonial omnibus issue celebrating the Silver Jubilee of King George V on 6 May 1935. These stamps were engraved and printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd (Fig.13).



Fig.13: King George V Silver Jubilee

In 1938 the Symbol of the Protectorate stamps were reprinted with the portrait of King George VI replacing that of King George V (Fig.14). Similarly the higher values from 2/- to £1 were issued, with the portrait of King George VI in the same large key-type design (Fig.15).



Fig.14: King George VI & Symbol of the Protectorate - ½d to 1/-

A £10 stamp in this design was also issued but it was inscribed 'REVENUE \ REVENUE' – it is extremely rare. Specimen examples were not prepared as it was not a postage stamp.



Fig.15: King George VI high values – 2/- to £1

REFERENCES

1. Robson Lowe 1949. *The Encyclopædia of British Empire Postage Stamps* -Volume II – *The Empire in Africa*.
2. Marshall Cavendish 1970. *International Encyclopedia of STAMPS*, Volumes 1 & 5. *IPC Magazines*.
3. Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group. 1974. *A Guide to the Postage Stamps of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland 1888 - 1963*.
4. Stanley Gibbons 2022. *Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840 -1970*.

FOOTNOTE: What purpose did these 3/- and 4/- stamps serve? – it can hardly be for the pre-payment of postage. I hazard a guess that maybe they were for the payment of hut-tax. Readers who are also members of the Rhodesia Study Circle might supply the answer. There is no explanation found in any of the references.

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Protea R2 Control Block with the Missing Pane Letter

by Vic Sorour, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

A control block of the R2 Protea has been found with a missing pane letter (Fig.1).

I can only find two references to this and have never seen the item before.

This was first reported by N. Becker in November 1977 (1). He stated that he had it from a reliable source that the R2 Protea existed in both a mint and a used cylinder block with the pane letter completely missing.

In the November 1977 issue of *The SA Philatelist*, P. van Zeyl showed a picture of a R2 Protea control block with a missing plate letter 'A' (Fig.2).

Examination of the recently surfaced control block shows that it is the 'B' pane. A constant flaw on stamp R3/9 (Fig.2) identifies this control block as Pane B.



Fig.1: Control block of R2

Is the pane letter missing or was it added to the printing cylinder later? The pane letter is shifted to the right (Fig.3) and is a darker shade of blue than the corresponding cylinder number. This suggests that the pane letter was etched onto the plate after it was made.

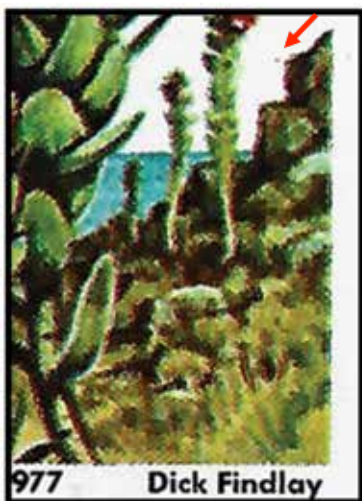


Fig.2: Variety on R3/9. Pane B.



Fig.3: Pane letter shifted to the right.

Natie Becker submitted a motion at Congress of the Philatelic Federation, held in association with Rand 77, to the effect *“that this meeting notes that the third Republican definitive series contains both A and B panes of the 30c, 50c, R1 and R2 values. It expresses its disapproval at the postal authorities excessive financial loading of this issue, which can only affect the philatelic hobby adversely”* (Fig.3).

After Mr Herman Steyn, the manager of Philatelic Services gave an explanation that the fault lay with the Government Printer, Congress accepted the motion with the deletion of the words ‘postal authorities’. Mr Steyn said that the postal authorities had asked the Government Printer to print the high value proteas in panes of 50 stamps and not to identify the cylinder blocks.

Mr Jan de Beer, Government Printer, reacted to the statement from Congress. He explained why the R1 and R2 Protea stamps were printed in two panes of fifty stamps. *“When printing by gravure, the size of the sheet produced is the same as the cylinder, which in our case can contain 200 stamps, that is two panes of 100, or four panes of 50. To print a single pane of 100 would mean wasting half the paper, and three-quarters of the paper for a single pane of 50”*.

As to the pane letters he stated *“... the negatives were passed for layout before the plates were made, and final machine proofs were also passed. The machine proofs are full sheets, containing two panes each”*. *“Should the Post Office not have been satisfied with anything on the proofs, it would not have signed the proofs and changes would have been made”*.

A photograph of the bottom right corner of a proof sheet (Fig.4) shows that there is indeed no pane letter below the cylinder numbers.

So, if neither the Post Office nor the Government Printer was to blame, how did the R2 protea get Pane letters?

The best explanation is that a very observant and enthusiastic person at the Government Printing Works noticed that the R2 Protea was the only stamp in the series that did not have a pane letter. On his own initiative and without permission he added the pane letters to the printing plates.

The R2 Protea control block without a pane letter (Fig.1) is probably from an early proof sheet that had been perforated.

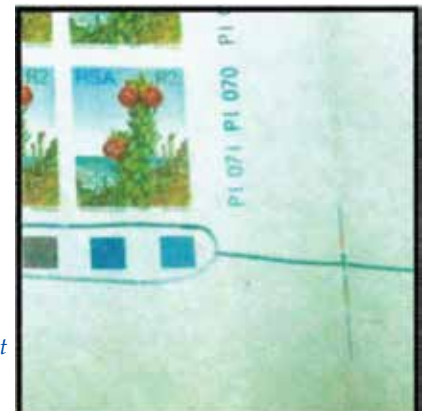


Fig.4: Early proof sheet without pane letter.

References:

- Becker, N. 1977. *S.A. Stamp Study Circle Newsletter*. 194/8
- van Zeyl, P. 1977. *The SA Philatelist*. 294.
- The SA Philatelist*. 1977. 269.
- The SA Philatelist*. 1977. 289.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA ILLUSTRATED STAMP VARIETIES

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Royal Silver Wedding, 1948 (UHB 22, Stamp number 103)

The 3d. stamp was issued to commemorate the Silver Wedding of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. It was on sale from 26 April to 30 June 1948.

The design that shows a photographic reproduction of the Royal couple facing each other, is flanked by two sprays of leaves of the Silver tree (*Leucadendron argentium*). Design was by J L Booysen, with final artwork by J Prentice.

The silver portions, comprising the monogram shield and the sprays, were printed from Cylinder No. 48, and the remaining dark blue areas from Cylinder No. 6923.

The sheets consisted of 120 stamps (20 rows x 6), perforated 14 and inscribed alternately in English and Afrikaans, with arrows in blue at the centre of each margin and four-figure red serial numbers on the right hand margin.

First stamp on the sheet was English inscripted.

UHB 103 - 3d. (SG 125) (SASCC 124)









Silver and dark blue

SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB))

AFRIKAANS/ENGLISH above the variety indicates the language of the stamp on which it appears.

<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>Mark under King's ear (ex Row 2/1) UHB 103 - V1</p>	<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>Defect at centre of right-side frame lines (ex Row 14/5) UHB 103 - V2</p>	<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>White arc between Their Majesties' heads (ex Row 15/2) UHB 103 - V3</p>
<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>Blue flaw near centre of right-side frame lines (ex Row 15/4) UHB 103 - V4</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>Large spot on King's forehead (ex Row 20/2) UHB 103 - V5</p>	<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>Smudged line under 'silverbruilof' (ex Row 20/5) UHB 103 - V6</p>

Stamp's Friend www.stampsfriend.com info@stampsfriend.com



Letter to America

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

It's plain, ordinary, mundane. It's also somewhat scruffy (Fig.1). Posted during World War II (23 October 1942), how did it get from Johannesburg to New York? And what do the markings on the cover reveal?



Fig.1: Cover from Johannesburg to New York, cancelled 23 October 1942. No backstamp applied.

The route

Some background is needed. Prior to 1939 there was no regular airmail across the Atlantic. The aircraft of the time had insufficient range to cover the distance. On 20 May 1939 Pan American introduced the first official transatlantic airmail using long range Boeing 314 flying boats (Fig.3). This became FAM 18, (Foreign Air Mail) New York to Marseilles via the Azores and Lisbon.

In 1940 airmail from South Africa to the US was carried from Durban to Cairo via Imperial Airways flying boats. From Cairo the mail was transferred to Lisbon, via Rome, to connect with Pan Am's FAM 18 route. Following the entry of Italy into the war, June 1940, routes across the Mediterranean were cut off. Mail for the US now had to be carried by ship.

In 1941 British troops in North Africa were facing a double threat. The Germans were making advances towards the Suez Canal while supplies were minimal. There was no way of getting spare parts and supplies to the British forces. Following a chance meeting between Churchill and Juan Trippe, founder of Pan American, Churchill asked President Roosevelt to organise an airline across the Atlantic to provide supplies. This provided Pan Am with a foothold in Africa.

The operation was set up in less than four months. Ten bases had to be constructed from scratch in inhospitable places. Cargo was flown from the United States by way of the Caribbean to Belem and Natal in Brazil using DC-3s (Figs.2 and 7).

At Natal, cargo and mail was transferred to the Boeing 314 (Fig.3) for the trans-oceanic haul. At Fisherman's Lake, Liberia, the cargo was again transferred to a land plane, destined for Cairo.

Fig.3: Pan American used the Boeing 314 to cross the Atlantic



Fig.2: The Douglas DC-3 was used on the land routes



Once the threat to Egypt had subsided, the Brazil - West Africa air link was extended to Leopoldville. The route was allocated FAM22 by the United States Postal Service. The first flight took place 6 December 1941, a day before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and the entry of the US into the war. No mail was carried on this first flight. The trip took six days (Fig.4), leaving Miami on Friday, arriving in Leopoldville the following Wednesday. The Trip Summaries have not yet been found, so the actual details of these flights are missing. Given the nature of war, flights were kept secret. Records that do exist suggest flights on this route were intermittent. It is thought only 12 round trips were made. The last FAM 22 flight was probably 16 October 1942 – before this cover was posted.

It has been suggested that the flights were used to procure a supply of uranium ore samples from the Belgian Congo. Pan Am wanted to extend this route to Cape Town – hence a Boeing 314 was named the *Cape Town Clipper*. The South African government denied permission for the extension as SAA operated a reciprocal service to the Belgian Congo with Sabena.

1B U. S. A.—WEST INDIES—SO. AMERICA—AFRICA

①160	Miles	Pan American Airways Inc. (PAA)		①161
Alt. Wks. Fr. 6:30 15:45	0	Lv MIAMI (Din. Key), Fla., U.S.A. ☆	75° An	Alt. Wks. Tu. 15:00
	1140	An SAN JUAN, P. R. ☆	60° Lv	7:00
② Sa. 9:00 12:55	1668	Lv SAN JUAN, P. R. ☆	60° An	③ Mo. 15:35
		An PT. OF SPAIN (Coca.), Tr. ☆	" Lv	11:30
Su. 6:30 16:55	2590	Lv PT. OF SPAIN (Coca.), Tr. ☆	60° An	Su. 14:50
		An BELEM (H'br), Para, Brazil ☆	45° Lv	8:00
Mo. 4:00 11:30 13:00	3547	Lv BELEM (H'br), Para, Brazil ☆	45° An	Sa. 13:00
		An NATAL, Brazil ☆	" Lv	7:00
		Lv NATAL, Brazil ☆	" An	5:30
Tu. 6:30 7:30 16:30	6013	An MONROVIA (Fisherman Lake), Liberia.....	15° Lv	Fr. 20:00
		Lv MONROVIA (Fisherman Lake), Liberia.....	" An	14:00
	7050	An LAGOS, Nigeria ☆	" Lv	8:00
We. 4:00 14:30	8390	Lv LAGOS, Nigeria ☆	0° An	Th. 15:00
		An LEOPOLDVILLE, Belg. Congo ☆	15°E Lv	7:30

Fig.4: Timetable for the Pan Am Miami – Leopoldville flight as published in the OAG (Official Airways Guide)

The vital link with South Africa was made by Sabena. Although Belgium had been occupied by Germany Sabena continued to operate in the Belgian Congo. Routes were extended to connect with Pan Am in West Africa and BOAC in the east to facilitate the movement of supplies. A route was further extended south to Cape Town on 28 January 1942. This flight operated every second week, alternating with SAA. However, Friedberg writes 'Although [the SAA Elisabethville and Leopoldville flights] were popular and well patronised, wartime demands eventually caused the flights to be cancelled. On May 31, 1942 the Lodestar was sent to the SAAF for military duties.'



Originally Sabena used Fokker F-7s and Junkers JU-52 aircraft. Due to a lack of spares these aircraft were replaced with Lockheed Lodestars (Figs.5 and 6).

Fig.5: Lockheed Lodestars were used by Sabena

The possible route is illustrated in Fig.7. Unfortunately there are no transit marks on the cover to confirm the exact route taken. Thus the route is conjecture. To connect with the Sabena flight at Cape Town, the cover was carried by rail from Johannesburg. From 7 December 1941 all US bound mail went to Lagos where it was transferred to a Pan Am flight. In Miami the cover would have been carried to New York by a local airline.



Fig.6: A Sabena Lockheed Lodestar at Leopoldville Airport, 1940.

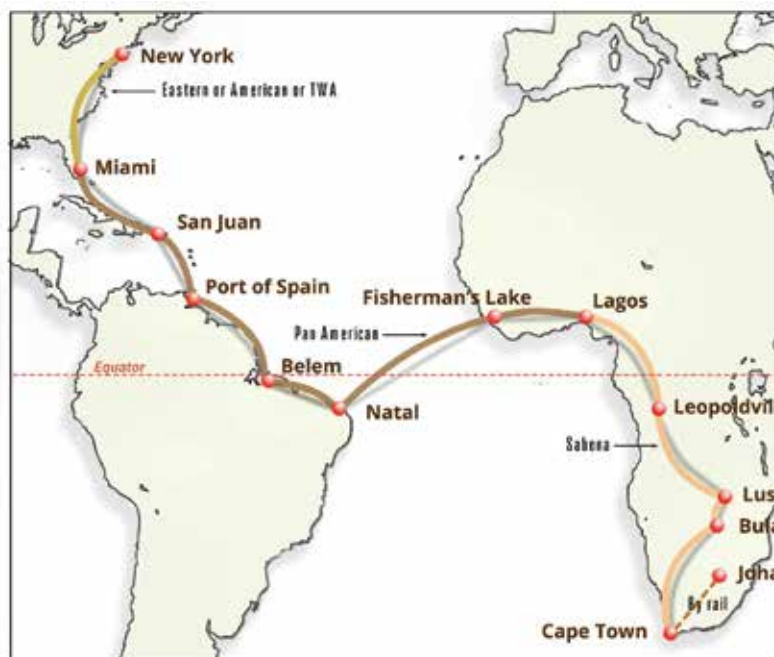


Fig.7. Route taken by the cover in Fig.1.

A interesting aside: the cover crossed the equator three times!

Markings

The postal slogan used to cancel the stamps was only used on two date stamps in Johannesburg during 1942. It featured both English and Afrikaans on either side of the circular date stamp. The slogan reads THOUGHTLESS / WORDS / SINK SHIPS and 'N ONBESOONE / MOND BOOR / 'N SKIP. The text is on three lines separated by wavy lines. The circular date stamp is not catalogued by Putzel (The Postmarks of South Africa). It is not known what the B stands for. The cover is correctly franked at 4/- with a 2/6 definitive from 1930 plus a 1/- (issued 27 October

1941) and 6d (issued 3 September 1941) from the large war effort issue.

After the stamps were cancelled, the contents had to be inspected. This was a highly secretive process. Envelopes were always opened on the left-hand side so as not to damage the stamps or postmarks. If the contents were passed by the censor, a gummed label was used to reseal the envelope. To authenticate the censorship a coat of arms cachet was applied tying the label to the envelope. The cachet also contained a letter which identified where the contents were censored. In this case the letter B represented Johannesburg (Fig.8). The censor then pencilled his number (89) on the label (Fig.9).

Fig.8: Coat of Arms cachet tying the sealing label to the cover, with a letter identifying the place of censorship.

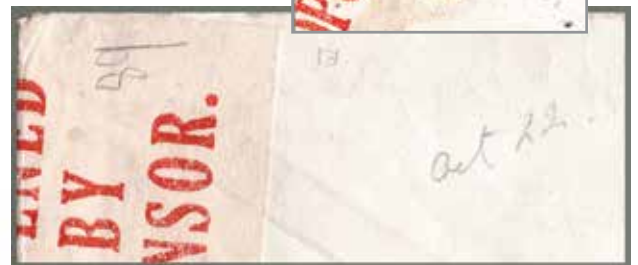


Fig.9: Censor number '89' pencilled on the sealing label. 'Oct 22' is probably the date the letter was posted.

The sealing label came in three sizes, small, medium and large, indicated under the U.C. 8 (Union Censorship) designation at the top of the label. Mullins identifies eight distinct types of which this is type 4. Mullins adds that the earliest known use of type 4 was 15 March 1943. This cover suggests that type 4 was in use much earlier: 23 October 1942.

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THE POSTAL ROUTE TO PAFURI IN 1937

by JP van Niekerk, direct PFSA subscriber



For many regular visitors to the Kruger National Park, the area around Pafuri, in its far northeastern corner, is special: a unique biosphere, rich in birdlife, with tree species not to be found generally if at all elsewhere in South Africa. Yet the area also has a dark and troubling history. It is that history that forms the background to this note.

Two covers, both addressed and (presumably) delivered to recipients in Pafuri in 1937, raise the question as to how these postal items got there. According to an official governmental map of the 'Postal Communications of the Union of South Africa', published in 1934 (Fig.1), there were no recognised postal routes to or even anywhere near the Pafuri area at the time.



Fig.2: Letter from Guiana to Pafuri.

65 km southeast of Louis Trichardt (now Makhado), on the main railway line north from the Witwatersrand.

The second cover (Fig.3), date stamped 10 May 1937, was posted in Kew (now a suburb of Melbourne), Australia. It was addressed, rather more correctly, to 'Senhor SA Christovam / Pafuri / via Zoekmakaar / Nrth Transvaal / South Africa'.

From the late nineteenth century, the remote northeastern corner of the then Transvaal was a favoured haunt of all kinds of unsavoury characters: big-game hunters, fugitives from the law and smugglers, both of goods and humans. Situated between the Limpopo and the Luvuvhu (then known as the Pafuri) Rivers, the wedge of land became known as Crooks' Corner. Easy escape to the neighbouring territories of Southern Rhodesia across the Limpopo or to Portuguese East Africa to the east of the confluence of the two rivers, explains why. The area was linked from the west and from towns such as Zoekmakaar and beyond by a rough hunters' trail, which became known as the Ivory Trail (TV Bulpin's well-known work, *The Ivory Tail*, (1954), provides much colourful detail of the area and its characters).

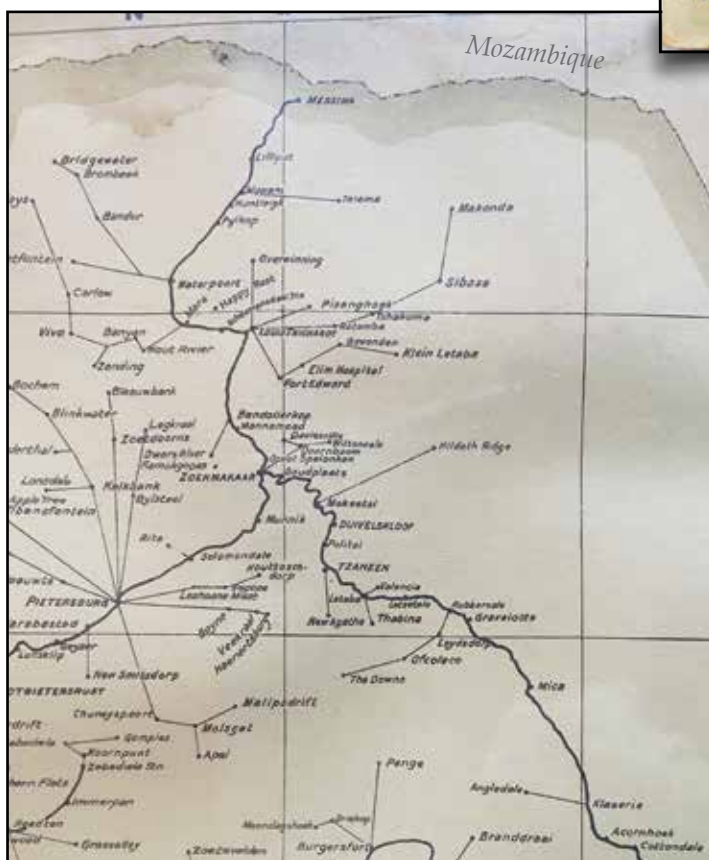


Fig.1: Portion of a map entitled 'Union of South Africa Postal Communications', published by the Government Printer in 1934, showing the postal routes in the northeastern corner of the country (author's copy).

But first, the covers.

The first cover (Fig.2), a registered private first-day cover, was posted in Georgetown, in the former British colony Guiana (now Guyana) in South America, on 12 May 1937, the day of issue of the three Coronation stamps affixed to it. It was addressed to 'Miss Denise Grey / Pafuri / Portuguese East Africa / Via Zoekmakaar / Northern Transvaal'. Despite the rather incomplete and confusing address, it arrived, according to a postmark on the reverse, in Zoekmakaar on 21 June 1937, probably courtesy of a geographically astute postal clerk in Georgetown or, if it came that way, in London. Zoekmakaar (later Soekmekaar, now Morebeng) was then a small town some



Fig.3: Letter from Australia to Pafuri. (Considered by some as the Australian Coronation issue).

To the south were two game reserves, The Sabie Game Reserve, proclaimed in 1898, and to its north the Singwidzi Game Reserve, proclaimed in 1903. They were consolidated in 1916 (and known as the Transvaal Game Reserves), but remained under provincial control until 1926 when they were transformed by the National Parks Act into the Kruger National Park.

Of all the activities in the Pafuri area, a particularly troubling one was the trafficking in humans. Numerous agents operated from there to 'recruit' migrant labour in the adjacent territories for the gold mines on the Witwatersrand. For this they employed native runners. Apart from the lack of control over their often predatory methods (known as 'blackbirding') and the resultant exploitation and abuse of recruits, there was also the problem of the undocumented and illegal entry of foreigners into the country. In an attempt to exercise some control, the Chamber of Mines in 1900 established the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association (WNLA, or, colloquially, Wenela). It was granted a monopoly over the now centralised recruitment of labour for the mines from outside South Africa (the Native Recruiting Corporation, NRC, had a monopoly over inland recruiting from 1912; the two organisations amalgamated in 1977 to form The Employment Bureau of Africa, TEBA).



Fig.4: Portion of a map entitled 'Sources of Mine Native Labour ... Showing the Recruiting Systems of the [NRC] and the [WNLA]', published in 1946 and available at <https://digitalcollections.lib.uct.ac.za>.

Although illegal recruitment was much reduced by this step, it, and the abuses associated with it, were nevertheless never completely eradicated; the WNLA for instance employed and continued to operate through many of the same local recruiting agents privately active there before.

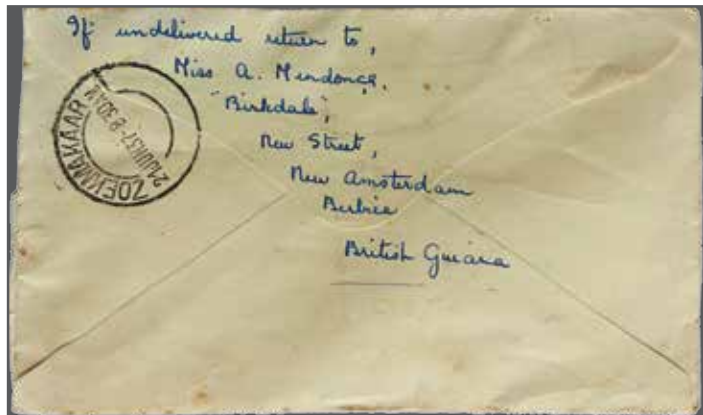


Fig.5: Reverse of the letter from Guiana to Pafuri.

The main territory from which the WNLA recruited, was Portuguese East Africa (now Mozambique). Recruits from the southern part of the Portuguese territory were collected, processed and documented at its depot at Ressano Garcia, across the border post at Komatipoort, and from there taken by train to Johannesburg (Charles van Onselen's *The Night Trains*. Moving Mozambican Miners to and from South Africa, circa 1902-1955 (2019) provides a harrowing account of this process).

For recruits from further north, the WNLA around 1918 established and manned a recruitment centre and transit camp at Pafuri, just south of the confluence of the Limpopo and the Luvuvhu, on the border with the Portuguese territory and, notably, within the then Transvaal Game Reserves. It also had Portuguese employees stationed on the other side of the border. Recruits were processed, documented and equipped there. At first the facilities were rudimentary, permanent brick buildings for the manager and other European employees only being erected in 1938. Following on earlier managers at the station, including Paul Neergaard who had established operations there in 1918 and later became a senior employee and first manager at Zoekmaakar, Tom Carruthers was sent as local district manager to Pafuri in 1936, and was therefore in charge at the time our letters arrived there. (In 1938, he was replaced by the legendary Harold Mockford who remained as WNLA recruiting agent and administrative manager at Pafuri for a remarkable 47 years until 1985.)

Initially, as before, the newly recruited (as also returning) miners were made to walk from there to Zoekmaakar, where the WNLA had established a compound and collection point for recruits. Apart from being on the main railway line to the north, Zoekmaakar was also linked, from 1915, by the Selati Railway Line (via Gravelotte and the southern part of Kruger, crossing the Sabie River at Skukuza) to Komatipoort and it was on that link that recruits from the north were transported to the mines. The rough hunters' route – the 'Ivory Trail' –

from Pafuri to Zoekmakaar was long and arduous, thirst, malaria and tsetse fly being some of the dangers recruits faced. They walked some 25 km per day (their possessions and supplies were conveyed by donkey cart) and overnights at makeshift bomas at Baobab Hill, Klopperfontein Drift and the fountain at Shikokohlo (where the Punda Maria rest camp was constructed in 1933), all now locations well-known to visitors to northern Kruger. From there they continued via Sibasa and Klein Letaba to Zoekmakaar, altogether a distance of some 240 kilometers.

In the late 1920s, after having somewhat improved the route and after private entrepreneurs had started assisting with the conveyance of labourers and goods by mule and motor transport, the WNLA, with the consent and support of the National Parks Board, constructed and thereafter maintained (especially in the rainy season) a road through the northern section of the Kruger Park, largely following the earlier main path from Pafuri to Zoekmakaar. It allowed for the motorized transportation of Mozambican labourers to and from the mines. For this purpose, the WNLA made use of a fleet of Thornycroft buses, which were maintained and serviced at Zoekmakaar. (Thornycroft & Co was an English vehicle manufacturer of buses, coaches and trucks in Chiswick until 1977). At the time, these WNLA buses were for all practical purposes the only way to convey people and goods, including Park officials and goods destined for its ranger outposts, to the isolated northern areas of the Kruger Park. Initially they ran thrice weekly on the route (on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, returning on the same day) but from 1942 this schedule was reduced to twice weekly.

The usual way to get post from Zoekmakaar to Pafuri in 1936, therefore, was by having it carried on WNLA buses (they ceased operation in 1976 when the last recruits passed

through the Pafuri station) and one must assume that was how our covers were delivered there.

One final question. Who were the addressees, miss Grey and senhor Christovam? The index to the archival records of the WNLA indicates that both unmarried women and Portuguese nationals were in its employ. Short of further archival trawling, one can therefore only speculate that Christovam was a Portuguese national stationed (on the other side of the border) at Pafuri, while Gray may have been in secretarial employment there. However, for miss Grey there is another possibility. On the reverse of the letter she received (Fig.5) are the details of the sender: 'Miss A Mendonca / "Birkdale" / New Street / New Amsterdam / Berbice / British Guiana'. (New Amsterdam is a port town on the Berbice River, some 100 km from the capital Georgetown). Maybe miss Grey was just the daughter of a WNLA employee stationed at Pafuri and a pen pal of miss Mendonca, who shared with her a philatelic interest, and for that reason received from her a first-day cover. Was that why the letter was never opened?

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British Militia Battalions Embodied For Service During The Anglo-Boer War

by Richard Stroud RDPSA, The Royal Philatelic Society of London

The subject of the British Militia Battalions had intrigued the author since he acquired a correspondence of Captain Warry of the 4th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry, from the Ken Griffith accumulation. It was confirmed that the 4th Battalion was a Militia battalion; the correspondence indicated that the battalion was on the lines-of-communication between East London and Aliwal North. The British Militia was Great Britain's military reserve force and units were repeatedly raised during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Relatively little appears in the literature regarding the Militia in South Africa in general, apart from their important functions, that of guarding the lines-of-communication (railways, etc.) and on blockhouse duty. In some cases, a Militia battalion was embodied into a front-line Division. This short article attempts to redress the lack of literature information, or the similar lack in regiment records or on the internet.

more battalions were embodied on the departure of [each of] the Fifth and Sixth Divisions of the British Army respectively, the first eight embarked in the middle of December, the latter in the beginning of January 1900. In all, 21,000 Militiamen went out to South Africa in 1900."

"In 1901, it was realised that [the men of] the Militia battalions abroad would be severely handicapped in resuming their civil occupations. Other Militia battalions were asked to volunteer to serve abroad in relief and these reliefs were begun in May 1901 and continued till March 1902. Six companies of artillery, three companies and two sections of engineers and 68 battalions of infantry volunteered for service abroad, of which the artillery and engineers and 60 of the infantry battalions saw service in South Africa. A total to 45,000."



A mourning cover to Captain E.A.B. Warry of the 4th (Militia) Battalion of Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry from his wife. The cover was redirected upon arrival at East London, the garrison headquarters of the 4th Somersets, to Stormberg where Captain Warry was on duty late February 1901. He visited all stations on the line where small platoons were located. [Author's collection]

In 1881, the Childers Reforms had restructured British Army Regiments into multi-battalion Regiments, each having two Regular battalions and two Militia battalions as standard. The best contemporary summary of the Militia is given in the *Times History of the War in South Africa*, Vol III and VI, and edited extracts now follow:

"In the 1890s, it had become the established military policy that when an expeditionary force left the UK, a Militia battalion was embodied for each [Regular] battalion in that force. The general principle of selection for embodiment was that, if the [Regular] battalion for the Field Force was the 1st, the 3rd Militia battalion was embodied. If the [Regular] battalion for the Field Force was the 2nd, the 4th Militia battalion was embodied."

"No Militia battalion could be sent outside of the country without its consent. The conditions regarding volunteering were strictly laid down, and commanding officers were cautioned that each man must be left to decide of his own free will, and that no pressure whatever was to be brought to bear on him. [For the ABW] the duties of the Militia were not intended to take them beyond the lines of communication, so an age qualification of 18 was sufficient."

"Upon the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War, a Royal Proclamation, dated 26th October 1899, authorised the embodiment of the Militia. The first Order issued relating to this Proclamation was dated 3 November and ordered the embodiment of 35 battalions and five companies of the Militia Medical Staff Corps. After the Nicholson's Nek disaster, three more battalions were added. These 38 battalions were called out between 4th December and 13th December. Eight



A registered postal-stationery envelope from Major James Scott, IV, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders to Mrs Scott, Hertfordshire. It is ex-ZAR with the 4d impressed registration fee on the flap overprinted E.R.I. and a mixed franking of 2 x 1d ZAR E.R.I. and a 1/2d ZAR V.R.I. Posted Johannesburg 21 JUN 01, where censored - small oval P.B.C. cachet. Endorsed 'Posted out of Course R' presumably at Johannesburg. London registered arrival of 12 JY 01. [Author's collection]

The author has identified all the Militia Battalions that saw service in South Africa, their strengths and the dates they embarked and on which ship, the dates on which they returned and on which ship and has also found militia 'mentions' in Lord Roberts' and General Kitchener's despatches. It has not been possible to determine the allocation and duties of each Militia battalion in South Africa. Much information on their deployments, garrisons and on lines-of-communication has been found.



A cover endorsed Color Sergt H. Martin, 3rd Norfolk Regiment, addressed to Lancashire. Although also endorsed 'on active service', it was subsequently franked with an ORC 1d V.R.I. and cancelled SC ARMY P.O. 43 AP 21 00, the earliest recorded use of a single-circle ARMY P.O. S. AFRICA datestamp. Locality: Advance Depot. Bloemfontein. No backstamps. [Author's collection]

Mail to/from members of the Militia Battalions can only be identified from endorsements (on outgoing mail) or in the addresses (on ingoing mail). All this has resulted in the publication, in 2020, of *Militia Battalions Embodied for Service during the the Anglo-Boer War 1899 to 1902*.

Lord Roberts, when planning his advance and restructuring his forces, hoped that the arrival of the first 18 battalions of Militia in February 1900 would prove sufficient in numbers and quality to free first-line troops for the advance to Pretoria. He had to use several Militia battalions to strengthen certain Army divisions.



A cover from Corporal Wilcox of the 4th (Militia) South Staffordshire Battalion to Mrs Wilcox in Walsall, Staffordshire. Franked with an OFS 1s V.R.I. (overpaid) cancelled with a single-ring ARMY A.P.O. 45, date unclear but August 1900. The 4th South Staffordshire was one of the Militia battalions allocated to a front-line unit, in this case, to the 20th Brigade of Maj-Gen Paget.

In other deployments, the 4th Bedfordshire (Militia) Battalion, the 3rd Essex (Militia) Battalion and 3rd South Wales Borderers (Militia Battalion had front-line experience).

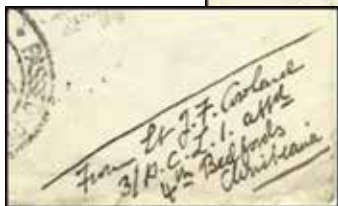


An on active service No Stamps Available cover endorsed Capt. [J.H.] Montagu, 3rd Essex Regt Christiana. Large circular rubber datestamp CHRISTIANA 5 MAY 02. London PAID MY 31 02. Four companies of the 3rd Essex (Militia) Battalion were deployed as a garrison on blockhouse duty from Vryburg to Winterton, at Barkly West, Schmidt's Drift and Fourteen Streams. The remaining four companies and the HQ company were deployed at Christiana to strengthen the town's defences. [Alan Harley collection]

An on active service No Stamps Available cover endorsed Pte. B. Fury 6248, 3rd Batt S.W.Bords. Christiana, Transvaal to Cape Town. Authorised by C.L.R. Long, Lt., 3/S.W.B. 2/9/01. Censor cachet signed by C.M.G 3/9/01 (Captain C.M. Grogan?) Large circular rubber datestamp CHRISTIANA 4 SEP 01. Cape Town arrival 10 SEP 01, where taxed 1d. The 3rd South Wales Borderers (Militia) Battalion was used on garrison and escort duties, at Boshof until May 1900 when it was divided. Five companies went to Hoopstad until April 1901 when they were sent to Vryburg. The Headquarters staff and the remaining men went to Fourteen Streams in July until May 1901, then to Taungs. [Alan Harley collection]

Several Militia battalions served in other countries – Malta, Egypt and St Helena - relieving front-line regiments in those places for South Africa. In St Helena, four battalions were used at different times on garrison duties and as guards at the Deadwood POW camp.

A remarkable cover from Quartermaster Sergeant J.B. Vince of the 4th (Militia) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment at "Boer Prisoners of War Camp, Deadwood, St Helena, M. Atlantic". Addressed to a sergeant in the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, in Bristol. Correctly franked with a St Helena 1d and postmarked ST HELENA JA 4 01. With GB QV 1/2d and 2 x 1d affixed and not accepted. [Kevin Darcy collection]



An on active service No Stamps Available cover endorsed Lt J.F. Cowland 3/D.C.L.I. attd. 4th Bedfords, Christiana. Datestamped FOURTEEN STREAMS OC 8 00, via Kimberley OC 8 01 plus censor cachet of W. Elton, Capt. and London PAID transit of 1 NO 01. The 4th Bedfordshire Militia was initially deployed in the Orange River area to Kimberley, then via Mafeking to Christiana in 1901, with actions in the Transvaal including Zeerust and Klerksdorp. [Lt John Fleetwood Cowland of the 3rd (Militia) Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry was attached to the 4th Bedfords in South Africa in 1901.] [Alan Harley collection]



A SHORT SUMMARY OF

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



The 15th annual BRICS Summit was held at the Sandton Convention Centre, 22 - 24 August 2023. A significant even not without controversy

It was attended by the heads of state, or a representative, of the five member states: Brazil, Russia, India and China. BRICS was created as a challenge to Western domination.

Basically BRICS can be divided into two groups: India and China focus on manufacturing and services while Brazil, Russia and South Africa rely on natural resources such as crops and minerals. The acronym, BRIC, was originally coined by Jim O'Neill, Chief Economist of Goldman Sachs in 2001 to identify the four fast growing economies at that time.

Some statistics indicate the significance of the group. It comprises 40% of the global population, 31% of global GDP and has more than 26% of the world's land surface. Sadly, the 2014-2015 financial crisis inflicted lasting damage on the group. Goldman Sachs shut down their BRICS Investment Fund following an 88 percent fall in late 2015.

Originally it was envisaged as an informal group. However, the group was formalised by Russia in 2009 when the first summit was held in St Petersburg, Russia. South Africa joined the group in 2011 when the acronym became BRICS. Another six countries are joining the group from 1 January 2024.

Given the significance of the group, it is surprising that so few philatelic items have appeared. The first to be issued was by Russia for the 7th Summit (Fig.1). It was held in the Russian city of Ufa in Bashkortostan (located in the Urals) on 8 - 9 July 2015. The УФА on the stamp is Cyrillic for Ufa.



Fig.1. The stamp was issued 7 July 2015 for which there was a special cancellation (Fig.2). First Day cancellations were done in Moscow, as indicated by the date stamp. The stamp was designed by Alexander Moskovets and had a print run of 420,000. As an interesting aside, the BRICS stamp was one of 308 stamps issued by Russia in 2015!

The second stamp was issued by China for the 9th BRICS Summit held in Xiamen (Fig.2) 3 - 5 September 2017. This was the second time China hosted the summit.

The 1.20 Yuan Renminbi stamp shows the emblem of the summit and an aerial photo of the city of Xiamen, in the south-east of China, by a local photographer Zhu Qingfu. It also shows the Gulangyu Island which was included into the UNESCO list as an iconic site of Xiamen. "It shows the features of Xiamen," said Zhang Zhijun of China Post. "With the sea we would like to imply that the summit is a new starting point for the countries to sail into a bright future."



Fig.3. The stamp is made of silk and was issued on 19 August 2017. The summit was at the time of border tensions between India and China over the stand-off at the Doklam area in the Sikkim section which was in its third month.



For a related event, India issued a cover in 2016 for the BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave, held in Mumbai, 14-16 April 2016 (Fig.4). India hosted the 8th BRICS Summit in Goa during October 2016.

The cover was issued by the Maharashtra Postal Circle, Department of Posts, India, 14 April 2016 to commemorate the Conclave. The Maharashtra Postal Circle is found in the Goa, Maharashtra state and is divided into five region and 41 division which covers around 310,788 sq.km area. Circle comes with 1,815 pin code and 13,026 post offices codes.

The Conclave was hosted by the External Affairs Ministry, Government of India and the Government of the State of Maharashtra. This was the first Friendship Conference of Cities from BRICS Countries. The event was inspired by the Indian Government's idea of promoting greater co-operation and people-to-people contact among BRICS Nations. The Conclave was attended by representatives of at least two cities from each of the BRICS Nations.



Fig.4.

The Rs.5/- stamp features Samrat Ashok, the legendary Emperor of Ancient India, instrumental in spreading the message of peace and brotherhood, symbolising the co-ordination of developmental activities. The cancellation from the Mumbai GPO is titled 'Mumbai First' in both Hindi and English together with the date of issue: '14.04.2016'. The Special Cover shows the BRICS India 2016 logo together with pictures of prominent landmarks in the five BRICS countries.

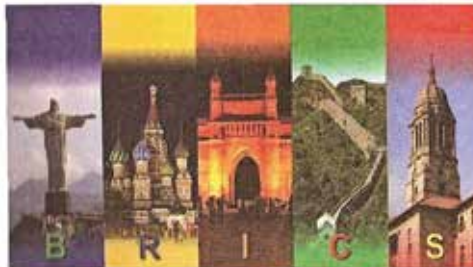


Fig.5.

And here in South Africa? No stamp celebrating this remarkable event, but the BRICS Summit will be remembered for all the controversial news at the time of the event:

The Russian President, Vladimir Putin's 'arrest' order by the UN had him attend the event via a ZOOM link. The adding of six new members to the bloc, and in the general news, many deadly events in the City of Joburg CBD, the Lady R debacle...



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The South African Philatelist

All about stamps

THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

ISSUES OF THE JOURNAL ARE PUBLISHED ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

www. stampssa.africa

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The Romanian Philatelic Federation in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Romfilatelia SA, Romanian Post and the Museum of Romanian Records, invites you to **EFIRO 2024**, the International Philatelic Exhibition with FIP Patronage and FEPA Recognition.

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EFIRO 2024 Specialised World Exhibition in April

SA COMMISSIONER:
Joof van der Merwe

The Romanian Philatelic Federation, in partnership with the Romanian Post, Romfilatelia SA and the Museum of Romanian Records, will host EFIRO 2024, a Specialised World Stamp Exhibition. It will be held at the National Library in Bucharest, from **16 to 19 April 2024**, under FIP Patronage and FEPA Recognition.

Deadline for the submission of applications through the respective National Commissioner to the Commissioner General: 16 October 2023.

A REMINDER TO VISIT THE **'SA PHILATELIST100'** KYALAMI COUNTRY CLUB in MIDRAND 11-14 OCTOBER 2023

Official Opening Ceremony at 10:30 am 11 October 2023

Make a day of it - the stamp show and National at the Kyalami Country Club, whose slogan is 'out in the country but close to home' is well worth the visit. Enjoy the stamps, meeting the Dealers and take advantage of the quality of the catering, quality with snappy friendly service and the club is only about a 20-minute drive from Sandton.





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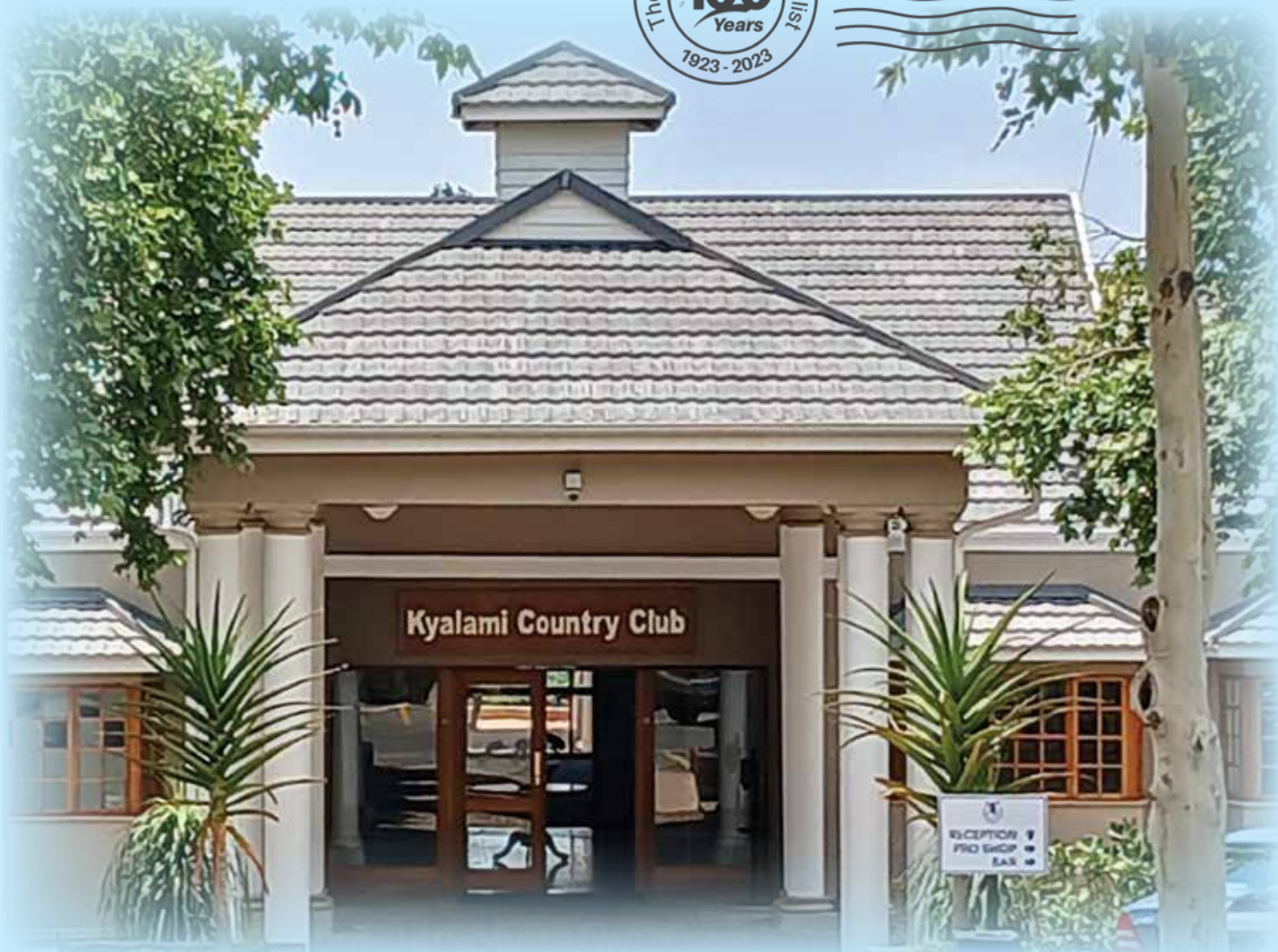
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PHILATELIC
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STAMPSHOW 2023
'SA Philatelist 100'



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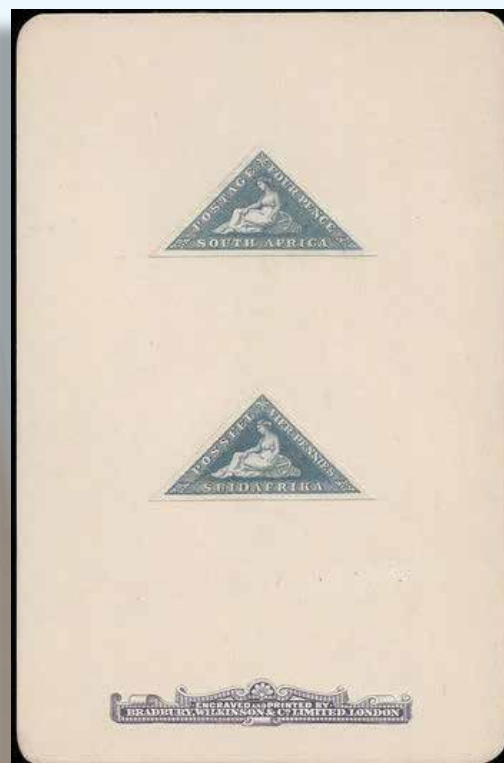
ISSN 0038-2566

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Festive Greetings

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, *Keeping in Touch*. 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> email: pfsastamps@gmail.com

PUBLICATION: *The South African Philatelist*, a bi-monthly stamp journal, 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 **1923**.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

- **Affiliation fee:** RSA and World Wide: R135.00 (Electronic only).
PLEASE NOTE: The PFSA affiliation fee includes six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.
- Enquiries regarding **subscriptions and PFSA membership** can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA at pfsastamps@gmail.com Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

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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

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www.stampssa.africa

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- Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
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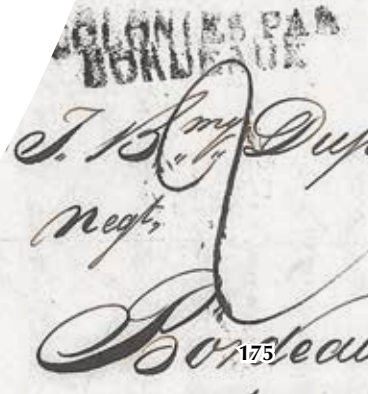
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Please note; Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist*.

ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

• Volume. 100 : 1. 982 - The **FEBRUARY** 2024 issue
15 DECEMBER 2023





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/>



The 'SA Philatelist 100' took place at the Kyalami Country Club, Midrand from 10 to 14 October 2023 and for the first time a Stampshow & Stamp Fair/Auction was combined. This time with the ever-popular monthly SAPDA - Kenny Napier Stamps - auction every second Saturday of the month, at this venue.

The Exhibition was officially opened on Wednesday 11 October 2023 by Ian Shapiro from Spink of London, our main sponsor. Visitors were welcomed to a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, contributed by the venue, its setting, dealers present and the wonderful material on display. In total, 42 exhibitors displayed 154 frames and there were four literature entries. Danna Strydom qualified as a National Stamp Juror.

Attendance was good, especially on Saturday when the auction was held. A great success indeed!

THE 'SA PHILATELIST 100' SHOW CATALOGUE

One can't reflect effectively on the success of 'SA Philatelist 100' without paying homage to the support and success of the well received stamp catalogue. To this end, a massive thank you must go to Cedric Roché RDPSA for his excellent philatelic collection that ensured the interest and success of this show catalogue, our sincere apologies that his name was omitted in the actual catalogue. Victor Millard was the master-mind for the page layout for this catalogue.

The following two Stamp Exhibitions are on the horizon in 2024:

- **The 2024 SA National Stamp Exhibition** hosted by the Maritzburg Philatelic Society at Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg. The 2024 PFSA Congress will also be held at the same venue.

Something to look forward to! The Organising committee are currently in negotiations with Alex Haiman from the USA to show his exhibit *Clash of Empires* at the Exhibition. This exhibit covers the Anglo-Zulu War in KZN during 1879.

- **South Africa's Ninth Virtual Philatelic Exhibition** (SAVPEX), a one-frame virtual exhibition, hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society, will be held in June 2024.

PFSA CONGRESS 2023

The 2023 Congress took place on Friday 13 October 2023 at the same venue as the Stampshow. The PFSA president, Danna Strydom, welcomed the delegates followed by the official opening by Hugh Amooore RDPSA FRPSL, immediate past PFSA President.

Congress was attended by 38 members which included delegates and proxies from 20 Societies. The newly elected PFSA President is John Handman from the Maritzburg Philatelic Society and the Vice-president, Gawie Hugo from the Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging.

MOTIONS AND PRINCIPAL DEBATES

The Draft Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for the year ended 31 December 2022 showed that the PFSA was technically insolvent at balance sheet date, which raised the question as to whether the PFSA was a going concern. The treasurer commented that the AFS should, inter alia, be understood in the context of the financial support given to the PFSA by the Philatelic Foundation of SA and that funds due to, or promised to, the PFSA exceeded the net liabilities.

Motion was moved to (1) decline the adoption of the draft AFS, on the grounds that, as presented to Congress it showed a technically insolvent entity. Despite this, it was suggested that it was a going concern. (2) The Management Committee was mandated, with the authority of Congress, to restate the AFS for 2022 with regard to monies owing to the PFSA at year end. This needed to be accompanied by explanatory notes in support of the Management Committee's view that PFSA was a going concern. (3) Management

Committee to provide the necessary amendments to the Annual Financial statements to be presented at Congress 2024 for ratification.

ACTIONED CHANGES

- It was accepted to increase the PFSA affiliation fee to R135.00 for 2024 (RSA and Worldwide members).
- Except for the Skinner Cup, miniature trophies that accompany PFSA awards will be replaced with a mounted engraved medal with the PFSA logo, indicating the recipient's name, award and year awarded.
- To discontinue the financial implication of R2,000 associated with both the J H Harvey Pirie Memorial Award and the Jack Hagger Trophy.
- Mandated the Management Committee to appoint a sub-committee to investigate reasons for the continual reduction in members, and to suggest mechanisms to counter this trend.
- The motion to amend the PFSA constitution to give voting rights at Congress, to conveners of Standing Committees were withdrawn, on the grounds that the motion would inappropriately change the nature of the Federation as a federation of affiliated societies, governed by these societies.

GENERAL

The membership count, that included Paid Subscription members, was 710 against 713 last year.

The Edwardian Stamps of the South African Colonies by Brian Trotter is now available in the members area of the PFSA website.

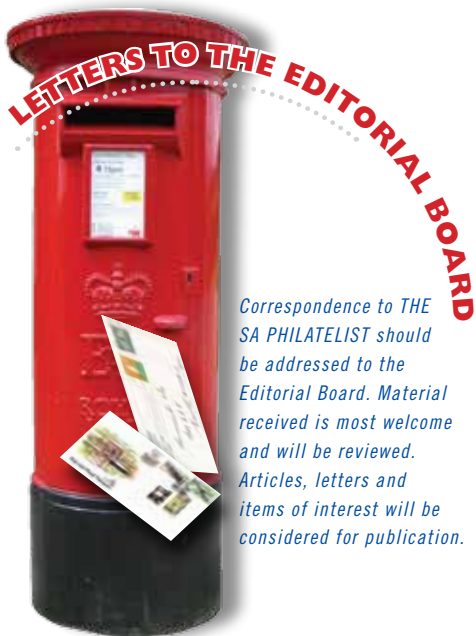
THAILAND 2023 WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP

The Exhibition offered yet another excellent platform for South African philatelists to shine; bringing home Gold was Emil Bührmann RDPSA who's exhibit titled *Cape Of Good Hope. The Last Ten Years* scored a total of 90 points. A Large Gold for Ian Matheson RDPSA *Penalty Stamps of South Africa*, with 87 points. Vernon Mitchell's exhibit titled *Port Elizabeth: A Compendium of Postcards* received a Silver with 71 points. Emil Minnaar RDPSA *Israel - 1949 Flag issue* earned him 81 points. Neil Cronjé RDPSA *Postal Stationery of Southern Nigeria* received 78 points and André du Plessis RDPSA qualified for 82 points for *Chinese Indentured Workers on the Rand - 1904 to 1910*.

Thank you and congratulations for representing South African philately in Thailand, also a special thanks Emil Minnaar RDPSA for his dedication and leadership within the FIP Executive Committee - this responsibility now falls to Neil Cronjé RDPSA for the next few years.

(A full report in the Feb issue of the SAP).





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 will be considered for publication.

The Festive Season Stamps

With so many of us with family now living in NZ - this Festive season the New Zealand collection finds interest locally.

The four New Zealand Christmas stamps were issued on 4 October and are covered in symbolism. The designs feature gifts, with colored metallic wrapping paper and tags shaped in classic Christmas images, bows and small branches of local flora.

In an article written by Molly Goad (*Linn's Stamp News*), she describes stamp images that include colored metallic paper as a nod to the offerings of gold, frankincense and myrrh the three wise men brought. Each 'gift' has a tendril of native flora to represent the unique Christmas experiences of New Zealand. The Christmas story tag on each box refers to a different detail of the season. The \$2 which pays the rate for a medium sized letter sent within New Zealand, is in an earthy rose gold to symbolise the gift of myrrh.



The \$3.30 denomination covers postage for a medium letter sent to Australia. The tree-shaped gift tag is the affection locals have for Christmas trees, and the sprig of red flora is from one of the country's pohutukawa trees, also known as the New Zealand Christmas tree or iron tree.

A gold-wrapped gift shown on the \$4 stamp pays postage for large letters sent to Australia. The tag is shaped like a dove, and silver fern fronds are symbols of peace.

The \$4.60, denominated is the rate for oversized letters sent within New Zealand. The purple metallic paper is the colour associated with royalty and Advent, the four-week period leading up to Christmas. Two small purple hebe flowers and an angel-shaped gift tag decorate the present.

The Christmas 2023 stamps, designed by Helen Perkins and Nick Jarvie of New Zealand Post, includes a mint set of four gummed stamps, a souvenir sheet with the four stamps se-tenant (side-by-side), sheets of 20 gummed stamps (one for each design), first-day covers and self-adhesive booklets of 10. The set was printed by Brebner Print of Napier, New Zealand.

The stamps can be purchased from New Zealand Post.

D.W.



Looking ahead to 2024 - **The Year of the Dragon**. The latest Lunar New Year stamp series celebrates the Year of the Dragon. Calling to mind the elaborately decorated masks used in dances often performed in Lunar New Year parades, this three-dimensional mask depicting a dragon is a Contemporary take on the long tradition of paper-cut folk art crafts created during this auspicious time of year.

The dragon mask design incorporates colours and patterns with symbolic meaning. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp and pane with original art by Camille Chew.

A number of other countries have also released dragon image stamps making this topic an inspiring field of Thematic collecting.

J.B.



Is this the future of stamp collecting?

June 2019 saw the Austrian Post issue the first crypto stamp. Since then, numerous postal authorities have climbed on the band wagon, issuing their own crypto stamps.

This despite the fact that the concept of virtual stamps was overwhelming and confusing to the philatelic community, the whole process of acquiring a crypto stamp appeared to be fraught and complex.

To overcome this problem, *Stampsdaq*, an Estonian company was formed in 2020 to act as a gateway between collectors and postal administrations. Stampsdaq has removed the many technological challenges for collectors and postal administrations by taking care of the technical issues. Stampsdaq is affiliated to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to promote, host, track and market digital stamps. Currently 40 postal administrations have membership of Stampsdaq making their crypto stamps available for viewing and purchase on the Stampsdaq website (<https://stampsdaq.com>).

What is a crypto stamp? Basically it's a physical stamp which can be used to send mail. That stamp also has a digital (or virtual) twin located on a computer network (Fig.1). This is also known as a NFT or non-fungible token. Fungible means interchangeable, being a commodity which is interchangeable with another. In other words, you could replace one physical copy of a stamp with another and it will still pay for carriage of the mail. A crypto stamp is unique and cannot be substituted with another copy. To view your crypto stamp you need a device connected to the internet. Crypto stamps have to be bought separately from the physical stamp.

Fig.1: Luxembourg's first crypto stamp, issued 10 October 2023, limited to 75,000 copies of a single mini-sheet of the physical stamp.

The NFT version comes in a variety of colours with differing prices and amounts.



Are crypto stamps the future of philately?

The concept is being actively promoted by the UPU. The view is that developments in technology have changed the game for stamp collecting and postal administrations. Innovations in information and communications have challenged the traditional function of the post office requiring major changes in their business models. The UPU sees this as opening up new prospects and opportunities. It is viewed as a secondary market for the traditional stamp collector while drawing in a new audience.

There is so much more to say about this topic - look for the next episode in the Feb SAP

D.W.

Phun with postmarks

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



CoGH FINDS

The South African Philately Club (www.southafricanphilatelyclub.com) has been active in studying pre-Union material. Two topics recently studied are the Port Elizabeth pre-adhesive 'PAID' and 'TO PAY' oval date stamps and the Hooded Circular experimental date stamp. The new information is presented with acknowledgement to Steve Hannath, Robert Hill, Simon Kelly, Mike Berry and Johnny Barth.

Port Elizabeth pre-adhesive oval date stamps

It is interesting that Port Elizabeth was the only postal office besides Cape Town that had pre-adhesive date stamps. Since this early material was doctored by Jurgens (Frescura, *'Poste restante at the Cape and other essays'*, Ch 16) such material was viewed with caution. Examples of the use on cover of each date stamp are shown in Figs 1a and b. As part of the study a total of 15 'PAID' and 4 'TO PAY' covers were found. These include material presented by Jurgens, Goldblatt, Putzel, Berry and Barth.



Fig.1a. Wrapper with PAID date stamp (Barth, ex Goldblatt)

Barth's latest 'PAID' date is JULY 15 1853 whereas Jurgens has AUGT 24 1853 as the latest recorded. Interestingly, Jurgens also has the latest 'TO PAY' date listed as MAY 27 1853, whereas Goldblatt illustrates APRIL 27 1853. The earliest 'TO PAY' date stamp is DECR 27 1852 (Barth). The fact that Jurgens shows the latest date for both date stamps is intriguing.

All the items seen have a consistent date format, either a space between the last two year digits or poorly printed last year digit, so there are no apparent discrepancies. Two covers with 'PAID' date stamps have been recorded addressed to London, as seen from the content letter (Fig.2).



Fig.1b: Cover with 'TO PAY' oval date stamp, earliest recorded date (Barth).

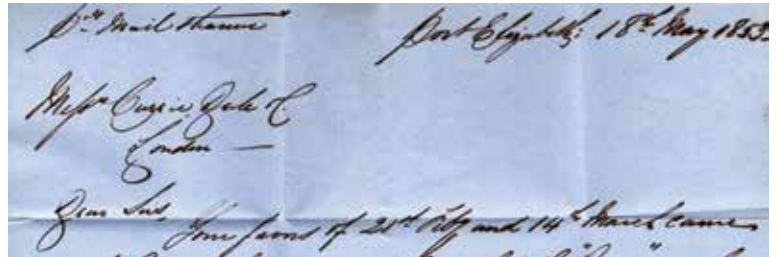


Fig. 2. Content of 'PAID' cover dated MAY 18 1853 (Barth).

A new find is an earlier date for the 'PAID' date stamp, shown in Fig.3 as DECR 13 1852, whereas the earliest previously recorded date was DECR 17 1852. The cover was redirected four times, and it remains a challenge to decipher all the markings.



Fig.3. New earliest date of DECR 13 1852. Cover redirected four times (Berry).

A question is whether the examples seen have been forged or not. Compared with famous forgers such as Mizra Hadi and Madame Joseph, a limited number of cancellers with a fixed date were forged, and this is one of the tell-tale signs. Of the material seen, Barth has two 'PAID' items with the MAY 18 1853 date, and he mentions that there are five copies of this date that are known. There is no clear indication that these have been forged as seen from the content. However, two forged postmarks have been identified, shown as Figs.4a and b. The 'PAID' item is later than the previously mentioned item listed by Jurgens. Does that mean that the earlier Jurgens item was forged?

Assistance is required. The 'TO PAY' item is much earlier than the previously recorded date, and the lettering is bold.



(a)



(b)

Figs 4a and b. Forged 'PAID' and 'TO PAY' date stamps (Barth), Hooded Circular Date stamp, also known as sausage canceller

A total of 9 of the larger Cape offices were issued with the experimental Hooded Circular Date stamp (HCD), in 1888. Fig.5 shows examples of the date stamps used. The upper and lower segments of the circle have either a star, a letter or a blank space. Six variations have been recorded (Goldblatt).



Grahamstown Dot

Grahamstown No dot broad H

Grahamstown No dot narrow H



Kimberley



KWTown Dot



KWTown No dot



Port Elizabeth Dot



Port Elizabeth No dot



Queenstown Dot (K)



Simonstown Dot

Fig.5. Hooded Circular Date stamps, refer to Table 1.

Table 1 shows the time lines of the different variants. During the research it was discovered that several of the instruments had a dot or hyphen between the names of multiple words which were not recorded by the major postmark references such as Putzel and Frescura. Beaconsfield is only one word, but East London was seen with and without a dot (Fig.5) shows the dot). Frescura recorded an 1899 date for Beaconsfield, but from the time line such a late date is unlikely, hence this date in brackets. It was found that some of the dates are difficult to read and often 89 is read as 99. In Putzel Postmarks, vol 3, p9, an East London date is given as 1898, whereas 1893 is more likely. Next to several dates there are letters in brackets, acknowledging the source other than Putzel, Visser and Frescura (H Hill, K Kelly, L Lazarides, P Pierce, S Steve Hannath).

The earliest dates in Table 1 are Apr and May 1888, which means the distribution was in 1888. The short life confirms Goldblatt who stated that this experimental date stamp did not gain general favour although Simonstown was used until 1903. The only date stamp that was issued later for the first time was the Cape Town GPO Registered, which is curious as by 1896 all the offices had their first run, and the unfavourable use must have been well known. Only the single name instruments were not issued with a dot in the name. All the other first issues had a dot, and the next issue was without a dot. It is not clear whether the same instrument was used or a new instrument supplied. The latter is most likely as the lettering of the second instrument was generally a different style. In cases where a second instrument was issued, it was not an immediate replacement but in most cases it occurred after several years, as seen from the latest and earliest dates. As always, contributions to the dates or comments will be greatly appreciated.

...continues:

HC details	Earliest RD	Latest RD
BEACONSFIELD	25 JU 1888	*0 JU 1892 (21 MR 1899)
CAPE TOWN GPO REGISTERED	16 MR 1896	6 JU 1903
EAST LONDON (DOT)	2 JU 1888	21 SP 1891 (H)
EAST LONDON (NO DOT)	19 NO 1892 (H)	6 AU 1894 (H)
GRAHAMS TOWN (* for time code, DOT)	** MY 1888 (S)	28 OC 1891
GRAHAMS TOWN (blank or letter, NO DOT, broad H)	22 JU 1892	31 OC 1893
GRAHAMS TOWN (blank or letter, NO DOT narrow H)	27 FE 94	7 JA 1899
KIMBERLEY	21 MY 1888 (S)	3 JU 1890 (K)
KING-WILLIAMS TOWN (hyphen/DOT, short typeface)	12 JY 1888	17 OC 1892 (K)
KING-WILLIAMS TOWN (NO DOT tall typeface)	7 DE 1893	5 OC 1895
PORT ELIZABETH (DOT)	30 AP 1888 (L)	30 JY 1890
PORT ELIZABETH (NO DOT)	12 DE 1895 (H)	29 SP 1896 (*1898 incomp)
QUEENSTOWN (DOT)	13 MY 1888	9 JA 1892
SIMONSTOWN (DOT)	26 JU 88 (S)	2 DE 1903 (S)

Table 1. Time lines of Hooded Circular date stamps.

Dit is verbasend dat daar nog steeds nuwe vondse gemaak word in die posgeskiedenis veld. Dit is moontlik as gevolg van beter kommunikasie and verspreiding van inligting. Stempels voor die era van seëls met gom is skynbaar maklik vervals, en hierdie rubriek dokumenteer egte stempels asook voorbeelde van vervalsings. Moontlik is daar nog versteekte versamelings wat met die soektog kan help. Die Kaapse eksperimentele datum stempels bring nog nuwe inligting na vore. Die Engelse het skynbaar die kolonies as proefkonyne gebruik – wat is nuut?



IN MEMORIAM

DAVID SINCLAIR

1936 - 20.10.2023



Honorary Life President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town, passed away after a long illness.

After Highgate School and the University of Birmingham, where he took an honours degree in engineering, and after teaching in post-war London and a sojourn in the USA, he came to South Africa where he taught at the then Cape Technikon (now CPU) and completed a MSc degree at UCT. He had three major passions in life: teaching, the scout movement, and philately. He never married but claimed to have had several narrow escapes. His involvement with and passion for the scout movement knew few limits. In 1990 he was awarded Scout SA's Medal of Merit and ten years later he was awarded a bar to this medal!

The same can be said for his passion for philately. He was an ardent philatelist of note, and dedicated promoter of junior philately.

He would say that he did not remember his first collections. However, he did remember that, in his youth, during WWII, away at school, he was shown an album of stamps by a fellow scholar, and was intrigued, but got a klap when he put his dirty finger on some stamps that had taken his interest. He was nearly ten at the time. His first encounters with organised philately were in London. This was with what is now the BSAP (Rhodesian specialists note: this stands for British Society of Australian Philately). He was an active member, meeting at South Australia House in London. It is now *The Australian Specialists Commonwealth Society of Great Britain*. Thus started his long love affair with King's Heads (Australian style), and the one penny reds in particular.

That he was also interested in contemporary GB issues is clear; his stock books and several displays which he presented at the Society over the years attest to his ability to identify varieties on contemporary GB issues, whether late Wildings or early Machins, and even the varieties on commemoratives of the time. He was the person to discover many of these and report them to Gibbons.

He joined the RPSCT in 1970. It was a different era; dress for men was strictly collar and tie – jackets could be dispensed with only in summer months.

As a philatelist he was particularly noted for his work on the Australian King's heads, and he was justly proud of his copies of the 1d King's Head stamps (a) from the rusted clichés from positions 34 and 35 of Pane IV, SG 47 and (b) of the repaired positions 34 & 35 where copper electrotypes were inserted in place of the rusted steel units.

David was somewhat put out when the jury comment, after he had shown these at a local national, was to the effect: "*we enjoyed what we saw and suggest that next time you include the high values*" - this after he had shown the stamps up to the 1s4d value – which of course, but seemingly not known to the jury teams responsible for assessing his exhibit, is the highest value for the King's Heads! A parallel collection explored Australian letter rates and postal history and he was proud of his find of the unique censored cover from Australia to the UK. It was censored because of the presence, on a ship, of a German barber, and unique in that it was the only letter from Australia to the UK to have been censored during WWI!

But his passion did not stop with Australia King's Heads. He formed an award-winning collection of the RSA Building definitives, studied and published on the Blue Train issues, and was responsible for a seminal study of the 'brown envelopes', a significant contribution to the study and literature on contemporary South Africa postal stationery. He was a regular contributor of original findings in *The SA Philatelist*.

Alongside, was his passion for junior philately. His devotion to his Penny Black Stamp Club was an example to all and he was the moving spirit behind at least two Junass Exhibitions, notably that held at the Sea Point Library in the 2000's and the mini Junass held at the Athenaeum in 2018. This work received belated recognition by the PFSA which awarded him a plaque at the 2018 Congress.

He served on the Committee of the Royal for many years and was its President in 2003/2005. He also served a term as President of the PFSA, a role he filled with distinction. In 2018 he was elected Hon. Life President of the Society.

Covid devastated the Penny Black Club and put an end to his work in junior philately. This and his declining health in the period since the lockdown meant that he was rarely to be seen at Club meetings. He was one of his generation, and we shall not see his like again.

Hugh Amoore





Mauritius: The French Mails by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

Maritime communications with Mauritius were challenging in the early years. The island lies roughly mid-way between the Cape of Good Hope and India: some 2,000 miles from the Cape, from Aden and from Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

In September 1715, the French had formally annexed the island from their earlier settlement on Bourbon, present day Réunion. The first French force of some twenty men landed on Mauritius – to be known as *Ile de France* - in December 1721. Britain had shown interest in these islands and took the opportunity to capture first the island of Rodrigues in 1809. From that base, Bourbon was captured and occupied a year later. British attention then focused upon the Isle de France which had better harbours and safer anchorages. But a sea battle off Grand Port in August 1810 proved a disaster for the British. A squadron of four vessels was completely destroyed by the French who also suffered considerable damage.

The first record of the carriage of mail after the British occupation is contained in a notice issued in Port Louis on 14 February 1811, written in French, which provided amongst other things that:

“Masters of ships and all other persons are notified that if they are found in possession of a letter addressed to a port of destination without having on it a Post Office handstamp, which is to be applied to all letters despatched, and for which the Post Office is responsible until the amount endorsed thereon is paid, they will be liable to a fine of fifty piastres for each letter so paid.”

The first handstamp referred to in the notice is the large oval PORT LOUIS / POST PAID found on letters of the Occupation period dated from May 1811 onwards. By 1813, conditions were changing: the Charter Act of that year ended the monopoly of the East India Company and opened India to private traders so that more ships were using Port Louis on their way to and from India.



Fig.1: An entire letter of 1792 from Port Louis to Paris showing the French entry mark COLONIES PAR / BREST

A much larger British fleet then set sail from Rodrigues in late November 1810 and some 10,000 troops were landed on the sparsely inhabited northern coast of the island. This force marched south towards Port Louis, and a smaller force was landed south of the port. The French Governor – Charles Decaen – then surrendered to avoid unnecessary bloodshed. Mauritius was formally ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Paris on 30 May 1814.



Fig.3: An entire letter of 1824 from Port Louis to Bordeaux showing the scarce French entry mark COLONIES PAR / BORDEAUX

The monopoly of carrying mail in the East Indiamen was thus ended before Mauritius was officially ceded to Britain. The ‘Indiamen’ were mainly large vessels of up to 1,500 tons burthen, often described as floating warehouses. They generally sailed in convoys or in fleets. They did not provide a rapid or even regular mail service since the assembly of a ‘fleet’ inevitably resulted in long delays.



Fig.2: An entire letter of 1819 from Port Louis to Caen showing the French entry mark COLONIES PAR / BREST and the scarce oval PORT LOUIS / POST PAID



Fig.4: An entire letter of 1833 from Port Louis to Bordeaux showing the French entry mark PAYS D'OUTREMER and the scarce oval MAURITIUS / POST OFFICE

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South African Post Office Stationery - Greetings Telegrams

by Hugh Amoores RDPSA, Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Telegrams are recognised by FIP and may be shown in postal history and postal stationery exhibits¹. Even so, telegrams are seldom seen in exhibits at South African shows, and very little has been written about them. The Greetings Telegram is a particular form of telegram and the different types used in South Africa since their introduction in 1926 are attractive.

To my parents' generation (father b.1913, d.1996 and mother b.1913, d.2016) the telegram² brought important family news, bookending life with announcements of births and deaths sandwiched between congratulatory messages marking achievements, rites of passage, and seasonal greetings; in the 1950s and 1960s the best man at weddings would routinely have a slot to read the telegrams from those unable to be present, wishing the happy couple many years of wedded bliss. Today any mention of a telegram at a wedding reception is likely to evoke the question: what is a telegram³?!

The Greetings Telegram⁴ was introduced in 1926, the charge "being one penny for each word in the address and name form, plus 3d for the selected [standard] greeting, with a minimum of 9d." These could be sent at Christmas, New Year, and the Jewish New Year but the Postmaster General reported in 1935 that "it was possible that some extension of the arrangements may be adopted in the future"⁵.

It was.

The 1937 Gazette provided a new regime for greetings telegrams: where the text was the: standardized (Post Office) text the charge was at 3d plus 1d per word exclusive of the standard text and a minimum of 9d per telegram; and using the sender's text at 9d for 12 words or less plus 1d for each word after 12. Greetings telegrams were "delivered on special ornamental forms enclosed in golden envelopes. They are treated on receipt at the telegraph office as letters, and as such become subject to the Postal Regulations so far as delivery is concerned."

The Post Office began the service with a form which when folded included the telegram and did not need an envelope (Fig.1). This was allocated Post Office stores number T.75. This was soon replaced by a special Greetings Telegram envelope (Fig.2). At some stage senders could choose to have their telegram delivered in an ornamental gold-bordered envelope or a red, white, and blue envelope; both were assigned the PO Stores number T 101 (Figs.3 & 4). The red, white, and blue type does not appear to have had a long life and for many years only the 'gold' envelopes were used.



Fig.1: Believed to be the first South Africa greetings telegram type; this example was used from Pretoria to Burgersdorp in 1929.



Fig.2: Believed to be the first South African Greetings telegram envelope, T 75. This example was used to Pretoria in 1936.



Fig.3: the first T.101 envelope, used in September 1950.

There are several distinct types, using the same essential design. As these were glossy, they did not take date stamp impressions and a matt finish was tried, first confined to the address panel and later to the whole envelope Fig.5.

¹ See the SREVs for Postal History and for Postal Stationery on the FIP website <https://www.f-i-p.ch>
² At the outset, a telegraph message sent by an operator or telegrapher using Morse code or using plain text was known as a telegram. A cablegram was a message sent by a submarine telegraph cable, often shortened to a cable or a wire. Later, a Telex was a message sent by a Telex network, a switched network of teleprinters like a telephone network. A wire photo or wire picture was a newspaper picture that was sent from a remote location by a facsimile telegraph. A diplomatic telegram, also known as a diplomatic cable, was the term given to a communication (usually confidential) between a diplomatic mission and the government it represented. The term cable continued in use though the way the message has been conveyed has changed but is now largely archaic .
³ Telkom took over the telegram service after the 1991 split into two separate companies and continues (2023) to offer a domestic telegram service.
⁴ The Post Office 1910- 1935, being the Postmaster-General's Report for 1934-1935, p47.
⁵ The British Post Office introduced Greetings telegrams in 1935: see [Greetings Telegrams - The Postal Museum](#) The British Post Office stopped issuing Greetings Telegrams in 1978.
⁶ Wirz, Heinz. (2020). "The Independent State of Transkei: 26 October 1976 – 27 April 1994) A philatelic inventory". Published by the author. p POS T13.

Similar Greetings Telegram services appear to have been offered by the TBVC Postal Administrations. Wirz illustrates used examples of the English/isiXhosa 'gold' envelope T.101(T) and special greetings telegram form (T.16(T)) used by the Transkei⁶.



Fig.4: An example of the 'gold' T.101 envelope in which a Greetings Telegram could be sent, initially for an extra fee.



Fig.7: a 1970 usage of the next type (T.16)



Fig.5: Another example of the 'gold' T.101 envelope, in this case with a matt surface to the address panel. This example has the cachet 'REPLY PAID/ANTWOORD BETAALD' added, showing that the sender had paid for a reply telegram.



Fig.8: A 1973 usage of a similar special Greetings Telegram form (T.16) used in 1973. This is an example of the franking privilege that applied when a telegram was sent by the State President (in this case J J Fouché, State President from 1968 to 1975).



Fig.6: A 1937 usage of the special Greetings Telegram form (T.156) used to Heilbron, for the addressee's birthday.

The greetings telegram was printed on special greetings telegram forms. The first was assigned the PO Stores code T.156 but subsequent types are T.16; three types are shown in Figs.6, 7, and 8. Sub-types of these exist.



Fig.9: the redesigned Greetings Telegram envelope, T.16



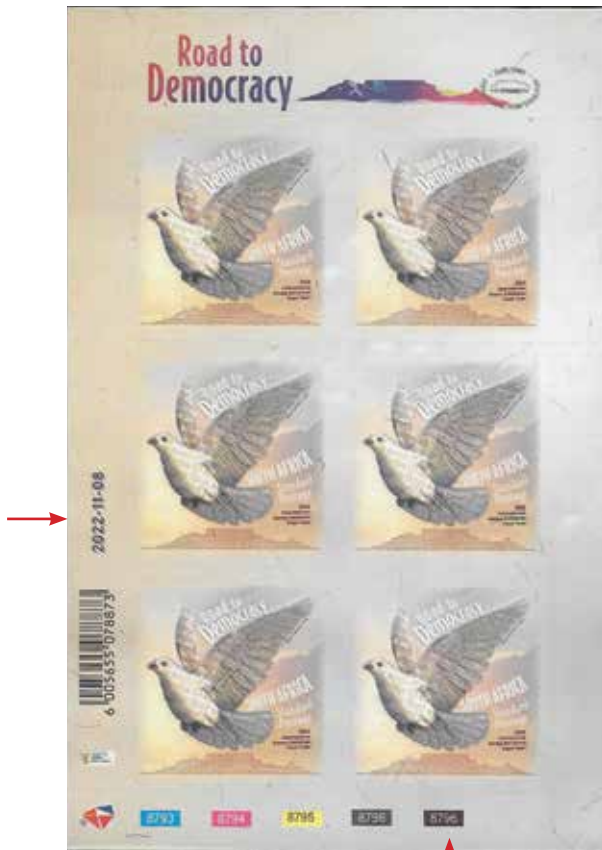
THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY ISSUE REVISITED by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

This issue was described on page 200 of the December 2022 issue of *The South African Philatelist*. Having now examined the stamps, I wish to make the following corrections:

- The size of the sheetlet is 96 x 149mm (NOT 60 x 148mm);
- The gutters between the simulated perforations are 6mm wide (NOT 7mm);
- The stamp size is 32 x 34mm (NOT 32 x 36.6mm);
- There is a fifth cylinder number: 8797 (brown).
- The stamps were put on sale at the Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition on 8 November 2022 but immediately withdrawn as the printing was deemed to be sub-standard. A reprint was made and delivered within two days, I gather.

I have examined the sheetlets from both printings and have made the following observations:

- In the original printing the date: '2022-11-08', in black on the lower-left selvedge is doubled, yet the bar-code, also in black is not. In the reprint there is no doubling of the date.
- In the original printing, on the lower selvedge the black and brown control blocks are both numbered '8796'. In the reprint the brown control block is correctly numbered '8797'.
- The colour of the backing paper of the first printing is yellow but that of the reprint is white.
- In general appearance the wings of the dove, on the reprint is a more intense black. In addition the background of the reprint appears yellowish, whereas the original is pale grey.



ORIGINAL PRINTING: Date double; Backing paper yellow. Brown Control block 8796.



REPRINT: Date not doubled; Backing paper white. Brown control block 8797.



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THE NEGLECTED ½d SPRINGBOK ISSUE THE PRETORIA 1948 ECONOMY PRINT

by Joof van der Merwe, OFS Philatelic Society



INTRODUCTION

Due to the shortage of paper in 1948, it was decided to print this ½d issue as an economy printing using the same plates and stock of cut paper of the 1927 Pretoria Typograph issue. No printers allotted job number is known.

The first typograph pictorial stamp printings, ½d, 2d and 6d, were done by Waterlow & Sons Ltd, London in 1926, known as the London Printing or London Pictorials. The printing plates were sent to Pretoria and, in 1927 the second typograph pictorial stamps were printed, known as the Pretoria Typographed Pictorials. Three issues were printed (Fig.1).

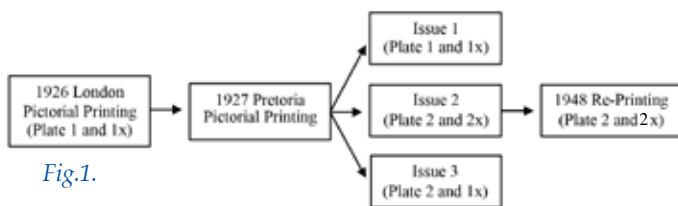


Fig.1.

The same plates as received from London were used for the Pretoria printing, Issue 1 in 1927 and numbered 1 and 1x.

New plates were made for the Pretoria printing, Issue 2 in 1928 and numbered 2 and 2x. A combination of these plates, 2 and 1x, was used for printing Issue 3 in 1929. The reprint of the 1948 Issue was done from the plates of Issue 2, plates 2 and 2x.

CHARACTERISTICS

The 1948 re-printing is easily distinguished by the Olive Grey colour of the stamp vignette, springbok head, shading lines, and the interior jubilee line (outside line). All the ½d Springbok printings before 1930 were printed with a black vignette and a black interior jubilee line, followed by a green frame and green exterior line (Fig.2). The 1948 sheets were perforated 14½ x 14 with the stamp size 18½ mm x 22½mm.



Fig.2: Printing with a black vignette and a black interior jubilee line.

CORNER BLOCKS

A key feature was that the sheets were fed into the single comb perforator from the left margin, hence the perforation in the right margin. Stamps used on cover are difficult to find.



Fig.3: The top left corner block, with broken grey Jubilee line – row 1/2.



Fig.4: Top right corner block with dent in green Jubilee line – row 2/12.



Fig.5: Bottom left corner block with no distinguishable features in the jubilee lines – row 19/1 and row 20/1.



Fig.6: Bottom right corner block with two cuts in black jubilee line, row 20/12 of plate 2 and 'Bottom' no dent in green jubilee line next to row 19/12 of plate 2x.

ARROW BLOCKS

The arrows, left and right, marked the vertical centre of the sheets and are the same as the Pretoria 1927, issue 2, printing (Fig.7). Stamps used on cover are difficult to find.



Fig.7.

MARGINAL CENTRE BLOCKS

The horizontal green lines, top and bottom, marked the centre of the sheets. As for the marginal centre blocks the top or bottom centre were the same as the 1927 Pretoria printing, issue 2, with a gap of 3¼ mm between the grey jubilee lines of Plates 2 and 1¼ mm gap between the green jubilee lines of Plates 2x (FigS.8 and 9).

NOTE: The broken jubilee line on stamps 6 and 7 Row 1 is a common feature of both 1926 Pretoria, issue 2, printing and the 1948 Pretoria printing (Fig.8) .



Fig.8.



Fig.9.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Stamps used on cover are difficult to find. Below, (Fig.10) is a cover commemorating 50 Years of Scouting, with a ½d Springbok right arrow block, cancelled with the special date stamp, Mafeking 22 II A57.



Fig10.

VARIETIES

Only two varieties were listed by Hagger (1986: page 37) and none by Ward (1956).

V1 - Broken '1' of Suid – Row 16/9. A very rare variety as is occurred only on a few sheets.

V2 - Without watermark on left margin. (Ghost Watermark)

THE GHOST WATERMARK

The 1948 Re-printing of the ½d Stamp has the same Springbok-head watermark as the original London and Pretoria printed stamps.



Listed as a variety in the Union Handbook, on some sheets, the watermark is not visible on the left margin and cannot be detected by any means generally used in detecting watermarks. However, the watermark can be seen when holding the margin horizontal and level with the eye.

Watermarks are added to the paper during the manufacturing process with the Dandy-roller. This is a lightweight hollow cylinder that has a raised design attached to its surface.

After the paper sheet has been formed, it travels to the dandy roll which lightly presses the design into the wet fibres. The roll displaces and thins the paper fibres in the area where the design appears. Once the paper sheet is dried, the watermark can't be changed, and remains in the paper permanently.

UNRECORDED AND ISOLATED VARIETIES

Perforation varieties: These errors occur when a stamp sheet is accidentally folded over or creased while being passed through the perforating machine (Fig.11).

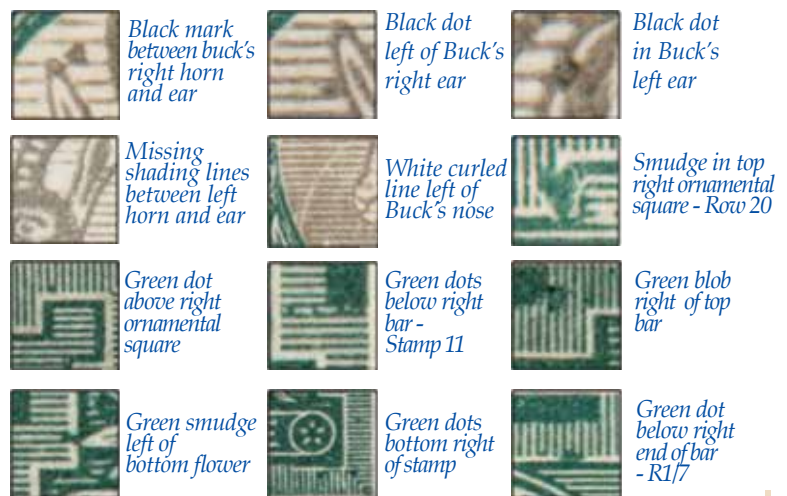
This perforation variety occurs when the perforation comb is out of register resulting in extra perforations occurring in the margins. Also known as double perforation. This also occurs in the Pretoria printings (Fig.12).



Fig.11: Perforated in bottom margin.



Fig.12: Double perforation in the left margin.



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STAMPSHOW 2023
'SA Philatelist 100'

THE OFFICIAL OPENING

The 2023 National Stamp Exhibition, 'SA PHILATELIST 100' was officially opened on Wednesday 11 October by Ian Shapiro, representing Spink of London, who have for many years been the main sponsors of these local events. In his enthusiastic speech, Ian complemented the event organisers on a superb venue, perfect lighting above the exhibits and creating a convivial environment for all who attended.

Ian highlighted the recent 'Clash of Empires' exhibition at the Royal Philatelic Society of London, which took place during June and July 2023, when over 2,000 visitors passed through the doors of the Royal to view this exceptional exhibition. This remarkable exhibition attracted a broader audience in that it covered every aspect of the Anglo Zulu War of 1879.

Curated by Alex Haimann of the USA, the exhibits covered postal history, letters, telegrams, photographs and artefacts, shields, campaign medals, a diorama of Rorke's Drift, watercolours and much more. A four day seminar accompanied the exhibition, with an entire day devoted to 'context philately'. Essentially this placed postal history and philately within a wider collecting context, and this new concept has been very well received.

Ian further commented on the superbly illustrated exhibition catalogue for this Clash of Empires Stamp Show. It encompassed precisely what context philately was all about, and represented yet another way forward in bringing the pleasure of collecting to a far wider audience.

Ian Shapiro also reiterated the SPINK commitment to South African philately and felt that the SPINK support offered has become almost 'institutionalised' in its partnership.



Fig.1: Opening address on the club patio by Ian Shapiro

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Organising Committee comprising of Danna Strydom (chair), André du Plessis RDPSA, Derek Roth, Victor Millard and Joof van der Merwe.



Fig.2: Danna Strydom^(A), André du Plessis RDPSA^(B), Derek Roth^(C), Victor Millard^(D) and Joof van der Merwe^(E).

THE VENUE

This year's National took place at the Kyalami Country Club, Midrand. The jury and other PFSA members were accommodated at the beautiful Glenda's Guest Suites in the Beaulieu Estate, some 3km from the Country Club. The Jury dinner (br and Palmares were held at the



Fig.3: the Kyalami Country Club

past year and he wished his successor all the best for his term.

"It is wonderful to have this congress coincide with the 2023 South African National Stamp Show which celebrates the 100th year of publication of The SA Philatelist. This is a phenomenal achievement for one of the longest running philatelic publications. A superb accomplishment for the esteemed philatelists associated with the publication over the years. Last year the decision was taken to cease publication of a printed paper edition and I am sure some people were disappointed by this, but even though I still enjoy reading physical magazines, I have come to the realisation that the world is a better place with digital technology. Storage space at home has run out and digital media is easily accessible from almost any location. Not to mention the environmental benefit of producing less paper and being able to actually receive digital communications in South Africa in the absence of a working Post Office.

During the year the editorial board of *The SA Philatelist* was strengthened by the addition of Adél Bulpitt and Victor Millard. Two eminently qualified and enthusiastic individuals who I am sure will contribute significantly to the future success of *The SA Philatelist*. We are grateful that they are prepared to contribute their time. I also thank the other members of the editorial board for their ongoing service.

The wheels of organised philately in South Africa are kept rolling by the Management Committee under the chairmanship of Neil Cronjé RDPSA with André du Plessis RDPSA, the chief operating officer and secretary, who performs much of the day-to-day activity, and Derek Roth the honorary treasurer supported by the other officer bearers and committee conveners. Federation is fortunate to have all the dedicated officers serving on the management committee performing important functions and I hope most of them will be prepared to serve another year in their respective portfolios.

Emil Minnaar RDPSA and Joof van der Merwe are congratulated on hosting another very successful SAVPEX. With 86 entries from all over the world, the majority from outside SA. I think it is fair to say that SAVPEX, a pioneer in virtual exhibitions, is now well established as an annual event on the global philatelic calendar. It was great to see it prominently listed in the program of forthcoming exhibitions of the Royal Philatelic Society in London.

South African exhibitors did well in terms of international exhibitions. Ian Matheson RDPSA acted as commissioner for the New Zealand 2023



Fig.4: Danna Strydom

exhibition during May in Auckland. There were eight entries from SA, four one frames and the others gaining one large vermeil, two vermeils and a silver. Francois Friend RDPSA was the commissioner for 2023 IBRA in Essen during May. There were six exhibits from South Africa winning a large gold, two golds, two large silvers and silver bronze. In August Victor Millard acted as commissioner for the Taipei 2023.

On the local exhibition front, this year was a bit of a breath catching year after the excitement of last year's Cape Town International and the preceding years' demand/pressure to qualify for international exhibiting. Consequently, the organising committee, especially André du Plessis, worked hard to solicit entries for Stamp Show 2023, however we ended up with a credible exhibition.

A special appreciation goes to all the exhibitors, without whom there would be no exhibition and without competitive exhibitions organised philately would not exist. We need to attract a new cohort of exhibitors to the national exhibition to supplement the declining demographic of the existing exhibitor pool. The annual national exhibition is the highlight of the South African philatelic calendar and a wonderful occasion to meet up with old acquaintances, talk stamps and see what fellow collectors have on display. I still clearly recall the excitement as a schoolboy looking forward to the national exhibition and the opportunity to marvel at the wonderful material on display as well as to rummage through dealer stock for items that I could afford to add my collection. Seeing the displays of fellow collectors stimulated my collecting enthusiasm and excitement and I hope the same applies to visitors to this year's exhibition.

This 85th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa today represent twenty-eight affiliated South African societies and seven international affiliations. This compares well with the seven societies who attended the inaugural congress in Durban in 1928, but the present number is well down from the heydays of philately in the 1980s and several societies reported less than 10 home members. Two societies ceased to function during the year, symptomatic of a declining demographic active in organised philately. This contrasts with lively interest at monthly stamp fairs, so I took some time earlier in the year to speak to attendees at stamp fairs to try and understand this. I was surprised to learn that several attendees are not really collectors but rather traders attending to buy stock for on selling on internet platforms, but they still represent a pool of collectors out there on the internet.

Another issue that emerged was reluctance to travel at night. Understandable in our Gauteng environment. My home society conducted a survey to gather feedback on people's meeting preferences and from the responses decided to change meeting times from the evening to late afternoon. Only two meetings have so far been held at the new time. The first had a noticeable improvement in attendance. Time will tell if this makes a real difference. We must however be cautious of the risk of excluding a working population to accommodate retirees. The first must surely be an important target demographic.

A driving force for creating and attending stamp clubs was interacting and discussing items with other collectors. This can now be performed promptly and interactively with a wide audience through Facebook groups. Thus, replacing an attraction of formalised stamp club meetings to some extent. Stamp fairs also offer a replacement for the desire for social interaction with other collectors.



Danna Strydom

New technology and lifestyle changes have impacted our hobby and we need to adapt to accommodate and respond to these. To stimulate thinking in this regard I invited Adel to do a presentation later during the meeting.

Several issues emerged around exhibiting. Expensive, too many rules, etc, but on probing I realised that some of this was hearsay, and that people did not really have a good appreciation of philatelic exhibiting. As a federation we may have legacy challenges to deal with, but we need to find ways of spreading information about the reward and joy of writing up and exhibiting a collection. Not just to existing collectors but also potential future collectors.

By coinciding the national Exhibition with the monthly stamp fair at Kyalami Country Club,

we aim to expose philatelic exhibiting to a broader cohort of stamp collectors and fair attendees. Showing them what it is about and hopefully attract many, or at least some, of them to write up and exhibit their treasures at future exhibitions. Thereby sharing the enjoyment of their collections with other philatelists. We thank SAPDA and Kenny Napier for making this possible".

MEMBERS OF THE JURY

Consisted of Emil Minnaar RDPSA (Chairman)¹, Emil Bührmann RDPSA (Vice Chairman)², Howard Green RDPSA³, Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL⁴, Michael Wigmore RDPSA⁵ and Neil Cronjé RDPSA⁶.



JURY REPORT

Three invited apprentice judges, Danna Strydom, Anton Putter and Gary Pienaar as well as Joof van der Merwe as jury secretary. The jury awarded three Large Gold and six Gold medals. The Grand Prix (Best exhibit on show) was awarded to Ian Matheson for his *British Honduras - King Edward VII and King George V*. Roger Porter received the SA Post Office Shield (Best exhibit SA Philately) for his *Natal: Edward VII*. (Exhibition results are also published on the PFSA website).

DEALERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sixteen dealers were in attendance and greatly contributed to the atmosphere of the event. The dealers included Ian Shapiro of Spink, Paul van Zeyl of RandStamps ably assisted by his wife Kathy, Doreen Royan and Lee Luyckx of Doreen Royan & Associates, David Morrison, Richard Johnson of Filat AG. Michael Wigmore of Crocker and Wigmore, Francois Friend from Gqueberha representing Stamps Friend, Dominic Martino of DM Philatelics, Clive King, Gideon Froneman, Chris Bennet, Xavier Laubscher, Alan Donaldson, Clinton Goslin and Kenny Napier. The dealer dinner was held at a local restaurant jointly sponsored by SAPDA and the PFSA.



Ian Shapiro of Spink.



Dealer Tables – Dom Martino in front



Jacques Kuun, Kenny Napier



A time for casual chats outside



Scratching for 'that' item at Clive King's table



SAPO's Dineo Poo, Herwig Kussing RDPSA

THE EXHIBITION - AWARDS LISTING OF EXHIBITS

- | Award | Exhibit Title/Exhibitor | Society |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| LARGE GOLD 90+ | | |
| ● BRITISH HONDURAS - KING EDWARD VII AND KING GEORGE V | Matheson, Ian | Traditional GB & Commonwealth Philatelic Society of Johannesburg |
| * The Grand Prix President's Trophy (best of show) | | |
| ● NATAL: EDWARD VII | Porter, Roger | Traditional GB & Commonwealth Cape & Natal Study Circle |
| * SA Post Office Shield (best Exhibit SA Philately) | | |
| GOLD 85 - 89 | | |
| ● STAMP PORTRAITS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II | Flanagan, Patrick | Traditional GB & Commonwealth Witwatersrand Philatelic Society |
| * Ilsapex Award | | |
| ● GOLD IN THE ZAR/TRANVAAL - 1871 TO 1922 | Du Plessis, André | Open Class Pretoria Philatelic Society |
| * Tony Chilton Transvaal Award (best of TVL exhibit) | | |
| ● THE ART WORK OF DICK FINLAY AND DENNIS MURPHY ON STAMPS | Flanagan, Patrick | Traditional National Class Witwatersrand Philatelic Society |
| ● FEDERAL DUCK STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: 1934 - 2022 | Putter, Anton | Revenues Stellenbosch Filatelievereniging |
| * Total Stampex 95 Trophy (best exhibit from an area outside SA) | | |
| ● A STUDY OF THE 1982, FOURTH DEFINITIVE ARCHITECTURE STAMP ISSUES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SA | Van Der Merwe, Joof | Traditional OFS Philatelic Society |
| * South African Stamp Study Circle Award (best SA Exhibit after 1910) | | |
| LARGE VERMEIL 80 - 84 | | |
| ● THE POSTAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE TRANSKEI UP TO 1994 | Kamffer, Gerhard | Postal History National Class Pretoria Philatelic Society |
| * D.G.Crocker Cup (best Postal History Exhibit) | | |
| ● OCTROI AND AFFICHAGE IN FRENCH MUNICIPALITIES (NOT THE DAUSSY KEYPLATE) | Matheson, Ian | Revenues Philatelic Society of Johannesburg |
| * Terence Radue Shield (best Foreign Exhibit) | | |
| ● SCOUTING THROUGH OLD PICTURE POSTCARDS | Pienaar, Gary | Picture Postcards Philatelic Society of Johannesburg |
| * Picture Postcard Thematic Cup (Best Postcard Exhibit not Southern Africa) | | |
| ● PRETORIA, TRANVAAL'S CAPITAL | Van Zeyl, Paul | Picture Postcards Witwatersrand Philatelic Society |
| * SAPRG Archie Atkinson Trophy (best Picture Postcard Exhibit of Southern Africa) | | |
| ● THE 2½c GROOT CONSTANTIA VALUE OF THE 1961-1971 FIRST RSA DEFINITIVE | Millard, Victor | Traditional National Class Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town |
| * Potch 78 Award (best Exhibit Post-WWII) | | |
| * Dawid De Villiers Display Trophy (best presented stamps) | | |

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| ● 1910 SOUTH AFRICA UNION #1 | Boezak, Russell | Traditional GB & Commonwealth Witwatersrand Philatelic Society |
| ● WORLD WAR II: SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE AIR MAIL AND THE SHUTTLE SERVICE | Findlay, James | Aerophilately Philatelic Society of Johannesburg |
| * Dawie Uys Memorial Award (Best Aerophilately Exhibit) | | |
| * C.E.D. Enoch Trophy (best Philatelic Research) | | |
| VERMEIL 75 - 79 | | |
| ● A SELECTION OF CYLINDER BLOCKS AND SINGLE STAMPS OF THE 2½c FIRST DEFINITIVE POSTAGE STAMP ISSUED FROM MAY 1961 TO NOVEMBER 1974 | Lubbe, Sam | Vermeil Traditional National Class Orange Free State Philatelic Society |
| ● A STUDY OF THE ½ CENT VALUE OF THE FIRST DEFINITIVE SERIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SA | Chrysochou, Phidias | Vermeil Traditional National Class East Rand Philatelic Society |
| ● TABLE MOUNTAIN, THE INSPIRATION | Hugo, Gabriël Johannes | Vermeil Open Class Paarlse Filatelievereniging |
| LARGE SILVER 70 - 74 | | |
| ● QUEEN WILHELMINA, 1890 - 1948 | Schuurman, Dick | Large Silver Traditional Europe Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society |
| SILVER 65 - 69 | | |
| ● SOUTHERN AFRICAN BRITISH COLONIAL AND COMMONWEALTH REVENUES - A 150 YEAR PERSPECTIVE | Dulez, Jean | Silver Revenues Philatelic Society of Johannesburg |
| SILVER BRONZE 60 - 64 | | |
| ● SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP EXHIBITIONS 1988 - 2014 | Mitchel, Vernon | Open Class Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society |
| ● HORSES: DECLASSIFICATION AND UTILISATION | Butcher, Graham | Open Class Bellville Philatelic Society |
| BRONZE 55 - 59 | | |
| ● SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP EXHIBITIONS 1961 - 1987 | Mitchell, Vernon | Open Class Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society |
| ● HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT | De Villiers, Reanie (79) | One Frame (Thematic Culture) Bellville Philatelic Society |
| * Vrijstaat Trophy (best One Frame Exhibit) | | |
| ● THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA OFFICIAL STAMPS - 1926 TO 1955 | Van Zyl, Danie (79) | Open Class Pretoria Philatelic Society |
| ● GUERNSEY & JERSEY 1940 - 1969 | Viljoen, Diederik (79) | One Frame (Traditional National Class) Bellville Philatelic Society |
| ● QUEEN MARY'S DOLLS' HOUSE | Harris, Terry Lynne (78) | Open Philately (Picture Postcards) Pretoria Philatelic Society |
| ● THE PLATING OF THE 1/2d. SPRINGBOK JIPEX PANE ISSUES OF 1936 | Van Der Merwe, Joof (78) | One Frame (Traditional National Class) Orange Free State Philatelic Society |

- SENDING MONEY HOME - SOUTH AFRICA TO SEKAKES FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 1973
Erasmus, Louwrence (77) *One Frame (Postal Stationery)*
Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging
- NAMIBIA: THE OVERPRINTS OF THE 2000'S AND THEIR ORIGIN
Barit-Orkin, Gila (74) *One Frame (Traditional National Class)*
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society
- TRANSVAAL KING'S HEADS, EDWARD VII
Cardoso, Alcino (74) *One Frame (Traditional National Class)*
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society
- * *The Arie Bakker Award* (First One Framer exhibitor)
- THE MYSTIFYING AND UNEXPLAINED
De Villiers, Reanie (74) *One Frame (Thematic Culture)*
Bellville Philatelic Society
- BASUTOLAND: THE DECIMAL OVERPRINTS 1961
Barit, Avi (73) *One Frame (Traditional National Class)*
- THE 2012 LONDON OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS GOLD MEDAL WINNERS STAMPS
Van Der Molen, Peter (70) *One Frame (Traditional National Class)*
East Rand Philatelic Society
- CUSTOMS DUTY/DOUANE STAMPS OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1906
Jacobson, Leon (68) *One Frame (Revenues)*
Sasolburg Philatelic Society
- THE BECHUANALANDS 'PHILASTORICAL' HIGHLIGHTS 1882 - 1925
Van Wyk, Johan (67) *One Frame (Traditional GB & Commonwealth)*
Sasolburg Philatelic Society
- COELACANTH - THE LAZARUS SPECIES OF FISH
Strydom, Phillip (62) *One Frame (Open Class)*
Bellville Philatelic Society
- SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP EXHIBITIONS 2015 – 2022
Mitchell, Vernon (59) *Open Class*
Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society
- AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILATELY OF APARTHEID
Jacobson, Cecily (53) *One Frame (Open Class)*

LITERATURE

- THE JOURNAL OF THE RHODESIAN STUDY CIRCLE
Literature, Journals & Periodicals
- * *Jonas Michelson Literature Award* (Best Literature)
- POSTE RESTANTE AT THE CAPE AND OTHER ESSAYS
Frescura, Franco *Literature, Printed books & Pamphlets*
Direct Subscriber
- * *Royal Medallion* (best British Commonwealth Exhibit)
- STAMPS SOUTH AFRICA - KEEPING IN TOUCH
Philatelic Federation of SA (PFSA) *Literature, Digital, Websites & Software*
- DURBAN: ONCE UPON A TIME
Frescura, Franco *Literature, Printed books & Pamphlets*
Direct Subscriber

THE 85TH NATIONAL CONGRESS

KYALAMI 13.10.2023



STAMPSHOW 2023
'SA Philatelist 100'

OFFICIAL OPENING

by Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL

The theme, '100 years of the SA Philatelist' focused once again on the contributions to our hobby and the many distinguished philatelists who have written for the journal.

I have noted these in the Exhibition catalogue, it provided an opportunity to reflect on the challenges that face the journal. That notwithstanding, the digital era presents opportunities that the philatelic community must embrace. Firstly - The migration to a digital-only journal brought new opportunities; some yet unrealised. There is (or should be) no limit to an issue size, making longer articles possible; and these should be actively sought. Secondly - Production tools now available should reduce the time to compile an issue – once material is provided.

Thirdly - the important digitisation project undertaken by Federation, the Pretoria Society, and the University of Pretoria has made all issues to 1973 and since 2012 accessible on the members section of the PFSA Website <https://stampssa/>

Now the challenge is to us, to communicate the results of our study and research, especially of contemporary developments and issues.

The past decade has seen innovative change: SAVPEX has led the way internationally and offers opportunities to new entrants to the hobby; social philately and the open class have made storytelling in collecting so much more exciting; postcard collecting and exhibiting is now accepted at all levels.



Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL



At Congress: Hon Life President - Peter van der Molen RDPSA FRPSL, COO - André du Plessis RDPSA, 2023 President - Danna Strydom, Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA Chair Management Committee and Treasurer - Derek Roth.

MESSAGE FROM THE PFSA PRESIDENT

by Neil Cronjé RDPSA

It is a pleasure to present this Management Report for 2023. The past year again introduced new challenges to Philately on a worldwide basis. At this time, worldwide it is usual to have zoom meetings, and in South Africa a large number of clubs have access to zoom either for their meetings or as part of a wider audience that includes visitors from Canada and the United States, United Kingdom and the Asian countries.

Most clubs operate electronically to a certain extent and continue with meetings. I would like to thank everybody who bent over backwards to assist me and remind me of certain activities. This volunteer group that we have in South Africa will be difficult to duplicate anywhere in the world.

FINANCE: Finances under the control of Derek Roth are running smoothly and we thank him for doing an excellent job under the circumstances. All payments are up to date and we were able



to produce the financials on time. Possible cost containment is high on our priority list and has been successfully incorporated into the system.

SECRETARIAT: André du Plessis RDPSA as the COO, is handling the secretariat. He has settled in well and has made a number of changes; and is also responsible for the organisation of this Congress and the exhibition although a number of other people contributed towards the exhibition.

EXHIBITIONS: We have participated in two Exhibitions this year namely a FIP exhibition in Essen and recently also showed in Taipei at a FIAP exhibition. We continue to support FIAP because they are our home Federation.

In the beginning of December are also showing in Bangkok (FIP exhibition) and also in Dubai which is our regional exhibition under FIAP. This is in addition a new juror exchange program. As you know, **Cape Town 2022** was extremely successful, receiving compliments at international meetings that we attended.

EXPERT COMMITTEE: Michael Wigmore RDPSA and his team continue to provide a major contribution to Philately in fighting the scourge of forgeries. We thank them for their skills and time. He continues to write a bimonthly column in our electronic newsletter.

FIP/FIAP: In the New Year we continue to support the International Exhibitions with Exhibitors and Jurors. The Commissioner for next years show in Romania has been appointed. A possibility exists that we will exhibit in Korea depending on financial support. We would like to hear from anybody that would like to show at this FIP exhibition. We thank Emil Minnaar RDPSA for carrying the South African Flag.

HERITAGE:

Leon Jacobson has taken over the chairmanship of the Heritage group and he and his team are currently sorting through the material in storage. He might need assistance from time to time and if you are available to help, please speak to Leon.

JUDGING AND ETHICS: One judge qualified at **Cape Town 2022** in the National section and two members became FIP judges. Should there be a person in your club that would like to be trained as a judge, please approach us, so that we can put them on the list for possible future training.

PROMOTIONS: André du Plessis RDPSA is currently looking after this element.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA: Our new website has been upgraded and is more user friendly. Access is available to current issues of the SAP for everybody. However, the archival part will be for members only with lots of information.

A number of books are also available for members of the Federation and you can consult these free of charge. Currently it is under the control of André du Plessis RDPSA, that also control Facebook and Twitter. Please join the activities and 'LIKE' the Facebook entries of Federation.

PUBLICATIONS: No new publications.

The SA PHILATELIST: We thank Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL and his Editorial Board for their services and contributions throughout the year. *The SA Philatelist* is becoming a more professional journal as time goes by. Since February 2023, the Journal is only available in electronic format.

YOUTH: No activity.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: The Regional Vice-Presidents provide a vital link between Management and Societies. We thank these people for their hard and voluntary work throughout the year. New blood is needed.

AWARDS CUSTODIAN: The Awards Custodian is now Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA, FRPSL. He has produced a new certificate *in lieu* of trophies.

LIBRARY: The Philatelic Library that was located in the Sandton Public Library, has been moved to UP and is open to members.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN POST OFFICE: No new stamps were produced after Cape Town 2022. There are no stamp issues currently planned. Prof. Alex Visser RDPSA and Gerhard Kamfer RDPSA are in communication with Philatelic Services.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION (SAPDA): Kenny Napier remains at the helm, with 26 South African Philatelic Dealers with affiliations to this organisation.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Neil Cronjé RDPSA

Treasurer: Derek Roth

Chief Operation Officer: André du Plessis RDPSA

Standing Committee Chairmen

Exhibitions: André du Plessis RDPSA.

Expert: Michael Wigmore RDPSA.

FIP: Emil Minnaar RDPSA.

Heritage: Leon Jacobson

Judging & Ethics: Neil Cronjé RDPSA

Promotion:

Website: André du Plessis RDPSA.

Publications: André du Plessis RDPSA.

The SA Philatelist : Peter van der Molen RDPSA

Youth: Chairman required

Awards Custodian: Ian Matheson RDPSA, FRPSL

New Issues Liaison: Closed

Philatelic Services: Awaiting nomination

SAPDA: Kenny Napier

SAPO Liaison: Prof Alex Visser RDPSA

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS :

- Region 1, Gauteng and NW Province; Peter Oppenheim.
- Region 2, Eastern Gauteng; Colin Bousfield.
- Region 3, Pretoria, Mpumalanga, Limpopo; Andre du Plessis RDPSA.
- Region 4, Free State, Northern Cape; Leon Jacobson.
- Region 5, KwaZulu-Natal; John Handman
- Region 6, Western; Cape Diederik Viljoen.
- Region 7, Eastern; Cape Vernon Mitchell.
- Region 8, Outside Areas; Richard Stroud.



1. Lesedi Jan and Boitumelo Mothibamele represented BotswanaPost.

2. David Brown, Marge Viljoen and Mias van Pletzen.

3. Nicolene Barnard, Anton Putter and Ian Matheson RDPSA.

4. Herwig Kussing RDPSA, Beate Carey, Chris Carey, Werner Barnard - at back.

5. Howard Green RDPSA, John Rycroft and Gary Pienaar at the back.

6. Herbie Schäffler and Adél Bulpitt.

PHILATELIC FOUNDATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

13 OCTOBER 2023 – KYALAMI COUNTRY CLUB, MIDRAND.

by Jim Findlay RDPSA, President of the Philatelic Foundation of South Africa.

On behalf of the Foundation as well as myself, I congratulate Dr. Vic Sorour and Brian Trotter on being nominated and unanimously approved by the Federation Congress to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa. Both are superb philatelists in their own fields and this recognition is well-deserved.

Congratulations to André and his team on this **'Stamp Show 2023'**. When André told me he was looking at the Kyalami Country Club as a National exhibition venue, I was a bit sceptical in that my concern was the size of the hall and the possible layout and dealer arrangements. I am afraid that I should have been in the category of *'ye of little faith'* as André has been MR FIX IT for philately.

He has a number of superb exhibitions to his credit and this one is excellent. This Show has 47 exhibits from 35 philatelists - the high standard and wide range of topics makes this an exhibition of significance and to be enjoyed by all.

There are two aspects that make our Federation exhibitions world class. One is the new frame format that was introduced 5 years ago. The other is the lighting - as mentioned by Ian Shapiro. We all benefit from the skill and creativity of Steve Marsh and André in making the viewing of exhibits outstanding. This is world leadership without doubt. In my opinion, our viewing here is better than exhibitions such as London 2022 and many other international exhibitions.

For those of you who do not know, Foundation's mandate is to give financial support to South African philately. Foundation funding of the new frames and lighting, I believe has been to the benefit of all philatelists.

I express my sincere thanks to Spink and Ian Shapiro for their continued support for South African philately. As Ian mentioned in his opening address on Wednesday, this is a synergistic relationship which is greatly appreciated by organised philately in South Africa. I know he has a treasure or two that he is taking back to the UK with him. Ian, thank you for your continued support.

In mentioning 'funding', Foundation has sponsored **"Stamp Show 2023"** and the 85th Federation Congress with an allocation of R100,000. Although not noted, I believe this support should be recorded other than in a treasurer's financial statement.

Without doubt the 'Cape Town 2022' exhibition is a huge success story. The venue was certainly world class and having an 'International' and a 'National' exhibition in the same location made for having something for everyone. Add the major attraction of Gerhard Kamffer's 'Road to Democracy' exhibit - a superb history lesson for every South African - and the exhibition is a very hard act to beat. Emil Bührmann and his team certainly set an exceptionally high standard and showed the world what can be done. Congratulations to you all. Foundation supported **'Cape Town**

2022' with R 4.5 million sponsorship and I believe this was money well spent.

Although not funded by Foundation, congratulations are due again to Emil Minnaar and the Orange Free State Philatelic Society on organising what is now the world leader in one frame virtual exhibitions - SAVPEX. This is always an amazing gathering of creative philatelic subjects which must be one of the best philatelic reference sites available. Well done and keep it going - I have learnt a lot about many obscure facts and stories told in these pages.

On behalf of Foundation members, I must convey our thanks to Neil Cronjé and his Federation management team on keeping the formal philatelic community active and functioning in the many supportive roles that are required such as this exhibition, judging and jurors, *The SA Philatelist*, promotion of stamp fairs, international liaison, and more. What happens in formal philately centres on the excellent work done by the COO André du Plessis - a real philatelic gem. As previously indicated, Foundation plays a very significant role in funding organised philately.

I am really encouraged by the fact that Federation is getting our philatelists qualified as international judges and is promoting a number of local apprentice jurors. The more qualified jurors we have, the better the exhibits produced by society members, also the introduction of Social philately will allow the hobby to be a lot more friendly and enjoyable.

The role that the dealers are playing in our hobby is excellent. The regular stamp fairs country-wide are very well supported. Although formal philately is a bit static, dealer reports suggest that stamp collection is very much alive and well in the informal philatelic market.

Foundation Finances

(i) There were Old Mutual/Quilter/Nedbank share dividends due to Foundation that had accumulated over the years but were exceptionally difficult for Foundation to receive. Don't ask me why because I could never understand the reasoning involved. Thankfully in April this year Emil Minnaar worked some magic with Old Mutual et al and Foundation received over R54,000-00. Thank you, Emil.

(ii) Foundation is in compliance with CIPC and FICA requirements. However, after the AGM the responsible Council members will be required to update these.

(iii) Foundation finances are in good shape considering the financial support given to Federation and the exhibitions. The foundation year-end is 31 March. Foundation assets over the last few years are: 2019 - R13,881 000. 2020 - R12,836 000. 2021 - R14,606 000. 2022 - R15,223 000. 2023 - R11,144 000.

The South African Post Office:

I feel obliged to mention this national tragedy and the total collapse of our postal system due to theft, corruption, incompetence and useless leadership. This has a huge negative impact on our hobby and the future of 'modern philately'. Will postal items in the RSA of today, be the extreme rarities in the future? All governments throughout the world appreciate the civil society benefits of having an effective and efficient postal service but ANC policies deny this



Emil Bührmann RDPSA receiving the Skinner Cup on behalf of the CT 2022 International Stamp Exhibition from Howard Green RDPSA



John Handman receiving President Chain from Danna Strydom



WE Lea Cup awarded to Joof van der Merwe of the OFS PS.




The Jack Hagger Trophy awarded to André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria PS.

service to all in South Africa. What an embarrassment for philatelists and the citizens of the Rainbow Nation! To take the role of government further, the Department of Communication could fund an exceptionally extravagant dinner for 'Cape Town 2022' commissioners, jurors and their own and SAPO delegates. However, the Department of Communication and the SA Post Office could not help fund the exhibition!

I have made an appeal to Congress in the past and I repeat it again.

Please consider a legacy or donation to philately in your will or letter of wishes for when you die. You have enjoyed the hobby of philately over many years and the one way you can help the hobby survive is to make an allowance for a donation to Federation or Foundation in your will. Help fund philately after you have closed your albums for the last time and are no longer with us who remain.

Enjoy the exhibition. 



RDPSA ATTENDING FOUNDATION MEETING. Saturday 14.10.2023, Kyalami Country Club, Midrand. As an insert - Paul Van Zeyl, then front L to R: Patrick Flanagan FRPSL, Howard Green, Dr Jim Findlay, Dineo Poo (SAPO), Dr Gerhard Kamffer, Emil Minnaar. Back: Emil Bührmann, Herbie Schaffler, André du Plessis, Hugh Amoore, Dr Neil Cronjé, Herwig Kussing, Gawie van der Walt, Prof Alex Visser, Dr Ian Matheson.



ATTENDEES AT CONGRESS: • First row L to R: Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, Cynthia Gillespie, Adél Bulpitt, Marge Viljoen, John Handman, PFSA President 2024; Clive Carr, David Brown, Howard Green RDPSA, Peter van der Molen RDPSA, sitting in front Victor Millard. • Second row: Vernon Mitchell, André du Plessis RDPSA, Neil Cronjé RDPSA, Gary Pienaar, Jim Findlay RDPSA, Diederik Viljoen, Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL, Kenny Napier. • Third row: Les Lotter, Beate Carey, Chris Carey, Alastair Macduff, Nicolene Barnard, OFS PS; Peter Oppenheim, Derek Roth. • Fourth row: Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Joof van der Merwe, Louwrence Erasmus, Danna Strydom. • Back row: John Rycroft, Werner Barnard, Herwig Kussing, Mias van Pletzen, Anton Putter.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CAPE TOWN 2022 IPEX ORGANISING COMMITTEE
WINNERS OF THE SKINNER CUP - FEDERATION AWARD

The successful FIP-accredited Cape Town 2022 International Philatelic Exhibition was a landmark event in South African Philately, enhancing the reputation of the PFSA in the FIP Community. The work of the organising Committee deserves recognition, especially for the tenacity the Organising Committee showed in persevering despite COVID19, and the uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

It is worth noting that the idea of hosting a FIP-accredited international had its roots in discussions in 2013 and that the first meetings of the embryo IPEX organising committee were in May 2017!

The exhibition was expensive, and with limited sponsorship the exhibition would not have taken place without the substantial contribution of Philatelic Foundation; this must be acknowledged.

The Organising Committee worked as a team, but special recognition must be given to members whose contribution was critical in ensuring the success of the exhibition:

Emil Bührmann RDPSA, for his visionary leadership and, with Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, for liaising with the Patron, former President Motlanthe, the Department of Digital Technologies and Communication, and with the FIP Consultant, Bernie Beston RDPSA of FIP / Australia whose support at critical stages was vital; Emil Minnaar RDPSA, whose key roles were in FIP Liaison and in acting

the marketing of the exhibition and recognised the power of the *Road To Democracy* theme; The PFSA leadership, Neil Cronjé RDPSA as Chair of the Management Committee, André du Plessis RDPSA as COO who was always there, even if in in the background, and Hugh Amoore RDPSA as the then PFSA President who had to be the face of the Federation at events; Keith Brodovcky, who ensured that the organising committee operated within the provisions of the Companies Act and was its financial director/treasurer; Kevin Lodge, who ensured that the exhibition worked: doing everything from liaising with the City and with the CTCIC, getting frames and dealer stands put up (and taken down) in time, and organising volunteers and others to staff entry points, finding rooms for juries, FIP, commissioners, Literature exhibits and the UPU/Africa meetings held on the fringes of the exhibition; Brian Franklin, for his masterful arrangements of the exhibition layout and spaces and ensuing that every frame and every stand was where he had planned it to be; Joof van der Merwe, who valiantly ran the bin room and was assistant commissioner general; Reanie de Villiers, who recruited, encouraged, and organised the essential group of volunteers without whom the exhibition would not have been a happy place; and last but by no means least: Victor Millard, who got landed with the jobs others had forgotten, and who produced a superb catalogue for the show.

CITATIONS

The motivation of the election of Brian Trotter, RDP, HONF RPSL, to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

Brian was born in Bloemfontein on 8 December 1943. Brian's father was a pilot and it was seemingly logical that on call up to the SA Defence Force that Brian would enter the South African Air Force. This saw him training in various aspects including qualifying as a pilot and flying the much revered Harvard aircraft, amongst others. Brian met his wife Chris, a Germiston girl, in those early years.

Brian and Chris have two children from their union, and these now represent three families and a number of grandchildren, all of whom are dear to Brian and Chris.

Brian's education saw him graduating as a Chemical Engineer. His business career saw him becoming a citizen of the world, his work having taken he and Chris to live in, inter alia, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Indonesia and on his retirement from business life they settled in London. Brian and Chris, over all these years, have kept strong South African ties, both with family and through philately, having visited almost annually and often more frequently.

This year they will be celebrating Brian's 80th birthday in South Africa, with a visit to family and to the bush, having had a lifelong love for the wilds of Africa.

Significantly, Brian has never disassociated himself from South African philately. To this day he remains a member of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society and is an active member of the South African Collectors Society.

Over the years he has exhibited extensively and was awarded large gold medals for inter alia, The Revenue Stamps of South Africa; The Revenue Stamps of Southern Rhodesia and The King's head. Postal stationery of South Africa Brian continues to collect aspects of South Africa and Southern Africa, has exhibited various aspects in this country and has written various papers and books, including inter alia:

- Bechuanalands and Botswana, postal marking classification (1995) Part 1: The Bechuanalands with Neville Midwood (2003)
- The Edwardian Stamps of the South African Colonies (2004)
- Southern African Mails, Routes, Rates and Regulations 1806 to 1916 (2017) (Awarded the FEPA medal for Exceptional study and research in 2017)



A special signing of the Roll on Thursday 30 November 2023.

• Rhodesian Philately to 1924 with Colin Hoffman RDPSA and Patrick Flanagan RDPSA (2022) (Awarded Large Gold medal at Geneva International Exhibition 2022). Brian has been recognised by many philatelic bodies for a number of reasons. He signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2010; he was President of the Royal Philatelic Society for two years 2011-2013; Chair of the ABPS Exhibition committee; he was Chairman of the 2010 London International exhibition, he was a FIP accredited Juror in no less

than 6 exhibition classes (Aerophilately, Literature, Postal history, Postal stationery, Revenues and Traditional. He has acted as Juror in a number of South African exhibitions.

Brian has chaired the FIP Traditional Philately Commission and been Chairman of the RPSL publications committee.

He has been a tireless servant of the hobby and was willing to share his knowledge and expertise with others. He has delivered numerous papers and seminars across the philatelic world.

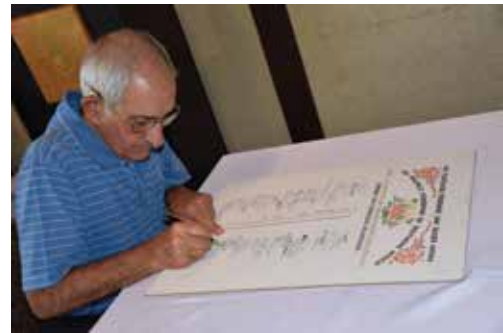
In closing he had a wonderful philosophy about the hobby – “You don't get paid to do it – if you don't enjoy it - don't do it”.

Brian Trotter : An exceptional philatelist truly deserving of being invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

This Citation and recommendation is submitted by inter alia J Findlay RDPSA; H Amooore RDPSA; P Flanagan RDPSA and C Hoffman RDPSA. It is further endorsed by the Rhodesia Study Circle.

The motivation for Dr. Vic Sorour to be invited to sign the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists in South Africa.

This philatelist never ceases to amaze us with his ongoing research of various South African Definitive Issues. Spanning over many years he has meticulously researched and recorded his detailed studies. His collecting fields are the Union of South Africa Pictorial Series, especially the ½d Springbok stamp and the Republic Third Definitive (the Protea definitives).



Dr. Vic Sorour, signing the Roll of Honour

He has been an active member of the South African Stamp Study Circle (Honorary Treasurer for 10 years and President for 3 years) [before it ceased to exist], plus the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society. He regularly exhibits at these Societies, keeping us up-to-date with his research and any new finds.

He has been a Philatelic Federation delegate at Congresses, having received the J. H. Harvey Pirie Award in 1987 and the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society Herbert Horne Memorial Bequest in 2017.

Attached to this citation is a detailed listing of his published articles, summarised as follows:-

- In the South African Stamp Study Circle Newsletters between 1977 and 1983 - 13 articles on the Protea Series.
- In *The South African Philatelist* between 2015 and 2021 - 14 articles, not only on the Protea Series, but also on the ½d. Jipex Panes, the ½d. Springbok postcards, the Identification of the ½d.
- Springbok Issues and key items, the 5/- ox-wagon stamp, the 'Flying Saucer Flaw' and other topics.

Vic Sorour has exhibited extensively between 1984 and 2023 at Society level on almost every occasion when present at a meeting, Nationally at least seven times with awards from Silver to Large Vermeil. Internationally he has exhibited in China, Macau, New Zealand, Taiwan and Joburg 100, being awarded up to Large Vermeil.

PFSA TROPHY AWARDS

Vic has published the following books:-

- *Protea Definitive Series First edition - 1984*, awarded Silver Nationally and Silver Bronze Internationally.

• *Protea Definitive Series Second edition - 2016*, awarded Vermeil Nationally and Internationally as well as receiving the Jonas Michelson Literature Award.

- *Protea Definitive Series Third edition - The Concise edition*.

Dr. Vic Sorour is proposed as a worthy candidate to be invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in South Africa.

This Citation and recommendation is submitted by Howard Green RDPSA and seconded by Neil Cronje RDPSA.



AWARD WINNERS

WEINSTEIN MEMORIAL MEDALLION

Presented by Richard Stroud, a photograph of Mike Smith with his *Weinstein Memorial Medallion*, taken at a meeting of the South African Societies Joint

Conference in Meriden Warwickshire, UK, on the 4 November.

Mike Smith, of the OFS Study Circle with his Weinstein Memorial medallion, presented by Richard Stroud RDPSA.



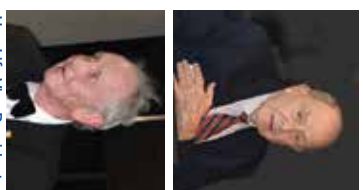
Ian Matheson, The Grand Prix Award *best of show*, presented by Jim Findlay



Danna Stydom receiving the Past President brooch



Emil Büttmann RDPSA receiving member of the July certificate



Hon Life Vice Presidents Howard Green RDPSA and Emil Minnaar RDPSA



Gary Pienaar, Picture Postcard Thematic Cup presented by Danna Stydom



Michael Wigmore RDPSA receiving member of the July certificate



Neil Cronje RDPSA receiving member of the July certificate



Anton Putter receiving member of the July certificate



James Findlay, Dawie Uys Memorial Award, *Best Aero/Philately Exhibit* and C.E.D. Enoch Trophy (*best Philatelic Research*)



Andre Du Plessis, RDPSA receiving the Hagger Trophy from Danna Stydom



Hugh Amore, RDPSA FRPSL receiving member of the July certificate



Victor Millard, receiving his certificate for Patch 78 Award (*best Exhibit Post-WWII*) and the Dawid De Villiers Display Trophy



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South African Army Post Offices in Abyssinia and Italian Somaliland, 1940-41

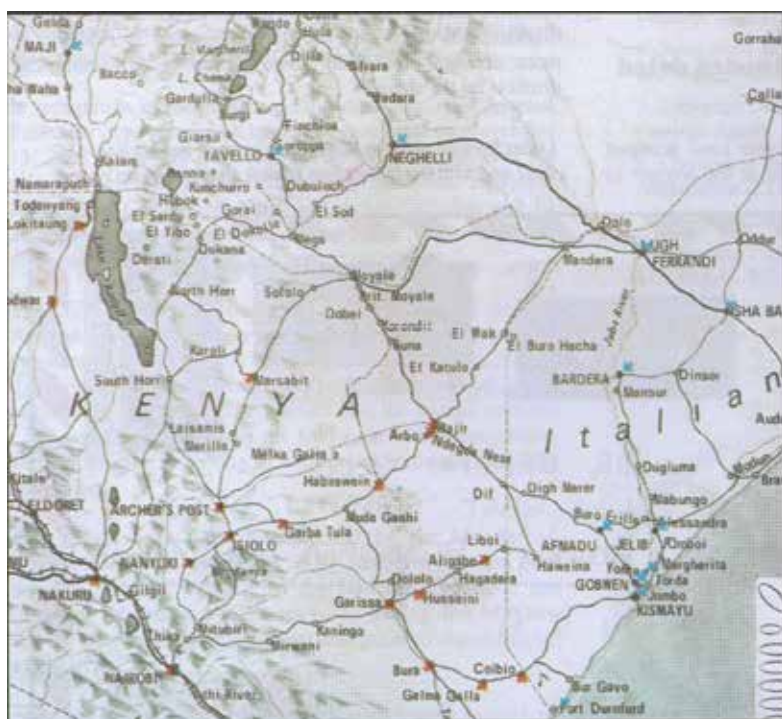
by Jim Findlay RDPSA and Prof. Rory Ryan

This article illustrates the movements of four South African Army Post Offices from Kenya through Italian Somaliland and into Abyssinia with the 1st SA Division and three Brigades. South Africa participated in the Liberation of Ethiopia in 1941 and the SA Army Post Offices were present during the campaign. This material is an important reference work and was first published in the Menelik's Journal of Ethiopian Philatelic Society.

Brief History of the Campaign

On 30 May 1940, the Union of South Africa declared war on Italy. From September 1939, the South African Defence Force had been preparing for a motorised move up the 'Great North Road' and the possibility of engaging the Italians in East Africa. A motorised brigade group was thus in readiness, to assist in the defence of the Northern Frontier District (NFD), a vast and wild semi-desert.

Under the command of Major General E Brink, soldiers of 1 SA Division embarked from Durban to Mombasa in July 1940. East Africa HQ expected first the Italian Air Force, and then their motorised columns, to move through the NFD and straight into Nairobi. The successful assembly of an extensive South African motorised military force in Kenya during 1940, with equally extensive logistical supply systems, was the principal factor in the swiftness of the advance by the SA forces into Abyssinia and Italian Somaliland.



Map1: The KENYA border areas with Abyssinia and Italian Somaliland.

The many movements of the brigade headquarters in Kenya prior to the advance into enemy territory were to exercise and test the various systems (including the Army Postal Services) to ensure that once the advance started, the logistic and communication systems functioned efficiently.

The expected Italian invasion of Kenya did not happen. Nevertheless, all attention was on the NFD and its wells, the lifeblood of the region. The wells at Wajir were some of the most crucial. *"The wells were just wide enough to take a four-gallon tin on a rope. They went down about thirty feet. I was told they were hacked in the limestone by suspending little boy slaves by the heels until they passed out"* (Brown, 1990: 71).

Towards the end of 1940, there was intense discussion over the best route into Italian East Africa. General Jan Smuts, the Commander-in-Chief, SA Forces, was in favour of an advance via the ports of Kismayu and Mogadishu, whereas General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East and East Africa, regarded this as logistically problematic, and preferred an attack on the Italian outposts in southern Abyssinia and south-western Somaliland, although this would have to occur between the 'Short Rains' and the 'Long Rains', between December and March, after which the deserts would become impassable swamps.

The 'war of the outposts' (Map 1) followed, beginning with the attack on El Wak (Italian Somaliland) on 16 December 1940, led by Brigadier Dan Pienaar. This was a crucial first Allied victory, as the Italians could no longer use El Wak as a launching pad for an invasion of Kenya through the NFD. Attacks followed on the water holes of southern Abyssinia at El Yibo (16 January 1941), El Gumu (1 February), Hobok (2 February), and the fort on a high mountain plateau at Mega (16-18 February), which dominated the Italian defenses of southern Abyssinia.

This ended the first phase of the campaign.

Attention now turned to the ports of Somaliland (Map 2). The Juba River which rose in Abyssinia and whose mouth was at Fortress Jumbo, near the village of Gobwen, was a natural defensive line. The Duke of Aosta, the Commander-in-Chief, Italian East Africa, instructed General de Simone to hold the Juba line, to abandon the port of Kismayu and to withdraw to Fort Jumbo. Afmadu fell to the King's African Rifles on 11 February, Kismayu was entered on 14 February, Gelib on 22 February, and Brava on 24 February.

On the evening of 25 February, the Nigerian Brigade entered the undefended port of Mogadishu, where numerous stores, including precious fuel, were captured. This ended the second phase of the campaign.

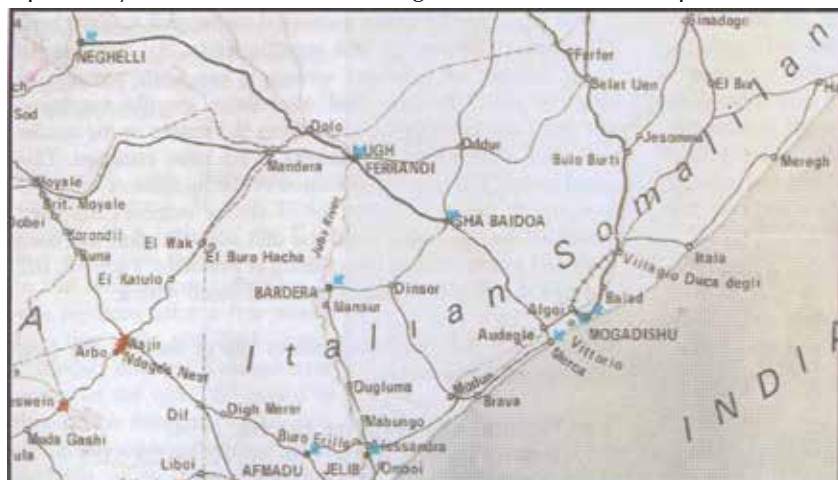
The third phase of the campaign involved 'turning left' at Mogadishu (Map 3) up the excellent Strada Imperiale, constructed by the Italians to link Addis Ababa with Mogadishu. The 'Movement of H.Q. 11 (A) Division February - April 1941' (Map 3) indicates the rapidity of the advance through Somaliland and into Addis Ababa in less than three months: from Afmadu in the south to Mogadishu in three weeks, a distance of 322 miles (515 km); from Mogadishu to Giggiga in 17 days, a distance of 666 miles (1066 km), at an average of 39 miles a day, and from Giggiga to Addis Ababa in 10 days, a distance of 389 miles (622 km), at an average of 38 miles a day.

Harar was entered by the Royal Natal Carbineers on 27 March, Dire Dawa fell to 1 Transvaal Scottish on 29 March, and on 6 April, General Wetherill, accompanied by Brigadier Dan Pienaar (1 SA Brigade) and Brigadier Fowkes (22 EA Brigade), entered Addis Ababa.

In total, the 11 African Division had moved 1725 miles (2760 km)

in 53 days, having taken ten thousand Italian and eleven thousand Askari prisoners of war. While this was by no means the end of the campaign in Abyssinia, the mobile South African Army Post Offices (APOs) did not extend beyond Addis Ababa, as they were replaced by the East African APOs using their series of date stamps.

occasions when a move would be complete within six hours and allow plenty of opportunity for mail to be processed the same day. The time spent in one location could range from a brief overnight stop to one or more weeks. It is not possible to be completely accurate as to the exact place and date that an item was posted.



Map2: The coastal areas of Italian Somaliland.

Army Postal Services

The South African Army Postal Services were responsible for opening a number of APOs in Kenya to cater for the South African forces in 1940. This postal service was amalgamated with the East African Army Postal Service on 12 October 1940, which resulted in a change in APO numbering. However, those SA APOs attached to SA formations were not immediately affected by this reorganisation (Mullins, 2004).

Three SA APOs were allocated to brigade HQs, namely, APO 3 allocated to 1 SA Infantry Brigade, APO 7 allocated to 2 SA Infantry Brigade, and APO 17 to 5 SA Infantry Brigade. The movements of the Brigade Headquarters recorded here are those of the Rear Headquarters (B Echelon) where the administration and logistics units, including the APO unit, functioned in support of F and A Echelons during the military operations. The Brigade Tactical HQ (A Echelon) was close to the battle-front and the combat units (F Echelon), The Brigade Tactical HQ did not have a permanent postal unit but possibly a postal clerk to distribute mail in A and F Echelon areas.

All formations and units in the Union Defence Force were required to keep a 'War Diary', the daily record of events that took place within that unit's organisation. These provide an accurate location of each APO attached to a division or brigade on any date. Of course, F and A Echelons were often many miles ahead of Brigade HQ during the rapid advance into Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia, in some instances the headquarters would move for two or three days non-stop with little opportunity of completing administration tasks such as processing mail.

At other times the formation would move from 04h00 in the early morning and establish the next base that night. There were

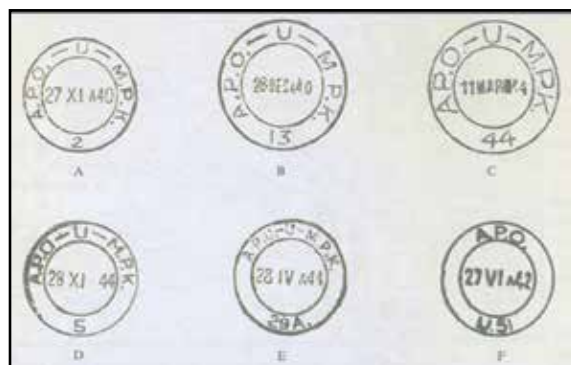


Fig.1: Types of SA Army Post Office postmarks.



Map3: Central Abyssinia and coastal areas.

South African Censor Marks

Daynes (1984) identifies three types of widely used South African censor marks during WWII. These are:

(i) Type SA 100 - a rectangle 43 x 22mm
 PASSED BY CENSOR
 M.F.F. No. XXX U.D.F.
 GOEDGEKEUR DEUR SENSOR
 (3 lines);

(ii) Type SA 101 - a rectangle 42 x 24mm
 PASSED BY CENSOR
 M.F.F. No. XXX U.D.F.
 GOEDGEKEUR DEUR
 SENSOR
 (4 lines); and

(iii) Type SA 102 - diamond
 PASSED BY UNIT CENSOR
 (bilingual)

(MFF = Mobile Field Force; UDF = Union Defence Force).

Other censor marks used appear to have been made by individual units or privately made, e.g. SA Hospital Ship No. 1, Air Force Station Port Elizabeth, single line 'Censored', etc. Types (i), (ii) and (iii) are numbered and appear to have been allocated to formations and specific units. By reviewing a large number of censored covers it has been possible to identify some the units that used these specific numbered censored marks, either by identifying the sender, or the sender including his/her unit and address in the letter enclosed. This often assists with the identification of the location of the APO concerned. An unpublished list of censor numbers has been compiled by the authors and the unit identification has been included where reliable information is available. Type SA 102 appears to have been used only within South Africa.

Examples of SA numbered censor marks used in the East African campaign are:

- 1 SA Infantry Division - Type 100, No. 5, 74,
- 1 SA Infantry Brigade - Type 100, No. 12, 28, 29, 31.
- Royal Natal Carbineers - Type 100, No. 16.
- Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles - Type 100, No. 17.
- 1 Transvaal Scottish - Type 100, No. 18.
- 2 SA Infantry Brigade - Type 100, Nos. 46, 118, 121, 124.
- Natal Mounted Rifles - Type 100, No. 119.
- 5 SA Infantry Brigade - Type 100, Nos. 35, 42; Type 101 No. 320.

The South African APOs in Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia

Harvey-Pirie (1953) records six different SA APO postmarks and allocates Types A to F with some minor variations (Fig.1).

His explanation of the different types is as follows: *"The majority of the postmarks are of the types figured as 'A' or 'B'. In these it will be seen that the top lettering (A.P.O.—U—M.P.K.) begins and ends below the level of the date. The size of 'A' is 25-26mm and of 'B' 28-30mm. There are slight differences in the size of the letters but in the main they did not appear to be sufficiently significant to describe them as distinct types.*

One small group, however, from the size of the lettering did seem to warrant a separate classification, and it is figured as type 'C'. In the type figured as 'D' the top lettering commences and ends opposite the date line. In several instances there is a variety of this (not illustrated); the top lettering begins and ends a little higher than in the type figured, about the middle of the date line, and the lettering is in the size shown in the next type 'E'. This variety is listed as 'Da'. In type 'E' the top lettering begins and ends above the level of the date line.

Type 'F' may definitely be called an error. It was possibly made in a rush for the P.O. that went with the Union troops in the Madagascar campaign. It was replaced after a few weeks by one of standard type. Curiously enough, a minor error occurs in the type 'E' issued to this office later on - the stop which should be after the 'M' is in front of it. The only other error reported, probably only a temporary one, is a very clear mark of date 21-X-40 with no 'K' and no number, (Harvey-Pirie 1953:10).

The only types found in the campaign in Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia are Type A (APO 2, 3) and Type B (APO 7, 10, 13, 17, 19, 21, 22 and 24). In Types A and B the lettering starts and ends below the date line.

APO 2

Assigned to Nairobi, Proud records its use there from 4 June 1940 to 3 February 1941. What was the location of APO 2 from February to June 1941? Proud offers the following speculations:

"An unexplained, but possible significant entry in Military records [is] the opening on March 1 of S.A.A.P.O. 5 at Force H.Q., Nairobi. This would seem quite superfluous if S.A.A.P.O. were still there. We are

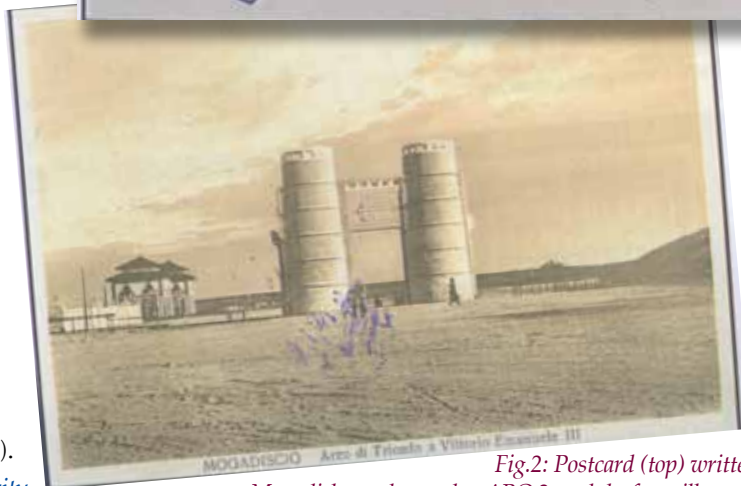


Fig.2: Postcard (top) written in Mogadishu and posted at APO 2 and the front illustration of the postcard (below).

led to infer (by negative evidence) that though an S.A. division took it's A.P.O. (13) forward with it, and each brigade had its own A.P.O. (3, 7 or 17), the Advance H.Q had none. General Cunningham is recorded as having spent the whole of the campaign with Advance H.Q., returning only once for the day to Nairobi. Since L. of C. A.P.O. (19 and 21 respectively) were not set up at Kismayu and Mogadishu until March 5 and 8, it would be surprising if the H.Q had no communication link (though of course it may have had only a signals communication flight and dispatch riders). If we add that the only recorded personal cover from Cunningham himself - on March 22 - is cancelled S.A.A.P.O. 2, and that the majority of the remaining covers shown so cancelled in this period were either captured Italian envelopes or liberated Italian colonial postal stationery, the circumstantial evidence suggests that S.A.A.P.O. 2 may represent Advance H.Q, at least until April and possibly till June. As a hypothesis, let us say it needs disproving" (Proud, 1989: 124).

The postcard (Fig.2) is an Italian picture postcard of the 'Arco di Trionfo a Vittorio Emanuele III' in Mogadishu. The writer says: *"This town is full of arches etc, all in honour of someone or other"* indicating that the card was written in Mogadishu. The APO 2 date stamp is April 30, 1941. Was APO 2 in Mogadishu at this time?

The cover in Fig.3, was taken in Addis Ababa and bears the EA censor 640, associated with Addis Ababa, and the APO 2 date stamp of 9 June 1941. The question is: Did this item receive the APO 2 date stamp in Addis Ababa, or in Nairobi?

APO 3

APO 3 was assigned to 1 South African Infantry Brigade, comprising the following units:

- 10th Brigade Signals Company, SACS1
- Royal Natal Carbineers
- Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles
- 1 Transvaal Scottish

- 3rd SA Armored Car Company
- 2nd Anti Tank Battery, SAA
- 10th Field Ambulance, SAMC
- 2nd Brigade 'Q' Services Coy.

APO 3 opened at Gilgil, Kenya, on 17 June 1940 and is recorded as advancing with 1 SA Brigade until 17 September 1940. It opened in Addis Ababa, Abyssinia, on 5 April 1941 and closed on 12 June 1941 (North, 1970).

comprising following units:

- 3rd Brigade Signals Company, SACS
- 1 Natal Mounted Rifles
- 1 Field Force Battalion
- 2 Field Force Battalion
- 2nd SA Armoured Car Company
- 12th Field Company, SAEC
- 12th Field Ambulance, SAMC
- 2nd Mobile General Workshop



Fig.3: A cover with EA Forces censor mark used in Addis Ababa and posted at APO 2, Nairobi.

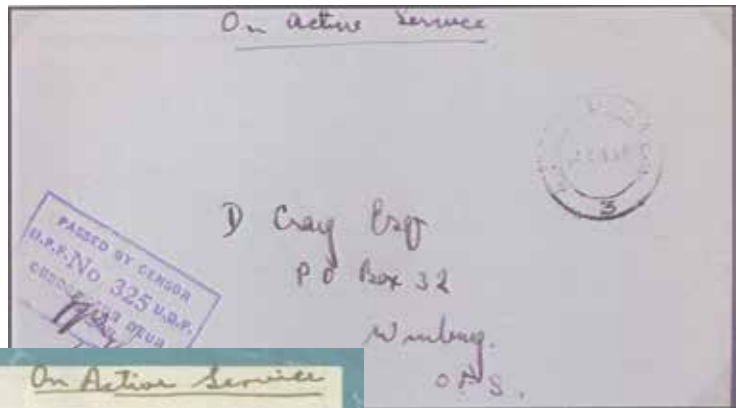


Fig.6: Mail posted on 14 December 1940, two days prior to the raid on El Wak, Italian Somaliland. SA censor (type 101) No. 325.



Fig.4: APO 2 6 March 1941. SA censor (type SA 101) No. 306 (used by 41 Squadron, SAAF)

Table 2 on provides details of 2 South African Infantry Brigade Rear Headquarters and APO 7 movements in East Africa, Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia, August 1940 - June 1941. The earliest recorded date and last recorded date of the opening of APO 7 at the various locations are taken from Proud (1989:128).



Fig.5: Registered mail, 22 November 1940. From Habaswain, Kenya, prior to the raid on El Wak. SA censor (type SA 100) No. 16 (used by Royal Natal Carbineers).



Fig.7: Mail posted 9 January 1941, Wajir/Arbo area, close to the border of Italian Somaliland. SA censor (type SA 100) No. 16.

Table 1 provides details of 1 South African Infantry Brigade Rear Headquarters and APO 3 movements in Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia, December 1940 - June 1941. The ERD and LRD of the opening of APO 3 at the various locations are taken from Proud 1989:125).

APO 7

APO 7 was assigned to 2 South African Infantry Brigade, the

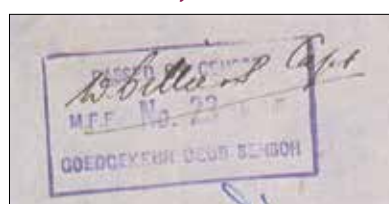


Fig.8: Mail posted on 4 February 1941, Gurati (Kenya) area, four days prior to the occupation of Digh Merer. SA censor (type SA100) No. 23 (used by 1 SA Infantry Brigade, possibly the SA Engineer Corps).



Fig.9: Mail posted 5 March 1941, Brava, Italian Somaliland. SA censor (type SA 100) No. 29 (used by 1 SA Infantry Brigade).



Fig.10: Mail posted on 8 December 1940, Marsabit, prior to invasion of Abyssinia. SA censor (type SA 100) No. 119 (used by Natal Mounted Rifles, 2 Infantry Brigade).



Fig.11: The 2nd SA Brigade took Hobok 2 February, and Banno on 7 February. Registered cover posted somewhere between Hobok and Banno, KUT adhesive applied at APO 2 in Nairobi, on 13 February 1941. SA censor (type SA 101) No. 312.

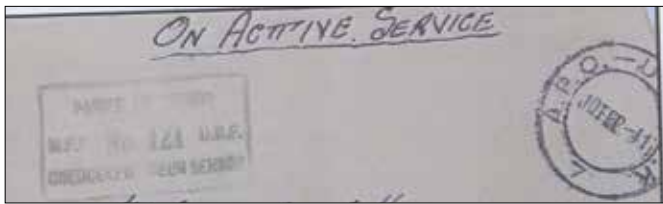


Fig.12: Mail posted 10 February 1941 at APO 7, which was open at Gorai for one day. SA censor (type SA 100) No. 121 (used by 2 SA Infantry Brigade).



Fig.13: Mail posted 23 March 1941, probably at Mogadishu. SA censor (type SA 100) No. 118 (used by 2 SA Infantry Brigade).

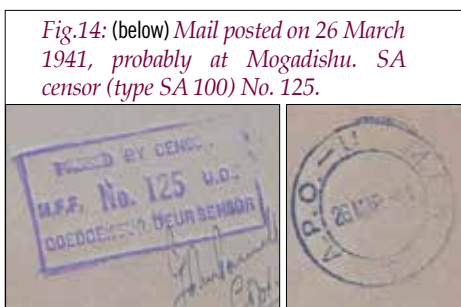


Fig.14: (below) Mail posted on 26 March 1941, probably at Mogadishu. SA censor (type SA 100) No. 125.



Fig.15: A cover from 41 Squadron, SAAF, in Somaliland posted 28 February 1941.



Fig.16: Mail from Italian Somaliland posted in Nairobi, 18 July 1941.

APO 10

APO 10 was assigned to the South African Air Force Headquarters at the Civil Aerodrome in Nairobi, Kenya. The SAAF was enormously important in bombing Italian aerodromes and forts. The letter in Fig.15 was written in Afrikaans by Capt Tienie van der Kaay, 41 Squadron, SAAF, on 25 February 1941, the day before the capture of Mogadishu. He writes: *"We are chasing close behind the enemy now. We have been in Somaliland for a long time and the river that they strongly defended has been crossed by us, and we have taken thousands of prisoners. Their air force is totally weakened, and we are not at all scared of them. I am now sitting in the cool of a huge wild fig tree next to a wide river and it is very attractive."*

The first river to which he refers, which was *"strongly defended"* must be the Juba, and the river at which he sits must be the Webi Shebelli River, which runs south of Mogadishu. The letter entered the postal system at APO 10, in Nairobi. It is clear that members of the SAAF on operations in Somaliland and Abyssinia arranged with pilots returning to Nairobi to drop off their letters. (Censor type SA 101, No. 306; 41 Squadron SAAF.)

The cover shown as Fig.16 received the East African censor (Henning type EA 5B) No. 601, which was assigned to Mogadishu. This cover originated in Somaliland, and entered the postal system via the SAAF. Similarly, the cover of Fig.17 received the EA censor 634, also assigned to Mogadishu, and was flown to SAAF HQ in Nairobi.

APO 13

APO 13 was assigned to 1 SA Infantry Division Headquarters, comprising the following units and brigades:

- 3rd Field Brigade, SA Artillery
- Transvaal Horse Artillery (7, 8, 9 Field Batteries)
- 3rd Anti Tank Battery, SAA
- 1 SA Infantry Brigade
- 2 SA Infantry Brigade
- 5 SA Infantry Brigade.

Table 3 provides details of 1 South African Infantry Division Headquarters and APO 13 movements in Abyssinia, February - March 1941. The ERD and LRD of the opening of APO 13 at the various locations are taken from Proud (1989:133).



Fig.17: Mail from Italian Somaliland posted in Nairobi, 5 July 1941.



Fig.18: Mail posted 11 March 1941, Wajir, shortly after leaving Abyssinia. SA censor (type SA 101) (used by 5 SA Infantry Brigade).

TABLE 1	MOVEMENT OF APO 3	ERD	LRD
Date	Movement to		
24 Jul 1940	Arrive in Mombasa, Kenya	17.6.40	
25 Jul	Gilgil		27.9.40
20 Sept	Isiolo; to Arbo		
28 Sept	Habaswein	6.11.40	7.12.40
1 Dec	Arbo		
[16 Dec]	Raid on El Wak; Italian Somaliland		
30 Dec	Wajir / Arbo area	16.12.40	27.1.41
26 Jan 1941	Buna; to Dobel		
27 Jan	Dobel		
1 Feb	Arbo		
6 Feb	Gurati		
8 Feb	Digh Merer, Italian Somaliland		

TABLE 1 MOVEMENT OF APO 3 (continued)			
Date	Movement to	ERD	LRD
1 Feb	Gobwen	14.2.41	
25 Feb	Jelib (Gelib) / Modun		
28 Feb	Brava	3.3.41	
14 Mar	Afgoi		
15 Mar	Bulo Burti		
17 Mar	Belet Uen		
18 Mar	Gabredarre, Abyssinia		
20 Mar	Sassabanah; to Daggabur		
21 Mar	Jijigga		
25 Mar	Point JYU 4715		
27 Mar	Dire Dawa / Miesso	29.3.41	
1 Apr	Gota – Afdam area		
5 Apr	Addis Ababa	5.5.41	
28 Apr	Combolcia	20.4.41	
30 Apr	Dessie	23.4.41	25.4.41
28 May	Gura, Eritrea		
2 Jun	Massawa; some units sail to Suez		

Tables 1 & 2 listing the movements of APO 3 and APO 7 from Kenya to Ethiopia

TABLE 2 MOVEMENT OF APO 7			
Date	Movement to	ERD	LRD
24 Aug 1940	APO 7 opens at Kigale, Kenya	24.8.40	15.10.40
15 Oct	APO 7 moves to Gilgil		27.11.40
22 Oct	APO attached to 2 SABde		
27 Nov	Ngare Ndare		
29 Nov	Merrile River		
30 Nov	Marsabit	20.12.40	7.1.41
4 Jan 1941	Paradise Lake		
12 Jan	North Horr		
13 Jan	Dukana	17.1.41	28.1.41
31 Jan	G. Nurdur, Abyssinia		
1 Feb	Gorai / El Gumu		
8 Feb	Gorai to Kunchurro to Banno		
10 Feb	Gorai		
11 Feb	Kunchurro		
14 Feb	El Sod		
16 Feb	Mega	19.2.41	
23 Feb	Egder to El Gof to Moyale		
9 Mar	Isiolo, Kenya		
13 Mar	Nanyuki		
17 Mar 1941	Mogadishu, Italian Somaliland		
6 Apr	Isiolo (? near Hargeisa)	10.3.41	14.3.41
8 Apr	Hargeisa, to Berbera		
12 Apr - 10 May	1 NMR/1 FFB – Battle of the Lakes		
2 Jun - 8 Jun	1 NMR/1 FFB sail from Berbera to Suez		

APO 17

APO 17 was assigned to 5 South African Infantry Brigade, comprising the following units:

- 1st Brigade Signals Company, SACS
- 1 South African Irish Regiment
- 2 Regiment Botha
- 3 Transvaal Scottish
- 1st SA Armoured Car Company
- 5th Field Company, SAEC
- 11th or 14th Field Ambulance
- 3rd Mobile General Workshop
- 2nd Motorcycle Company
- 21 Field Park

Table 4 provides details of 5 South African Infantry Brigade Rear Headquarters and APO 17 movements in East Africa and Ethiopia, November 1940 - March 1941. The ERD and LRD of the opening of APO 17 at the various locations are taken from Proud 1989:135).



Fig.19: Mail posted on 11 February 1941, between Hobok and El Gumu. SA censor (type SA 100) No. 42 (used by No. 3 Mechanical Transport Company).

TABLE 3 MOVEMENT OF APO 13			
Date	Movement to	ERD	LRD
29 Dec 1940	Marsabit, Kenya	29.12.40	31.12.40
6 Feb 1941	Dukana		
16 Feb	Kunchurro; to El Gumu, Abyssinia		18.2.41
20 Feb	Kunchurro		
5 Mar	Wajir, Kenya	6.3.41	14.3.41
14 Mar	Nanyuki		
17 Apr	Kilindini; APO 13 closes		17.3.41

Tables 3 & 4 listing the movements of APO 13 and APO 17 from Kenya into Ethiopia

TABLE 4 MOVEMENT OF APO 17			
Date	Movement to	ERD	LRD
1 Jan 1941	APO 17 opens at Marsabit	1.1.41	21.1.41
29 Jan	North Horr		
30 Jan	Dukana	29.1.41	12.2.41
31 Jan	Dibbandibba, Abyssinia		
1 Feb	Hobok		
13 Feb	El Gumu		
14 Feb	Mega	18.2.41	5.3.41
8-10 Mar	Wajir, Kenya	10.3.41	16.3.41
15 Mar	Garba Tulla to Nanyuki		
16 Mar	Nanyuki		

APO 18: Marsabit, Kenya

Although APO 18 was assigned to Marsabit in Kenya, it became the receiving APO for at least one piece of Abyssinian campaign mail. The letter in Fig.24, written by Capt J Beaumont of the Natal Mounted Rifles [N.M.R.], writes, on 14 February 1941: "We have been on the move once again further into Abyssinia..." On this date, four days before the attack on the fort at Mega, the SA troops were between Hobok and Mega. The letter traveled south to Marsabit, where it entered the postal system. (SA Censor No. 119 was allocated to Natal Mounted Rifles, 2 SA Infantry Brigade).



Fig.20: Mail posted 14 February 1941, the day of arrival at Mega. SA censor (type SA 101) No. 320 (used by 5 SA Infantry Brigade).

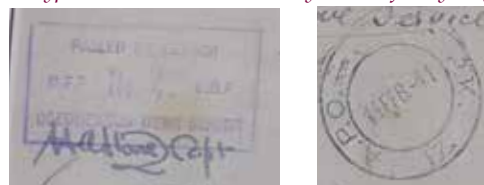


Fig.21: Mail posted 15 February 1941, at Mega. SA censor (type SA 100) No.42 (used by No.3 Mechanical Transport Company).

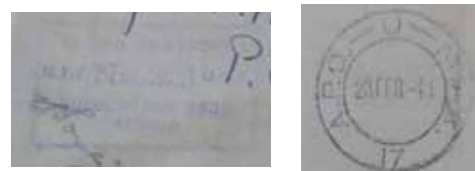


Fig.22: Mail posted 23 February 1941 at Mega. SA censor (type SA 101) No.303 (used by 3 Transvaal Scottish, 5 SA Infantry Brigade).

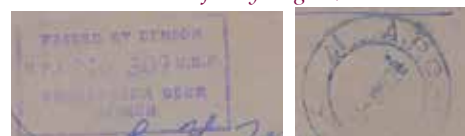


Fig.23: Written 5 March, posted 7 March 1941. Letter from Pte T. Mullins, Natal Mounted Rifles, in which he states that he is in Abyssinia, in hospital recovering from malaria. (Censor No. 309 was used by the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles, 1 SA infantry Brigade, and Natal Mounted Rifles, 2 SA Infantry Brigade).

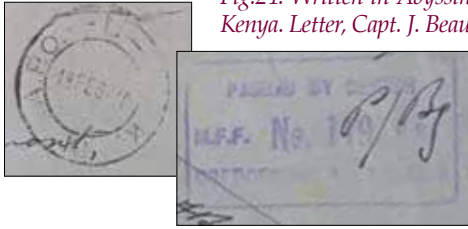


Fig.24: Written in Abyssinia and posted in Marsabit, Kenya. Letter, Capt. J. Beaumont wrote, 14 February 1941 "We have been on the move again further into Abyssinia ..."

APO 19: Kismayu, Italian Somaliland 5.3.41-11.8.41

Proud states that APO 19 opened in Kismayu on 5 March 1941, and closed there on 11 August 1941, replaced by East African APO 73.

Fig.25: Mail posted on 14 March 1941 at Kismayu. SA censor (type SA 101) No. 353. Envelope of the Federation of Fascists, Somalia.

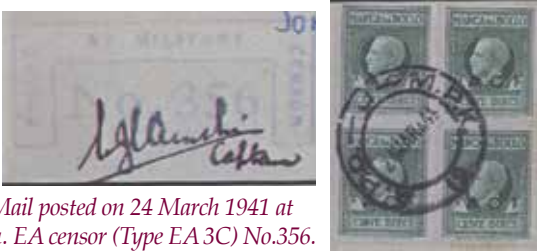


Fig.26: Mail posted on 24 March 1941 at Kismayu. EA censor (Type EA 3C) No.356.

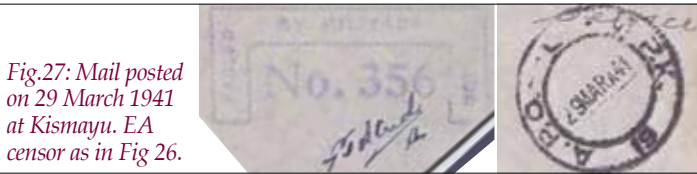


Fig.27: Mail posted on 29 March 1941 at Kismayu. EA censor as in Fig 26.



Fig.28: Posted on 14 April 1941 at Mogadishu. EA censor (type EA 5B) No.609.



Fig.29: Mail posted on 31 May 1941 at Mogadishu. A Sub-Base censor (EA B2) No.5.

APO 21: Mogadishu, Italian Somaliland, 8.3.41 - 11.8.41

Proud states that APO 21 opened in Mogadishu on 8 March 1941, and closed there on 11 August 1941, replaced by East African APO 74.

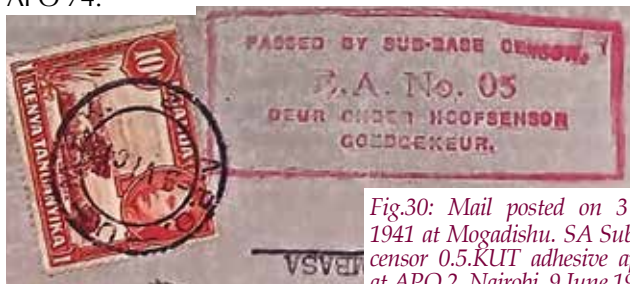


Fig.30: Mail posted on 3 June 1941 at Mogadishu. SA Sub-Base censor 0.5. KUT adhesive applied at APO 2, Nairobi, 9 June 1941.



Fig.31: Mail posted on 12 June 1941 at Mogadishu. EA censor (type EA2D) No.305.



Fig.32: Mail posted on 25 June 1941 at Mogadishu. SA Sub-Base censor 0.5. Purloined Italian Military occupation.



Fig.33: OHMS Mail posted on 19 June 1941 at Mogadishu. to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Nairobi. Not Censored.

APO 22: Harar, Ethiopia: 8.4.41 - 11.8.41

Proud states that APO 22 opened in Harar on 8 April 1941, and closed there on 14 August 1941, replaced by East African APO 75.

APO 24: Dire Dawa: 16.4.41 - 8.6.41

Proud states that APO 24 opened at Dire Dawa on 16 April 1941, and closed there on 8 June 1941, replaced by East African APO 62. Based on a cover sent from APO 24 on 16 June 1941 (illustrated) from 1st Composite Company, Findlay (2007) proposes that this referred to 1 Composite Railway Operating Company, SA Engineers Corps. on the grounds that railway operating staff were based at Dire Dawa to keep the railway system functioning, after parts of it had been destroyed during the Italian withdrawal.

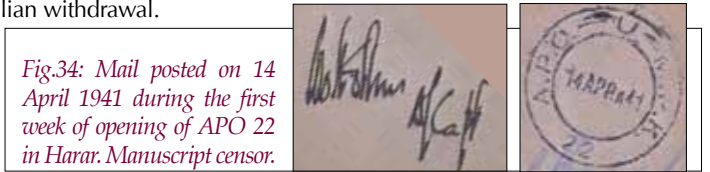


Fig.34: Mail posted on 14 April 1941 during the first week of opening of APO 22 in Harar. Manuscript censor.

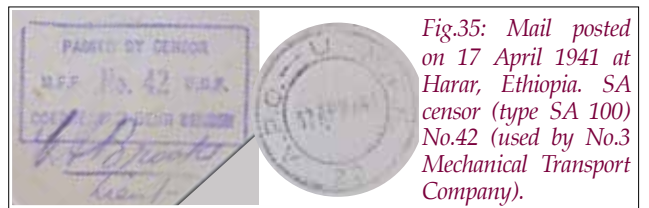


Fig.35: Mail posted on 17 April 1941 at Harar, Ethiopia. SA censor (type SA 100) No.42 (used by No.3 Mechanical Transport Company).



Fig.36: Mail posted on 30 April 1941 at Harar, Ethiopia. EA censor (type EA 2b) No.1.



Fig.37: Mail posted on 16 May 1941 at Harar, Ethiopia. SA censor (type SA 100) No.27.

Fig.38: Mail posted on 15 May 1941 at Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. EA censor (type 5B) No 603

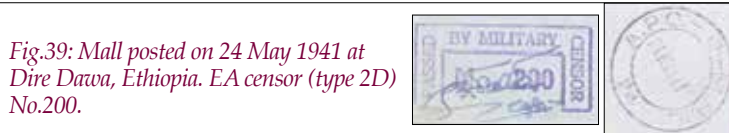


Fig.40: Mail posted on 24 May 1941 at Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. SA censor (type SA 100) No. 82.



Fig.43: 'Official' Italian mail!

Additional Postal Items

The Italian Armed Forces postcard (Fig.42) first entered the postal system at Nanyuki, Kenya, on 28 May 1941, where it received the 'T' tax marking and a pair of the ten cents KUT adhesives, having presumably originated in either Italian Somaliland or Abyssinia. Being 'On Active Service', it is not clear why it was taxed.



Fig.41: Mail posted on May 25, 1941 at Dire Dawa, Ethiopia EA censor (type EA 3C) No. 364.

The cover shown in Fig.43 was sent by a member of the SA forces, bearing the boxed Italian date stamp, 24 June 24 1941, of the C.L.T. [Consociazione Italiana del Turismo, or the Italian Tourism Association] whereas the F.S. represents *Ferrovie dello Stato*, or State Railways.

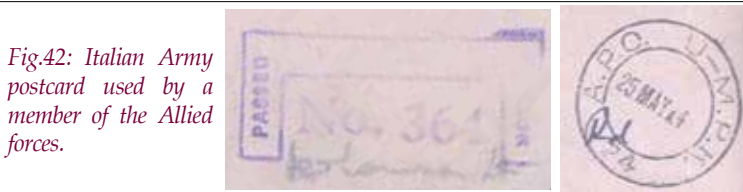


Fig.42: Italian Army postcard used by a member of the Allied forces.

Acknowledgements

The support of the staff at the South African National Defence Force Documentation Centre, especially Lt, Steve de Agrela, is greatly appreciated. Support from the South African Military Mail Study Group is much appreciated. All postal items illustrated are in the collections of the authors.

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South African National Defence Force Documentation Centre, Pretoria – World War 2 Diary archive.

- 1 SA Division War Diary — Boxes 198, 200, 342, 343
- 1 SA Division War Diary — Boxes 201, 202, 357, 358.
- 2 SA Brigade War Diary — Boxes 19} 205, 358, 359.
- 5 SA Brigade War Diary — Boxes 206, 363, 364.–



IN MEMORIAM

'Mr PEPS' - RODNEY MACLACHLAN

3 March 1947 - 27 November 2023

One of the society's biggest stalwarts, 'Mr PEPS', Rodney Maclachlan, passed away on 27 November 2023 after a long illness. The footprints he left will be remembered for a very long time, the shoes that he made those footprints with will be extremely difficult to fill within the society, if ever.

He was an example to us all, never once bemoaned any of his medical challenges and did his large load of work as secretary, treasurer and exchange superintendent exemplary. Even during the last



months when his illness became quite overbearing did he maintain his workload.

In the 111 year history of the society, he was the longest serving secretary ever. For over twenty years he fulfilled the task of keeping the society's wheels turning.

Such an example, such a great man. He will be sorely missed.

Rest in peace meneer.





UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STAMP VARIETIES

by André du Plessis RDP SA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Natal Settlers' Centenary, 1949 (UHB 23, Stamp number 104)

A 1½d stamp was issued to commemorate the centenary of the 1849 British Settlers in Natal and went on sale from 2 May to 30 June 1949.

The design, measuring 36 x 21,5mm, showed the immigrant ship *Wanderer* entering Port Natal. The design was by J. Prentice and includes the well-known error of depicting the, then non-existent, radio mast on the Bluff.

Two different cylinders, etched from the same multpositive, were used to produce the stamps in sheets of 120 (20 rows x 6), with arrows at the centre of all four margins. Sheets produced by Cylinder No. 7021 did not have any sheet number printed anywhere on the sheet, while those from Cylinder No. 29 did have the number printed on the righthand margin at the end of rows 19 and 20.

However, it is possible to tell which cylinder produced any of the stamps, as those from No. 7021 are always much paler in colour than those from No. 29. The perforation was 15 x 14.

UHB 104 - 1½d (SG 127)



Deep Claret (Cylinder 29)
(SASCC 126)






Pale Claret (Cylinder 7021)
(SASCC 126a)




SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB))



AFRIKAANS/ENGLISH above the variety indicates the language of the stamp on which it appears.




Multipositive (Cylinders no. 7021 and 29)

<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>'Extra rope' between the upper parts of the main- and fore-mast and 'additional cloud' flaw at top yardarm of foremast (ex Row 11/1) UHB 104 - V1</p>	<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>Mark leading upwards from cloud at right of mainmast to top frame line (ex Row 11/2) UHB 104 - V2</p>	<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>Large white spot on tail of 'S' of SUID. (ex Row 11/6) UHB 104 - V3</p>
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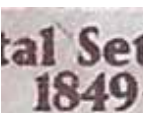



<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>'Lightning' mark in cloud to left of value (ex Row 13/2) UHB 104 - V4</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>Lines in the form of a 'V', lying on its side, at top of mainmast (ex Row 14/2) UHB 104 - V5</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>'Streamer' at top of foremast (ex Row 17/5) UHB 104 - V6</p>
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Cylinder No. 7021

<p>ENGLISH</p> <p>IMAGE REQUIRED</p> <p>'Accent' mark above 'R' of Settlers (ex Row 2/4) UHB 104 - V7</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>Extended serif on small numeral '1' of value (ex Row 5/5) UHB 104 - V8</p>	<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>White dot in centre of large numeral '1' of value (ex Row 9/2) UHB 104 - V9</p>
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<p>AFR / ENG</p>  <p>'Slanting' lines between frames of adjoining stamps (ex Row 10/3 and 4) UHB 104 - V10</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>Spot below POSTAGE (ex Row 11/5) UHB 104 - V11</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>One large and two smaller spots in sea above 'UT' of SOUTH (ex Row 12/6) UHB 104 - V12</p>
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Cylinder No 29

<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>Hyphen between 'Natal' and 'Settlers' (ex Row 9/5) UHB 104 - V13</p>	<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>Native in 'white shorts' (above 'IK' of AFRIKA) (ex Row 10/1) UHB 104 - V14</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>'Loose rigging' mark under top yardarm of foremast (ex Row 17/1) UHB 104 - V15</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>Curved mark under the '49-19' (ex Row 17/3) UHB 104 - V16</p>
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<p>AFRIKAANS</p>  <p>Mark joining tail of flag to top of mainmast (ex Row 18/3) UHB 104 - V17</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>Dot under '8' of 1849 (ex Row 18/4) UHB 104 - V18</p>	<p>AFR / ENG</p>  <p>Joined paper UHB 104 - V19</p>	<p>AFR / ENG</p>  <p>Perforation through bottom of stamps UHB 104 - V20</p> <p>Courtesy of Danie Scheepers</p>
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FOOTNOTE : the SG listed varieties are named as: 127a - 'Extended rigging', 127b 'Pennant flaw'.

AUSTRALIA'S 1937 CORONATION OF KING GEORGE VI ISSUE



by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society.

It is commonly thought that Australia did not celebrate the Coronation of King George VI, with a stamp issue. It has been suggested that the 'Robes' high value stamps (Fig.1) served this purpose. After all the Royal Couple were depicted wearing their Coronation robes but these stamps were not issued until 1938 – the 5/- and 10/- on 1 April and the £1 on 1 November.



Fig.1: Australia's 'Robes' high value stamps.

They were definitives and were only superseded by the Arms issues in 1949 (Ref.1).

I am prompted to write this article because of the following: in the October 2023 issue of *The South African Philatelist*, on page 164 there is an Australian cover illustrated. Clearly not official, dated 10 MAY 1937, it is thought to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI, which took place two days later.



Fig.2: The official first day cover.

The cover is franked with stamps portraying Queen Elizabeth (1d, SG 165) and King George VI (2d, SG 167) and was cancelled on the date of issue of these stamps (Ref.1).

In Ref.2, the entry for the 1d, reads: *The 1d. Queen Elizabeth, together with the 2d. George VI issue, was issued to coincide with the King's Coronation, although the two stamps were intended as definitives.* The entry for the 2d. has a similar comment.

There was a first day cover for these stamps, illustrated in Fig.2. In Ref.2, the following appears: *The Post Office provided a specially-printed first day cover with the 1d. green and 2d. scarlet definitives affixed, for the price of 3½d. These were available at all official post offices, remaining on sale until 15 October, and 185,000 were sold.*



Fig.3: Coronation first day cover produced in Cape Town. Note the ghost impression of the back-stamp of another cover.

The termination date, in the above quotation, implies that the covers were sold pre-cancelled with the date of issue. The quantity sold is staggering – obviously the Post Office intended to cash-in on the event. The covers almost certainly did not go through the post whereas the cover illustrated in *The S.A. Philatelist*, addressed to Pafuri, South Africa did.

The word 'CORONATION' does not appear on the official first day cover. However, it certainly does on the cover produced by The Peninsula Exchange Club of Cape Town, South Africa, illustrated in Fig.3.

In Ref.2 these two stamps are referred to as Die I. They proved to be relatively short lived as it is reported in Ref.2: *The 1d. Die I stamp drew public criticism and as a result, the design was modified to remove the 'halo' behind the portrait and strengthen the weak lettering and denomination, and a new die engraved.* A similar report appears regarding the 2d.



Fig.4 : Comparison of the two Dies of both values. Die II on the right in each case.

In Ref.2, the re-engraved 1d and 2d are referred to as Die II, respectively and their issue coincided with the introduction of new perforating machines gauging 14.75 x 14. The official date of issue was 1 August 1938 but the 2d Die II was released in error, in Sydney and elsewhere in New South Wales, in mid-July (Ref.2).

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SHARJAH STAMP EXHIBITION 2023

Report by the S.A. Commissioner, Joof van der Merwe, OFS Philatelic Society



The Emirates Philatelic Association and Sharjah Mega Mall hosted the Sharjah 2023 Stamp Exhibition under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Ahmed Al Qassimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah.

The exhibition celebrated the 'Year of Sustainability' and promoted every aspect of philately in the region. It took place in Sharjah, a city in the United Arab Emirates, from 14 – 18 November 2023. As it was a regional exhibition only 13 countries participated.

The exhibition took place at the Mega Mall Centre from the 14 November 2023. The opening ceremony was attended by: Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Musallam, Chairman of the Sharjah Heritage Institute, Omar Mohamed Ahmed, director of the exhibition, Abdulla Khoory, President of the Emirates Philatelic Association and Morhaf Kishi, General Manager of Mega Mall.

Numerous items were on sale e.g., Souvenir sheets and a presentation pack containing a set of stamps, a miniature sheet and First Day Cover. Special cancellers were available for each day of the exhibition.

Three seminars were held, namely:

- From the Rules to a Good Exhibit by Norman Banfield
- Development of Postal Services in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah by Abdulaziz Al Nuaimi
- Picture Postcards by Adam Hafez

Thirteen countries participated in 8 classes. 83 Exhibits in 206 Frames and 14 Literature exhibits were brought by 13 Commissioners. The jury team, 6 Jurors and 1 apprentice juror with Colin Fraser as Jury President judged the exhibits with the result of 1 Large Gold and 3 Gold medals awarded.



Commissioners

The Palmes event took place on Friday, 17 November 2023, at the Pulman Hotel, Sharjah city centre. Two special Prizes were awarded: *Nasser Bin Ahmad Alserkal* - Dubai Stamps - Gold – Best Local exhibition and *Norman Banfield Australia - King George VI Postal Stationery* - Large Gold - Best International exhibit.

Thirty four dealers attended the exhibition, unfortunately only four stamp dealers and the remainder numismatic dealers.

The South African exhibitors achieved the following awards:

- **Howard Green** - *The Stamps of Sudan 1897 - 1951* - Large Vermeil
- **Victor Millard** - *The 2½c Groot Constantia value of the 1961-1971 First RSA – Definitive* - Large Vermeil



- **Avi Barit** *Lesotho - 1981-1988 Birds on Stamps* - Silver
- **Emil Bührmann** - *Transvaal Postage Due usage during the early Union years* - 95 Points (One Frame)
- **Neil Cronje** - *South West postage due 1972- 1991* - 81 Points (One Frame).

Congratulations with your awards.



Exhibits display



Judging in progress



Dealer stands

The Sheikh Mohammad Centre for Cultural Understanding, a heritage sight, was visited on Thursday 17 November 2023, courtesy of the Emirates Philatelic Association. Traditional dining took place in an historical house, saved by the then

Prince Charles of England, from demolishing. We were welcomed by the original family members of the historic house. The heritage site holds the Emirates Philatelic Museum, antique furniture, boats, communication radios, art, historic books and photographic pictures.

Sight seeing was hampered by flood rains, due to inadequate stormwater drainage the roads were flooded. This brought the two cities, Dubai and Sharjah, to a standstill with schools and businesses closed. Dubai Mega Mall was visited on Saturday 18 Nov 2023.



Dubai Mall - world's largest destination for shopping, entertainment and leisure, located next to the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa. Featuring over 1,200 retail stores, two major department stores and hundreds of food and beverage outlets, Dubai Mall covers more than 1 million sqm – an area equivalent to 200 football pitches. The Burj Khalifa was not visited as there was a 3 hour waiting period.

My sincerest thanks to the Philatelic Federation of South Africa for this opportunity to promote Southern Africa Philately abroad, the exhibitors for their support and trust in conveying their exhibits.



EASTERN CAPE

• EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: David Preston 082 774 2090 prestee@telkomsa.net
Sec: Carlos Da Fonseca 082 334 7603 cdafonseca@za.tiauto.com
Meeting: Monthly - fourth Thursday at 19:30.

• PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Francois Friend 082 554 8900 francois@softchem.co.za
Sec: Rodney Maclachlan 072 619 5409 rhmaclachlan@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - first Monday at 11:00 (except December).

• DIE POSBOOM FILATELIEVERENIGING, MOSSELBAAI:

Pres: Gerrie Conradie 082 952 6700 gajcon@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - second Monday at 18:00.

• GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Willie Mollentze 082 555 7760
Sec: Otto Muller 083 240 8722 otto1muller@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - second Thursday at 18h00.

FREE STATE

• GOLDFIELDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Sec: Annette Harrison 072 562 2682 annette@internext.co.za

• ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Neil Cronjé RDPSA 082 800 1432 drjdecronje@gmail.com
Sec: Joof van der Merwe 082 824 6350 josuav528@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - last Saturday at 10:00 (except December).

• SASOLBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Leon Jacobsen 083 389 8647
Sec: Cecily Jacobson 083 389 8647, lj.heritage@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - second Wednesday at 14:00 (except Dec.).

GAUTENG

• AFRIKAANSE FILATELIESE VEREENIGING: TBA or contact the COO - André du Plessis 083 399 1755 pfsastamps@gmail.com

• AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA:
Voors: Louwrence Erasmus. Sec: Ronel Erasmus 083 540 5092,
www.stampssa.africa/avp
Meeting: Monthly - third Saturday at 10:00.

• EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: David Wigston Sec: Paul Hammerton 082 459 4221,
hampaul@ananzi.co.za
Meeting: Monthly - last Saturday at 14:00 (except December).

• EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Colin Bousfield 083 961 9656 Bousfield.colin@yahoo.co.za
Sec: Sandy Robertson, sandystampnews@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - last Saturday at 13:00 (except December).

• PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG:

Pres: Clive Carr 011 789 6357 carr.clive@gmail.com
Sec: Ray Hackworth 072 316 7308 hackworth@taxbright.co.za
Meeting: Monthly - third Wednesday at 16:00 (except December).

• POSTMARK & POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA: Pres: Ben Jansen 082 990 0176 jansenb49@gmail.com
Sec: Marge Viljoen 082 404 7238

• PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Adél Bulpitt 071 606 0753 adelbulpitt@gmail.com
Sec: Alex Visser 082 922 2927 alex.visser@up.ac.za
Exchange section: John Barry 082 445 9470 john.barry.rsa@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - first Saturday at 09:00.

• SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Chris Carey 083 662 2150 ccarey@icon.co.za
Sec: Beata Carey, ccarey@icon.co.za
Meeting: Monthly - first Thursday at 10:00 (except January).

The Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa is offering FREE one-year membership for new applicants. As a member you will receive the award winning journal *Forerunners*, published three

* THEMATICS SA:

• **Pretoria Chapter:** 10:00 at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall, Contact: Helena Snyman 083 990 8953 helenasnyman7@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - first Saturday at 10:00.

• **Western Cape Chapter:** Contact: Diederik Viljoen 082 456 6653, diederikviljoen@gmail.com

Meetings: Monthly on the first Saturday at 09:00.

• **KZN Chapter:** Contact: Aubrey Bowles 083 382 8308 aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com Meeting: Monthly - third Monday at 15:00.

• WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Andries Nel 083 269 9374 andriesn@telkomsa.net
Sec: Ian Walker 084 425 2594 Walkerian0904@gmail.com

• WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Herbie Schäffler RDPSA 082 722 7604 haschaff@iafrica.com
Sec: Nikki Espley-Jones 011 710 6406 nikki@ccj.co.za
Meeting: Monthly - second Wednesday at 16:00 and last Wednesday at 19:00.

KWA-ZULU NATAL

• HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Frik Booyse nfbooyse@gmail.com 081 560 2196
(Marketing) Barry Livsey 082 892 7324, hps@xsinet.co.za
Meeting: Monthly - third Saturday at 09:00.

• MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: John Handman 083 660 1275 john@radium.co.za
Sec: Ian Horrell 083 661 8122 ian.horrell@sappi.co.za
Meeting: Monthly - third Saturday at 10:00.

• PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWAZULU-NATAL:

President Zbigniew Kawecki 082 968 6888 z.kawecki57@gmail.com or philatelicsocietykzn@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - second and fourth Saturday at 09:00.

WESTERN CAPE

• BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Werner Barnard 082 895 6993 president@bellvillephilatelic.society.co.za
Sec: Reanie de Villiers 082567 0353 secretary@bellvillephilatelic.society.co.za Meeting: Monthly - second Wednesday at 19h00.

• FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Website: www.fhps.info

Pres: Johan de Wet 073 020 5004, elspethd@iafrica.com
Sec: Volker Janssen 021 786 1548, janssenp@iafrica.com
Meeting: Monthly - first Tuesday at 14:00.

• PAARLSE FILATELISTE:

Pres: Gawie Hugo 083 956 2410 gawiehugo@gmail.com
Sec: Riaan Crafford 082 876 7608 paarlsefilatelite@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - second Saturday at 09:00.

• PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE, CAPE TOWN:

Pres: Martin Crawford 021 689 5050, m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com
Sec: Marilyn Crawford, m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - last Monday at 18:30 (except December).

• ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN:

Pres: John Rycroft 082 808 1320 john@grassrootsgroup.co.za
Sec: Victor Millard 082 802 8882 royalphilct@gmail.com
Website: www.stampssa.africa/rpsct
Meeting: Monthly - First Saturday at 11:00 & Fourth Monday at 14:00.

• STELLENBOSCH PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Pres: Niel Matthee 021 906 6500 nielsnr@gmail.com
Sec: Pieter Maritz 083 289 1825 pmaritz@dreamsurf.co.za

times per year. If you have an interest in the Greater Southern Africa philately and postal history go to www.psgsa.org and email piperjohn165@gmail.com to be added to our rolls.

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