

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

volume 100:1. 982

www.stampssa.africa



Unusual destination for a 1911 First Airmail Postcard (page 10)



Add a new facet to your South African Collection : Cinderella, patriotic and without a value (page 22)



The Mafeking 'Boy Scouts' Cadet Corp (page 18)



Boer War covers with New Zealand connections (page 9)



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The South African Philatelist

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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 : 2. 983- The **APRIL 2024** issue
15 MARCH 2024



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/>



PFSA MEMBERSHIP

At Congress in October 2023 a motion regarding the declining number of philatelist / collectors was tabled. It was also noted that the reduction in membership is in contrast with the increasing numbers of supporters of Stamp Fairs/Auctions. The motion was adopted and mandates the Management Committee (MC) to appoint a subcommittee to investigate reasons for the reduction, and to suggest mechanisms to counter this trend. The mandate will be discussed at the Management Committee meeting on 30 January 2024, the first after Congress.

My reason for touching on this subject is not to pre-empt the decision of the MC but rather to appeal to all of us to make a serious effort to recruit new members.

We know that the Stamp Fairs/Auctions are well attended by non-members, and by interacting with them would be a good starting point. There seems to be an anti-Organised Philately sentiment, but the opposite is also true. For example, the Goldfields PS in Welkom recently welcomed six new members to the Society. Initially they were unaware of each other but got to knowing each other over the past years. As their interest grew, they felt the need to broaden their knowledge base and to interact with other collectors and thus became involved with organised philately.

Membership lists were distributed in December 2023 to Societies to confirm their membership. If any member wants to resign, please try to persuade them to stay. Think of it, only two new members per society will grow the membership by 60 members at the end of the year!

AFFILIATED MEMBERS – 18 JANUARY 2024					
	PAID SUBSCRIBERS	SAPDA MEMBERS	SOCIETY MEMBERS	TOTAL	OVERALL TOTAL
2015					1015
2016					1005
2017					868
2018					828
2019	47	2	534	583	660
2020	52	2	588	642	722
2021	54	7	566	627	727
2022	76	9	531	616	713
2023	84	11	518	613	709
2024 (18 Jan)	91	11	520	622	720

* The difference of numbers between 2019 and 2020 was due to a database clean-up

The overall total includes free subscriptions to the heads of the various FIP/FIAP Commissions, libraries, advertisers, and exchange copies. To give perspective of the success of the Direct Subscriber system, there are only ten members who remain from 2019. (Direct subscribers belong to the PFSA Virtual Society and are registered as a members on application and after paying the affiliation fees as determined by Congress).

Benefits of belonging to SA Organised Philately:

- Access to the 'members-only' area on the PFSA website, www.stampssa.africa
- Access to the bi-monthly electronic journal - *The SA Philatelist* and the electronic newsletter 'STAMPS SOUTH AFRICA – Keeping in Touch'
- Exhibit at exhibitions sanctioned by the PFSA (Often with added support benefits)
- Discounted expert verification of postage stamps and postal items
- Assistance with collections/exhibits and their preparation
- Philatelic library
- Assistance for youth groups
- Opportunities for buying and selling philatelic material
- Access to club events, meetings, and activities
- Networking opportunities with like-minded individuals
- Opportunities for personal/philately development

Let us target 2024 as the year of growing our membership... If you have any suggestions, please feel free to pass them on to me.

ZOOM MEETINGS: The 'usual' Pretoria PS zoom meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month, will now be held under the auspices of the PFSA at 19h00, 3rd Thursday of each month.

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

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

- **Affiliation fee:** RSA and World Wide: R135.00 (Electronic only).
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The PFSA affiliation fee *inter-alia* offer 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.

Wishing our readers a Happy Valentine's Day



Also known as the Feast of Saint Valentine, and celebrated annually on 14 February. It originated as a Christian Feast Day honouring a martyr named Valentine and through later folk traditions.

It has also become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

Saint Valentine of Rome was imprisoned for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the third century. According to an early tradition, Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer. An 18th-century embellishment to the legend claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution. Valentine was added to the calendar of saints by Pope Gelasius I in 496.

The day grew into an occasion for couples to express their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines").

Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped image.

An interesting collecting theme for young and old romantics! 

A need to be corrected

Having read Robin Messengers article 'The Road to Democracy Issue Revisited' in the December issue of *The SA Philatelist* I would like to correct points which I know to be in correct.

As information published in *The SA Philatelist* tends to be accepted as 'factual' this needs to be corrected.

In the *RSA Stamp Study Group Newsletters* 415 (Dec22), 416 (Feb23) & 417 (Mar23), information was gathered about this issue. The stamps were due to be put on sale on 8 November 2022, but were not available in Cape Town on the intended day of issue. I understand they arrived two days later due to 'transport arrangements'. Comments were immediately made on the printing quality, firstly due to the random security fibres all over the stamps, but also other factors as you mentioned.

The stamps were not withdrawn during the exhibition, but due to the fact that only ±3000 sheetlets were delivered, the balance went back to Philatelic Services and withheld from sale until the rest of the order could be delivered.

Following withdrawal remedial action was taken, I believe, in early December but with little Improvement in quality. By then the error in the Control Block numbers had been discovered.

GPW prepared new plates and the reprint was approved on 10/02/2023 with corrected CB numbers.

It would be appreciated if you could correct the sequence of printing events for the record.

Jan de Jong
(Editor - RSA Stamp Study Group NL)

R.M. - Editorial Board reply:

Thank you for your email. I did miss the March 2023 RSASSG newsletter.

There is enough additional information in the March NL for a further article on this subject: 'The Road to Democracy Issue Revisited Again'.



COLONIES PAR BORDEAUX

Since publication of my article on 'Mauritius and the French Mails' in the December issue of the *SAP*, Paul Wijnants of Belgium has kindly written to point out that the marks COLONIES PAR BORDEAUX and POST PAID PORT LOUIS are not scarce. I am grateful to Paul for his comments, with which I can agree. Paul's observations raise the question as to what qualifies a mark or an item as 'scarce'. Views on this will be appreciated.

Andrew Briscoe <andrew@briscoe.co.bw> 

Phun with postmarks

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



SWA REGISTRATION CACHETS RESURRECTED – THE SEQUEL

It is well-known that the moment information is printed, it is out of date as further information is discovered. This is certainly the case for the alpha codes used for registration at Windhoek. The ink on the article in the October 2023 issue of *The SA Philatelist* had hardly dried, where the alpha codes were discussed before Dr David de Klerk, one of the references in the previous column sent new information as confirmation of existing data. My staunch supporters, Danie van Zyl and Derick Loteryman, had in the meantime continued the search and found new information. Thanks a ton.

This column contains Table 1 which is an updated discussion of alpha codes used for registration in Windhoek, and images of the new information. Previous images are not repeated unless relevant to the discussion. In the compilation by Gaynor there are various codes, namely V; RV; VR; NI; S; SO; C; HC amongst others.

Code	Suggested definition	Date used
	Windhoek	19.12.1931 First flight Windhoek to Kimberley
D, K, C, G, H	Registration register	12.5.1937 KGVI Coronation
HC		Undated. Code was printed on FDC of 1954 Definitive but was changed by manuscript NI.
SO	Stamp Office?	16.6.1938 Voortrekker Monument Fund, 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
S	Seventy-fifth Anniversary UPU?	1.10.1949
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, preprinted HC, cancelled with manuscript NI.
P		14.2.1961 Decimal Definitive issue
H	Hardap Dam	16.3.1963
C	Calvin	1.10.1964
W	Windhoek 75th Anniversary	18.10.1965
V	Vedder	4.7.1966
HV	Hendrik Verwoerd	6.1.1967

Table 1. Updated discussion of alpha codes used for registration in Windhoek.



Fig.1: The earliest recorded use of the single line office cachet for registration in 1931.



Figs.2: (a) to (e). Alpha codes on KGVI coronation covers.

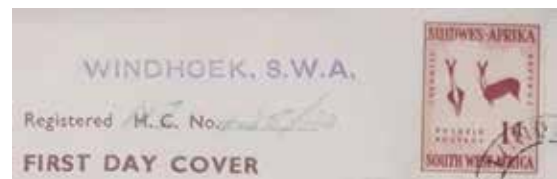


Fig.3: Printed code 'HC' changed to NI for 1954 Definitive issue.



Fig.4: Earliest use of the 'SO' cachet used on 16.6.1938.



Fig.5:
Transaction
record.

found printed on an FDC of 1954 Definitive but was changed by manuscript NI (Fig.3). This does not bring us any closer to an answer.

(d) A new earliest 'SO' cachet has been recorded on the Voortrekker Monument Fund (VMF) issued in 1936 (Fig. 4). A manuscript 'R' is shown. No 'R' alpha code has been recorded, and it is suspected that this is for registration. Of special interest is that the cover contained a transaction record, shown as Fig.5, for three sets of pairs of the VMF to the value of 5/-. The letter probably contained two sets of mint pairs, and the other set went through the mail. No reference numbers correspond with the numbers on the cover, which suggests that execution of the order was at a different section to the registration dispatch.

(e) A new explanation for code 'S' is Seventy-fifth Anniversary UPU (Fig.6).

(f) 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 (Fig.3).

(g) A further six codes, P, H, C, W, V and HV, have been found used with Windhoek Registration Cachets, shown in Figs. 7(a) to (f). Although the 'C' was previously used in 1936, the relation with the stamp issue is logical. Fig.7(a) was also seen with code 'H'.

In conclusion, it appears as if the early use of office cachets or manuscript was non generic. The same markings were used over a period of time. Only from the Royal Visit the alpha codes were related to the issue. From this discussion all the codes have been accounted for. In 1963 the South African Philatelic Services started issuing numbered FDC with the ITU issue, which was No. 1. FDC No. 2 was the Dutch Reformed Church issue. Neither of these issues had SWA counterparts. The Hendrik Verwoerd stamps were issued in both RSA and SWA, and the last SWA alpha code was for this issue. Evidently this was the last alpha code as procedures in the distribution were changed by Philatelic Services.

On a number of covers figures were given after a "/" (Fig.3). It is suggested that these are multiple covers for the same order. Lastly, a code 'K' was recorded on a cover with Walvis Bay registration cachet (Fig.8). We thought we had all the answers, but this item raises a new question. Did every office have a separate registration receipt book with alpha codes as this item suggests?

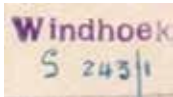
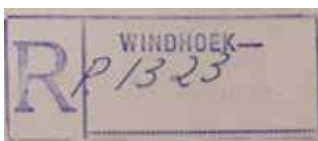
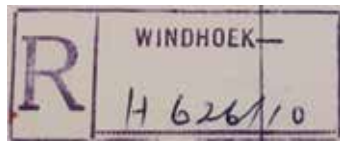


Fig.6: Code 'S' was found on
Seventy-fifth Anniversary
UPU FDC dated 1.10.1949.



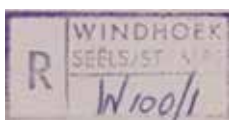
(a)



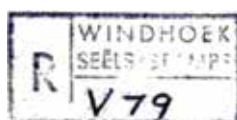
(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

Fig.7(a) to (f): Windhoek registration cachets
with manuscript for 1961 Definitive issue,
1963 Hardap Dam, 1964 Calvin, 1965
Windhoek 75th Anniversary, 1966 Vedder
and 1967 Hendrik Verwoerd.

An update of the analysis of the new information and understanding are presented without repeating the previous discussion:

(a) A new earliest date of the Windhoek single line office cachet used for registration is on a cover flown with the first flight from Windhoek to Kimberley (Fig.1) in 1931. No alpha code were used, only the registration number. As an aside it appears as if the cover travelled from Kimberley to Poste Restante, Upington, from where it was dispatched to Cape Town, probably by rail.

(b) 1937 code 'D', not listed by Gaydon, was recorded in the previous column. Since it was not previously recorded it was surmised to be a clerk signature. However, it was found on the KGVI coronation date, and could be a valid code.

Figs.2(a) to (e) show new information, and alpha codes of C, D, G, H, K have been recorded. A Windhoek C was changed to K. Evidently these are not initials but could be registration receipt book registers.

(c) Code 'HC' listed by Gaydon but undated. An 'HC' Code was



Fig.8: Alpha code K used in Walvis Bay

Wie het kon verwag dat 'n navraag oor 'n manuskrip kode tot 'n omvangryke oorsig van Suidwes Afrika se registrasie kodes tot gevolg sou hê. Dit het 'n nuwe breë studieveld tot gevolg gehad. Ten spyte van die antwoorde wat verkry is, is daar nog onopgeloste vrae. Ons moedig lesers aan om verdere inligting bekend te maak. Baie dankie vir die bronne wat reeds getap is.

Thailand 2023 – WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITION

Report by the S.A. Commissioner, Emil Minnaar RDPSA

Commemorating the 140th Anniversary of Thailand Post, the exhibition hosted by the Philatelic Association of Thailand, under the patronage of FIP with the recognition of FIAP, was held in Bangkok from 27 November – 2 December 2023.

A total of 464 exhibits in 2441 frames and 93 Literature exhibits were judged resulting in 42 Large Gold and 85 Gold medals being awarded. Major awards were:

- The World Stamp Championship - Mr Pen Han Tay (Singapore). - *Netherlands East Indies 1655-1870*.
- The Grand Prix International - Han Cheol Kyu (Korea). - *Korea: the Daehan Empire Stamps. 1884-1905*.
- The Grand Prix National – Prakob Chirakiti (Thailand). - *Siam. The Development of Early Post Offices*.
- Best Youth Exhibit – Aljo Guillen Lemus (Argentina). - *Una Historia sobre Cuatro Ruedas – El Automóvil*.



The South African exhibitors achieved the following awards:

- Andre du Plessis: *Chinese Indentured Workers on the Rand - 1904 to 1910* - 82 points.
- Emil Bührmann: *Cape of Good Hope. The Last Ten Years* - **Gold**.
- Emil Minnaar: *Israel - 1949 Flag Issue* - 81 points.
- Ian Matheson: *Penalty Stamps of South Africa* - **Large Vermeil**.
- Neil Cronje: *Postal Stationery of Southern Nigeria* – 78 points.
- Vernon Mitchell: *Port Elizabeth: A compendium of Postcards* – **Silver**.

NATIONAL STAMP SHOW

MARPEX 2024

9 to 13 July 2024

Will be hosted by the
Maritzburg Philatelic Society



Venue: Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg.

Entries close: 31 May 2024.

Delivery of Exhibits to Organising Committee: 9 July 2024.

Congress: 12 July 2024.

Contact: John Handman - john@radium.co.za

or André du Plessis - pfsastamps@gmail.com

The Organising committee is currently in negotiations with Alex Haiman from the USA to exhibit his highly esteemed international exhibition **Clash of Empires** at the Stamp show. This exhibit covers the Anglo Zulu War in KZN during 1879.

Please participate and support the exhibition.

[Prospectus](#)

[Entry form](#)

Bucharest, Romania

17 to 20 April 2024.

[Entries have closed.](#)

The SA Commissioner:
Joof van der Merwe -
josuav528@gmail.com



ONE-FRAME VIRTUAL EXHIBITION : SAVPEX 2024

15 June 2024

South Africa's Ninth Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX), a one-frame exhibition, proudly hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

- 31 May 2024. Receipt of Entry Form, Description and Payment.
- 15 June 2024. Receipt of Uploaded Exhibit.
- July 2024. Announcement of Results, exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website.

Please participate and support the exhibition.

Contact: Joof van der Merwe – josuav528@gmail.com



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Boer War covers with New Zealand connections

by Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL and Sean Burke FRPSL



Fig.1.

The first cover (Fig.1) is from Bulawayo to Hong Kong and did not qualify for an officer's ON ACTIVE SERVICE concession, or for the Soldiers' Concessionary Rate of 1d - thus the cover is correctly franked 4d for the World Wide letter rate that came into effect on 1 April, 1900. It has marking from Bulawayo 30 JUL 00, Durban AU 13 00 and Singapore SP 22 00. (The route would have been from Bulawayo to Beira by train and then by sea to Durban, then Colombo, Singapore and finally Hong Kong.)

The second cover (Fig.2), which is endorsed with 'no stamps available, is cancelled at Mafeking SP 11 00, Colombo OC 14 00 and Singapore OC 22 00. (It would have travelled overland by train to Bulawayo then on to Beira, then by sea - Durban, Colombo, Singapore and Hong Kong.)

Lt Col Stewart Newall (Fig.3) of 5th New Zealand Mounted Rifles was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland in 1843. He served in the Constabulary during the Maori Wars of 1870-1880. He married Georgina Roberts in New Zealand in March 1872; they had one son and five daughters. Upon the outbreak of the Boer War he was appointed CO of the 5th NZMR Contingent (NZ Imperial Bushman) and sailed on 31 March, 1900, to Beira reaching there on 27 April, 1900.

They travelled overland to Rhodesia to join Carrington's Rhodesian Field Force where they became part of Lt Col Grey's 2nd Rhodesian Field Force operating in the Western Transvaal. Newall had to leave the 5th NZMR to return home on 30 December 1900, passing command on to Major J. Ponsonby of the Coldstream Guards.

Newall was later awarded Commander of the Bath (CB). He died in August, 1919 at Waikato and is buried in the Kaori Cemetery, Wellington. These two covers are probably to his son.

Fig.4.



Fig.2.

The route taken by the cover would be Tuli to Mafeking to Vryburg, then by train to Cape Town and then by sea to New Zealand.

Acknowledgements and thanks to Dr Robin Droogleever who heads the Anglo Boer War Study Group in Australia and is editor of their Journal, *The Kopje*.

Fig.3.



Finally, a cover (Fig.4 - paying the Soldier's Rate of 1d) from Captain Harvey P. Tuckey of the 5th New Zealand Contingent with Col Wood's Column at Tuli. The 5th New Zealand Contingent was part of the 2nd Brigade - 900 men - of the Rhodesian Field Force. Tuckey was stationed at Tuli as Staff Officer from mid-September to mid-November, 1900, before going to Bulawayo. It has a Tuli OC 20 00 cancel and NZ/RPO arrival 11 DE 00.



The First Airmail in South Africa – a Revisit by David Wigston,
East Rand Philatelic Society

In the June 2023 issue of *The SA Philatelist* we explored the first airmail that took place in South Africa; which was also the third to take place globally, in 1911. Invariably more information and examples turn up after publication. This was no exception with an interesting item submitted by Ralph Phillips (Fig.1).



Fig.1: Image courtesy of Ralph Phillips.

Sanctioned by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (Sir David Graaf), Evelyn 'Bok' Driver made two flights from Kenilworth to Muizenberg during the Christmas/New Year Holidays as part of the Flying Fortnight (21 December 1911 to 3 January 1912). The idea of this event being the conveyance of mails between Kenilworth and Muizenberg. Details of the two flights can be found on pages 100-103 in the June 2023 issue of *The SA Philatelist*.

What makes this item of special interest is the destination: Robben Island. It also introduces an additional aspect of aerophilately; that of history by post.

The postcard is correctly franked with a half-penny stamp for local delivery, which has been cancelled with the special hand-stamp. A standard Kenilworth cancellation has also been applied. This suggests the card was posted at the Kenilworth post office. Unfortunately the date on this regular Kenilworth cancellation has been obliterated (Fig.2) making it difficult to confirm the date. However the stamp is cancelled with the cachet rather than the regular circular date stamp.

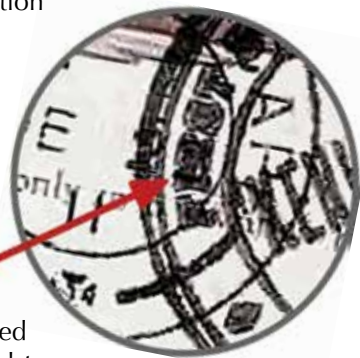


Fig.2: Obliteration of the date in the Kenilworth cancellation.

The Kenilworth date confirms the postcard was carried on the first outbound flight. As the mail on that first outbound flight was only processed the following day there are two dates in the Muizenberg cancels. The special hand-stamp reflects the date of the flight; the regular Muizenberg cancel the date the cards were processed. There is no return address given on the reverse (Fig.3).

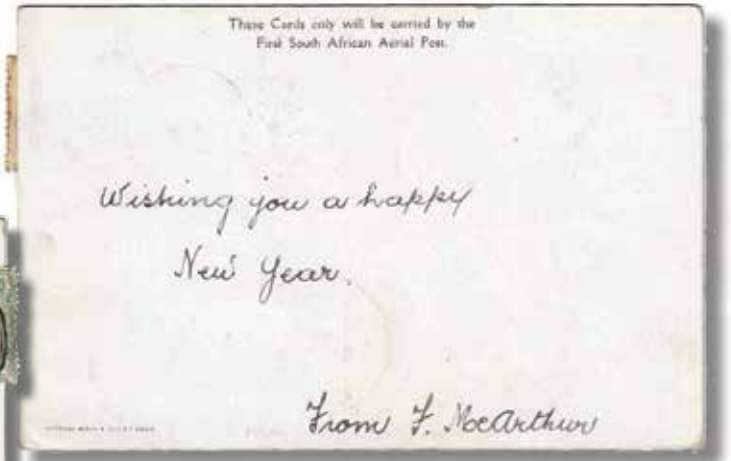


Fig.3: Message side of the post card.

Postcards went to Kenilworth or Muizenberg, depending which was the closest to the point of posting. What is of interest is the Robben Island arrival mark. The item was transported from Muizenberg to Robben Island on the same day, 28 December 1911. This was most likely via road transport to the main Post Office in Cape Town and then by launch to Robben Island (Fig.4). The destination of Robben Island probably makes this postcard unique.



Fig.4: Ferry from Cape Town to Robben Island.

Robben Island (Robben comes from the Dutch for seals) is located in Table Bay, 9.3km north of Green Point (Fig.5). It's low-lying with the highest point a mere 24m above sea level (Fig.6). The island was originally used as a source of provisions by ships en route to the Dutch East Indies, long before the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck in 1652. The island had a variety of wild life and plentiful supply of water. Often letters were left under rocks to be collected by passing ships. The notoriety of the island as a penal colony dates back to 1611 when King James I sent convicts to the Cape. In 1636 mutineers were banished to the island by the Dutch East India Company. Political prisoners from Malaysia and Indonesia were also incarcerated there. When the British annexed the Cape in 1806 they continued with this practice. In 1806 the island became a whaling station while still accommodating prisoners. Whaling activities were closed in 1820. This didn't last long – it provided an easy escape route for convicts!

In 1845 the island became a leper colony. Prisoners were moved to the main land to work on the roads. Over time the leper colony included lunatics, law-breakers, the chronically ill and paupers. These unfortunates were housed in squalid and unhealthy conditions. By 1904 the population of the island reached 1460 persons. It was only in 1913, after the dispatch of this postcard, that mentally ill patients were removed. However, lepers remained on the island until 1931 when the accommodations were destroyed by fire. The postcard (Fig.1) was addressed to Dr and Mrs Moon. Dr E. F. W. Moon was the last superintendent of the leper colony who served from 1904 to 1920.



Fig.5: Location of Robben Island.

has a notice board enticing tourists to buy philatelic products as souvenirs. These included Robben Island stamps; presumably the stamp shown in Fig.6. The notice board also suggests that tourists can “date stamp your Post Card with the Robben Island date stamp”. It was reported that the post office was permanently closed in 2021.



Fig.8: Robben Island post office, circa 1871.

Fig.6: Aerial view of Robben Island. Issued 22 September 2000; the island was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.



In 1939 the island was used by the Defence Force to protect Table Bay during World War II. In 1950 it was taken over by the Navy becoming known as S.A.S. Robbeneiland. Control passed to the Prisons Department in 1965 (Fig.7). During the apartheid years many were kept on the island as political prisoners under harsh conditions.



Fig.7: Sombre and austere entrance to the Robben island prison. Evidence of the military occupation of the island can be seen through the entrance.

The last prisoners left Robben Island in 1991 and the prison was formally closed in 1996. This stain on the country's history will never be erased. The prison has been converted into a museum and has become a tourist attraction – even if a sombre one.

A post office was established on the island, operating from 1862 to 1871 (Fig.8). The post office was reopened nine years later in 1880, remaining in service until 11 May 1931. A postal agency was established on the island 18 March 1940, reverting to a full post office 7 March 1949 (Fig.9). Occupying a building dated 1943, the post office



Fig.9: Robben Island post office, circa 1971.

In conclusion, it's interesting to note that a hundred years ago, an entry in the February 1924 issue of *The SA Philatelist* stated (some 13 years after the event) ...*South African philatelists would be well advised to turn their attention to the souvenirs of the few exhibition flights that have already taken place in this country. We refer to the Kenilworth-Muizenberg and Muizenberg-Kenilworth air mails of 1911-1912.*

Indeed, this item can be considered a significant artefact of South African history.

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UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA ILLUSTRATED STAMP VARIETIES

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Universal Postal Union, 1949 (UHB 24, Stamp numbers 105, 106 and 107)

A series of three values, ½d., 1½d., and 3d. was issued on 1 October 1949 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.

All three values depicted Mercury astride the world, which featured South Africa in the foreground. Photographs of the globe and the statue of Mercury were taken by J L Booysen, on which he based the design. Lettering was done by J. Prentice and all three stamps were in vertical format - 21,5 x 37,5mm* with perforation gauge 14 x 15.

The sheets consisted of 120 stamps (6 rows x 20) inscribed alternately in English and Afrikaans, with the sideways watermark facing left. There were arrows at the centre of all four margins and the cylinder number and the four-figure sheet number in red, were on the bottom margin, the former under the first stamp of row 6.

Two different cylinders number 60 and 31, derived from the same multipositive, were used for printing the ½d. value. For the other two values numbers being: 1½d. - 1; and 3d. - 25.

UHB 105, 106 and 107



Blue green
UHB 105

(SG 128) (SASCC 127)



Brown - red
UHB 106

(SG 129) (SASCC 128)



Bright blue
UHB 107

(SG 130) (SASCC 129)

* These measurements are of the design, the size of the stamps, 'perf to perf' is 24 x 41mm.

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 105 - ½d.

First stamp on the sheet was English.

Multipositive (Cylinders no. 60 and 31)

ENGLISH	AFRIKAANS	ENGLISH
White dot under 'T' of South (ex Row 1/5) UHB 105 - V1	Lighter coloured blob on right-hand edge level with face (ex Row 4/19) UHB 105 - V2	Lighter coloured blob at top of 'A' of Africa (ex Row 5/11) UHB 104 - V3

Cylinder No. 60

AFRIKAANS	AFRIKAANS	AFRIKAANS
White dot near left edge, level with face (ex Row 4/3) UHB 105 - V4	Two green spots and break in longitudinal line on Globe at right-hand bottom corner (ex Row 5/20) UHB 105 - V5	White apostrophe mark and darker green flaw adjoining top of 'L' of POSSEEL (ex Row 6/17) UHB 104 - V6

Cylinder No. 31

AFRIKAANS	ENGLISH	AFRIKAANS
White dot above 'P' of WERELDPOSUNIE (ex Row 4/13) UHB 104 - V7	Green spot on 'C' of AFRICA (ex Row 5/1) UHB 105 - V8	Two green dots on thigh (ex Row 5/18) UHB 105 - V9




GENERAL






Green
SASCC 127a

UHB 106 - 1½d.




First stamp on the sheet was Afrikaans





ENGLISH  Small break in right limb of 'U' in SOUTH (ex Row 1/14) UHB 106 - V1	AFRIKAANS  Dot in '2' of value (ex Row 2/4) UHB 106 - V2	AFRIKAANS  Line across middle of large '1' of value and white mark above 'D' on Globe (ex Row 2/14) UHB 106 - V3
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ENGLISH  Lighter blob at top of 'U' in South (ex Row 3/2) UHB 106 - V4	ENGLISH  Small mark in left limb of 'U' in SOUTH (ex Row 3/8) UHB 106 - V5	AFRIKAANS  Mark, 'Gauntlet', on left wrist (ex Row 4/8) UHB 106 - V6
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UHB 107 - 3d.

First stamp on the sheet was English

ENGLISH  'G' for 'C' in AFRICA (ex Row 1/1) UHB 107 - V1 SG 130a/SASCC 129a	AFRIKAANS  Large white mark midway between POSSEEL and thigh (ex Row -sheet position unknown) UHB 107 - V2	ENGLISH  Two white spots above head (ex Row 3/1) UHB 107 - V3
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AFRIKAANS  White mark attached to '3' and white spot near raised elbow (ex Row 5/6) UHB 107 - V4	ENGLISH  White dot under second 'A' of AFRICA (ex Row 6/10) UHB 107 - V5	AFRIKAANS  White dot below 'I' in 'POSUNIE' (ex Row 6/15) UHB 107 - V6	AFRIKAANS  'Lake' in Africa (ex Row 2/19) NOT LISTED IN UHB SG 130b/SASCC 129b
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FOOTNOTE: Both the SG and SASCC listed UHB 107 - V1 as Serif on 'C' and the non UHB listed variety as 'Lake' in East Africa.

A CHALLENGE

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society.

The illustrated cover has collected a bewildering array of markings. According to my analysis, there are a total of 26 markings, some manuscript and others handstruck. The challenge is first to identify the markings, and then to arrange them in chronological order. The result of my own analysis appears on page 31.

Just for laughs...

published in *The Daily Maverick* and submitted by Jim Findlay RDPSA. (19.12.2023)



Thanks for sharing Jim - ☺



TWO SWIMMING-RELATED COVERS FROM THE GAMES OF 1952 AND 1954

by JP van Niekerk, direct PFSA subscriber jpvanniekerk53@gmail.com

Two postal covers, the one from the Olympic Games of 1952, the other from the British Empire Games of 1954, are related in that they both concern members of the swimming team that represented South Africa at those games.

The first (Fig.1), a first-day cover, depicts four Finnish semi-postal stamps (issued on 16 November 1951) advertising the Games of the 15th Olympiad held in Helsinki from 19 July to 3 August 1952. The stamps in question are featured on a variety of different formats, as well as in a booklet; the one under discussion depicts the Olympic Stadium. The cover is date-stamped 19 July 1952 at 'Helsinki / Helsingfors' (the Swedish for Helsinki) and addressed to 'N. L. MEIRING / c/o South African Team / KÄPYLÄ'.



Fig.1: 1952 Olympic Games first-day cover (in the author's collection)

The Games of 1952 are remembered as those of the Czech Emil Zátopec (three gold medals in the 5km and 10km races and the marathon) and his wife, Dana Zátopehová (gold in the javelin). South Africans remember it for the gold medals of Esther Brand (in the high jump) and the sixteen-year old Joan Harrison (in the 100m backstroke), for Willie Toweel's boxing bronze (in the flyweight division), and for Wally Hayward's 10th place in the marathon.

South Africa sent a team of 60 men and four women to the Games. The team stayed in apartments in the Kisakylä Olympic Village, built in the residential district of Käpylä. Altogether the team won 10 medals (two gold, four silver and four bronze).

Nicolaas Lingen ('Lin') Meiring was a member of the swimming team, which consisted of seven members (there was also a water polo team) with Alex Bulley as the manager. Born on 22 October 1933 in Pietermaritzburg, Meiring, as a junior, excelled in swimming, the backstroke being his speciality. He swam for Natal and won several titles at the South African swimming championships prior to being selected for the Olympic team.

Meiring took part in the 100m backstroke at the Games. Thirty-eight swimmers contested the event in six heats in the outdoor Helsinki Swimming Stadium on 30 July and 1 August. Meiring came second in the fourth heat (with a time of 1:08.5), and third in the second heat of the semi-finals (1:07.6). In the final, he was placed eighth (1:08.3), although Bulley, in his report as team manager, suggested that the officials had mistaken Meiring for another swimmer and that in reality he had finished fourth (1:07.6).

One can only speculate as to why Meiring had received the first-day cover. I could find no indication that all participants at the Games received such a cover; maybe he was a stamp collector.

In any event, after the Games Meiring was offered and accepted a scholarship at the University of Oklahoma. There he joined a number of other South African swimmers, including Graham Johnston and Peter Duncan (both also representing South Africa in Helsinki), Gerrie and Ernst de Jong, Julian Dayson and Melyvn van Helsdingen. They, in no small part, contributed to the Oklahoma team becoming a formidable force in collegiate aquatics in America.

The second cover (Fig.2) was posted from the British Empire Games in Vancouver. It is not a first-day cover and displays no games-related stamps (special stamps were issued for the first time for the 1958 Games in Cardiff); it is merely a commemorative cover with a Games vignette, date-stamped on the opening day, 30 July 1954. The Canadian post office did provide a publicity slogan postmark cancellation, but that was not used for the cover in question. It was addressed, somewhat chauvinistically, to 'Mrs Alex Bulley' in Durban and was from her husband Alex, manager of the South African swimming team at the Games. According to the letter to his wife which is still contained in the cover, it was sent to let her "have an 'Opening Day' cover".

The British Empire and Commonwealth Games, the fifth such, were held in Vancouver from 30 July to 7 August 1954; 24 nations competed. It is remembered nowadays for the so-called 'Miracle Mile' in which the Englishman Roger Bannister beat the Australian Frank Landy, both runners dipping below the four-minute barrier.

South Africa sent a large team and finished third in the medals table with 34 medals (16 gold, 11 silver and 17 bronze). Ten swimmers participated, including Lin Meiring, Graham Johnston and Peter Duncan who travelled to Vancouver from the United States where they were studying. The team stayed in the athletes' village on the campus of the University of British Columbia; the swimming events took place at the Empire Pool. Alex Bulley was again the manager of the swimming team.

Meiring, who had placed high in the backstroke events at the earlier American Championships, was entered in the 110yd backstroke and was expected to do well. He placed second in the second heat (1:09.4) and came fourth in the final (1:09.2). According to Bulley's report on the Games, Meiring could easily have finished third had he not relaxed and slowed down over the last few yards (YouTube videos of the 110yd backstroke race indeed shows that to have been the case!).

There is also a third cover of interest. On 5 August, two days before the closing of the Games, Meiring posted a letter from the 'Empire Village' in Vancouver to his parents in Pietermaritzburg. The cancellation displayed is the special Games slogan postmark (reading 'British Empire Games, Vancouver, Canada, Jul 3-Aug 7'). Remarkably this cover later formed part of the philatelic collection of the Canadian collector Andrew J Liptak and is depicted in a blogspot, dated 3 October 2013, on the website of the Canadian Postal History Corner (www.postalhistorycorner.blogspot.com).

What happened to our two main personalities after these games?



Fig.2: 1954 Empire Games opening-day cover (in the author's collection)

Alexander Airth Rowe ('Alex') Bulley, born on 12 November 1901 and an accountant by training, swam and played water polo for Natal before turning to coaching. He was for many years the official South African Swimming Union Coach, a selector and the manager of South African touring teams for more than three decades. As such he attended three Olympic Games (Helsinki 1952, Melbourne 1956, and Rome 1960) and four Empire Games from 1930 onwards. Most famously he managed the South African swimming team on its European tour in 1965, when the 12-year old Karen Muir broke the world record in Blackpool: the photograph of an ecstatic Bulley with the dazed Muir is one of the iconic images of South African sport (Fig.3). Bulley retired in 1967 and died on 6 December 1985.

Lin Meiring (Fig.4) studied medicine at Oklahoma, qualified as an otorhinolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat specialist) and practiced for many years in Oklahoma City, making a name for himself as a pioneer in laser surgery. He continued swimming (placing high in his age group in backstroke events at masters swimming meets in the 1980s) and with family in South Africa he retained links with the country of his birth. Meiring died on 6 February 2022, at the age of 89.



Fig.3: Alex Bulley and Karen Muir, Blackpool, 10 Aug 1965

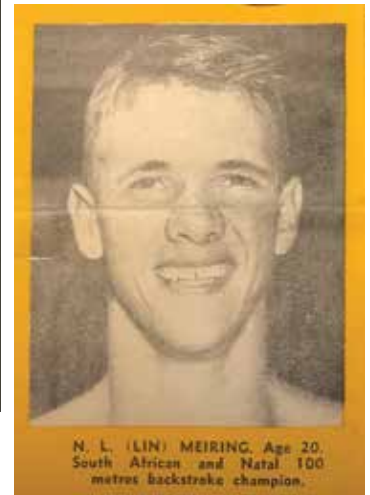


Fig.4: Lin Meiring in 1952 and in retirement (the photos appeared in the 4 July 1952 Outspan Souvenir Album, Olympic Games, 1952, and in his obituary in The Oklahoman).



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2024 Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

Meeting Venue: Country Club Johannesburg,
Napier Road, Auckland Park



MEETING PROGRAMME

- 14 February 2024 : Open Class Exhibit Evening
- 13 March 2024 : Annual General Meeting
- 10 April 2024 : Digital Workshop Evening
- 8 May 2024 : Favourite Cover/s
- 12 June 2024 : First Competitive Evening
- 10 July 2024 : No Rules One Frame Evening
- 14 August 2024 : Invitation to Pretoria Philatelic Society
- 11 September 2024 : One Frame Evening
- 9 October 2024 : Second Competitive Evening
- 13 November 2024 : Invited Exhibitor
- 11 December 2024 : President's Evening + Cocktail Party

2024 Philatelic Society of Johannesburg MEETING PROGRAMME

- Jan 17 : Africa & its islands
 - Feb 21 : AGM & invited exhibits
 - Mar 20 : Open Class, all categories & postal stationery
 - Apr 17 : Anything relating in any way to the letters 'Q &/or R &/or S'
 - May 15 : British Commonwealth
 - Jun 19 : Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
 - Jul 17 : Foreign, the art of philately & philately as art
 - Aug 21 : Southern Africa
 - Sep 18 : Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
 - Oct 16 : My favourite (Maximum of one frame) and thematic exhibits
 - Nov 20 : As You Like It
- President: Clive Carr 083 634 1939 carr.clive@gmail.com
Meeting: Monthly - third Wednesday at 16:00 (except Dec).



The Packet Service of Mauritius

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

In the seventeenth century, mail boats were especially designed for the swift carriage of mail between England and Continental Europe. These packet boats - as they became known - had been built for the North Atlantic and Mediterranean ports, with extra speed so that they stood a better chance of avoiding hostile ships. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Falmouth was established as the packet port for the Americas, the Portuguese and Spanish Peninsular, and the Mediterranean. But the monopoly of the East India Company on trading east of Cape Town meant that no packet service existed for the ports of India and the Far East.

At this time, the British Government was seeking ways to raise more revenue to finance the ever increasing cost of the Napoleonic campaigns. Against this background, it was decided to strengthen the Treasury's powers to ensure that all letters passed through the post and paid the appropriate rates. A new Act of Parliament was therefore introduced in Britain which imposed penalties upon any person sending a letter or packet, of which he was not the owner, without having the official mark of the postage having been paid. The master of the ship or vessel having on board any letter not bearing the official mark of the postage having been paid was also liable to heavy penalties, and powers were given to certain officers to search any vessel for such unpaid letters.

The new Act was passed in 1815, and provided, amongst other things, that:

Letters and packets that shall be conveyed between the Cape of Good Hope or the Mauritius, and any part of the Continent of Asia and between the Cape of Good Hope or the Mauritius or the Continent of Asia, and all intermediate places, and between all the intermediate places respectively, the Rates and Duties following: -

- For every Single Letter, One Shilling and Ninepence;
- For every Double Letter, Three Shillings and Sixpence;
- For every Triple Letter, Five Shillings and Threepence;

And for every ounce in weight, Seven Shillings; and so on in proportion for Letters and Packets above the weight of an ounce.



Fig.1: 1850 entire to Nantes in France 'par Ceylon and Marseilles' with an oval red **PACKET LETTER / MAURITIUS** datestamp [NO 16 / 1850] – which is the earliest recorded date for this mark - and the rare **FOREIGN LETTER** handstamp. A red Marseilles transit datestamp for 15 / FEVR / 51 is also on the front and a datestamp of Nantes for 16 February 1851 on reverse

Is this the future of stamp collecting? Part 2.

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

In the previous issue of *The SA Philatelist* (page 177, December 2023) we started a discussion regarding the impact of crypto stamps on our hobby. In this issue we continue the discussion. To summarise, a crypto stamp consists of two parts: a traditional stamp which can be used to convey mail and a digital image stored somewhere on the internet where it can be viewed, sold or traded. In principle the digital and physical stamp can be sold or traded separately. An NFT (non fungible token) stamp has no tangible twin like crypto stamps and has no postal usage, but is authorised as official by a postal administration. NFT means that each stamp is unique and cannot be replaced with another one. The first crypto stamp was issued by Austria (Figs.1 & 2), June 2019. By October 2023 the number of crypto stamps issued by Austria had topped the million mark.

Fig.1: The first crypto stamp shown separated. At left is the postage stamp; the right shows the revealed codes after the covering has been scratched off. These codes are needed to gain access to the crypto version of the stamp.



To get a crypto version of the stamp you need to scan the barcodes on the stamp. Even so, the sheer extent of the access codes (shown in Fig.1) leaves many collectors bewildered and confused. To simplify the process of acquiring crypto and NFT stamps a company known as Stamsdaq (<https://stamsdaq.com>) was formed. The company is affiliated to the Universal Postal union (UPU). This makes the company acceptable to postal authorities for the marketing of digital stamps. The question still remains: what impact will digital stamps have on the hobby? There is the view that traditional collectors will not be buying crypto stamps. Yet it is possible that buyers of crypto stamps will start to look back to traditional collecting.

Is this the key to the future of the hobby? Molly Zuckerberg (<https://blockworks.co/news/nft-stamp-collecting-dud>) writes "The main takeaway ... is not just that the whole process [is] prohibitively confusing, but that the NFT stamp itself [doesn't] seem to spark the same amount of joy as a regular stamp [does] for a true philatelist." She adds that crypto stamps do not have the utility of real stamps. They should be viewed as a profit-making scheme by post offices world wide.

... cont on page 17



Fig.2: 1851 cover addressed to London, rated '2/3d' showing the oval PACKET LETTER / MAURITIUS datestamp [FE 10 / 1851], via the packet 'Elizabeth' to Galle on 13th March, then 'Oriental' to Suez, then overland to Alexandria, and then per 'Indus' to Southampton, arriving in London on 16 April, 1851.



Fig.4: 1851 entire from Madras "pr Steamer via Galle for transmission to Mauritius", and showing red boxed Madras datestamp for 10 October 1851 and an oval PACKET LETTER / MAURITIUS datestamp [NO 17 / 1851] plus the red crescent INDIA PAID handstamp. A scarce example of the Mauritius Packet Letter datestamp used on an incoming letter.

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Fig.3: 1853 envelope addressed to London showing the oval PACKET LETTER / MAURITIUS datestamp [AU 06 / 1853] on front along with the uncommon BRITISH POSTAGE / PAID. Marked 'Via the Cape', with arrival London datestamp for 29 September 1853.

... continues from page 16

Basically, as collectors, are we being scammed? On the other hand there is the view that such paired stamps are leading to a philatelic renaissance. This is backed up by the popularity of past crypto stamp launches. Crypto stamps sold out quickly.

It's worth remembering that crypto stamps are a speculative item. Crypto stamps do not have any practical purpose other than owning a unique piece of data in the form of a visual image. They are viewed as an investment. This comes with the risk that the market could over-inflate and that the investment bubble could burst at any stage. In a recent review the BBC noted that "the crypto world that exploded a couple of years ago has now gone very quiet." They noted that the market fell to its lowest during October 2023 when trading volume dropped by 89% since 2022. With this in mind, are crypto stamps the way to go?

Philatelic Services thinks so. At the International Exhibition, held in Cape Town during 2022, Philatelic Services began investigating the possibility of issuing NFT stamps. An on-line survey was held during September 2023 to gauge collector's opinions. A one-frame display explaining the concept of crypto stamps was put up by Philatelic Services at the 2023 National. Since the SAPO has not issued many stamps in the past few years, that SA Collectors be



Fig.2: First Day Cover showing the access codes covered. Illustrations at the bottom are different crypto stamps, their colours and number of stamps which were available. The scarcer the stamp, the higher its value.

asked what SA stamps they would like to see on crypto stamp. The idea of issuing crypto/NFT stamps raises many questions:

- How cost effective are crypto stamps?
 - Will crypto stamps stimulate interest in younger collectors?
 - How do you exhibit or display crypto stamps?
 - Will crypto stamps generate income for the Post Office?
- What is your opinion of crypto stamps? What do you consider the pros and cons of crypto stamps? Air your views - e-mail janice@gdb.co.za We look forward to seeing what you think of this development.

SCOUTING'S AFRICAN ORIGINS : ROBERT BADEN-POWELL AND THE BIRTH OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

This article is a summary of a single frame, open class exhibit and was also the subject of a presentation given at an AGM of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society.



Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, affectionately known as B-P to millions of Scouts, was responsible for starting the worldwide Scout Movement. In 1899 two key events laid the groundwork for this achievement – firstly as a colonel in the British Army, he was placed in charge of the garrison at the railway town of Mafeking in the Cape Colony, and secondly his book for training British soldiers called *'Aids to Scouting for NCOs and Men'* was published.

Baden Powell had a long association with the African continent, and many of his original ideas for Scouting emanated from his experiences whilst stationed there and in South Africa in particular.

The Mafeking 'Boy Scouts'

Our story starts during the Siege of Mafeking, during the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899 – 1902). As every soldier was needed for the defence of the town, Baden-Powell formed a cadet corps (Figs.1 and 2) of around 40 boys to take over the other tasks that needed doing – carrying messages, lookout duty, helping in the hospitals and so forth.



Fig.1: RSA 15c stamp depicting Baden-Powell and a 20c Bophuthatswana stamp, showing a Mafeking cadet in uniform during the siege. Issued in 1982 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Scout Movement.

After the War and 'Scouting for Boys'

Following the war Baden-Powell received a hero's welcome in England, for the defence of Mafeking, and found that his book *Aids to Scouting* had sold over 100,000 copies, mostly to boys and was being used by educators and youth leaders to teach observation and woodcraft. He now had time to finish the idea of adapting these concepts into a training program for boys. In the summer of 1907, B-P tested out his ideas during a weeklong training camp for 22 boys, on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset (Fig.3). *'Scouting for Boys'* (Fig.4) was his re-write of the earlier book, published in six fortnightly parts from January to March 1908. A book edition followed, and today more than 150 million copies have been printed.



Fig.2: 1991 c800 Ghana souvenir sheet with B-P's drawing of the leader of the Cadet Corps, Sergeant-Major Warner Goodyear and an image of a local cover mailed with one of the famous 'Mafeking Blue' stamps produced during the siege.



Fig.3: Tristan da Cunha 20p stamp, depicts B-P at Brownsea Island. He holds a kudu horn in his left hand, used to summon the campers each morning.



Fig.4: (at right) Tonga T\$1.50 self-adhesive stamp illustrates the cover of the first instalment of 'Scouting for Boys'.

Without fuss, without ceremony and completely spontaneously, boys began to form Scout Troops all over Britain. Soon it was common sight to see boys wearing broad-brimmed hats with coloured scarves knotted around their necks, engaged in Scouting activities in the villages and towns. By September 1908, B-P had to set up an office to deal with the large number of queries pouring in. Scouting quickly spread throughout the British Empire and to other parts of the world. The first Troops in South Africa were operating in Cape Town and Johannesburg in 1908.

The Scout Uniform

The earliest versions of the Scout uniform were inspired and adapted from B-P's experiences in Southern Africa. It was based on the uniforms worn by the South African Constabulary (Fig.5), which he set up in 1900 following the relief of Mafeking. The campaign hat, usually a broadbrimmed felt hat, with a high crown, pinched symmetrically at the four corners and the wearing of a neckerchief knotted around the neck, have their origins in the Second Matabele War in 1896.



Fig.5: Postcard of a Trooper of the South African Constabulary.

Uniform was an important part of the Scouting method, for Baden-Powell is quoted as saying "it hides all differences of social standing and covers differences of country and race and creed, and makes all feel that they are members with one another of the one great brotherhood".

The Scout staff or stave (Fig.6), a wooden pole or quarterstaff, was traditionally carried as a walking stick but had several other uses in emergency situations and for pioneering. It originated from B-P's experiences during the Ashanti campaign in the interior of the Gold Coast (1895 – 1896), where military engineers used a staff to estimate height, test the depths of swamps, and hang telegraph wires from the branches of the jungle.

Fig.6: 1978 stamp issued to mark 10th Anniversary of Rwandan Scouting. Depicts two Scouts in traditional uniform holding staves.



Scouting Symbols from Africa

The Kudu Horn (Fig.7) came from the Matabele Campaign in 1896, in which the Matabele used it for military signalling over long distances.

After this campaign, Baden-Powell took one of these horns home as a trophy, which years later would find another use on Brownsea Island and numerous other Scout camps thereafter.



Fig.7: Stamp issued by the Republic of Togo in 2014, as part of miniature sheet honouring Scouting. It shows B-P using the original Matabele war horn.

In 1888, B-P was part of a campaign against the Zulu king, Dinizulu kaCetshwayo. Dinizulu wore a necklace of about 12 feet in length, consisting of 1000s of wooden beads. The necklace was a distinction conferred on royalty and great warriors. B-P acquired the necklace, and years later would use two of these beads on a leather thong to present to adults completing their training as Scout leaders (Fig.8 and 9).



Fig.8: Postcard of Baden-Powell, circa 1929, wearing the typical 'campaign hat' from the Matabele Campaign and also used as part of the uniform of the South African Constabulary. He is also wearing the 'woodbadge beads' around his neck, from Dinizulu's necklace, acquired during the campaign against the Zulu in 1888.



Fig.9: Image of the Woodbadge, issued to all adult leaders after completing their training.

There are two stories concerning the origin of the left handshake in Scouting (Fig.10).

The first is simply that it is the hand closest to the heart. The other comes from the Ashanti Campaign, mentioned previously.

When B-P entered Kumasi, the capital city of the Ashanti, he was greeted by a warrior chief who held out his left hand. He told B-P that 'the bravest of the brave shake with the left hand' as a sign of trust, as the shield is held in the left hand. Today, Scouts worldwide use the left-handshake in greeting each other.



Fig.10: The 1963 Nigeria 3d stamp was the first triangular Scout stamp issued. It commemorates the 11th World Scout Jamboree held in Greece, and depicts the left-handshake.

Retirement

Baden-Powell also chose Africa as the place for his retirement. In 1938 he and his wife moved to the town of Nyeri in Kenya and lived out his remaining years in a cottage 'Paxtu' (Fig.11) in the grounds of the Outspan Hotel. On the 8th January 1941, B-P died at the age of 83. He was buried in the grounds of the Anglican church in Nyeri with a headstone showing the simple Scout trail sign for 'I have gone home' (Fig.12).



Fig.11: Kenya 1982 se-tenant pair of stamps, from a set of eight issued to mark the 75th anniversary of Scouting. It depicts the cottage Paxtu and B-P's wife, Olave Baden-Powell, who was involved in establishing the Girl Guide movement as the sister organisation to Scouting.

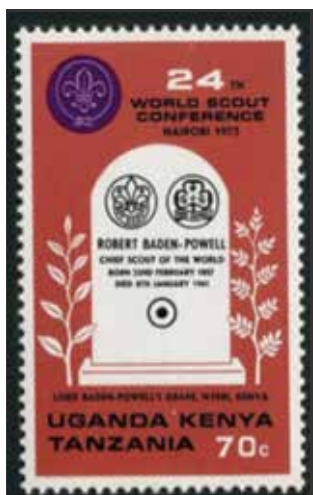


Fig.12: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania (KUT) stamp, issued in 1973 for the World Scout Conference held in Nairobi, depicts his gravestone.

ITEM OF INTEREST

AN INTERESTING LETTER

Napoleon's Illness and Death

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The illustrated cover includes a letter dated headed "St Helena 10th Oct 1817" which was privately carried to England and posted at Plymouth Dock. It was written by George Dunlop, a British army surgeon serving with the 66th Foot, to his brother in Scotland. George Dunlop had trained as a surgeon in Edinburgh, before working in Chelsea, London. He served as a surgeon in the Crimean War, and went on to form part of the British Army contingent on Saint Helena guarding Napoleon Bonaparte.

The letter includes the following intriguing paragraph: "I have been introduced to Napoleon who addressed several questions to me. He is now become much more social than formerly and frequently rides out. It is the opinion of many here that he will be allowed to go to England in eight or ten years. He appears to be in bad health on account his being troubled with swelled legs, his limits are enlarged that he may have more exercise."

On October 15, 1815, Napoleon had disembarked on St. Helena with those followers who were voluntarily accompanying him into exile. St. Helena had a healthy climate, and Napoleon's food was good, carefully prepared, and plentiful. Napoleon showed the first signs of illness in 1817; he seems to have had an ulcer or a cancer of the stomach. The Irish doctor Barry O'Meara, having asked in vain for a change in the conditions under which Napoleon lived, was dismissed; so also was his successor John Stokoe, who was similarly thought to be well-disposed toward Napoleon. The Corsican doctor who took their place, Francesco Antommarchi, prescribed a treatment that could do nothing to cure his patient. There has been continuing speculation about the cause of his death, but the evidence used by some to support the theory that Napoleon was poisoned is not considered conclusive by many scholars.

In November 1818, the British Government announced that Napoleon would remain a prisoner on Saint Helena for life. When Napoleon learnt the news, he became depressed and more isolated, spending longer periods in his rooms which further undermined his health. From the beginning of 1821, his illness became rapidly worse. From March, Napoleon was confined to bed. In April he dictated his last will:

I wish my ashes to rest on the banks of the Seine, in the midst of that French people whom I have loved so much....I die before my time, killed by the English oligarchy and its hired assassins."

He died on 5 May 1821, not yet 52 years old. The funeral was conducted simply in the Rupert Valley, where Napoleon had sometimes walked, beside a stream in which two willows were reflected. The stone covering his tomb bore no name, only the words "Ci-Git" ("Here Lies").

A letter, dated 5 July 1821, shortly after Napoleon's death by Alexander Geldfellow, on board HMS *Rosario* then at Spithead, has been discovered in the Archives of Saffron Walden Museum in the UK, and gives the following account on Napoleon's death and funeral:

"The truly tiresome cruising at St. Helena is entirely over Napoleon Buonaparte having aspired on the fifth of May about ten minutes before six o'clock (sunset). This we were prepared for only a few days before, - for secrecy was there most religiously observed. I may here remark that during the two years I was on the Station not a naval man had the pleasure of speaking to Buonaparte, such was the privacy in which he lived, he even declined seeing the present Commander in Chief of his arrival at the Station. In fact during the above period he was seldom seen outside of his own garden, and I never recollected hearing of his riding out for any distance about half a dozen times - he became so weak and faint they were obliged to send a carriage to convey him

home – this marked instance of weakness was attributed to his sedentary life.



Fig.1: St Helena 10th Oct 1817

About Christmas he told Major Gorricon (the only officer on the staff he would trust), that he felt very unwell, but could not accurately describe his feelings – this statement, there was good reason to support, was a good deal attributable to his sulky humour, and his ardent desire to be removed from the Island. On the seventeenth of March he became seriously indisposed and for four or five days some alarm existed, the Dragoons were galloping in all directions with messages, and it was then whispered in the most secret manner that general Buonaparte was very ill, but in a few days this bustle entirely subsided and no further apprehensions seemed to be entertained,

On the nineteenth April it was again reported that Buonaparte was in considerable danger and the Physicians to the Forces and surgeon of the twentieth regiment were desired to visit him. As this was perfectly optional the former thought it proper to decline, the other complied and was ten days in constant attendance before he was admitted, Buonaparte having given positive orders to his attendant not to admit anyone sent there by the Governor. However, the excruciating pain and entreaties of his own surgeon induced him to yield, but he never would take any medicine that was either prescribed or prepared by good the surgeon of the Twentieth although he took medicine from his own attendant and on one occasion when the former applied a blister to his side in a few minutes he pulled it off and threw it on the floor. He lay in State three days at the particular wish of the French people who behaved to all visitors with much affability and condescension. The body was opened and from having the good fortune to be introduced to the French Surgeon I was favoured with a sight of the Heart and stomach, the latter the entire seat of the Disease, which was cancer, or a schirrous state of that tissue. The disease must have caused great pain and appeared to have been of considerable standing, it was remarked before his death that for more than nine days he had refused all nourishment, which was supposed to proceed from resignation or obstinacy, but the diseased state of the stomach fully accounts for it.

He was upwards of thirty days confined to his bed, and from the commencement of his last attack it is reported by his attendants that he occasionally railed bitterly against the British Government and on other occasions was observed to be more religious than usual. The body was laid out on a bed in a room of middling size hung with black and well lighted up, he was dressed in full Field Marshall's uniform, said to be the same he wore at the Battle of Morengo. His person seemed small and rather diminutive (exact height five feet

seven inches), but the fineness of the countenance much exceeded my expectations, the face appeared large compared with the body, the features pleasing and extremely regular – still retaining a half formed smile and must have been truly imposing when enlightened with a penetrating pair of eyes. His skin was perfectly sallow which seemed to be its natural colour, I felt much gratified in seeing the garden – it was laid out in the most fanciful manner, an astonishing variety being contained in a small space. Two days after the funeral his effects were exhibited, they were few taken altogether, and not quite so gaudy as might be supposed, what I observed most envious was about four or five dozen Porcelain plates and coffee cups and saucers of the same with extremely handsome paintings on them of the different great battles he fought and of the Principal Towns of France, and they were said to be worth twenty-five Guineas each.

He died on Saturday and the funeral took place the following Wednesday at 12 o'clock, a grand procession was formed of the officers, soldiers and marines of the Squadron, which altogether made a very pretty and rather striking appearance.

The troops were drawn up two men deep on the road side, outside of Longwood gates, each man resting the point of his musket on his foot on the left hand on his butt, and the left cheek leaning on his hand in a mournful position, and a Band at each side of each corps playing a dead march.

He was buried in the side of Ruperts valley about half way between James's Town and Longwood under the shade of a large willow tree near a small spring well, the water in which was very good and pleasant. For some years he daily had his water carried to him from his well in two silver tankards which he brought from Moscow.

Some years since when visiting this well in company with Madame Bertrand he said that if the British Government were so rude as to bury him on St. Helena he wished this to be the spot. It is certainly a very retired, pretty spot, surrounded by high hills in the form of an amphitheatre, the public road to Longwood leading along the top of the ridge.

After letting the coffin into the grave three volleys from eleven ... ld pieces were fired, and the *Flag Ship* fired twenty-five minutes guns. The Catholic priest performed the ceremony after the rites of the Romish Church. The grave was ten feet long, ten deep, and five wide, the bottom happened to be solid rock, in which a space was cut to receive the coffin, and the sides and ends of the grave were walled in by one large Portland flag each, and three large flags put immediately over the coffin and fixed down with iron bars and leads besides roman cement to prevent the coffin being easily removed. The top of the grave is elevated about eight inches above the surface of the ground, and covered over with three rough slabs without one letter inscribed. Several good situations are by this event lost to the military men at St. Helena.

The *Camel Store* ship may be expected in about a fortnight with all the French people, and two hundred of the Sixty Sixth Regiment on board. I would have felt pleasure in sending part of this news by the '*Heron*', but when she sailed all correspondence was strictly forbidden. I have to request that you will forbear to mention my name to any of your friends, for reasons I will afterwards explain."



ADD A NEW FACET TO YOUR SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTION

by Jamie Smith, international



It is a well-known military fact that it takes seven soldiers to keep one fighting man at the front. These seven soldiers comprise cooks, administration, drivers, mechanics, storemen etc. What is not usually taken into consideration is the finances that have to be raised to keep them all there. These finances come from taxes and occasionally donations. The latter being represented philatelically by Cinderella Stamps. If we take the donors into consideration, the number of bodies it takes to keep one fighting man at the front is increased considerably.

What is a Cinderella stamp?

Cinderella stamps are any kind of stamp or label which bears a resemblance to a postage stamp yet does not hold any validity for postal purposes.

Labels which may be recognised as Cinderellas include, charity seals, revenue, business promotion, decoration as Valentine's Day, railway stamps, there are others. The criterion must be, if it looks like a postage stamp but isn't - it must be a Cinderella. These Cinderella stamps may or may not have a value on them, truth is most are just a receipt for a donation given.

Nearly all such stamps ended up in drawers to be eventually thrown away when clearing the said draws out. Occasionally, and I stress the word occasionally, the owner of the stamps placed the Cinderella stamp or stamps onto a cover either to promote, advertise, for patriotic reasons or just to show that he/she had donated to an event or cause. These covers are what we are looking for, they can add that new facet, colour, and information into our collections.

Although some collectors just collect 'willy-nilly' the subject is too vast so most collectors, like 'proper?' stamp collectors or philatelists select a country or a subject to collect. For my sins and which should have been apparent from the beginning of this article, I collect World War II connected material. I even streamline this down to a single country – South Africa.

Like postage stamps these can be collected just a single stamp or 'on cover', the Cinderellas representing by a variety of subjects: -

• **The Home Front**

Usually patriotic and without a value. Subject's covered are designed to create a spirit of unity as with the 'Pull your Weight' Cinderella, (Fig.1), or calling for support of the War. Effort (Fig.2).

Even as a warning against other nationals who did not agree with the countries policies, (Figs.3 & 4).



Fig.1.



Fig.2.



Fig.3.



Fig.4.



Fig.5.



Fig.6.



Fig.7.

- **The Military**
The three services are represented; Navy (Fig.5), Air Force (Fig.6) and Land forces (Fig.7).



Fig.8.

For our Allies

Several Cinderellas fall into this category. The stamps refer to our Russian allies, although Britain, (Figs.8 & 9) is not forgotten.



Fig.9.



Fig.10.

Gifts & Comforts to the troops

There were several organisations devoted to collecting funds and sending gifts to the troops. Isie Smuts, the wife of General Smuts the Prime Minister, led one such organisation, the South African Gifts and Comforts Funds. 'Isie' is depicted on this 1d stamp Cinderella (Fig.10).

The Red Cross, St John's Ambulance and T.B. Christmas Cinderella

Besides being active in the field, gifts and comforts were sent to troops. By far the most extensive work was done by the Red Cross with P.O.W. and Internees on both sides of the conflict. Switzerland was the headquarters of the Red Cross and being a neutral country, most of the humanitarian work was operated from there. Figs. 11, 12 & 13).



Fig.11.

I have deliberately steered clear of showing the postal history aspect of Cinderellas as this will be the subject of a follow up article (and I don't want to push the prices up while I am still collecting the area).



Fig.12.



Fig.13.

NEW ISSUES
SPRINGBOK WORLD CHAMPIONS STAMP ISSUE

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society
28 November 2023 – SPRINGBOK WORLD CHAMPIONS 1995 / 2007 / 2019 / 2023

Note: although the date '2023.11.28' appears on the selvedge of the stamp sheetlets and in the canceller on the first day cover, these stamps were only available from Philatelic Services from 18 January 2024.

Designer: Thea Clemons.

Printer: Government Printing Works, Pretoria

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 32 x 34mm

Sheetlet size: 96 x 149mm, comprising six stamps in three rows of two

Quantity: not known.

Cylinder numbers: Standard Postage: 8798 (cyan), 8799 (magenta), 8800 (yellow), and 8801 (black); International Letter: 8802 (cyan), 8803 (magenta), 8804 (yellow) and 8805 (black).

Paper: 68gsm Secure Label Paper with a Backing, pre-printed at the back with the South African Coat of Arms using phosphor ink.

Gum: Self-adhesive

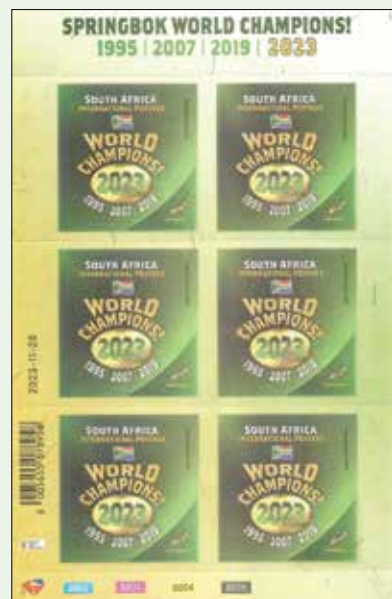
Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 6mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through the sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: 2.5mm band in L shape on top and left stamp margins. There are also phosphor fibres randomly distributed in the paper as a security feature.

Printing sheet size: not seen.

First Day Cover: Nos. 8. 140 of standard size (190 x 101mm).

Canceller: No. 8.135 – 'SPRINGBOK · 2023.11.28'



Acknowledgement: The above information was collated from the Philatelic Services e-mail newsletter dated January 2024.



The “Holy Grail” of philately

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

It only took two minutes and the sale was over. It was the afternoon of 8 November 2023. It was lot 2154 (Fig.1) from sale 1299 at the Siegel Auction Galleries in New York with a reserve of US\$1.5 million (±R 27.8 million). Prior to opening the bidding, Scott Trepel, President of Siegel Auction Galleries, reminded potential bidders of regulations surrounding the sale of the stamp. Trepel said “Arrangements will have to be made to pick up the stamp because we won’t be dropping it in a FedEx envelope”.

There were 60 registered bidders for the single-lot sale. Of those, eight participated in the sale, but after opening at US\$1.2 million, only four placed bids. A bidding war broke out among three potential buyers. The hammer price for the red, white and blue stamp was US\$1.7 million (±R31.5 million). The final realisation, with Siegel’s 18 percent buyer’s commission tacked on, came to US\$2.006 million (±R37.171 million).

The winning bidder was Charles Hack (76) who made his fortune in real estate and investments. Hack said he’s not exactly sure what he will do with the stamp. He said he will probably keep it in his safe at his home in New York. “It’s the very best item of the most well-known American icon in philately,” said Hack, “and it’s a bit of American history”. Mr Hack is the owner of a few other Jennys. He bought one in the early 2000s for about US\$300,000). In 2007, he bought another, better-quality stamp for nearly US\$1 m. It was the 57th stamp printed in the original sheet of 100. Then in 2018 position 49 emerged, unaccounted for since 1918. Hack was there and ready to buy.



Fig.1: The 1918 ‘Inverted Jenny’ stamp is a very famous and valuable item highly regarded by collectors.

Known as the ‘Inverted Jenny’, these stamps have a visual appeal and a compelling history as, perhaps, the most well known of philatelic errors. This stamp is most famous for its error, in which the blue Curtiss Jenny biplane was printed upside down within the stamp’s red frame. The 24¢ stamp, produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, was printed over the weekend and on Monday 13 May 1918. It had to be ready to be issued 14 May 1918 to launch the first air mail service in the US, and the world, on the following day (Fig.2). It was the first stamp issued by any government for a regular scheduled airmail service, and as such it marks the birth of commercial aviation worldwide.

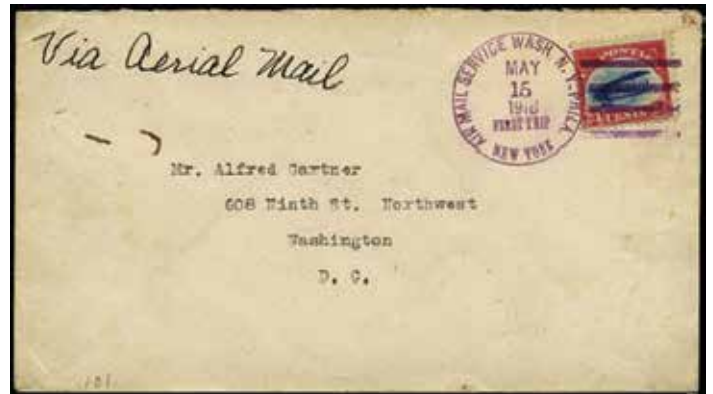


Fig.2: First flight cover from the first regular air mail service, between New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC.

The planes were a custom-made Curtiss JN-4, nicknamed ‘Jenny’. (Figs.3 & 4) The air mail service was also plagued with mishaps. On 15 May 1918, the day of the first service, an inexperienced pilot took off from Washington and flew in the wrong direction. Minutes later he crashed in a farmer’s field (Fig.5).



Fig.3: Loading the mail.



Fig.4: Cheers from the crowd as the first air mail flight takes off from Belmont Park, Long Island.



Fig.5: Wreckage of the Curtiss JN-4 shortly after take off for the first air mail flight, Washington DC.

The stamp required a two-stage printing, first in carmine rose and then blue in sheets of 100 stamps (Fig 6). As it was a rush job, inevitably there was bound to be some mistakes. In the scramble to produce the stamps, a number of sheets were printed with the vignette upside-down. And this resulted in a world famous stamp which became known as the “holy grail of postage stamps”. While we may be familiar with the “Inverted Jenny” error there are also many other variations – see the side bar for some lesser known Jenny 24¢ varieties.

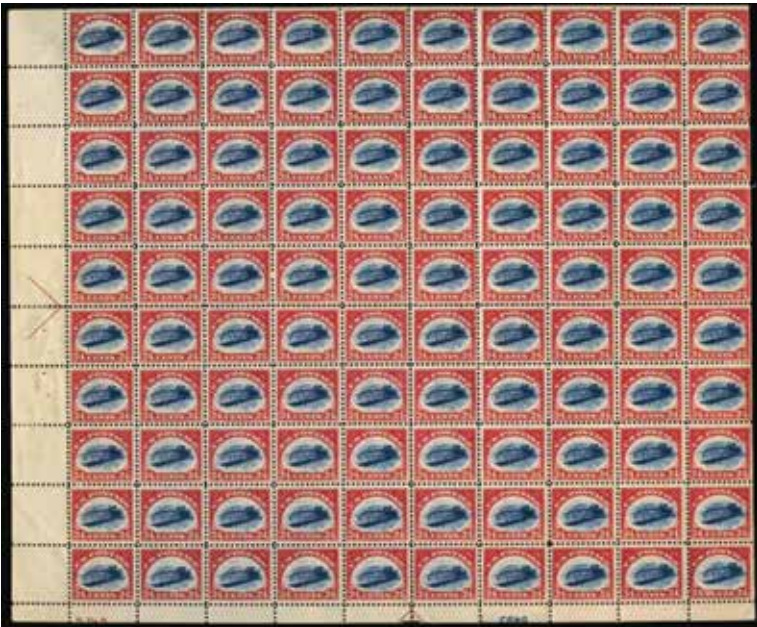


Fig.6: The 1918 airmail stamps were printed in sheets of 100.

On 14 May 1918 William T. Robey (Fig.7), a 29 year old clerk of the WB Hibbs and Company brokerage firm, bought the new airmail stamps for US\$24 from the New York Avenue Branch Post Office in Washington DC (Fig.8). On receipt of the sheet Robey noticed the aircraft was upside-down. He pointed this out to the post office clerk. The postal clerk who sold the sheet later said he did not realise the image was inverted. He commented: “Don't blame me. I don't know what a plane looks like, so I didn't recognize it when I sold it.” He had never seen an airplane before. It wasn't long before Robey had visits from postal inspectors who wanted to retrieve the sheet. Realising what he had, Robey hid the sheet under his mattress. All remaining copies of the inverted vignette sheets were withdrawn and destroyed.

Though he spent just \$24, within the week, on 20 May 1918, he sold the sheet for \$15,000 to another collector, Eugene Klein, a Philadelphia stamp dealer. Klein had already arranged to sell the sheet to Col. Edward H. R. Green for US\$20,000. Colonel Green instructed Klein to divide the ‘Inverted Jenny’ sheet into singles and blocks, and to sell all but a few key position blocks. The sheet of 100 was divided into one section of eight, seven blocks of four, and 64 individual stamps, each hand-numbered on the back. The third owner of the ‘Inverted Jenny’ was Edward Green. Over the years, those 100 ‘Inverted Jennys’ have become the most famous and sought-after treasures in the stamp-collecting world.



Fig.7: William Robey

The stamp on offer in the 8 November 2023 Siegel sale is from position 49 and is considered to be the finest centred example from the sheet. It was originally sold by Eugene Klein to a collector in 1918 and remained in a bank vault for the next one hundred years.



Fig.8: The Post Office where the ‘Inverted Jenny’ sheet was purchased.

It was kept in the dark since it was purchased by the previous owner in 1918 from Siegel Auctions for US\$1.35 million (then ±R17.9million), with an added US\$243,000 (then ±R3.2 million) in commission! The gum is Mint Never Hinged and, since its exposure to light has been limited, the stamp's colours are rich and the paper is bright.

Copies of the ‘Inverted Jenny’ come in different grades of condition. Only six of the 100 inverts are known mint, never-hinged; the best in terms of condition and grade. Many of the original 100 stamps were mistreated by collectors during the years, despite the stamps’ rarity and value. Green himself allowed moisture to affect some of the stamps he retained. Green had a habit of storing stamps in ‘not the best places.’ Other examples are toned from improper storage and climatic conditions. Hinge removal has caused thins and creases in numerous stamps, and a few have been ‘lost’ to philately - or nearly so, as in the case of the copy swept up in a vacuum cleaner.

‘Robert E. Zoellner acquired this ‘Inverted Jenny’ from a Christie’s sale in 1985; a key element of his complete collection of United States stamps. During his ownership, the Jenny came out of a defective mount, fell onto the floor and was sucked up in a vacuum cleaner. Luckily, Mr. Zoellner realised what had happened and the stamp was recovered from the vacuum bag. The stamp was expertly repaired, restoring its appearance.

‘The Inverted Jenny, like the Penny Black, apart from its value, is unique. It has its own Wikipedia page (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inverted_Jenny) and its own website (www.invertedjenny.com)’. Among the website’s many useful features is a reconstruction of the original pane of 100 that shows the various single stamps and multiples. All 100 stamps are accounted for, although many have not been seen for numerous years. For example, position 16 was last seen in 1957 when it was sold for US\$ 2100. There is even a Society of Inverted Jenny Owners. Membership is very exclusive requiring documentation of past or present ownership of a genuine ‘Inverted Jenny’.

The Grounded Jenny

To qualify as a ‘Grounded Jenny’ the vignette needed to have shifted downwards so that the wheels break through the top of ‘CENTS’ (Fig.9). ‘Grounded Jenny’ stamps come from portions of three sheets. The first discovery was owned and broken up by J. Klemann of Nassau Stamp Company. A second sheet was discovered in 1946 by Thomas A. Matthews and sold by H.R. Harmer, 4 November 1964, where it was purchased by Georges A. Medawar, publisher of the Sanabria Airmail Catalogue.

The third sheet was found by specialist Joseph R. Kirker and revealed in Linn's Stamp News of 21 April 21 1986. This variety is catalogued at US\$2000 to US\$3000 ($\pm R37,060$ to $\pm R55,590$). A slight downward shift of the vignette is simply referred to as a 'Low Flying Jenny'.

Fig.9: The Grounded Jenny variety

The Supersonic Jenny

This variety shows a major shift of the vignette to the left all the way to the perforations giving the impression of a very fast plane (Fig.10). This is surely one of the fastest planes we've ever encountered on a stamp!



Fig.10: Supersonic Jenny variety

These so-called fast plane, slow plane, high plane and grounded plane varieties are a result of the vignette shifting, and at their most extreme are also quite rare.



THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY ISSUE REVISITED AGAIN

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

8 November 2022 – ROAD TO DEMOCRACY

Issued in conjunction with the International Stamp Exhibition held in Cape Town from 8 to 12 November 2022.

Denomination: Standard Postage Rate (R 5.65)

Designer: Thea Clemons, featuring an open-winged dove, incorporating words from the preamble to the South African Constitution on its wings and body. Similarly these words are printed in microtext in the form of a silhouette of Table Mountain at the base of the stamp.

Printer: Government Printing Works, Pretoria

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 32 x 34mm

Sheetlet size: 96 x 149mm, comprising six stamps in three rows of two

Quantity: 40,000 sheetlets – an initial printing of 3000 sheetlets was delivered to Cape town. Unsold sheetlets were returned to Philatelic Services. ± 1500 sheetlets were printed as a 'run-on' without any significant improvement in quality. There was only one new plate done (brown) and the balance of the order printed in February 2023.

Cylinder numbers: Original printing: 8793 (cyan), 8794 (magenta), 8795 (yellow), 8796 (black) and 8796 (brown) - Note: The cylinder 8796 (brown) contained some of the information (in scanned format) destined for the black (solid colour) (8796) and appeared as a duplicated shadow behind the black as can be seen from the scans below the stamps. The 'corrected' cylinder had to be redone without the RTD logo, Date, and (C) information, thereby removing the shadow on those items. The brown cylinder number was changed to 8797.

Paper: 68gsm Secure Label Paper with a Backing, pre-printed at the back with the South African Coat of Arms using phosphor ink – Note: the backing paper was yellow in the original printing but changed to white in the reprint.

Gum: Self-adhesive

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

Phosphor: 2.5mm band in L shape on top and left stamp margins. There are also phosphor fibres randomly distributed in the paper as a security feature.

Printing sheet size: Continuous roll 300mm wide. Proof sheets comprised eight sheetlets in four rows of two.

First Day Cover: Nos. 8.139 of standard size (190 x 101mm), incorporating the South African flag made up of words from the preamble of the Constitution and also the exhibition logo.

Canceller: No. 8.134 – 'ROAD TO DEMOCRACY – 2022.11.08 –' / 'CAPE TOWN'



Acknowledgement: The above information was collated from the newsletters of the RSA Stamp Study Group compiled by Jan de Jong, Victor Millard and personal observations.

The FRAMA Labels of South Africa and South West Africa/Namibia

by Volker Janssen Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and Edited by Victor Millard The Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town



The first FRAMA labels were introduced on 14 August 1986 at Sunnyside Post Office (P. 001) in Pretoria followed by others country wide. They were available from ATM-like vending machines, where clients could print their own labels in any value from R0,01 to R99,99.



Fig.1: Issue 1: First Day Cover depicting the FRAMA machine. The first day of official usage was 14 August 1986

The labels were printed on Swiss fluorescent paper and Harrison plain phosphorescent paper and from June 1988 also Harrison phosphorescent paper. Because the labels could be easily forged, the PT emblem was added for security reasons.

Labels on the Swiss paper were only used for a short time and are scarce and only found on Official First Day Covers

However, there were FRAMA Forerunners in 1983 when new gummed Post Office slips were used on covers as receipt of payment fees instead of postage stamp labels



Fig.2: South African forerunners of FRAMA labels were used in most major cities in 1983

Special FRAMA labels were produced for commemorative purposes such as 300th Anniversary of Paarl, and for all annual National Stamp Exhibitions in South Africa between 1986 and 1984. (Fig.5)

The acceptance of the FRAMA label by clients and philatelists was limited and consequently the Post Office withdrew the labels and vending machines on 30 November 1994. The public could use postage and replaced by ordinary postage stamps in booklet form, or individual labels which were printed at the Post Office counters. This is the case to date since the Post Office stopped producing definitive of commemorative stamps in October 2020.

FRAMA labels were re-introduced, once, in 1998 for the National Philatelic Exhibition in Midrand, Johannesburg. This time they were in colour in nine different designs

representing the Provinces of South Africa. (Fig.15) As the vending machines had been scrapped these FRAMAs could only be ordered through Philatelic Services for philatelic purposes and were valid for postal use.

The very last appearance of postal labels was in 2004 when a trial version was produced for South Africa's bid for the Soccer World Cup in 2010. It was available for a short period of three months from four post offices in Johannesburg. It was not available from Philatelic Services and hence has become a scarce item (Fig.17).

A checklist of all FRAMA labels issued in South Africa and South West Africa and Namibia.

Issue RSA	Postmark	Category	Issue Date	Issue Type	
1		DEF	14.08.1986	1 st Definitive issue	Fig.1
2	S597 S598	COM	6.10.1986	Int. Stamp Exhibition, JOHANNESBURG 100	Fig.3
3		DEF	23.03.1987	2 nd Definitive Issue	Fig.4
4	S105	COM	16.09.1987	300 th Anniversary of PAARL	Fig.5
5		DEF	1.06.1988	3 rd Definitive issue – I-Small PT	Fig.6
6		DEF	1.06.1988	3 rd Definitive issue – II-Large PT	Fig.7
7	S123	COM	22.11.1988	Stamp Exhibition Pietermaritzburg 100	Fig.8
8	S135	COM	6.09.1989	Stamp Exhibition Wanderers 101	Fig.9
9	S148	COM	1.08.1990	150 years of Stamps	Fig.10
10	S155	COM	9.10.1991	Stamp Exhibition Cape Town	Fig.11
11	S160	COM	8.10.1992	Stamp Exhibition Pretoria	Fig.12
12	S171	COM	18.10.1993	Stamp Exhibition Durban (eThekweni)	Fig.13
13	S228	COM	20.10.1994	Stamp Exhibition Benoni	Fig.14
14		COM	Various	Counter labels usage 1994-1998	Fig.15
15		DEF	20.10.1998	New Design: Set of 9 Landscapes	Fig.16
16		TEST	2004	Bid for Soccer World Cup 2010 (Test Series)	Fig.17
SWA					
1		DEF	1988	Definitive Issue	
2		COM	1988	Stamp Show Otjimbingwe 100"	
NAMIBIA					
1		TEST	2012	Test series (35mm x 38mm)	



Fig.3: Issue 2: International Stamp Exhibition Johannesburg 100 (6 October 1986)



Fig.3: Issue 2: International Stamp Exhibition Johannesburg 100 (6 October 1986)



Fig.7: RSA Issue 6: Third Definitive -Type 2 issued 01.06.1988



Fig.4: RSA Issue 3: 2nd Definitive Frama issued 23 March 1987



Fig.8: RSA Issue 7: Pietermaritzburg 150 National Philatelic Exhibition 22-27 November 1988



Fig.5: RSA Issue 4: 300th Anniversary of Paarl, issued 16.09.1987



Fig.9: RSA Issue 8: Stamp Exhibition Wanderers 101 - 06.09.1989



Fig.6: RSA Issue 5: Third Definitive -Type 1 issued 01.06.1988



Fig.10: RSA Issue 9: 150 years of stamps 01.08.1990



Fig.11: RSA Issue 10: Stamp Exhibition Cape Town 09.10.1991



Fig.15: RSA Issue 14: Later Counter labels usage 1994-1998



Fig.12: RSA Issue 11: Stamp Exhibition Pretoria-08.10.1992



Fig.13: RSA Issue 12: Stamp Exhibition Durban (eThekwinini)-18.10.93

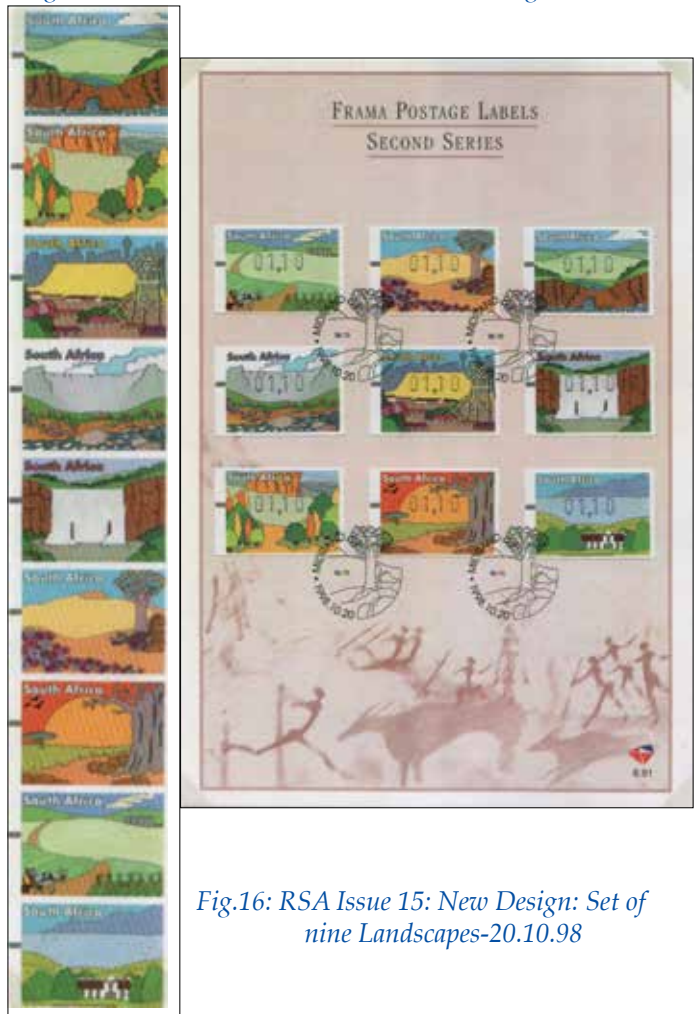


Fig.16: RSA Issue 15: New Design: Set of nine Landscapes-20.10.98



Fig.14: RSA Issue 13: Stamp Exhibition Benoni-20.10.94



Fig.17: RSA Issue 16: Bid for Soccer World-Cup 2010 (Test Series)-2004

List of places with the numbers of the FRAMA machines

Sunnyside (Pretoria)	P 001	Marine Parade	P 018
Pretoria	P 002	Pietersburg	P 019
Johannesburg	P 003	Randburg	P 020
Kaapstad/Cape Town	P 004	Rissikstraat /Street (Johannesburg)	P 021
DF Malan Lughawe/Airport	P 005	Springs	P 022
Port Elizabeth	P 006	Stellenbosch	P 023
Oos-London/ East London	P 007	Strijdomplein / Square (Pretoria)	P 024
Pietermaritzburg	P 008	Uitenhage	P 025
Durban	P 009	Vereeniging	P 026
Bloemfontein	P 010	EastGate (Johannesburg)	P 027
Jan Smuts Lughawe/Airport	P 011	Jan Smuts lughawe / Airport	P 028
Bellville	P 012	Jan Smuts lughawe / Airport	P 029
Claremont	P 013	Pretoria Hoofposkantoor/ General Post Office	P 030
George	P 014	Rustenburg	P 031
Kempton Park	P 015	Pinetown	P 032
Kimberley	P 016	Humewood (Port Elizabeth)	P 033
Krugersdorp	P 017	Kaapstad/ Cape Town	P 034

FRAMAS of South West Africa/ Namibia

Forerunners of Framas in South West Africa and Namibia were printed between 1981 and 1987.



SWA Fig.1: Special air cover from Swakopmund to Germany' Air cover (over inked) Walvis Bay to Durban; SWA forerunner labels between 1981 and 1987. Windhoek 1981; Swakopmund 1987; .

Early in 1988 the Postal Administration of South West Africa acquired a FRAMA postage label vending machine. This was installed at the Windhoek Post Office (PT.01) (SWA Fig.2) on 30 March 1988 with special labels, supplied by the Government Printers in Pretoria.

From March 1988 new vending machines were used at Aussspanplatz (PT. 02) (SWA Fig.3) and at Swakopmund (PT. 03) (SWA Fig.4) and Keetmanshoop (PT. 04) (SWA Fig.5).



SWA Fig.2: SWA-Issue 1-. Early in 1988 the Postal Administration of South West Africa acquired a FRAMA postage label vending machine. It was installed at Windhoek Post Office on 30 March 1988. The labels were valid until independence of Namibia on 21 March 1990.



SWA Fig.3: SWA-Issue 2- PT.02. Vending Machine PT. 02 at Aussspanplatz/Windhoek from March 1988.



SWA Fig.4: SWA-Issue 3- PT.03. Vending Machine PT. 03 at Swakopmund. First day 10 March 1988 until 27 November 1990.



SWA Fig.5: SWA-Issue 4- PT.04. Vending Machine PT. 04 at Keetmanshoop from 1988.

They were not very popular and after a few months and many technical problems and poor or wrong printing, the test came to an end in 2014. Very few labels have survived.



NAM Fig.1: NAM-Issue 1- Vending Machine installed at Windhoek size 35mm.



NAM Fig.2: NAM-Issue 2- Vending Machine installed at Windhoek size 38mm.

Bibliography:

- Janssen, V, 2021. *The Frama Labels of South Africa and South West Africa, Philately, Collections of Stamps Volume 28*. Peninsula Publishers: Simonstown, South Africa.



SWA Fig.6: SWA-Issue 5- Otyjimbingue 100 7-9 JUL 1988. Vending Machine installed at the Otyjimbingue 100 philatelic exhibition in Windhoek from 7-9 July 1988. The special cliché was engraved in Switzerland.

When South West Africa became independent Namibia in 1990, the previous stamps and also the FRAMA labels became invalid and the existing vending machines were removed.

In August 2012 NamPost issued a test series between denominations \$2.90 and \$658.80. There was only one kiosk outside of the General Post Office in Windhoek. They were only valid for 90 days from the printed date of issue.

There existed only two different sizes, 35mm and 38mm.

NAMIBIA



A CHALLENGE

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand PS.

Suggested solution to the challenge that appears on page 13. Comments and contrary views are invited.

(1) 12 SEP 01 6 PM: GPO CAPE TOWN CAPE COLONY	(13) 25 NO 01: BOMBAY DEP
(2) (31) 13 SP 01: ALFRED DOCKS C.B.H.	(14) *Not @ Bombay*: ss. bloc kryt
(3) 24 SP 01: ALFRED DOCKS C.B.H.	(15) 25 NO 01: D.L.O. BOMBAY
(4) 27 SEP 01 1-38 PM: GPO CAPE TOWN CAPE COLONY	(16) *Enquire w ships have go. lost*: ss. pers pen
(5) *Lorenzo Marques*: ss. root pen	(17) 26 NO 01 5.38PM: BOMBAY
(6) 7 10 01 0-11: LOURENCO MARQUES	(18) 26 NO 01 10th (SEL): FORT BOMBAY
(7) *Lorenzo Marques*: deurgehaal liggers pen	(19) 27 NO 01: BOMBAY DEP
(8) *Bombay or elsewhere*: ss. liggers pen	(20) 27 NO 01: BOMBAY 15(14) DESPATCH
(9) NO 9 01: ADEN	(21) 5 DE 01: BOMBAY DEP
(10) NO 14 01: ADEN	(22) 5 DE 01: D.L.O. BOMBAY
Been aankomstempel in Bombai (15/17 Nov.?)	(23) *Ships name unknown D.L.O.*: ss. pers pen
(11) 23 NO 01: D.L.O. BOMBAY	(24) TACONNU/UNKNON
(12) 25 NO 01: BOMBAY 14 DESPATCH	(25) Onleesbaar: GPO CAPE TOWN CAPE COLONY
	(26) MR 18 02: RETURNED LETTER OFFICE CAPE TOWN

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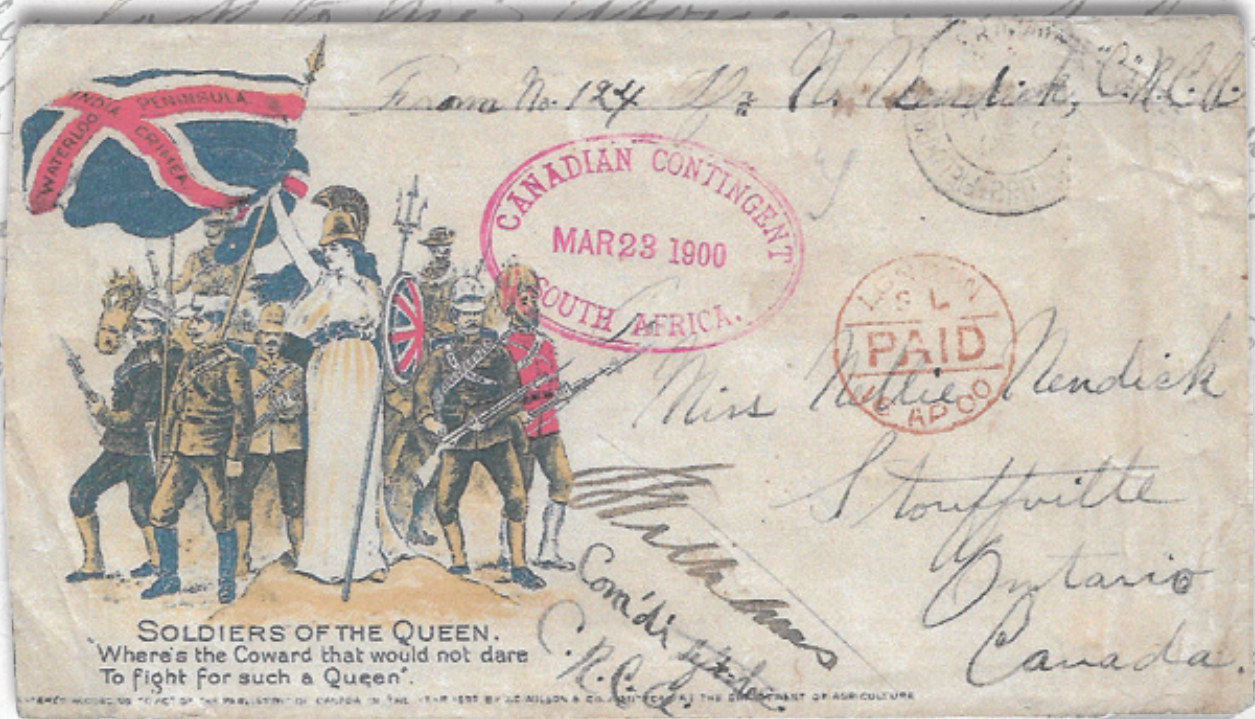
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THE ROYAL CANADIAN FIELD ARTILLERY'S ROAD TO MAFEKING IN THE SECOND ANGL-BOER WAR, 1899-1902 (page 43)



Easter on Stamps (page 52)



Previously unrecorded ZAR post office at Bosmansrust (page 38)



Scarcity of revenue stamps used inter-provincially (page 46)



ISSN 0038-2566



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:

PFSA Management Committee have been forced to implement drastic steps to save money to meet our obligations for 2024. This is affecting all sub committees. As a direct result, you will notice in this issue, it was decided to temporarily reduce the page count of *The SA Philatelist* from 32 to 22 pages. This was done to maintain continuity in the appearance of the journal rather than reducing the number of issues for the year.

This decision will be reviewed in October 2024 to meet the challenges of the 2025 budget. It should be noted that Management is confident that it will return to the usual page count.

Please note that *The South African Philatelist* is always looking for articles to publish. The Management Committee encourages members to submit articles to the Editor for publication. The Editorial Board will assist those of you, through the process, that are submitting articles for the first time.



SA Stamp Exhibitions:

The 2024 South African National Stamp Show - 'MARPEX 2024' will be hosted by the Maritzburg Philatelic Society at Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg from 9 to 13 July 2024. Entries close on 31 May 2024 and entry fees of first-time exhibitors will be sponsored with 50%.

Also note that First Day Covers are included in the Prospectus as class 12 under FIP Experimental Classes.

[Entry form](#)

[Prospectus](#)

Contact: John Handman - john@radium.co.za
André du Plessis - pfsastamps@gmail.com



SAVPEX

The ninth SA Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX) will take place in June 2024. Entries for this event close on 30 April 2024. Uploaded exhibits should be received by 25 May and results will be announced in July 2024.

[Entry form](#)

[Prospectus](#)

Contact:

Joof van der Merwe
josuav528@gmail.com



We would like to invite you to support both these exhibitions and look forward to receiving your entries. For further information visit the [PFSA website](#)

Congress 2024:

The PFSA Congress will take place on Friday 12 July 2024 at the same venue. The following should be submitted to the COO before the dates specified at pfsastamps@gmail.com

Motions proposing amendment to the Constitution of Federation: 28 May 2024.

Agenda points and any other motions: 10 June 2024.

Nominations for PFSA Awards, including for RDPSA and the Skinner Cup: 10 June 2024.

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

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- Volume. 100 : 3 984- The **JUNE** 2024 issue
15 MAY 2024



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.



Andrew Briscoe FRPSL



and Adél Bulpitt a new 'member'.

The oldest philatelic society in the world, founded on 10 April 1869, as The Philatelic Society, London, with permission to use the prefix "Royal" granted by King Edward VII in 1906. Members are of two classes, fellows and members. Fellows are entitled to use the post-nominals 'FRPSL', and are elected from members based on service to the society and to philately.

The Royal Philatelic Society London now adds two of our own well-know members; Andrew Briscoe and Adél Bulpitt

Boer War Covers with New Zealand Connections

Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

andrew@briscoe.co.bw

With reference to the interesting feature by Patrick Flanagan and Sean Burke on this subject that was published in the last edition of *The South African Philatelist* (at page 9), I can add a further relevant cover which was posted on 15 August 1900 at Mafeking, and addressed to Miss May Seddon of Wellington, backstamped at Wellington on 23 August 1900. The sender was Lieutenant R. J. Seddon of the 4th Regiment, New Zealand Rough Riders, the brother to May. They were the son and daughter of the New Zealand Premier Richard John Seddon. The illustrated photograph of the Seddon family was taken two years later, and shows the two correspondents.



Signatories to the ROLL of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa

Introduced 1932

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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		1992	Cedric Roché		
		1992	Gunter von Schumann (Namibia)		
		1993	Dr Gerrit H Jonkers*		
		1993	Howard Green		
		1994	Wilhelm Grütter*		
		1994	Dr JR (Achi) Frank (UK)		
		1995	Dr Alan Drysdall (UK)*		
		1996	David Stern*		
		1997	Philippa Mcintosh*		
		1997	Colin M Hoffman (UK)		



RDPSA ATTENDING FOUNDATION MEETING - 2023.

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 and as an insert - Paul Van Zeyl.



Phun with postmarks

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



BOSMANSRUST, Z.A.R.

Morgan Farrell, a long-standing collaborator, sent me a date stamp of Bosmansrust (Fig.1) with a question “Where is this?”. In the *Putzel Encyclopaedia* a post office with this name is shown as having opened as a PA (Postal Agent) in 1903, which was after the Boer War. The mother post office was Wolmaransstad.



Fig.1: Previously unrecorded ZAR post office at Bosmansrust

This information did not help in solving the riddle. The 1922 Transvaal Automobile Club map book, Fig.2, shows the environs around Wolmaransstad. About 16 km to the east of Wolmaransstad lay Witpoort and Bosmansrust, the latter with a PO and a telephone service in 1922. Volume 4 of the *Putzel Encyclopaedia* lists three offices in the Z.A.R./Transvaal with the name Witpoort. Two were in the vicinity of Middelburg and Heidelberg towns. The third office was near Wolmaransstad. It was listed in the 1899 PO Circular (POC) that a Postal Agent was appointed in July, but no longer listed in the 1900 POC. As an aside, this ward is famous for the first European baby born in the Z.A.R. in 1823 at the Methodist mission near Witpoort. Still the riddle was not solved. A Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk congregation was established in 1888 and the centenary volume *Gemeente Bosmansrust 1888 – 1988* by Ds C.J.S. van Niekerk provided valuable insight into the life of the early church and the village. The ward was named Maquassi, although the church was established on the farm Witpoort in later Kerkstraat. For this reason the congregation was referred to as Witpoort.

During the early turbulent activities in the amalgamation of church denominations there were continuous changes in names. A full understanding of the changes could not be made as minutes of the early church council meetings were lost. By 1898 some semblance of order was established in the church. One source indicated that the church building at Witpoort was exchanged on 20 April 1891 to G.J.Bosman for erf 327 at Wolmaransstad. Bosman was the owner of the farm where the church was located, and he undertook the postal services at the town Bosmansrust which had been established. Church activities came to a halt with the declaration of war on 11 October 1899. The first church council meeting after the Anglo Boer War was held on 24 January 1903. The status quo of the names was confirmed in 1951 with the name of the congregation as Bosmansrust, the town Witpoort, and the post office Bosmansrust. The date of Fig.1 of 16JUN00 fits into the pattern.

The Bosmansrust postal agency was established before the war, and the date was several months before the British occupation. Furthermore, from the confusion with the names, it is speculated that the central post office administration initially selected Witpoort as the name, which was published in the POC, but by the time the date stamp was manufactured the name had been corrected. According to the *Putzel Encyclopaedia* Bosmansrust was opened on 23.3.1903, which ties in with the social activities. Although Putzel indicated that the office was still operational in 1986, the office was closed on 28.2.1992.

A listing of date stamps used at Bosmansrust is given in Table 1. Three of five date stamps in use at Bosmansrust/Bosmansrus are shown in Fig.3.

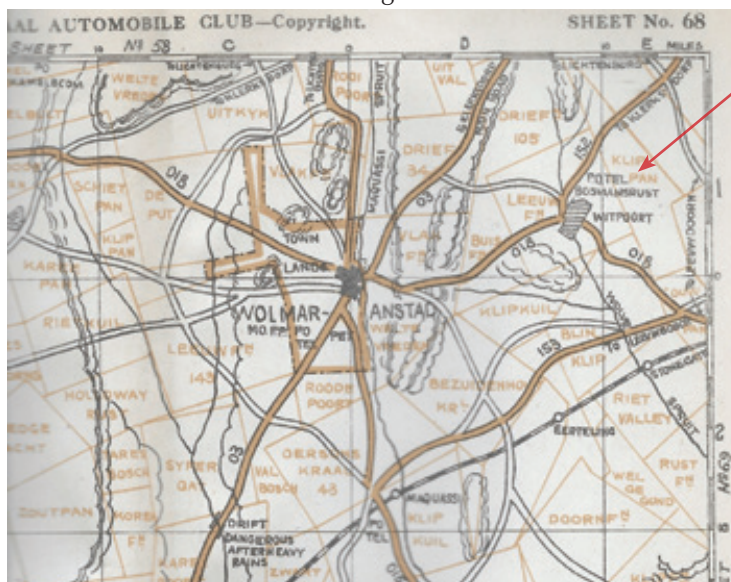


Fig.2: 1922 Map of Wolmaransstad and environs.

Date stamp	Earliest recorded date	Latest recorded date
Fig. 1 Z.A.R.	16 JAN 00	
Fig. 3a	8 DEC 1905	23 AUG 1953
Fig. 3b	5 VIII 59	11 VI 62
34 mm Type II relief	5 * 63	
Fig. 3c	8 V 70	28 II A 92

Table 1. Listing of date stamps used at Bosmansrust / Bosmansrus office



Fig.3: Images of date stamps referred to in Table 1.

From the discussion it is clear that Bosmansrust was established in the Z.A.R. shortly before the outbreak of the AB War. Acknowledgements are due to Morgan Farrell and Bas Payne for the initial discussions, and to Nándor Sarkady, Archivist of the *Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk in Pretoria*, for guidance and input.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT WHEN STUDYING POSTAL HISTORY

The Cape of Good Hope postal history has been studied in depth since the mid-1970s by a number of students amongst whom we count Frescura, Nethersole, Putzel, Goldblatt and amongst the younger generation we find Bührmann, Cronje, Carter and Geyer. After more than 50 years one would expect that most material has been studied, including material that became available on the market. Material from small and short lived offices may still not have been discovered. However, great was our surprise when a cover (Fig.4) with a new Bedford date stamp was recently discovered by Hendrik Geyer. This was despite that Bedford was an active community and had several date stamps. Thanks are due to Hendrik for sharing this find with the Phun column readers.

The cover was dispatched from Alice to Aliwal North on Christmas Day as shown by the Dated Oval Town Handstamp of 25 DEC 1878. The four pence duty was cancelled by a triangular obliterator. The route was via King Williamstown (single circle with name top and bottom of 26 DE), Fort Beaufort (single circle name top and bottom 27 DE, on reverse not shown) and Bedford (single circle bare at base 28 DE). There is no receipt date stamp. The find is the Bedford date stamp which is different from the later (1903 to 1924) single circle with name from 10 to 2 o'clock. At the base of the date stamp there appeared to be a "+", but it is off-center, and it is not a Cape style and is presumed to be dirt. The date is during the period when single circle bare at base date stamps were being issued.

Finally, the date stamp fits perfectly in the gap between the Dated Oval latest recorded date of 1877 and the following 8 to 4 o'clock single circle earliest date 1882. The conclusion is that this is a new find. The cover also had an earliest recorded date of the Fort Beaufort date stamp.



Fig.4: Cover dispatched from Alice via King Williamstown, Fort Beaufort (not shown) and Bedford (new find) to Aliwal North (Geyer).

During the research for further information another bare at base Adelaide date stamp was found on the Aab website. This date stamp is shown for Adelaide, a neighboring town as Fig.5. This date stamp is 16 months later than the Bedford one. Again the time line fits perfectly as there is a date gap from 1878 to 1892 for Adelaide date stamps. It is heartening to find two uncommon new finds.



Fig.5: Single circle bare at base date stamp of Adelaide

In hierdie uitgawe van die Phun rubriek word drie nuwe datumstempels en 'n nuwe vroegste datum van gebruik bespreek. Die eerste stempel is van Bosmansrust in die Z.A.R voor die Anglo-Boere oorlog. Aanvanklik is die naam Witpoort toegeken deur poskantoor owerhede, maar navorsing van kerkraadsnotules voor 1900 het bewys dat Bosmansrust die korrekte naam is wat tot 1992 gebruik is. Die ander twee enkelringstyl stempels is van Bedford and Adelaide in die Kaap. Albei pas mooi in die 1878 tot 1880 tydvak. Van dieselfde korrespondensie is 'n vroegste nuwe datum van Fort Beaufort gevind.

NATIONAL STAMP SHOW MARPEX 2024

9 to 13 July 2024

Will be hosted by the Maritzburg Philatelic Society



Venue: Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg.

Entries close: 31 May 2024. Delivery of Exhibits to Organising Committee: 9 July 2024.

Congress: 12 July 2024.

Contact: John Handman - john@radium.co.za or André du Plessis - pfsastamps@gmail.com

The Organising committee is currently in negotiations with Alex Haaimann from the USA to exhibit his highly esteemed international exhibition Clash of Empires at the Stamp show. This exhibit covers the Anglo Zulu War in KZN during 1879.

Please participate and support the exhibition.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA ILLUSTRATED STAMP VARIETIES

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Inauguration of the Voortrekker Monument, 1949

This series of three, the first Union of SA bilingually inscribed stamps, was issued to commemorate the opening ceremony of the Voortrekker Monument at Pretoria on 16 December 1949.

All three denominations were designed by W. H. Coetzer, the South African artist, with J. Prentice contributing the lettering.

The stamps were on sale from December 1949 to 31 January 1950.

The design measured 37,5 x 21,5 mm, with perforation 15 x 14. The sheets were of 120 stamps (20 rows x 6) with an arrow at the centre of each margin. Four-figure red sheet numbers were on the right margin as were the cylinder numbers, at the end of the 20th row.

Cylinder numbers: 1d. - No. 12; 1½d. - No. 21 and 3d. - No. 8.

UHB 108, 109 and 110



Magenta to Violet-lake
UHB 108
(SG 131) (SASCC 130)



Bluish green
UHB 109
(SG 132) (SASCC 131)



Steel blue
UHB 110
(SG 133) (SASCC 132)

Contrary to the typical way of collecting Union of SA stamps in bilingual pairs, these stamps can be collected in singles due to bilingual printing.

SELECTED VARIETIES

As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB)

UHB 108 - 1d.

<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Number of small dots in top left corner (ex Row 2/5) UHB 108 - V1</p>	<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Flaw in 'F' of AFRIKA (ex Row 5/3) UHB 108 - V2</p>	<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>White mark below top frame midway between wagon and tip of branch (ex Row 8/1) UHB 108 - V3</p>
--	--	--

<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>'V' shaped mark at left of wagon (ex Row 16/5) UHB 108 - V4</p>	<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>White dot inside wagon (ex Row 7/1) 108 - V3*</p>
--	--

*Note: This variety, V3 ex Row 7/1, is listed in all three previous editions of the UHB but not in the 1986 edition, where it is replaced by the variety described above ex Row 8/1.

UHB 109 - 1½d.

<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p><i>Image required</i></p> <p>Break in inner left frame line near the bottom (ex Row 1/4) UHB 109 - V1</p>	<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Spot on Monument (ex Row 5/4) UHB 109 - V2</p>
--	---

UHB 110 - 3d.

<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Blue spot on mountain at left of stamp (ex Row 1/2) UHB 110 - V1</p>	<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>White spot over 'SO' of SOUTH (ex Row 3/2) UHB 110 - V2</p>	<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Spot on bottom right-hand edge of Bible (ex Row 18/5) UHB 110 - V3</p>
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<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Break in 'S' of SUID (ex Row 19/1) UHB 110 - V4</p>	<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>White dot above 'K' of AFRIKA (ex Row 19/2) UHB 110 - V5</p>
<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Dot at left of woman's skirt (ex Row 20/1) UHB 110 - V6</p>	<p>BILINGUAL</p> <p>Joined paper UHB 110 - V7</p>

Reference:

- SJ Hagger. 1986. *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961: Handbook catalogue, Definitive Issue*, pp 185 – 86.



Can You Assist?

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

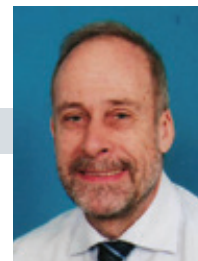


Fig.1.

The illustrated cover, which is stained by ink, is addressed to Captain W.F. Owen of HMS *Leven*. It bears no postal marks and includes the inscription *"this letter not to be opened untill well known that I shall never return."* On the front of the cover, someone has written in pencil '1824', but a side flap contains an aged and partly illegible pencil note dated 1823. Nothing further is written in ink on the reverse or flap of the cover but for an inaccurate mathematical calculation. The cover raises several questions, not least of which concerns the identity of the person who addressed the cover and wrote the emotional inscription.

HMS *Leven* was a British naval sloop that was built in Ipswich and launched in December 1813. Initially employed as a warship, in August 1818, she was transferred to the Royal Navy's Survey Service, in which capacity she was captained by William Fitzwilliam Owen. In August 1821, Owen was instructed to map the coast eastward from the Cape of Good Hope, and soon thereafter to survey the entire eastern coast of Africa as well as southern Arabia, and Madagascar. During the course of his work, Owen visited Cape Town several times, often in order to recruit new crew members to replace those who had unfortunately died from tropical diseases. It was on one of these visits that he met a young man by the name of William Threlfall.

Threlfall was a Wesleyan missionary. He came to South Africa in 1821 and preached for the 1820 settlers in Albany and the Grahamstown district. He felt an intense desire to preach to the natives and in August 1823, he accepted an offer from Owen to take him to Delagoa Bay (Mozambique), where he would be able to make contact with some of the scattered tribes along the coast. Within a few weeks of his arrival, Threlfall contracted the 'Delagoa fever' (malaria). He suffered fever and dysentery for over eight months and was *"at the point of Death, reduced to a skeleton"* when he was advised by a doctor at the Portuguese fort that his only hope of recovery was to spend two or three weeks at sea, away from the disease-ridden coast. Although desperate to leave, Threlfall was considered a health risk and turned away by the captains of the first two ships that visited Delagoa.

The third ship was the *Nereid*, an English south sea whaler captained by Giles Wade. Threlfall had purchased the freedom of two young slaves from the Portuguese, and Captain

Wade was impressed by the willingness of these boys to accompany and take care of Threlfall on the voyage. Wade agreed to take Threlfall on condition that he remained in his cabin throughout the voyage, and that he would go ashore at the first inhabited land they sighted, which was likely to be either Port Natal or St Augustine's Bay in Madagascar. Due to the prevailing winds and the incapacity of the crew, the *Nereid* did not make landfall until it arrived in Table Bay on 12 April 1824. The following notice which was displayed two days later in the Commercial Room, Cape Town, documented the ship's arrival:

"She put into Delagoa for water, and having obtained a supply, took in the Rev. W. Threlfall, then very ill, and departed. It was soon ascertained that every individual who had been on shore had caught the fever, and before night, the crew were unable to work the vessel. The helm was tied a-lee, and she was committed, under God, to the mercy of the winds and waves. In this condition she appeared off the Cape, and being seen at a distance in distress, was brought into the bay by a government boat. During the passage, eleven of the crew have died, beside the first and third mates: the captain is delirious; the Rev. W. Threlfall is only just alive; and the remnant of the crew are unable to leave their hammocks. She is placed under quarantine for six weeks; and no communication is allowed between her and the town."

The initial period of quarantine was fixed at forty-five days, which caused Threlfall considerable grief. After he had endured seven days' quarantine, Threlfall wrote a letter to the Mission House in Barrack Street which in part reads:

"My dear Brethren

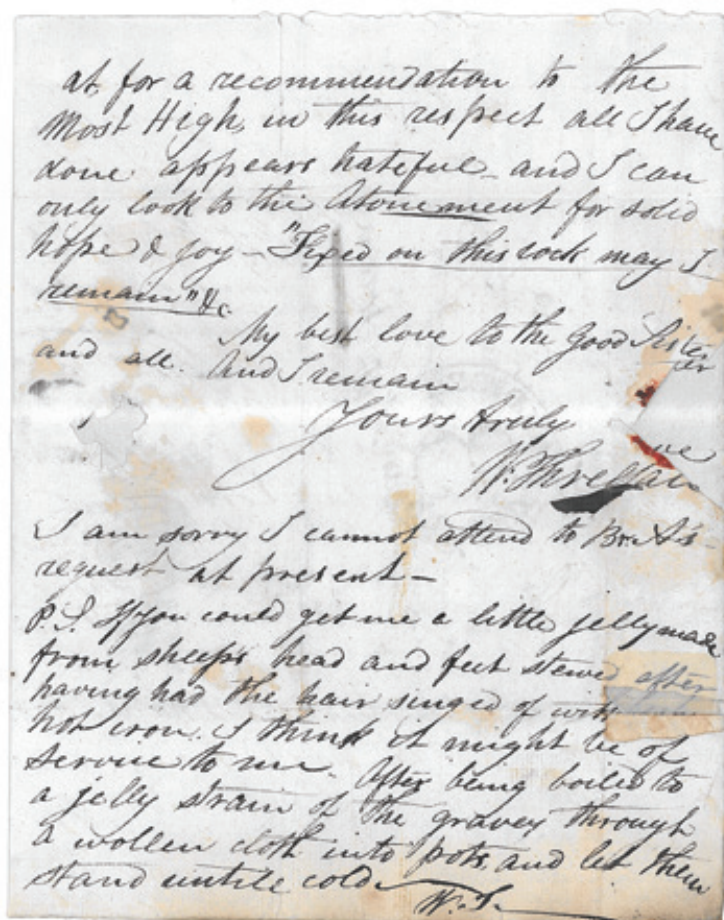
For this two or three days I have been getting worse. The pains in my abdomen and loins has increased. Sunday and yesterday I had touches of the ague.

Last night I suppose I have been up once in every half hour to ease myself. I have a very painful griping in my bowels this morning and hardly know how I shall get the day over. May the Lord give me patience. If we don't obtain liberty from quarantine very soon, that I may have access to the Faculty, I think it will go very hard with me. But don't let me grieve you. You will do better without me should it seem good for the Lord so to direct.....

If I cannot be got off Q(uarantine), and continue to grow worse, I should like one of you to come on Q(uarantine) too and see my end. This is one of the most painful relapses I have had since I had the first fever and I cannot see how it will end

P.S. If you could get me a little jelly made from sheep's head and feet stewed after having had the hair singed with a hot iron, I think it might be of service to me. After being boiled to a jelly strain of(f) the gravey through a woollen cloth into pots, and let them stand until cold."

Each day, a small boat visited the *Nereid* to deliver food and water, and Threlfall's letter was given to one of the crew who passed it to the port-captain. The letter was then splashed with a disinfectant liquid (probably a mixture of vinegar and wine), and personally delivered by the port-captain to Barrack Street.



It is, I believe, the only known example of a cover disinfected at Cape Town in the nineteenth century. As for Threlfall, he survived the fever and shivering fits associated with ague.

He was released from quarantine four weeks after writing this letter, and soon thereafter resumed his missionary work in South Africa. (Further information about this cover is included in my feature 'William Threlfall's Disinfected Letter' included in *The SA Philatelist* for August 2010.)

At left is an extract from Threlfall's letter. The handwriting appears similar to that on the above cover addressed to Captain Owen, which raises the question: Was Threlfall the person who addressed this cover to Captain Owen? I should perhaps add that this letter and the cover were purchased from different and unconnected sources. Any readers who are interested in handwriting analysis are invited to communicate their views to the editor.

Fig.2: An extract from Threlfall's letter.



An update on the Frama Labels

published in *The SA Philatelist* in the February 2024 issue
by Trefon Katakuzinos, East Rand Philatelic Society



Having read the article on *The Frama Labels Of South Africa and Southwest Africa/Namibia* - which was very interesting but very condensed as there's a lot of information not given about the different papers used as well as numerous errors that were printed by the various Frama machines in operation at the time, ([possibly a further article on the subject?](#)).

I would like to comment on the list of places with the numbers of the Frama machines.

This is the basic list of machines that were installed however many of the machines were subsequently moved to different location due to underusage.

There appears to have been five Machines that were moved to new locations between 1987 and 1991.

- Machine P.002 - originally installed in Pretoria on 23.03.1987, then was moved to Potchefstroom University on 21.05.1990.
- Machine P.012 - originally installed in Bellville on 15.03.1988, then was moved to Parow on 13.02.1991.
- Machine P.013 - originally installed in Claremont on 15.03.1988, then was moved to Groote Schuur Hospital on 13.02.1991.
- Machine P.013 - again moved from Groote Schuur Hospital to Howard Place on 13.04.1992.
- Machine P.017 - originally installed in Krugersdorp on 15.03.1988, then moved to Auckland Park on 04.05.1990.

Also, during this period 1987-1994 several of the machines were moved and used during the National Philatelic Exhibitions held around the country.

- Johannesburg 100 6-11 October 1986
Machine P.001 from Sunnyside Pretoria was used.
- Paarl 300 16-19 September 1987
Machine P.005 from DF Malan Airport was used.
- Pietermaritzburg 150 22-27 November 1988
Machine P.008 from Pietermaritzburg was used.
- Wanderers 101 6-9 September 1989
Machine P.028 from Jan Smuts Airport was used.
- Stamps 150 1-4 August 1990
Machine P.029 from Jan Smuts was used.
- Cape Town 9-12 October 1991
Machine P.013 from Groote Schuur Hospital was used.
- Pretoria 92 8-12 October 1992
Machine P.027 from Eastgate was used.
- eThekweni 18-22 August 1993
Machine P.027 from Durban was used.
- Benoni 94 20-22 October 1994
Machine P.027 Eastgate was used.

References

- Devine, T. 1995. *List of Frama machines. The SA Philatelist*, April:47.
- Van Rensburg, F. 1996. *List of Frame Machines used at National Philatelic Exhibitions. The SA Philatelist*, February:3.



The Royal Canadian Field Artillery's Road to Mafeking in the Second Anglo - Boer War, 1899-1902

by Dr Joachim Frank, RDPSA FRPSL



In the public perception, the siege of Mafeking is one of the Second Anglo-Boer War's more memorable events. The Royal Canadian Field Artillery (RCFA) played an important part raising the siege.

Soon after the departure for South Africa of the Royal Canadian Regiment (First Contingent) in October 1899, requests were made for a second Canadian Contingent. British troops were encircled at Mafeking, Kimberley and Ladysmith, reverses which were avidly followed throughout the British Empire.

The British Government requested assistance from Canada, as well as the other Dominions. By 21 December 1899 the Canadian Government informed the Colonial Office that it would send a brigade of three batteries of field artillery, each of six field guns, three squadrons of mounted rifles and a squadron of scouts, as well as a contingent of 23 artificers. The RCFA contingent consisted of the 'C', 'D' and 'E' Batteries, commanded by Lt. Col. Drury.

The second Contingent, with equipment and horses, was to be transported to South Africa by the *Montezuma*, *Laurentian* and *Pomeranian* on 17 January 1900. Unfortunately, when the *Momezuma* arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, from New Orleans, it was found to have seven cases of typhoid on board and had to be replaced.

The Elder-Dempster Line's *RMS Milwaukee* was chartered as a replacement and hurriedly converted to a troopship.



While the 'D' and 'E' Batteries left from Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 20 January 1900, on the *Laurentian*, the 'C' Battery followed on the *Milwaukee* on 21 February 1900. There was ample time during the refurbishment of the *Milwaukee* to provide pictorial writing paper, including the ship's picture, for the contingent being transported to South Africa (Fig.1).

The *Milwaukee* reached Cape Town on 21 March, but had to wait in its roadstead for four days before the troops could disembark. Port congestion was the problem, an eyewitness recounting that there were more than one hundred ships in port at times. The pilot boat conveyed mail to the post office before the passengers could land.

Fig.2.

Figure 2 shows a Wilson patriotic cover, from Trooper N. Neudick and authorised by the Commander, dated 22 March 1900 by the Cape Town Base Office postmark and with a red Canadian Contingent cachet of the next day. It has a Stouffville backstamp.

The contingent eventually disembarked on 26 March and was encamped on Green Point Common, Cape Town.

The 'D' and 'E' Batteries were sent to join General Parson's Column in the Carnarvon-Kenhardt district of the western Cape Colony, regarded as 'rebel chasers'. The 'C' Battery of six guns and sixty-one men was initially sent to Stellenbosch (2).

Col. Robert Baden-Powell had been sent to Rhodesia in July 1899 to raise the Rhodesian and Bechuanaland Regiments to protect the borders of these territories in the increasingly hostile political climate. The Rhodesian regiment was commanded by Col. Plumer.

In September 1899 Baden-Powell left for Mafeking, taking the Bechuanaland Regiment of 700 men, under Col. Hore, with him. Here he was besieged by a Boer force, commanded by Gen. Piet Cronje from 13 October 1899.

As Mafeking was a strategically important town on the Cape to Bulawayo, Rhodesia, railway line, it was considered vital to raise the siege expeditiously by means of southern and northern approaches.

Col. Plumer's Rhodesian Regiment was augmented by the British South African Company funded Rhodesian Field Forces, made up of volunteers from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Its artillery support was to be provided by the RCFA's 'C' Battery, as requested by Sir Frederick Carrington, commander of the Rhodesian Field Force. The 'C' Battery marched back from Stellenbosch to Cape Town on 14 April 1900, embarking on the *Colombian* for Beira the next day. There was a stopover at Durban en route on 17 April. A stampless cover to Canada (Fig.3), from Gr. W.C. Laidlaw, postage no longer being required after 24 February 1900, has a Durban 18 April backstamp, a red London transit mark and a Canadian 'FR(EE)' strike. The Kingston, Ont. receiver was applied to the reverse on 23 May 1900.



A further stampless cover, Fig.4 is endorsed "On servis/ stamps not avibale" (sic), / S.S. Colombian "and was apparently handed to someone on the ship for posting on its return voyage. It has a black Durban 'Paquebot' strike denoting that it entered the mails there, and Natal 'T' and '5 C' tax marks which were deleted in Canada. There is a Durban 30 April 1900 backstamp, as well as the red London 25 MY 00 transit mark and a Hamilton JL. 4 carrier mark.

The Battery reached Beira, Portuguese East Africa, on 21 April 1900, to set off on a 1,000-mile campaign across southern Africa to reach Mafeking. The Portuguese authorities had declared the Beira-Salisbury railway line reserved for the exclusive use of the 'C' Battery. They entrained for Marandellas via Bamboo Creek and Umtali, on 26 April.

Steinhart recorded having seen a cover sent from Beira to Canada by a member of the 'C' Battery, but no details are available.



Fig.4.

Umtali backstamp records that it arrived on MY 4/00 and was sent forwards via Beira. The franking is the 4d rate to overseas destinations introduced on 1 April 1900. The Port Dover receiver is dated JU 19/00.

Lieut L.E.W. Irvine, 'C' Battery R.C.A., Rhodesian Field Force, also wrote home from Marandellas (Fig.6). This vandalised, but probably unique, cover bears the remaining three 1d Rhodesian stamps of the double overseas rate of 8d, the other five stamps having apparently been excised. However, it is the only Rhodesian 'C' Battery cover the writer has recorded with the 'Canadian/South Africa' cachet, dated May 22 1900 in this instance, proving that it was sent by the sea route via Beira as well, and has a Toronto JU 19/00 backstamp.



Fig.3.

The journey of men, horses, guns and stores was made in open cattle trucks on the narrow-gauge railway to Bamboo-Creek, P.E.A., for some sixty miles. Here they transferred to trains with more comfort. A brief stop at Umtali, Rhodesia, enabled the men to purchase essentials.

Rail travel from Umtali to Marandellas, headquarters of the Rhodesian Field Force, commenced on 27 April and took 84 hours. Here the volunteers learnt that they were on their way to assist with the relief of Mafeking, via the Bulawayo route.

A cover from Gunner H.L. Stringer shown in Fig.5, 'C' Battery, R.C.A. Rhodesian Field Forces from Marandellas.

There is no numeral for the day in the Marandellas datestamp, but an



C. Miller (1993).

From Marandallas the unit was transported to Bulawayo by the Zeederberg Company's coaches, while the field guns were hauled by teams of mules. It was escorted by the Queensland Mounted Infantry, as the authorities feared reprisals from the Matabele for "*Carrington's slaughter of their people in the Matabele rebellion*" of 1896.

The 'C' Battery remained in Bulawayo for two days, restocking supplies and equipment. To date the only recorded mail from the battery at Bulawayo is the reply portion of a Mashonaland reply paid postcard endorsed 'Matabeleland', cancelled 8 MEI 1900 (Fig.7).

Dutch cancelling equipment was used in Bulawayo for several days in March/May 1900 (4). There is a Montreal JUL. 2 00 receiving cancel on the front.



Fig.5.



Fig.6.

Dated 7 May 1900. Bombardier B. Marling writes "*Just arrived today. Off Wednesday to Mafeking to join Plumer's relief column. All well, no sickness to speak of, no horses lost... Escort of Queenslanders, rattling fine chaps. We hope to relieve Mafeking*".

The 'C' Battery entrained for the 400 mile journey from Bulawayo to Oorsi, Bechuanaland, on 9 May 1900. The village was forty miles short of Plumer's main camp at Sefetili, which the 'C' Battery reached on 15 May.

The northern force subsequently moved to join Col. Mahon's southern flying column of one thousand men on the Molopo River for the assault on the Boer force besieging Mafeking. After an intense artillery battle the town was relieved on 17 May 1900.

The 'C' Battery had accomplished its task and remained with Col. Plumer's force for the duration of its Boer War service.

This article endeavours to record the postal history of the RCFA's '*Rhodesian Campaign*' as comprehensively as possible with items from the author's collection. He would be pleased to hear from readers able to add items of interest or comments at frankfam2@gmail.com

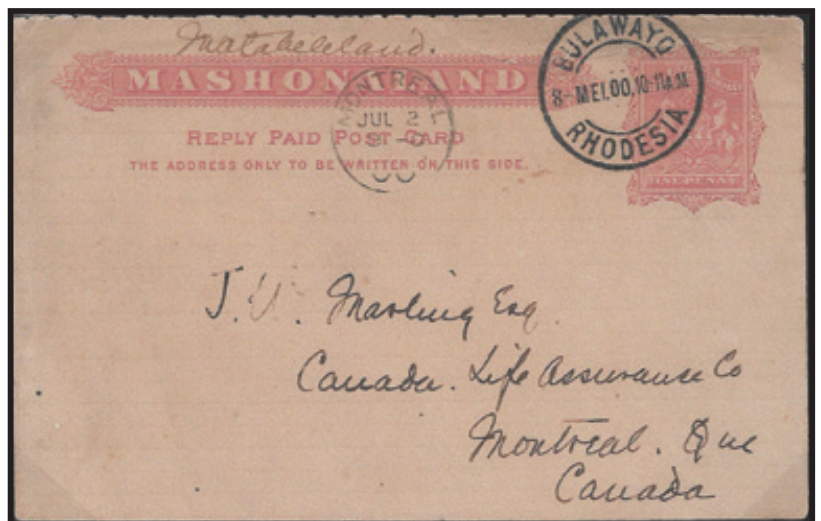
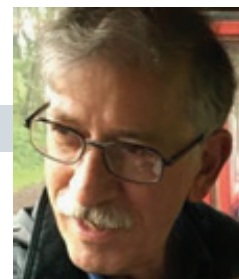


Fig.7. REFERENCES:

1. Miller, C. (1993) - *Painting the Map Red. Canada and the South African War, 1899-1902.*
2. Striling, J. (1990) - *The Colonials in South Africa 1899-1900.*
3. Steinhart, A.L. - *A Canadian Boer War Cover from Rhodesia.*
4. Dann, H.C. (1940) - *The Romance of the posts of Rhodesia, B.C.A. and Nyasaland.*
5. Drysdall, A. (2000) - *Rhodesia's Role in the second Anglo-Boer War.*



Union Revenue Stamps During the Inter-Provincial Period

by Giovanni Palazzo – ex Natal, now the Macclesfield Philatelic Society in the UK

The Union of four separate states in Southern Africa (the Cape Colony, the Orange River Colony, Transvaal and Natal) was effected on 31 May 1910.

Old postal and revenue regulations remained in force for fifteen months after Union. Most of the uniting Provinces had large stocks of Revenue stamps, and on 18 August 1910 the new Union Government gazetted an encouragement for joint, or inter-provincial use as a mark of the new unity forged between the four States. In other words, each Colony (hereafter to as Provinces) was authorised to continue to use Colonial Revenue Stamps within the Union boundary. The first revenue stamps for the Union were not issued until 1 September 1913. Until this happened the revenue stamps of the constituent colonies continued in use; they continued to be valid until demonetised on 1 April 1914. Specialist collectors in this field divide this interesting period into four distinct groups:



a) The Early Inter-Provincial, also known as the Unofficial period which includes the inter-provincial use of revenue stamps of the constituent Colonies after 31 May 1910 but before 17 August 1910 when such use was authorised. The Government Gazette authorising this usage (No.349 of 15 August 1910) was in fact not published until 18 August.



b) The true Inter-Provincials. The period of use of stamps from all the constituent Colonies authorised by Government Notice 349 which remained in force from 28 August 1910 until 31 March 1914 throughout the Union.



c) The Post-Interprovincial Period. From 1 September 1913, when the first issue of Revenue stamps for the Union was released until 31 March 1914 which was the last day of validity for the colonial stamps. During this period colonial revenue stamps are seen used alone or in combination with Union stamps. Mixed usage documents form attractive evidence of the new country and could be regarded as 'Super-Interprovincials'.



d) Revenue stamps of the four constituent Colonies used within the original Colony do not, we suppose, merit the descriptive title of 'inter-provincial' usage, even if used during the period under discussion; perhaps 'Provincials' would be a better title, thereby avoiding a potentially misleading term.

Government Notice 1399 of 6 September 1913 announced the issue of adhesive revenue stamps for the Union of South Africa. In view of this it became necessary to demonetise and withdraw from circulation all prior issues. From 1 April 1914 the revenue stamps of the four former Colonies were no longer valid for usage, though they could be exchanged for current stamps until 15 March 1915. Holders of unused stamps then demonetised could apply to any Receiver of Revenue in the Union, provided that such application was made within the period provided for in sub-section (1)(a) of Section 4 of the Stamp Duty and Fees Act 1911, namely twelve months from the date of demonetisation. It should be noted that the many colonial issues which bore the inscription 'POSTAGE and REVENUE' were still valid for postage purposes until 31 December 1937.



An approximate guide list in order to establish the relative scarcity of these revenue stamps used inter-provincially (in the strictly sense) could be attempted, but they cannot always be claimed to be scarce. As supplies were running low before the introduction of the Union revenue stamps, a large number of Transvaal stamps were reprinted as a provisional measure. Hence these are more common than those of other colonial issues. That being said, however, the wide usage of inter-provincial revenue stamps in various combinations have made this an exceedingly attractive option to collectors. Some years ago, I was able to purchase, in Durban, a small lot of inter-provincial revenue material.

To my surprise I found that it contained a few 6d Union values,



used in combination with Cape Colony and also Transvaal stamps cancelled with the usual double oval crowned Cape canceller dated 21 and 30 August 1913 respectively, before the official issue date of 1 September 1913 (illustrated above).

How did this happen? A letter, dated 15 July 1913, from the Office of the Distributor of Stamps in Pretoria, was addressed to the Secretary of Finance proposing to commence the distribution of the new issue immediately, as the colonial issues were exhausted. The Distributor of Stamps specifically requested the use of the new 3d, 7d and £1 (grey blue) Union stamps. On 17 July the Secretary of Finance approved the proposal, and therefore these three values can be in theory be found used from about that date. The Secretary of Finance obviously had little choice, and by giving authority to use (even if only some) Georgian values before their official date of issue he created (in my opinion) another interesting little grouping. This could be called the Unofficial Period, comprising only three stamps used from 17 July to 31 August 1913. This will of course avoid changing the Inter-Provincial

and Post-Interprovincial periods as presently defined, while still leaving 1 September 1913 as the official date of issue for the new Union stamps.

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 - Dr. T. Berry and S. Vermaak. *Inter-provincial stamps of the Union of South Africa*, The Philatelic Federation of South Africa, 1965 pp 4-9
 - Wilhelm Grutter, March 1988 *The South African Philatelist*, Vol 64 No.3 p.60
 - Giovanni Palazzo. September 2001, *The Revenue Journal of Great Britain, Revenue stamps of the Union of South Africa*, Volume XII, Number 2, Whole Number 46, pp. 44-45.
- I am grateful to the following persons for assistance:
- Michael Wigmore - for information regarding the first issue of Revenue Stamps for the Union of South Africa.
 - John Dickson - for a discussion about the inter-provincial period.
 - Brian Trotter - for various discussion and informing regarding the Unofficial period and also inter-Provincial usage.
 - Rev. A. J. Draper - for many comments and help regarding this paper.
 - Clive Ackerman former editor of the Revenue Society of Great Britain for his help about many articles and including this one too.



NEW ISSUES

SPRINGBOK WORLD CHAMPIONS STAMP ISSUE errata and addenda

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

28 November 2023 – SPRINGBOK WORLD CHAMPIONS

The technical details of this issue appearing on page 23 of the February 2024 edition of *The South African Philatelist*, were based on those appearing in the Philatelic Services newsletter *What's News* dated January 2024 and the assumption that the same printer and paper used for the '2022 Road to Democracy' issue was used.

Now that I have acquired these stamps and Jan de Jong has examined uncut 'sheets' at Philatelic Services, his findings relayed in *Newsletter No. 418 of the RSA Stamp Study Group*, I wish to make the following corrections and additions:

Denominations: Standard Postage Rate (R5.95, from 2024-04-01 R6.30) and International Letter Rate (R14.10, from 2024-04-01 R 14.90)

(Note: the rates shown above are as they appear on the stamps)

Stamp size: 32 x 33mm

Sheetlet size: this is dependent on the accuracy of the guillotining – the examples that I have are: Standard Postage 94 x 147mm; International Postage 93 x 146mm. The sheetlets comprise six stamps in three rows of two separated by 5mm gutters.



Quantity: Standard Postage 100,000 sheetlets;
International Postage 30,000 sheetlets.

Printing sheet size: The Müller Martini 'Concepta' printing press utilises a continuous roll of paper 300mm wide. Proof sheets, trimmed to A4 size were provided, each comprising eight sheetlets in four rows of two.

First Day Cover: No. 8.140 of size 220 x 109mm of which 700 were produced. This and the canceller were designed by Thea Clemons.



The Queen's Chocolates

by Roger Porter, RDPSA Cape and Natal Study Circle



Fighting between Boer and British armies in South Africa had begun in October 1899, a war that became a drawn-out conflict until May 1902 when finally peace was signed. On 19 November 1899, Fleetwood I Edwards, Keeper of the Privy Purse to Queen Victoria, wrote from Windsor Castle to the Secretary of State for War, Marquis of Landsdown (Prime 2003), as follows:

'Dear Lord Landsdown -The Queen commands me to inform you of Her Majesty's desire to make some little personal present as soon as possible to each of the soldiers serving in South Africa. Her Majesty has decided upon sending Chocolate, which she is given to understand will be appropriate and acceptable. It will be packed for each man in a tin that has been specially designed for the occasion. The Queen hopes that you may be able to arrange for its conveyance and distribution.

*Believe me
Yours truly,'*

Possibly Queen Victoria wished to lift the morale of her soldiers fighting in the field by sending a Christmas / New Year gift of chocolate, a luxury item for many people in those days.

The Royal Warrant to supply chocolate and cocoa had been granted to Messrs Cadbury Brothers of Birmingham 35 years before. Contacted and requested to produce the bars of chocolate packaged in its own individual tin. This was a dilemma for Richard and George Cadbury. As they were Quakers, they were pacifists and therefore did not approve of war, but they did not want to refuse a request from the Queen! So as not to go against their principles, the brothers invited their rivals and fellow Quakers Joseph Fry & Sons of London and Bristol, and Joseph Roundtree & Co. of York to join forces to form a three-way partnership to complete the order and with no charge for the chocolates (BBC 2006).

Sir Francis Evans, Chairman of the Union Steamship Company offered on behalf of the company to convey the Chocolate free of charge to the Cape.

Her Majesty expressed her appreciation of the kind interest of the company in the matter in a letter dated January 3rd 1900. The first batch of tins sent to the Cape was 120,000 (each company producing 40,000 tins). A supplementary issue of 3000 tins was made later for officers and also for the men of the garrisons of Kimberley and Mafeking. The manufacture of the tin boxes was funded personally by the Queen.

The tin boxes were designed by Barclay and Fry Limited of Southwark, and had rounded corners for ease of storage in a soldier's knapsack. The design of the lid of the tin has a gold-coloured embossed picture of Queen Victoria's head on a red background. Her insignia and the words *South Africa 1900* are on either side, respectively.

The lid is inscribed 'I wish you a happy New Year' and signed 'Victoria' at the bottom (Fig.1).

Different firms were used by each chocolate manufacturer to supply the tins, resulting in variations in dimensions, shade of colouring and printing of the portrait medallion of the Queen. There were two different sizes, the tin with a gold-coloured rim measures 15 x 9 cm, and the blue rimmed tin is 16 x 8 cm. The three companies agreed that the tins would carry no brand name, but this did not please Her Majesty who wanted her army to know that she was sending them quality British chocolate. A compromise decision was that the name Cadbury would be on the interior packaging of the chocolate. Each tin box contained 8 ounces (a half-pound) of plain chocolate, the pieces individually wrapped in tinfoil, and covered by a layer of straw for protection from possible damage while being transported by sea to South Africa (BBC 2006). Thus each company supplied 25,000 lbs of chocolate free of charge.



Fig.1: Queen Victoria's gift of chocolates to her army in South Africa in 1900 were packed in a specially designed tin. The illustration shows a tin having a blue rim.

Some soldiers saved their tins, several with their complete contents, either as a souvenir or as a gift to their girlfriend, wife or mother. A few were sent through the Army Post Office back home. To date three parcel wrappings have been reported. The first appears on the cover of Peter Prime's *'British Army Postal Cancellations of the Anglo-Boer War 1899 to 1902'* (Fig.2). The second is a Zululand Parcel label (Solomon 2014). The third is illustrated as Fig.3. Postage paid on each is different that is, the first was 2s 8d and included registration, second 9d (not registered) entered the post at the civilian post office at Eshowe, and the third at 1s 6d included a registration fee.



Fig.2: Registered parcel cover made from the sleeve of a British Army uniform that contained the Queen's Chocolate box, cancelled Army Post Office 26 APR 1900 date stamp used by the 7th Brigade. Sent at 2s 8d postage.



Fig.3: Registered parcel cover endorsed 'Queen's Chocolate Box, with care' to England from Sgt Morey 1st Rifle Brigade 'On Active Service'. Cancelled dumb 'NFF' (Natal Field Force), Registered London 1 AP 00 and Margate 2 AP 00. Sent at 1s 6d postage.

The 1st Rifle Brigade took part in the battle of Hart's Hill on 24 February 1900, subsequently taking part in the relief of Ladysmith on the 28th. Sgt. Morey probably received the chocolates while stationed at Ladysmith in March 1900 or while the Tugela Heights battles were being fought earlier in February.

It's not clear as to when the boxes were dispatched or when exactly they arrived, although some time in January 1900 seems to be the date when the initial delivery arrived at the Cape. By the middle of May 1900, a request from a senior general in Natal, that boxes belonging to deceased soldiers be sent home to their relatives in free registered letter packets, was agreed to, with the War Office footing the bill.

Because the chocolate tin boxes were a gift from the Queen, many soldiers preserved their tins with the chocolate intact,

often posting them back home for safe-keeping. Private Fredrick Tucker wrote in his diary '

I finished my chocolate and felt satisfied with my day's work. The empty tin now became an object of interest, so I carefully wrapped it up and placed it in my haversack. I carried it during all the fighting my regiment was involved in until I had a chance to send it to England. I fear the box got a few knocks but it still remains the Queen's gift and much cherished.'

In exceptional cases the recipients did not even untie the ribbon round the packaging. The tins were so highly valued by their contemporaries that soldiers who were prepared to sell them could ask prices as high as £20.

An Army Order issued from Bloemfontein in April 1900 decreed that the tins were to be forwarded to officers and men who had been invalided home before they arrived, and to next of kin of those who had died. A more somber use for empty tins was also found for men who died in battle: some containing a few personal belongings were sent home to the fallen soldier's family. In this way, items such as a talisman, coins, jewelry, photos, letters or identity discs, made their way back home.

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STOP PRESS

It is with a heavy heart, that we share the sad news that Marge Viljoen closed her stamp album for the final time on 29 March 2024, in her apartment at the Jakaranda Retirement Village, Pretoria.

Marge made a long and valuable contribution to the promotion of philately in general. She inherited her love for stamps from her mother and further developed her expertise by working for Claude Malan. She was also a stamp dealer herself. She was well known for her collection of SWA stamps.

Not only did she share her knowledge and experience through stamp trading, but she also made a valuable contribution as a judge at various regional and club stamp exhibitions. She played an active role in various stamp clubs and study groups over the decades, sharing her passion for philately with a new generation by regularly attending meetings and sharing her knowledge. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to her family and friends in this difficult time.



7 February 1937 - 29 March 2024

We will miss her not only as a member of our community but also for her fascinating items and the way she shared her knowledge. Rest gently, beloved Marge. Your legacy in the world of philately will live on in the hearts of all whom you touched.

LE



Mauritius and the Ship Letters

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

By 1818, it was becoming clear that the packet service was not a success. The service was irregular and slow. The service to and from Mauritius was especially harmful to the island's inhabitants who depended upon trading for their livelihood. The Governor, R.T. Farquhar, issued a Proclamation on 1 October 1816 which effectively made Port Louis an open port so that ships of many nationalities could sail into the harbour and ensure that the island became a trading hub with the rest of the world. Eventually, the British Government accepted Farquhar's Proclamation in so far as it related only to Mauritius.

On 12 July 1819, a Ship Letter Act was passed by the British Parliament which repealed the postage regulations associated with the packet laws then prevailing, and instead permitted the Postmaster-General to receive a Sea Postage of 4d on every letter or packet of less than three ounces "*which shall be brought into Great Britain by any ship or vessel arriving from Ceylon, the Mauritius or any port within the limits of the Charter of the United Company of Merchants of England trading in the East Indies, or from the Cape of Good Hope.*"

The Act also allowed the master of every ship carrying mails the sum of two pence on every letter or packet delivered. With the passing of this Act, Mauritius was to be without a packet service for almost 30 years.

The problem of communicating with Europe loomed large in Mauritius at this time, and the sea route via the Cape was taking between 3½ and 4 months for a letter to reach Britain. A two-line handstamp reading MAURITIUS / POST OFFICE was introduced, but examination of letters from Mauritius at this time, suggests that a considerable amount of mail did not pass through the Post Office at Port Louis but was carried to England or France directly by ship and put into the post upon arrival in Europe. The clippers and other vessels of the East India Company still dominated shipping in the Indian Ocean but other private ships as well as H.M. Ships all carried mail when so requested.

Possibilities of getting mail from Mauritius to Europe via Bombay were now opening. Some Mauritian ship owners were eager to make a further effort to establish the use of steamers at sea. The prime mover in this venture was a Scotsman named Thomas Blyth who formed the Mauritius Steam Navigation Company in 1836. The first steamer operated by the new company was the paddle steamer, *Madagascar*. Her first voyage to Madagascar from Port Louis in November 1836 was a success, but Blyth soon sold the vessel to ship owners in Bombay.

By the early 1840s, letters were being sent from Mauritius to Bombay for transit overland to England and France. Another route soon developed: as an alternative to sending letters via the Cape, it was possible to send letters via Galle in Ceylon in the Steamers of the P & O service to Suez, and then overland. Assuming there was no delay in Galle, a letter by this route would arrive in Britain or Europe in about two months, a significant saving on the Cape route which took approximately four months.

Some letters show no Mauritian Post Office marking, and were carried by favour of the ship's captain and delivered to forwarding agents on arrival, often in Bombay.



Fig.1: 1851 Cover from Mauritius to London sent per the 'Mary Ellen' showing the scarce encircled PAID handstamp and rated at the '8' pence ship letter rate.



Fig.2: 1862 Letter addressed to Reunion, franked at the 4d ship letter rate, slashed with a knife and fumigated with vinegar because cholera was endemic in Mauritius at this time.

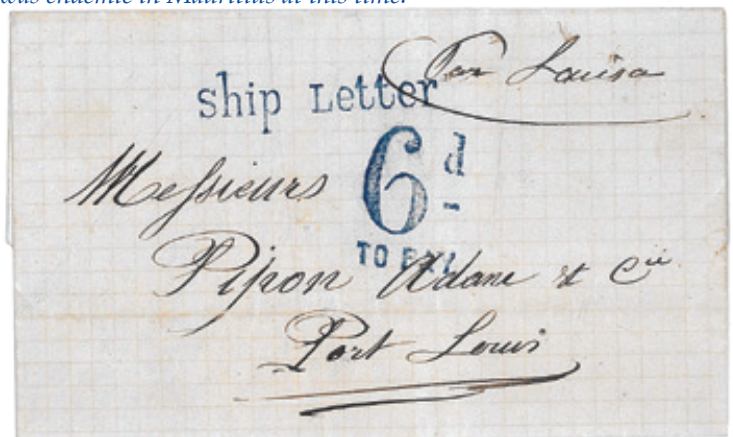


Fig.3: 1871 A scarce incoming letter from Tamatave in Madagascar showing handstamps 'ship letter' and '6d/TO PAY', both in blue.

Sources of Information

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- Ruffle, J.W.R., 1987. *Mauritius: Maritime Mail 1815-1868: Parts 1 and 2*, Indian Ocean Study Circle.



POSTAL RATES – VALID FROM 1 APRIL 2024

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



** Length, width and depth combined not to exceed 900mm nor the greatest dimension to exceed 600mm

*** Southern Africa comprises:
Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comores, Congo (Dem Rep), Congo (Peoples Rep), Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Réunion, Rwanda, Seychelles, eSwatini, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

New rates taken from Government Gazette No.50097, dated 2024/02/07.

Definitions				
Class of letter	Maximum thickness	Maximum mass	Maximum size	Minimum size
Small DL	5mm	50g	235 x 120mm	140 x 90mm
Medium B5	10mm	1kg	250 x 176mm	
Large B4	30mm	1kg	353 x 250mm	
Postcard	0.295mm	10g	235 x 120mm	140 x 90mm
Domestic Letter		New Rate R c	Old Rate R c	Increase %
Small DL		6.30	5.95	5.88
Medium B5		12.65	12.00	5.42
Large B4		15.45	14.65	5.46
Domestic Postcards: Same rates as letters.				
Registered letters, with insurance option (up to a maximum of R 2,000.00).				
Small DL	(6.30 + 37.70)	44.00	41.70	5.52
Medium B5	(12.65 + 37.70)	50.35	47.70	5.56
Large B4	(15.45 + 37.70)	53.15	50.25	5.77
Insurance fee				
	Up to R 100.00	Free	Free	
	Up to R 250.00	30.75	29.15	5.49
	Up to R 500.00	63.05	59.75	5.52
	Up to R 1,000.00	126.70	120.10	5.50
	Up to R 1,500.00	188.60	178.75	5.51
	Up to R 2,000.00	251.60	238.50	5.49
International (Air mail)	New Rate R c	Old Rate R c	Increase %	Maximum mass
Registration fee	59.65	56.55	5.48	
There is no insurance option for international letter post.				
Aerograms *	9.45	8.95	5.59	10g
Postcards – Airmail	12.75	12.10	5.37	10g
Postcards – Surface	7.75	7.35	5.44	10g
Airmail letters – Southern Africa***				
Small DL	11.50	10.90	5.50	50g
Medium B5	41.65	39.50	5.44	250g
Large B4	64.65	61.30	5.46	300g
Small packets (per 100g)**	36.65	34.75	5.47	2kg
Airmail letters – Rest of the World				
Small DL	14.90	14.10	5.67	50g
Medium B5	50.30	47.70	5.45	250g
Large B4	85.25	80.80	5.51	300g
Small packets (per 100g)**	64.50	61.15	5.48	2kg

* No enclosures permitted, maximum size 235 x 120mm

NATIONAL ONE-FRAME STAMP EXHIBITION

SAVPEX 2024

June 2024

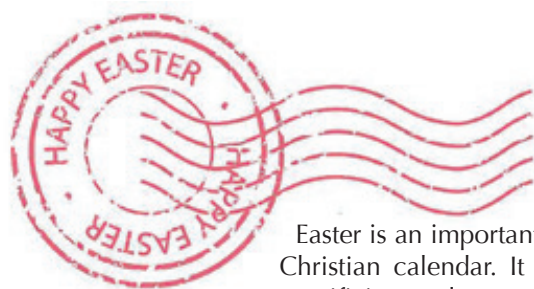
South Africa's Ninth Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX), a one-frame exhibition, proudly hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

- 30 April 2024. Receipt of Entry Form, Description and Payment.
- 25 May 2024. Receipt of Uploaded Exhibit.
- July 2024. Announcement of Results, exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website.

Please participate and support the exhibition.

Contact: Joof van der Merwe – josuav528@gmail.com

SOUTH AFRICAN VIRTUAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



Easter on Stamps

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

Easter is an important festival in the Christian calendar. It celebrates the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ which is at the heart of the Christian faith. It represents victory over death and sin. The word Easter comes from the pagan festival of the spring goddess Eostre. In the Old English calendar the month of April used to be called *Eosturmonath* (*Eostre Month*). Early Christianity adopted this festival for its own Easter holiday, which became synonymous with springtime and rebirth. Thus many of the symbols associated with Easter relate to a renewal and have taken on religious meaning. As springtime, in the northern hemisphere, is also associated with the Jewish tradition of Passover and the Christian tradition of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, many Easter symbols have roots in pagan, Jewish, and Christian history - including Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny. As ancient custom merged with Christianity, it is from these Eostre celebrations that we even get the word Easter.

Unlike Christmas, which always occurs on 25 December, the date on which Easter falls is movable. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon on or after 21 March - which is also the equinox. Thus Easter Sunday can fall anywhere between 22 March and 25 April. The complexity of this arrangement is to try and align the date of Easter with that of the Jewish Passover which, Christians believe, is when Jesus was crucified.

There are significant differences in portrayal of Easter on postage stamps. Many stamps are overtly religious in nature, featuring imagery associated with the Crucifixion of Christ, usually reproductions of religious paintings or art works (Fig.1).

Fig.1.



Fig.2. Eggs and the Easter Bunny. Some of these also have strong religious connotations.

THE CROSS

The cross is recognised as the universal symbol of Christianity as it represents the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the redeeming benefits of his Passion and death. The cross became prominent as it was a symbol used as an instrument

of execution throughout the Roman Empire, commonly for the worst criminals. Yet it was only during the Fourth Century, at the time Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, that the cross was seen as a symbol of Christianity

At Easter, the cross is displayed either empty (Fig.3) or strewn with flowers (Fig.4). The placing of flowers with the cross represents the resurrection and a renewal of life. It also represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter Sunday; from meditation on Jesus' death to celebration of his resurrection.



Fig.3.



Fig.4.

An empty cross, without a depiction of Christ, memorialises the Crucifixion while representing the triumphant defeat of death in the Resurrection.

The 'double' cross is known as a Patriarchal cross (Fig.5) and is used by Greek and Eastern European Orthodox churches. It is also known as the Cross of Lorraine. The origin of the double cross is unknown. The extra beam may have symbolised the power of the Byzantine emperors as in the 9th century this was a political symbol used by Byzantine clerks and missionaries. Alternatively, the first beam can represent the death of Jesus, and the second one his resurrection.

Fig.5.



THE PASCHAL LAMB

The Lamb (Figs.6 & 7) is seen as a symbolical representation of Christ, innocence and purity. The Lamb has a long history as a symbol of Easter.

In the New Testament, Jesus is called "the Lamb of God". He was sacrificed to redeem the sins of man and offer the possibility of redemption. As Jesus was crucified and rose to life again on Easter Day during Passover, a Jewish festival when lambs were sacrificed, the Lamb is shown alive and carrying a flag as a banner with a cross of victory over death. In the Christian tradition, the sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb is no longer practised. The figure of a Lamb carrying a cross dates back to the Vatican in the sixth century.



Fig.6.



Fig.7.

THE EASTER BONNET

As Easter signified a new beginning it was traditional to celebrate with new clothes (Figs.8 & 9) with an emphasis on the Easter bonnet. Hats were decorated with spring flowers, while others adorned them with artificial eggs, chicks and bunny rabbits. The tradition of Easter bonnets didn't come into fashion until 1933 and was made popular by the song *Easter Parade* by Irving Berlin:

*In your Easter bonnet
with all the frills upon it,
You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade.*

While the Easter bonnet was popularised by the traditional Easter parade in New York City, the tradition of new clothes at Easter has been traced back to the late 16th century.



Fig.8.



Fig.9.

EGGS

Originally a pagan symbol of fertility and rebirth, the Easter egg came to symbolise the crucifixion of Jesus. The eggshell symbolises the tomb in which Jesus's body was placed; opening the egg represents his rising from the dead (Fig.10).

Eggs were dyed red (Fig.11) by the early Church to symbolise the blood of Jesus during the resurrection.

This tradition continues today as part of the Orthodox Easter. As the tradition continued, eggs would also be painted with different Biblical scenes (Fig.12).



Fig.10.



Fig.11.



Fig.12.

CHICKENS

Chicks are associated with Easter because in pagan times they were signs of fertility and new life. As baby chicks are born by hatching from an egg (Fig.13), they symbolise new life and fertility. The early Christians adopted this meaning of 'new life' as it reflected the Resurrection. The chick breaking out its shell is a symbol for Jesus' resurrection.



Fig.13.

RABBITS

One theory for the origin of the Easter Bunny (Fig.14) comes from the pagan festival of Eostre. The goddess was traditionally represented by a rabbit (another symbol of fertility due to how quickly they reproduce).



Fig.14.



Fig.15.

The tradition of the Easter Bunny hiding eggs in a field for children to find on the morning of Easter Sunday dates back to 18th century German folklore (Fig.15). The 'Easter Bunny' became more popular when German and Dutch settlers took these folk stories over to the USA.

EASTER FLOWERS

Legend has it that the Easter Lily (Fig.16) (*Lilium longiflorum*) sprang from the ground around Jesus as he spent his final hours on the cross. It is said that when his perspiration hit the ground, a lily grew in that spot. From a religious perspective, the lily is associated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ symbolising purity and rebirth. As a result the flowers are often referred to as "white-robed apostles of hope." The shape of the Easter Lily is also said to represent a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus had risen and thus became a symbol of rebirth.

The fragrant flower emerges from a brown, stubby bulb that grows in the ground for three years before emerging with a white bloom. These three years in the ground echo the three days Christ spent in the tomb before his Resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Fig.16.

This symbolic tradition associates the flower with hope, purity, and rebirth. The Easter Lily is native to a few islands in the Japanese archipelago. In 1777, explorers brought some plants to England before taking them to Bermuda where they were cultivated on a large scale.



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ERRATA

2024 Philatelic Society of Johannesburg MEETING PROGRAMME

- Jan 17 : Africa and its islands
- Feb 21 : AGM and invited exhibits
- Mar 20 : Open Class, all categories and postal stationery
- Apr 17 : Anything relating in any way to the letters 'Q &/or R &/or S'
- May 15 : British Commonwealth
- Jun 19 : Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
- Jul 17 : Foreign, the art of philately and philately as art
- Aug 21 : Southern Africa
- Sep 18 : Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
- Oct 16 : My favourite (Maximum of one frame) and thematic exhibits
- Nov 20 : As You Like It

President: Clive Carr 083 634 1939 carr.clive@gmail.com
 Meeting : Monthly - third Wednesday at 16:00 (except Dec).

Preview of
National Exhibits,
World at war & back of
the book

Congress 2024:

**A REMINDER TO ALL SOCIETIES
TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR PFSA
AWARDS, INCLUDING FOR RDPSA AND THE
SKINNER CUP by the 10 JUNE 2024.**

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: The Commissioners report
Bucharest, Romania



17 to 20 April 2024.
 The SA Commissioner:
 Joof van der Merwe -
 josuav528@gmail.com

A CHALLENGE

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand PS.

Suggested solution to the challenge that appeared on page 13 of the February 2024 issue of SAP.
 No 'Comments' to the contrary were received, rather a request to offer clearer text of the descriptions.



- (1) 12 SEP 01 6 PM: GPO CAPE TOWN CAPE COLONY
- (2) (31) 13 SP 01: ALFRED DOCKS C.G.H.
- (3) 24 SP 01: ALFRED DOCKS C.G.H.
- (4) 27 SEP 01 1-30 PM: GPO CAPE TOWN CAPE COLONY
- (5) 'Lorenzo Marque': ms.rooi pen
- (6) 7 10 01 8-M: LOURENCO MARQUES
- (7) 'Lorenzo Marque': deurgehaal ligpers pen
- (8) 'Bombay or elsewhere': ms. ligpers pen
- (9) NO 9 01: ADEN
- (10) NO 14 01: ADEN
- (11) Geen aankomsstempel in BOMBAY (16/17 Nov. ?)
- (12) 23 NO 01: D.L.O. BOMBAY
- (13) 25 NO 01: BOMBAY 14 DESPATCH
- (14) 25 NO 01: BOMBAY DEP
- (15) "Not @ Bombay" : ms. blou kryt
- (16) 25 NO 01: D.L.O. BOMBAY
- (17) "Enquire w ships have go. lost": ms. pers pen
- (18) 26 NO 01 6.30PM: BOMBAY
- (19) 26 NO 01 10th (DEL) : FORT BOMBAY
- (20) 27 NO 01 : BOMBAY DEP
- (21) 27 NO 01 : BOMBAY 15(14?) DESPATCH
- (22) 5 DE 01: BOMBAY DEP
- (23) 5 DE 01: D.L.O. BOMBAY
- (24) "Ships name unknown D.L.O." : ms. pers pen
- (25) INCONNU / UNKNOWN
- (26) Onleesbaar: GPO CAPE TOWN CAPE COLONY

blue
crayon
unknown



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The South African Philatelist

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THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

volume 100:3. 984

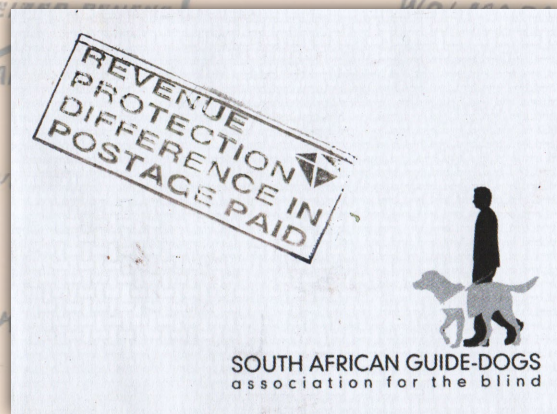
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1933 REGISTERED LETTER FROM MAFEKING TO WOLMARANSTAD (page 75)



Commissioner's Report (page 78)



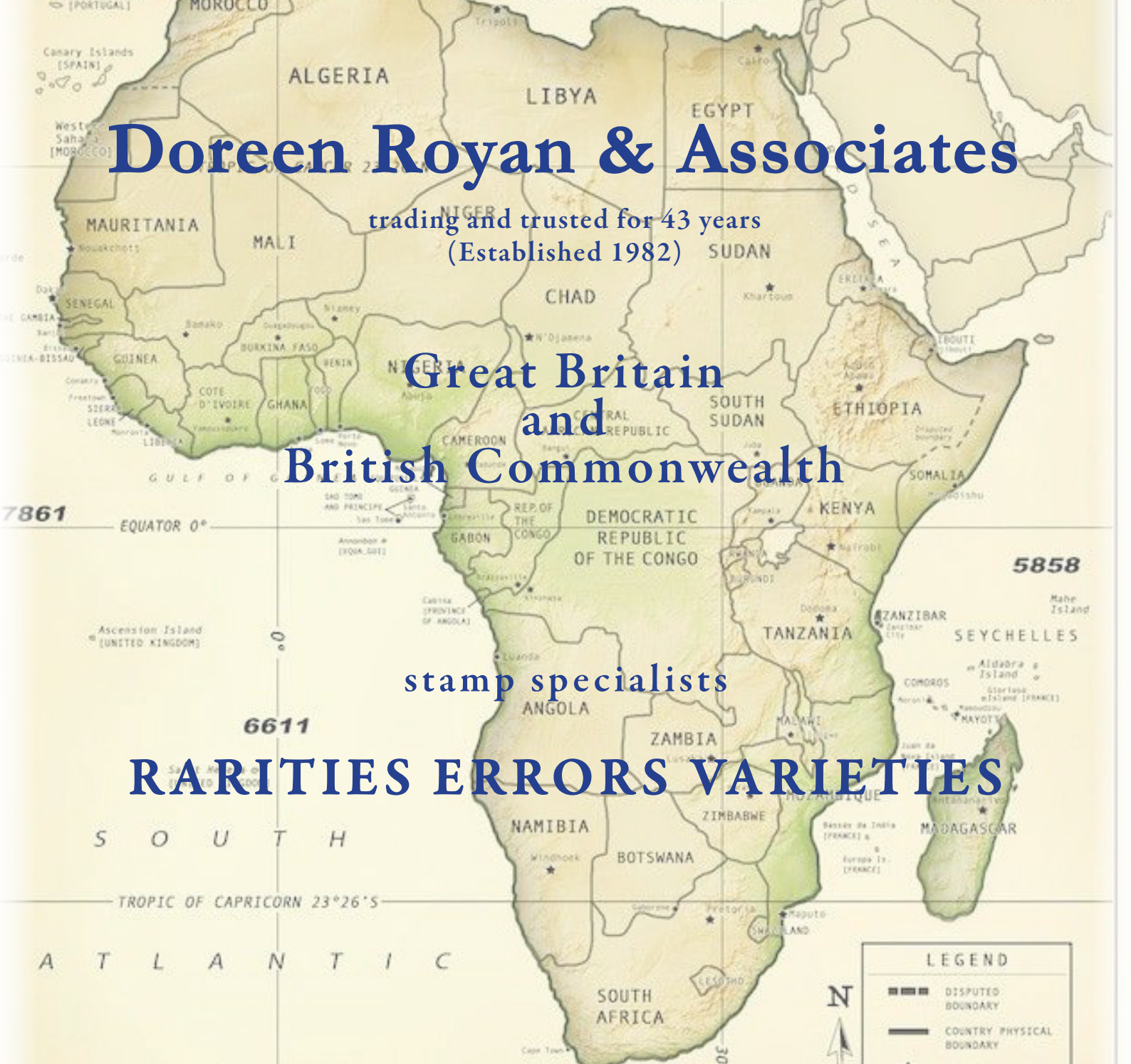
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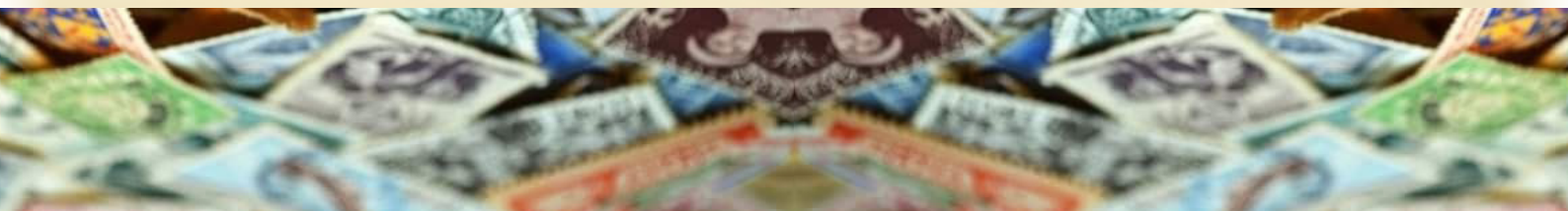
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The South African Philatelist

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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 : 4 985- The **AUGUST** 2024 issue 15 July 2024



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 2024 'MARPEX 100'

Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg - 9 to 13 July 2024.

Before I get to the National Stampshow please note that the chairman of the FIP/FIAP subcommittee would like to invite applications for commissioners to represent and transport SA exhibits to and from international Exhibitions. This includes mounting/demounting of the exhibits at the exhibition.

Entry to the National Stampshow is free and will be open every day from 09:00 to 17:00 with plenty of secure parking.

The Organising Committee look forward to welcoming all visitors, dealers and exhibitors to this annual event. Make the most of your visit to enjoy the stamps, greet friends, meeting the Dealers and other collectors and making new friends.

In celebration of the event, **commemorative covers** will be available as well as a set of six reproduced Postcards of old Pietermaritzburg. Exhibition envelopes can be cancelled with a specially designed 'MARPEX 100' canceller by Thea Clemons, Graphic Designer at Philatelic Services.

The Palmars takes place at Mendola Conference venue, Hiton. Tickets will be available at the Information Counter at the Exhibition venue - please remember to secure your tickets!

The jury Chair is Hugh Amooore RDPSA RDPSL and Roger Porter RDPSA as Vice Chair. (Please see page 77 of this issue). The judges will be happy to discuss aspects of the material on show and offer advice.

Ten dealers with SAPDA credentials (National and International), have a lot to entice you - don't miss this opportunity to see what's on offer. A stamp auction by Kenny Napier will be held on Saturday 13 July starting at 10:30.

This year is the 96th Anniversary of the PFSA and its 86th Congress, scheduled to take place on Friday, 12 July 2024 at 10:30. The following PFSA awards could be awarded at the annual Congress upon receipt of nominations: Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of SA, The Skinner Cup, Federation Plaques, The WE Lea Cup, Manfred Weinstein Medallion and Harvey Pirie Memorial Award.



A special thanks is extended to our main sponsor, Spink of London and Ian Shapiro for his support. Hilton College for the venue, Kenny Napier of SAPDA and sponsors, societies and advertisers for their financial support. It would be remiss of me not to thank the efforts and dedication of the Organising Committee, jury members and all members who assisted in some way or another. Without all this support, a successful exhibition is just not possible!

Tuesday 9 July 2024.

08:00 - 17:00: Erecting frames/Mounting.
10:00: Delivery of exhibits to Bin Room.

Wednesday 10 July 2024.

09:00: Exhibition opens. 09:00 - 10:30: Judging.
10:30: Official Opening.
11:00 - 18:00: Judging Commences.
17:00: Exhibition closes.
19:00: Jury Dinner.

Thursday 11 July 2024.

09:00: Exhibition opens.
11:00 - 17:00: Judging Commences.
14:00: SA Philatelic Foundation Meeting.
(By invitation)
17:00: Exhibition closes.

Friday 12 July 2024.

09:00: Exhibition opens.
09:30: PFSA 86th Congress.
14:00: Congress/UK Congress link.
17:00: Exhibition closes.
19:00: Palmars.

Saturday 13 July 2024.

08:00: Exhibition opens.
09:00: Jury critique.
10:30: Auction.
17:00: Exhibition closes.

Sunday 14 July 2024.

08:00 - 14:00: Demounting/take down frames.
From 10:00: Collecting of exhibits from Bin Room.

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

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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

Advertising Rates available from the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA, pfsastamps@gmail.com or email the Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za



Adél Bulpitt

Note from the Chair of the Editorial Board

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers for their loyal support over many years, it is truly appreciated. It is our focus to create a journal that would appeal to everyone, this is a task that is rather challenging as philately covers a very broad spectrum. The Editorial Board seldom writes the articles that you see, we publish articles that are submitted by fellow collectors.

For every keen and happy reader, there is a reader who would comment 'there is nothing about my collecting interest'. We put a lot of effort into creating the magazine, but we can't guess what you want to read about. If you have a specific interest, please communicate that to us so that we can try and source an article from other collectors, or better still, write a few words yourself and include a few pictures on the subject for publishing.

Others might complain that the same six people keep writing articles; that is because currently they are the only collectors that are participating and sharing their knowledge. Philately seems to be a solitary hobby which you enjoy by yourself and go to your society meeting once a month. It needn't be like that. Participate and share, with social media etc, you can share with a stamp buddy on a daily basis without leaving home.

THE UNION 1937 CORONATION 1/- HYPHEN - FLAW REVISITED

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The series of articles, appearing in *The South African Philatelist*, recently authored by André du Plessis RDPSA, covering Union commemorative issues, are especially valuable as they show illustrations of the varieties, which did not appear in the *Union Handbook* (UHB).

However, I do have a concern regarding the article appearing in the June 2022 issue, covering the 1937 King George VI Coronation issue. V10 in the 1/- value (Fig.1), 'Hyphen in SUID-AFRIKA obliterated' is described as '(Progressive)'.

This implies that the variety, listed by Gibbons as SG 75a occurring at Row 2/13, is variable. In fact there is a similar flaw (Fig.2) which would appear to be an earlier manifestation of the variety. There is a footnote, in Ref.1, which reads:

No. 75a shows the hyphen completely omitted and the top of the 'K' damaged. A less distinct flaw, on which part of the hyphen is still visible (as a dot) and with no damage to the 'K', occurs on R. 4/17.



Fig.1.



Fig.2.

As this occurs in a different sheet position, it cannot be an earlier version of V10. In Ref.2, both varieties are listed: R2/13 as S5b 'missing hyphen'; R4/17 as S5c 'dot in place of hyphen'.

In Ref.3, the following varieties of the 1/- value are listed as:

- Vi. Dot instead of hyphen. Row 4/17
- Vj. Hyphen obliterated. Row 2/13 – this variety is illustrated.

In Ref.4 and subsequent editions of the UHB (1979 and 1986) Vi is omitted and Vj is now called V10. Why the Row 4/17 variety was omitted is a mystery.

It should be noted that the perforation adjustment was between columns 12 and 13. In Fig.1 the width of the stamp with the error is 21mm rather than 22mm of the normal stamp.

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1. Stanley Gibbons 2022. *Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1970*.
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3. Dr Alec Kaplan, Sam Legator, William N Sheffield (eds.) 1952. *Handbook/Catalogue Union of South Africa Stamps – Van Riebeeck Tercentenary Edition*. P.F. of S.A.
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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.

FRAMA LABELS

The Editor,

I have followed the reporting on FRAMA labels with interest.

I noted that no article cited the book by Gawie van Eeden. Gawie was in charge of the whole FRAMA project. Gawie went to Switzerland to select the FRAMA machines, had oversight of their installation and operation until they were withdrawn.

He recorded the whole operation in his book *'The FRAMA Postage Labels of South Africa and South West Africa/Namibia 1986 – 1994'*.

Copies are available from worldstamps@iafrica.com at R75 each

It is probably the most authoritative study of FRAMA labels available. Sadly, Gawie died a few years back.

Danie van Zyl

Phun with postmarks

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



The SAPO - Postnet link

Contrary to the usual style of the 'Phun' column, which is to share information, the purpose of this column is to solicit information. Some twenty years ago there were significant changes in the postal environment. The one was the Green Paper on Postal Policy which was published on 11 August 1997 in Government Gazette No. 18201 for public discussion. Unfortunately, I did not have access to the White Paper. One of the focus areas that was defined was joint ventures for courier and parcel services, such as GD Express World-wide and TNT. There is no mention of subcontracting postal agency services.

Unbeknown to most citizens, the Postnet franchising company was established in 1994. Within a few years there were several hundred Postnet shops. In about 1998 an agreement was reached between the South African Post Office (SAPO) and Postnet for individual shops to provide a postal agency service.

In about 2000 I tried to get information on the contract that governed the service from the role players, without any success. I was unable to obtain a list of the shops that participated in the exercise, nor the regulations that would govern the liaison. Any information on the contract, services provided and the shops would be greatly appreciated. It may already be too late to obtain the information, since management of Postnet has rotated and I was unable to make contact with staff who may have information. The SAPO has lost many staff members in recent times as is well-known.

As a result the only solution to try and reconstruct what happened during the liaison period is to compile a list of Postnet shops that participated and to study the date stamps. The postal agency role included the sale of postage stamps and receipt and cancellation of mail, which was then collected by SAPO and delivered to the distribution centre. The postage stamps had to be cancelled with a Postnet date stamp. This is a clear indication that the mail passed through the Postnet system. Table 1 shows a listing of the Postnet shops, the design of the date stamp and the earliest and latest recorded date that I have managed to compile. Illustration of the date stamps is given in Fig.1.

Unfortunately the impressions are not clear as the date stamp had to cancel the stamp. Most of the shops used a generic date stamp as shown in Fig.1a, and are shown without type in Table 1. The date stamps were of a self-inking type. Some had a diameter of 38 mm and others 37 mm as the date stamps change with wear unlike steel date stamps which generally remain the same. Ink colour other than black is indicated.

The Bank City date stamp was applied on a priority delivery without postage stamps, hence the clean image. This date stamp is also the earliest recorded date in the collection. The dates are in the style, normal date or reversed date, as found on the date stamps.

Separate entries for different date styles in the same shop are given. The earliest date is 1998, and the latest start date is 2002. The latest recorded date is 2003, which is for Westwood. This date stamp is the only one of this style. Eastgate used multiple date stamps up to 2003. From the dates it appears as if the implementation of the liaison was staggered and started from 1998 and ended mostly in 2002, a period of about 4 years.

From hearsay in about 2000 it appears as if the agreement was terminated as the SAPO could not link with the Postnet financial systems and it was impossible to apply financial control. Some of the covers went through the machine canceller, for example Eastgate and Kimberley, but this was not necessary.

After the termination of the contract, the Postnet shops continued to sell stamps, and operate as a post box and provided other services. Mail received for dispatch was delivered to the nearest post office. For control purposes, such mail received a Postnet date stamp on the cover, not on the postage stamp, and a number of such covers have been recorded. Several covers have been recorded after 2003 where the date stamp cancelled the stamps. The Westwood item (Fig.1i) may be such a case. Another well-known example where the stamps were cancelled was in Witbank. I visited the Witbank post office in about 2005 to determine the arrangement with the Postnet shop. The reasoning was that the mail was handled by the shop so the service was expedited if the sorting part was eliminated. Items dated as late as 2015 have been recorded. Since there was no longer a contract with the SAPO it was rumored that some shops would provide a registration service by charging a service fee. Evidence of this practice would be appreciated.

One of the major postmark compendiums in South Africa is the Putzel *'The postmarks of South Africa and former states and colonies'*. The first volume of ten was published in 1992 long before the Postnet liaison in 1998, and the Postnet date stamps were never included. Because of the SAPO liaison it makes sense to compile a listing in a separate section, as is planned for railway date stamps, and placed on the Federation website. Your contributions will thus assist with a long-term project.

Table 1. Listing of some Postnet shops and date stamps used

Postnet shop	Date stamp	Earliest recorded date	Latest recorded date
Alberton West	38 mm	2000-08-08	2001-09-14
Bank City, J.H.B.	40 mm red Fig.1b	1998-03-17	
Bedfordview South	38 mm	1999-10-02	
Bramley Gardens	38 mm	2000-01-12	2001-12-12
Brits North	32 mm Fig.1c	02 NOV 2000	02 APR 2002
Eastgate	38 mm red	2000-10-10	
Eastgate	38 mm Fig.1d	2001-01-27	2002-02-14
Eastgate	41 x 23 mm rect red Fig.1e	2002-06-18	2003-01-08
Eastgate	41 x 23 mm rect red Fig.1e	07 AUG 2003	
Halfway House	38 mm	01 OCT 2001	15 OCT 2001
Halfway House North	37 mm	1999-09-11	2002-02-19
Halfway House South	38 mm	22 SEP 1999	25 MAR 2000
Halfway House South	37 mm EXPRESS Fig.1f	30 MAY 1999	1 SEP 2000
Isando	38 mm Fig.1d	2002-06-25	
Kimberley	31 mm Fig.1g	20 NOV 2000	1 OCT 2001
Krugersdorp	38 mm	1999-12-06	
Meadowdale	37 mm	10 MAY 2000	2 FEB 2001
Melville East	38 mm	23 OCT 2000	
Melville East	38 mm	2001-09-21	
Meyerton South	37 mm	12 DEC 2000	14 JAN 2002
Musgrave	39 mm Fig.1b	16 JAN 2002	23 OCT 2002

Northgate	38 mm Fig.1d	16 DEC 2000	12 APR 2001
Northlands West	38 mm	1999-10-3	1999-12-20
Norwood South	38 mm	1999-10-15	2001-11-10
Oos-Rand South	38 mm	2000-01-20	2001-11-15
Pinegowrie North	37 mm	08 MAR 2000	
Ultra City South	56 x 34 mm rect Fig.1h	1999-06-25	
Wits North	32 mm Fig.1c	29 OCT 2001	
Westwood	40 mm Fig.1i	2003-09-06	
Witbank	28 x 23 mm borderless Fig.1j	2001-10-26	2002-08-28
Witbank	40 x 24 mm borderless Fig.1j	2001-10-29	2002-03-28



(a) Halfway House South generic



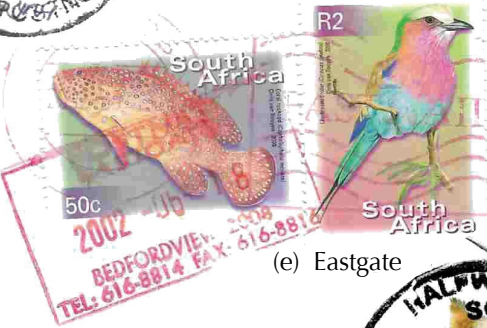
(b) Bank City



(c) Brits North



(d) Eastgate

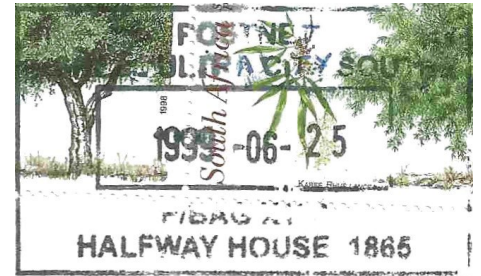


(e) Eastgate

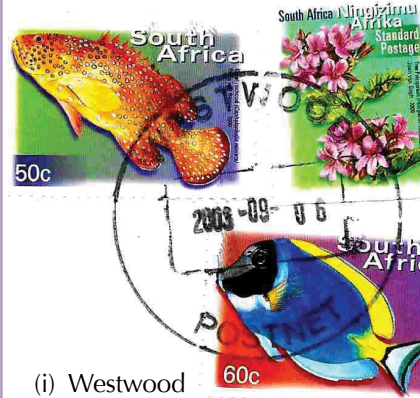
(f) Halfway House South Express



(g) Kimberley



(h) Ultra City



(i) Westwood



(j) Witbank

Fig.1a to j. Images of date stamps referred to in Table 1.

In hierdie rubriek is ek op soek na inligting. In die laat 1990s het die Suid-Afrikaanse poskantoor 'n ooreenkoms met Postnet aangegaan waar laasgenoemde 'n posagentskap rol sou vervul. Ten spyte van 'n ernstige soektog kon ek geen gepubliseerde bewys vind nie. Volgens die datumstempels op koeverte met oorsprong in 'n Postnet winkel is hierdie samewerking tussen 1998 en 2002. Weereens is ek op soek na inligting en bewyse. Hierdie samewerkings ooreenkoms het dus 'n poskantoor skakeling en ek is van plan om die Putzel posstempel argief uit te brei met Postnet posmerke. Ek sal geskandeerde kopieë in kleur @ 300 dpi hoog waardeer.

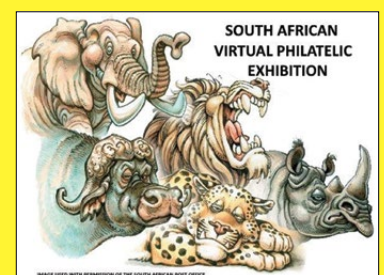
South Africa's Ninth Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX) one-frame exhibition

proudly hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

The exhibition attracted 92 entries from all over the world, including local support, for this popular event.

Results will be announced, and exhibits uploaded to the PFSA website for viewing under 'EXHIBITS ONLINE'

RESULTS will be available on the PFSA website, by the end of JULY 2024



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STAMP VARIETIES ILLUSTRATED

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

VAN RIEBEECK TERCENTENARY, 1952

(UHB Index 26, Stamp numbers 111 to 115)



A series of five bilingual stamps in denominations of ½d., 1d., 2d., 4½d. and 1/- was issued on 14 March 1952 to commemorate the tercentenary of the landing of Jan van Riebeeck at the Cape. The bulk of the stamps were printed on white paper, the remainder were slightly toned.

The ½d., 2d. and 1/- values were in horizontal format, designed by Mrs. T. Campbell, and measured 37,5 x 21 mm, perforated 15 x 14. Sheets were of 120 stamps in two panes each (10 rows x 6), separated by a blank gutter, the depth of a stamp, which was not perforated through. Four-figure red sheet numbers were printed on the right margin, as were the cylinder numbers.

In the only bi-coloured stamp, the ½d., the cylinder numbers 7018 and 6923 appeared at the ends of rows 8/9 and 18/19 respectively, and in those of the 2d. no. 36 and 1/-, no. 27, were at the ends of the ninth and nineteenth rows. All three values had arrows - in the colour of the frame of the lowest value - in the top and bottom margins only.

The remaining values, 1d and 4½d., were designed by Miss R Reeves in the upright format of 21 x 37,5 mm, perforation 14 x 15 and had the watermark facing left. Lettering for all the designs was the responsibility of J. Prentice.

Sheets consisted of two panes each, 6 rows x 10, separated by a blank gutter the width of a stamp. Four-figure red sheet numbers were on the bottom margin, and the arrows were on the side margin only. Cylinder numbers, 1d. no. 30 and 4½d. no. 44, were below the second and twelfth stamps.

UHB Index 26, Stamp numbers 111 to 115



Brown-purple and olive-grey
UHB 111
(SG 136) (SASCC 135)



Dark green
UHB 112
(SG 137) (SASCC 136)



Dark violet
UHB 113
(SG 138) (SASCC 137)



Dark blue
UHB 114
(SG 139) (SASCC 138)



Sepia-brown
UHB 115
(SG 140)
(SASCC 139)

Stamps can be collected in singles due to bilingual printing.

SELECTED VARIETIES

As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB - 1986)

UHB 111 (½d) - Official Seal and V.O.C. Monogram of Dutch East Africa Company

(Cylinders nos. 7018 and 6923)







BILINGUAL	BILINGUAL	BILINGUAL	BILINGUAL	BILINGUAL
Dot between 'F' and 'R' of AFRICA (ex Row 1/1) UHB 111 - V1	Break in bottom frame line between 'F' and 'R' of AFRICA (ex Row 19/6) UHB 111 - V2	Grey and white marks on 'O' of the Monogram (ex Row 20/5) UHB 111 - V3	Grey marks in gutter between stamps (ex Row 1 to 15/1) UHB 111 - V4	Paper join SASCC 135a

UHB 112 (1d) - Maria de la Quellerie, First Wife of Jan van Riebeeck

(Cylinder no. 30)







BILINGUAL	BILINGUAL	BILINGUAL	BILINGUAL	BILINGUAL	BILINGUAL
'Hyphen' in front and green stroke between 'A' and 'F' of AFRICA (ex Row 2/3) UHB 112 - V1	'Wrinkle' on forehead (ex Row 2/14) UHB 112 - V2	White dot between 'R' and 'I' of AFRICA (ex Row 2/20) UHB 112 - V3	White 'Mushroom' mark on upper part of left frame (ex Row 5/9) UHB 112 - V4	Spots on left cheek (ex Row 6/3) UHB 112 - V5	'White mark' at top of first 'A' of AFRICA (ex Row 6/6) UHB 112 - V6

UHB 113 (2d) - Arrival of van Riebeeck's Ships
(Cylinder no. 36)




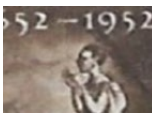
<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>'Moon' below 'R' of AFRIKA (ex Row 6/3) UHB 113 - V1 SG 138a / SASCC 137a</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>Dark spot above and to left of mountain (ex Row 9/6) UHB 113 - V2</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>Long vertical line through sails of ship on left (ex Row 11/2) UHB 113 - V3 SASCC 137b (Indifferent numbering in SASCC)</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>Short vertical mark above sails of ship on left (ex Row 12/2) UHB 113 - V4</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>'Smoke' above mountain (ex Row 13/4 and 14/3) UHB 113 - V5</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>White dot under first 'A' of AFRIKA (ex Row 16/6) UHB 113 - V6</p>
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Note: UHB 113 - V3 & V4, in a vertical pair is listed in Gibbons as *SG 138b*.

HB 114 (4½d) - Jan van Riebeeck
(Cylinder no. 44)

<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>Oblique line above head and dot above right eyebrow (ex Row 1/7) UHB 114 - V1</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>White mark on hyphen (ex Row 3/13) UHB 114 - V2</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>White dot inside first 'A' of AFRIKA (ex Row 4/2) UHB 114 - V3</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>White dot on shoulder above value (ex Row 4/20) UHB 114 - V4</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>Blue mark near forehead (ex Row 5/5) UHB 114 - V5</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>'White mark at top of first 'A' of AFRIKA (ex Row 6/6) UHB 112 - V2</p>
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UHB 115 (1/-) - Landing of van Riebeeck
(Cylinder no. 27)

<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>Numerous brown spots, the largest on barrel of gun (ex Row 1/2) UHB 115 - V1</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>Missing shadow of the leg of the man on right (ex Row 19/2) UHB 115 - V2</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>White spot behind Native's leg (ex Row 19/4) UHB 115 - V3</p>	<p align="center">BILINGUAL</p>  <p>'Oblique' line behind Native's head (ex Row 20/2) UHB 115 - V4</p>
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UHB Index 27, Stamp numbers 116/117 - SATISE and SADIPU Overprints

The 1d and 2d denominations were respectively overprinted 'SATISE' (South African Tercentenary International Stamp Exhibition) and 'SADIPU' (Suid-Afrikaanse Driehonderdjarige Internasionale Posseël Uitstalling) by the Government Printing Works at Pretoria, for sale at the International Stamp Exhibition Post Office, Cape Town, during the period 26 March to 5 April 1952.



Dark green
UHB 116
(SG 141)
(SASCC 140)



Dark violet
UHB 117
(SG 142)
(SASCC 141)

Both stamps have the same cylinder numbers, arrows and varieties as described for UHB 112 and 113 above.

Reference: *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961: Handbook catalogue, Definitive Issue, 1986, SJ Hagger: pp 186-8.*



SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUTING PHILATELY : A LISTING 1936 - 2007

Part 1: Commemorative Stamp Issues

by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

Scouting is the world's leading youth movement with over 57 million Scouts in over 200 countries and territories worldwide. Through a unique programme of education, adventure and fun, Scouting continues to inspire young people to become active citizens who are engaged in creating a better and more sustainable world. From a philatelic perspective, Scouting remains a popular thematic or topical collecting subject, listed in the top ten by the American Topical Association. There are also several specialist societies focusing on the collecting of Scout stamps and related material, including the Scout and Guide Stamps Club (SGSC) in the UK, the Schweiz Pfadfinder-Philatelistenverein (SPPHV) in Switzerland and the Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) based in the USA, to name a few. At the *EuroScout 2000 Philatelic Exhibition* held on 23 September 2000 in Italy, the International Federation of Scout and Guide Stamp Collecting Organisations (IFSCO) was formed.

Its purpose was to coordinate dealings with the World Organisation of the Scout Movement and international philatelic organisations, as well as promoting international Scout stamp exhibitions, and participation in World Scouting events.

The South African Post Office has supported with the issue of Scout stamps, commemorative postmarks and special covers over the years. Reisener in his book, *The Special and Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets and Covers of South Africa*, provides a special checklist for Scout Jamborees and Camps, listing ten special postmarks used between 1936 and 1971. The author, in updating these records, found 32 Scouting related issues, including 4 commemorative stamp issues, 16 special postmarks and 28 special covers. This forms the basis of this and future articles.



Fig.1: RSA 15c stamp depicting Baden-Powell during the Siege of Mafeking.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUES

Two key Scouting anniversaries were commemorated through local stamp issues by the South African Post Office.

1. The 75th Anniversary Issues

The year 1982 marked the 75th anniversary of the Scout Movement, which was celebrated worldwide with the issue of commemorative stamps by many of the postal authorities in countries where Scouting was active. The South African Post Office issued a 15c stamp (Fig.1), to commemorate this event, depicting the founder of the Scout Movement, Sir Robert Baden-Powell. This issue was launched on Baden-Powell's birthday – 22 February.

The stamp and date-stamp cancellation were designed by John Mayer. A special commemorative cover, FDC No 3.34 (Fig.2) was also printed with 180 000 covers provided for sale.



Fig.2: Commemorative FDC signed by Colin Inglis, the Chief Scout of South Africa at the time.

At the time of this issue, the South African Government was still pursuing its policy of separate development and independent homelands or bantustans. Four homelands were recognised at the time – Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei and Venda. All had their own postal authorities and issued their own stamps, but only Bophuthatswana and the Transkei issued their own commemorative stamps to mark the 75th anniversary of Scouting.



Fig.3: Bophuthatswana FDC signed by designer Sheila Nowers.

Bophuthatswana issued four commemorative stamps on 29 January 1982, which were on sale at all post offices in the homeland for a period of three months from the date of issue.

The stamps and date-stamp were designed by Sheila Nowers. 120,000 commemorative covers, FDC No 1.20 (Fig.3) also designed by Sheila Nowers, were made available for sale.

Similarly, the Transkei also issued its own set of four stamps on 14 May 1982, depicting various Scouting scenes and activities. These stamps and the date-stamp canceller were designed by Hein Botha. Special commemorative covers with a quantity of 120,000, FDC No 1.26 (Fig.4) were also made available.

2. Scouting's Centenary

To celebrate the centenary of World Scouting, the Post Office issued a miniature sheet and commemorative envelope, with a special canceller on 22 August 2007. Designed by Annemarie Wessels, the stamps depict a girl Scout saluting and the Scout Badge, both denominated with the B5 bulk mail rate. Membership of the South African Scout Association was limited to boys only, until the end of 1999. From 2000 membership was opened to include girls, and the name of the association was changed to Scouts South Africa. Today approximately 48% of the association's membership is female.



Fig.4: Transkei Commemorative FDC signed by Chief Commissioner, for the Transkei Region, Albert Sliep.

A summary of the printing details for these issues, is provided in Table 1 below.

Issue	Printer	Paper	Perforation	Quantity
75th Anniversary - RSA 1982	Government Printer, Pretoria	Harrison phosphor coated paper	14	2 750 000 stamps
75th Anniversary- Bophuthatswana 1982	Government Printer, Pretoria	Harrison paper without phosphor coating	14¼ x 14	5c: 1 600 000 15c, 20c, 25c: 1 275 000 of each
75th Anniversary-Transkei 1982	Government Printer, Pretoria	Harrison paper without phosphor coating	14¼ x 14	8c: 3 125 000 10c, 20c, 25c: 1 550 000 of each
Centenary of Scouting 2007	Southern Colour Print Limited, New Zealand	104g non-phosphor and on gummed paper	14½	60 000 miniature sheets

Table 1: Printing details of the discussed issues.

Future articles in the series will cover the commemorative postmarks issued for special Camps, Jamborees and other events, and any special covers used to mark these occasions. Scouting Cinderella stamps or labels used in South Africa will also be explored.

REFERENCES:

- Reisener, HO. *The Special and Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets and Covers of South Africa 1892 – 1975*.
- South African Postal Administration Bulletin 170.
- Bophuthatswana Postal Administration Bulletin 19.
- Transkei Postal Administration Bulletin TPT 24.
- *Setempe* : SA Stamp News Vol 12 No 1. July – September 2007.



Fig.5: Miniature sheet issued to mark the Centenary of Scouting.



Chinese Stamp Buyer

Pays top \$ for Asian Stamps

Jonathan Fenn

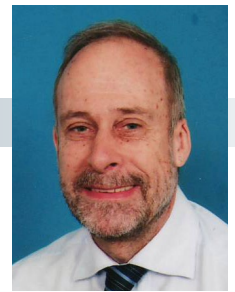
President, JSF Holdings, Inc.

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“STOPPED BY CENSOR” Martial Law and the Anglo-Boer War in Natal

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



The (second) Anglo-Boer War began on 11 October 1899 following an ultimatum by the Boer Republics that the British Government should remove all troops from the border between Natal and the Transvaal. On 22 October 1899, martial law was declared in Natal.

Although martial law was declared on this date, censorship of letters had already commenced in Durban where the censorship office had been opened on 14 October 1899 under the supervision of the civil servant T. O. Fraser. It seems that in the early weeks, no specific instructions were given to Fraser regarding how the powers of censorship should be exercised, and he was able to use his discretion. The general aim was to prevent any information reaching the enemy which might be of use to him.

Soon thereafter, a specific instruction was given to the Postmaster-General authorising military censors to examine private correspondence. This instruction was controversial, and provoked considerable criticism and adverse comment in newspapers and by the general public. W. B. Morcom, an advocate, challenged the martial law instructions, asserting that under Section 42 of the Post Office Law of 1884, every Postmaster was required to make a declaration that he would not willingly open or delay a letter except with the consent of the person to whom it was directed. The evidence presented to the court included a statement by General Buller, in which he remarked “... *there is a natural objection to opening letters, but it is also true that there is on the part of a General Officer Commanding a natural repugnance to having his plans disclosed or his men killed because otherwise estimable people write the latest news to their friends. In war all sorts of things have to be done that one deploras.*”

Morcom lost his application, and Judge Mason found that: “*The press or letter censorship is dependent upon the averment that supervision of letters from districts near the front is necessary to prevent the dissemination, even innocently, of information concerning military movements. Now it is apparent*

that to restrict knowledge of the position or movements of his troops may be essential to a commander and thus absolutely necessary to the due and successful conduct of a campaign. The supervision of letters likely to contain such information which may reach the enemy seems on the face of it not an unreasonable precaution”

What Rules did the Censors Later Apply?

It seems it was not until 2 March 1900 that specific instructions relating to the censorship of correspondence were communicated to Fraser via the general lines of communication.

These instructions identified three categories of letters: those relating to the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and Lourenço Marques, those relating to other foreign countries, and those relating to local correspondence within Natal. All the letters to and from foreign countries were to be examined by censors. Following examination, these letters were to be carefully closed, and traces of any interference was, as far as possible, to be removed before forwarding them to the addressees or returning them to the sender.

The greatest emphasis in censoring private correspondence was placed on mail addressed to and from the Transvaal, Free State and Lourenço Marques. The ‘*Rules relating to the Censorship of Correspondence and Guidance for Press Censors*’ issued on 2 March 1900 provided that all letters to or from such countries “*will be examined; and only those which appear harmless will be allowed to pass. Those not allowed to pass will be returned to sender, or suppressed, or retained as may be considered advisable by the censor.*”

Wasserman’s research indicates that occasionally some valuable information was gained from the examination of such mail, including the names and movements of foreigners who travelled via Lourenço Marques to join the Boer forces:

“Henry Dubreuil, in a letter to Mrs Dubreuil residing at 121 Princess Street, Durban, pointed out that seven French officers were on board a French steamer bound for Lourenço Marques. There were also 15 other foreigners: Italians, Greeks, Dutch and Germans, all heading for Transvaal. They passed a British man-of-war and Dubreuil gloated:

‘How enraged they must have been on board the British war vessel to see the greetings that were exchanged between the French steamer and the British man-of-war and that all those on board the French boat were enemies going to fight against them in the Transvaal while they were powerless to arrest them for, we were in Portuguese waters’. Letters with a similar content were from then on intercepted with regularity. Some of the information gathered included the following:

Wilhelm Rantenberg travelled on a French steamer to Lourenço Marques to enlist with the Boers; Captain F Stockl of the Austro-Hungarian army offered his services to the Transvaal; Melchoir M Velbrey of Alton, Sioux Country, USA was on his way to enlist at Komatipoort.

A letter from Fried Krupp, from Essen in Germany,

The SA Philatelist, June 2024.



Fig.1: Cover posted at Johannesburg on 16 October 1899, addressed to Capetown, bearing both Boer and British censor labels, and the OPENED BY CENSOR / RETURN TO SENDER handstamp. Presumably sent via Delagoa Bay and by sea to Durban. The cover was detained for five months before it received the Natal RETURNED LETTER OFFICE datestamp for 30 March 1900. No evidence of being returned to sender.

mentioned the supply of guns to the Transvaal. Others from the republics invariably dealt with personal matters relating to the war. An example is the letter from Kate of Doornfontein, Johannesburg, to her cousin, LN McDonald of Airfield House, Pinetown, in which she noted that Eddie, along with all her brothers, was at the front on the Boer side."

Examples of mail to or from the Transvaal, Free State and Lourenço Marques which were stopped by the censor are provided in Figs.1 to 4. Although the handstamp utilised by the censor indicated that such letters were to be returned to the sender, Fig.4 illustrates the only surviving cover of which I am aware that was actually attempted to be returned to the sender. All other such letters appear not to have been so returned, notwithstanding that their covers received the datestamp of the Natal Returned Letter Office. Figure 5 illustrates a cover addressed to Delagoa Bay that was censored but did not receive an OPENED BY CENSOR / RETURN TO SENDER handstamp.



Fig.2: A cover posted at Stellenbosch on 6 January 1900, addressed to Lourenço Marques, and showing the OPENED BY CENSOR / RETURN TO SENDER handstamp. On this occasion, the censor gave the reason for not allowing the letter to pass, indicating that it contained 'Enclosures for Z.A.R.'. Reverse shows the Natal RETURNED LETTER OFFICE datestamp for 25 January 1900. No evidence of being returned to sender.

Fig.3: (at right) A cover from Johannesburg (25 January 1900) to Australia endorsed 'Via Delagoa Bay, Per Australian Steamer from Capetown' showing the OPENED BY CENSOR / RETURN TO SENDER handstamp and a Natal RETURNED LETTER OFFICE datestamp for 19 February 1900. No evidence of being returned to sender.

Fig.3.

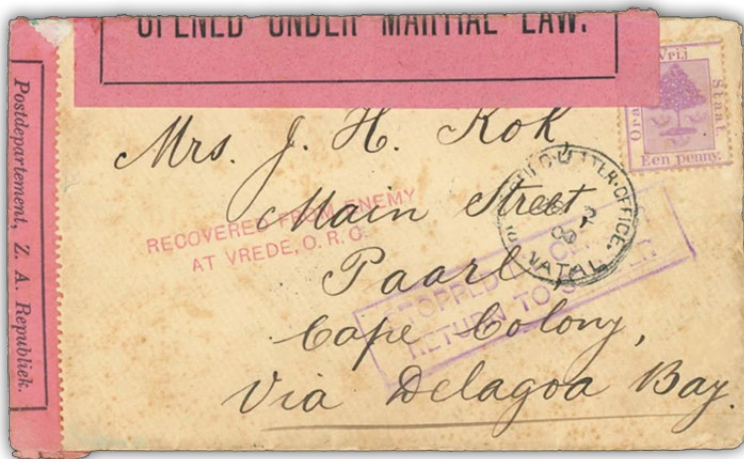
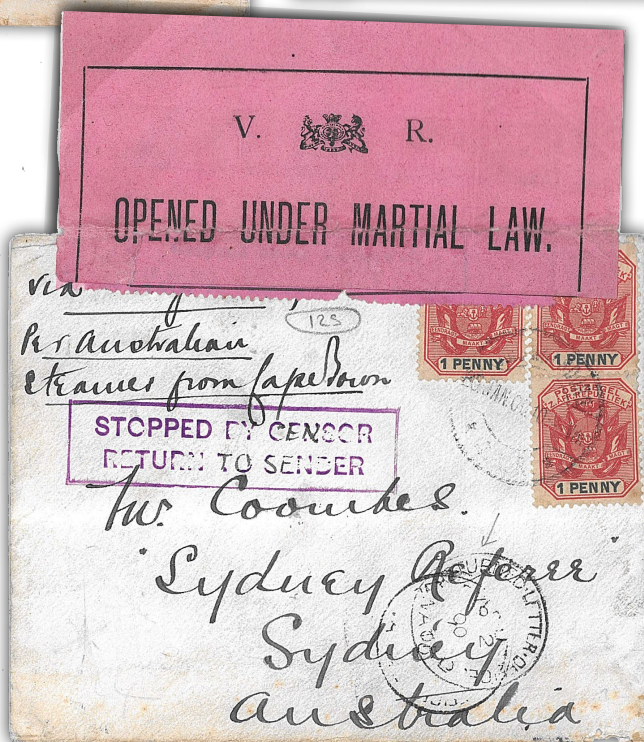


Fig.4: A cover from the Orange Free State (no datestamp of despatch), addressed to Paarl via Delagoa Bay, showing both Boer and British censor labels, with the OPENED BY CENSOR / RETURN TO SENDER handstamp and a Natal RETURNED LETTER OFFICE datestamp for 28 February 1900. On reverse are datestamps of Bloemfontein (29 October 1900) and Paarl (1 November 1900). It appears that an attempt was made to return this cover to sender, evidenced by the red RECOVERED FROM ENEMY / AT VREDE, O.R.C. handstamp which was applied on the front of the cover when the town (and mail held therein) was occupied at the end of October 1900 (Illustration courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions).

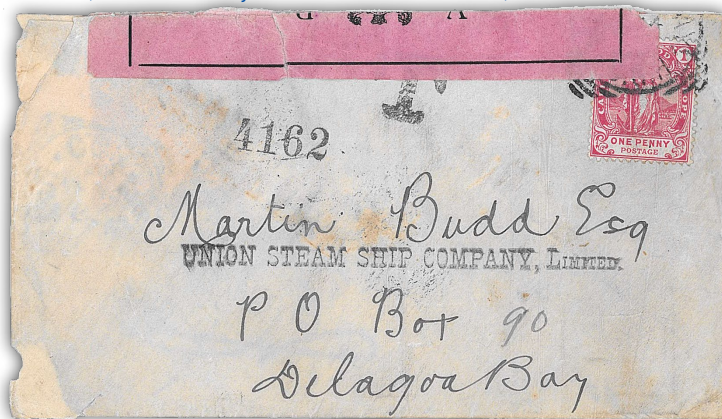


Fig.5: (above) Cover from Malmesbury addressed to the Union Steamship Company office at Delagoa Bay, taxed (underpaid 1d), and censored. Passed by the censor and therefore no 'return to sender' handstamp.

References

- W. B. Morcom v. Postmaster General (1900) 21 Natal Law Reports at page 32.
- Wassermann, Johan, 'Controlling Intelligence by Means of Censorship' published in A Warrior's Gateway, Durban and the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, Protea Book House, Pretoria, 2002.

Rare Stamps and Oddities Queen Elizabeth II in Africa

by Jamie Smith, Stockport Philatelic Society, UK



Collecting Queen Elizabeth II - African Rarities.

When collecting any rarities, the art is finding the rarities with a story. It is reasonably easy if you have a deep pocket but most of us do not.

The first thing to obtain before you even start looking for items, is a knowledge of the areas where the rarities are likely to come from. In the case of Africa, it is a big continent with at least thirty-five authorities issuing stamps during the Queen Elizabeth II period. Some may be from the same country but under a different name as happened when a country achieved independence. Add to this the facts that, British stamps bearing the Queen's profile were valid in most, if not all African ports on paquebot mail and that British forces which were stationed in many countries, in many cases using stamps of Great Britain. What I am saying is that this is a wide collecting area and there is a lot of reading to be done if the collector is going to outdo the dealers (who don't and can't know everything).

When looking, we are not just looking for postage stamps. Some revenue stamps bear the Queens profile and both were used on covers and on documents, sometimes serving both needs.

Some stamps look beautiful and have that 'wow' factor as seen with the Basutoland five-pound stamp (Figs.1 & 2); they look even better when collected as positional pieces, and better still when overprinted and or surcharged. Immediately we see a story starting to emerge, the fact that the country went decimal and had to change the value on its stamps and we can also see the design of a crocodile which with a little research emerges as one of the country's national emblems.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

Now let's look at a common stamp which is made rare by its overprint and surcharge. South West Africa as with the

rest of the British Empire took part in the Queen Elizabeth Coronation omnibus issue. Some of these over produced stamps were overprinted and surcharged to collect revenue from the indigenous people, the money collected was intended to be used for their betterment. The stamps had to be paid for annually and attached into their pass. Each tribe's name was printed onto the respective stamp together with the fee or in the case of the 2/6d surcharge to make the rate up when it was increased. I show the 10/- Ombalantu stamp (Fig.3). As if these stamps were not enough, stamps from the same basic Coronation issue were also overprinted 'Entertainment Tax' in English and in Afrikaans on separate stamps creating yet more rarities (Figs.4 & 5). Because of their usage on tribal passes, theatre tickets and programs, most were destroyed either during usage or were just not kept when short period of use came to an end, thus making all of them extremely rare.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

During the preparation of stamps, they had to be designed and there were trial printings. Some of these pieces have survived and are now in the hands of collectors.

One of the most remarkable is this hand painted essay by H. Grieme for the (Fig.6) K.U.T 1954 definitive issue.



Fig. 6.

If we take this a little further we see the design used with slight alterations on an imperforate 5/- stamp which is attached to a page from the De La Rue day-book. (Fig.7).



Fig.7.

While studying this area I add an Imperforate 2/6d stamp of Southern Rhodesia on a presentation card from the printers, 'Harrison and Sons' (Fig.8). To add interest and to extend the 'story' further, I include a missing colour variety (Missing vermilion) of the same stamp when it was overprinted for U.D.I in that country in 1965 (Fig.9).

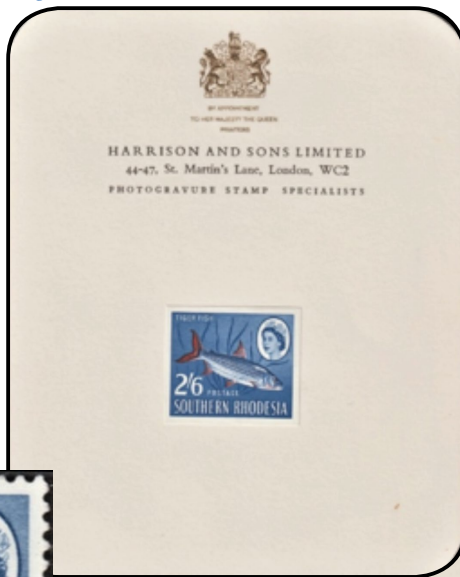


Fig.8.

As can be seen, now a story is starting to emerge, it can be extended by adding the missing cyan blue on the Bechuanaland/ Botswana overprint of 1966 (Fig.10) together with the original stamp (Fig.11) for comparison.



Fig.9.



Fig.10.



Fig. 11.

One of the greatest rarities for this period isn't even listed in catalogues, it is a strange issue that only lasted for a few days, there are stamps and covers recorded, I have a representation of the stamps, with a variety but have never seen it on cover or even used, there were reportedly about 30 covers found at the time in Mogadishu. During March of 1998 the newly independent country of Somaliland, which had originally been British experienced a delay in its first issue of definitive stamps.

To fill in the waiting period, a provisional issue was planned by overprinting and surcharging 1p stamps of Great Britain, this being the easiest and cheapest way of providing stamps. There was such an outcry from other Muslim countries about a Christian Queen being on the stamps that the stamps were quickly withdrawn. I show my marginal copy with the overprint misplaced (Fig.12).

In an attempt, to round this short article off, I add a couple of used 'on cover' items. A British 4 1/2p Machin stamp used on a cover from a British Expedition into the Congo in 1974 (Fig.13). And a cover from Ethiopia from the 1965 Royal Visit (Fig. 14). the stamp is not rare but used on cover I have only found five covers commercially used, that, over the last fifty years.



Fig.12.



Fig.13.



Fig. 14. I would like to finish off by saying 'Happy Hunting' but can't, as feel that I may have cut my own throat! Joking!



Caveat Emptor

The Royal Mail counterfeit stamp fiasco

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

Caveat emptor is Latin for 'Let the buyer beware'. The phrase is used when a buyer has less information than the seller about the goods or service they are purchasing. Under the principle of caveat emptor, the buyer can not recover damages from the seller for defects that rendered the goods unfit for ordinary purposes. The only exception would be if the seller actively misrepresents the goods, amounting to fraud.

The whole purpose of a postage stamp is to prepay for postal services. When you send a letter, the stamp indicates that the postage has been paid for the item to be delivered. Stamps then serve as a form of revenue for postal services, helping to fund the cost of mail delivery. If insufficient postage (Fig.1), or no postage (Fig.2), has been applied the post office makes an effort to recover the outstanding fee. If a cover has insufficient postage, there are two possible actions. Either the letter is returned to the sender or it is delivered and the additional fee collected from the recipient. After use, stamps are marked with a cancellation by the postal system which defaces the stamp to prevent its reuse.



Fig.1: In 1977 four cents was the standardised surface rate for local mail.



Fig.2: Effort by the Post Office to recover postage due.

A more deliberate way of avoiding postage is to remove the uncanceled stamps from delivered mail and reuse these on a different piece of mail. The reuse of used stamps, whether cancelled or not, is considered fraud and is illegal as it denies payment for services rendered.

A more serious issue is the rising use of counterfeit, or forged, stamps. There are generally two types of fake stamps: those intended to defraud collectors (referred to as forgeries) and those intended to defraud a postal system (known as counterfeit stamps). The number of counterfeit stamps being sold from online platforms, has escalated. Scammers also peddle counterfeit stamps on social media marketplaces, i.e. e-commerce sites via third party vendors such as Amazon and eBay, and other websites. These are often sold in bulk quantities at a significant discount – anywhere from 20 to 50 percent of their face value. This activity hits post offices with multimillion-dollar revenue losses and leaves unwitting buyers stuck with worthless fake postage. Richard Gratton, secretary of the *Fédération Internationale de Philatélie* (FIP), said in 2013 that counterfeit stamps cost Canada Post as much as \$10 million annually. He estimates there are between five and 10 million counterfeit stamps used as postage in Canada each year. Made in China, United States stamps sell for as little as 7.7 cents each – 88% off the official price of \$0.63. These fake stamps are printed overseas and smuggled into the country for sale online at a price that tempts bargain hunters looking for discounted stamps. Unfortunately, that's a good way to end up with counterfeit postage stamps.

The first postage stamp was issued in Great Britain in 1840, and it didn't take long for the first fake stamp to appear (Fig.3). Ever since the introduction of the Penny Black, counterfeiters have been at work. To counteract forgery post offices introduced features such as the use of watermarks, special paper, intricate engraving and special printing processes using distinct inks to try and deter counterfeiters. These days technical advances in printing mean it's "pretty difficult" to distinguish a real stamp from a fake "unless you really, really, really know what to look for," says Jay Bigalke of *Linn's Stamp News*. In 2023 Bigalke published a catalogue of about 750 different US counterfeits, most from the last 10 years. Since then he's identified at least 200 more. "It's hard to keep up," he says. The problem continues and is getting more pervasive, not less.



Fig.3: Genuine Penny Black on the left with a counterfeit on the right with a partial red Maltese Cross cancellation and missing full stop after 'PENNY'.

Given the extensive losses caused by counterfeit postage stamps, post offices have had to establish certain countermeasures. The United States Postal Service says it uses several methods to detect if postage is counterfeit. But, for security reasons, won't reveal details and will not explain any further. In 2020 the USPS introduced a new rule to attack the problem; mail affixed with counterfeit stamps is considered 'abandoned', and then destroyed.

Over the years, in an attempt to offset the counterfeiting problem, Royal Mail introduced a raft of additional security features (Fig.4) such as:

- Four 'U' shaped die cuts anti-fraud device
- An iridescent overprint on the backing paper using a repeating wavy line 'ROYAL MAIL' text pattern as a background.
- Elliptical perfs on either side replacing three perforations, introduced in 1993, based on the inability to source these elliptical-shaped perforating pins.
- A new self adhesive paper substrate that no longer includes a water soluble layer making it difficult to float stamps off mailed items.
- Microprinting which is too small to copy clearly, so when forgers try to reproduce a microprinted stamp, the text may appear as a solid line or blur.
- Secret codes which are not visible to the naked eye or a microscope, but only visible through the use of special lighting.

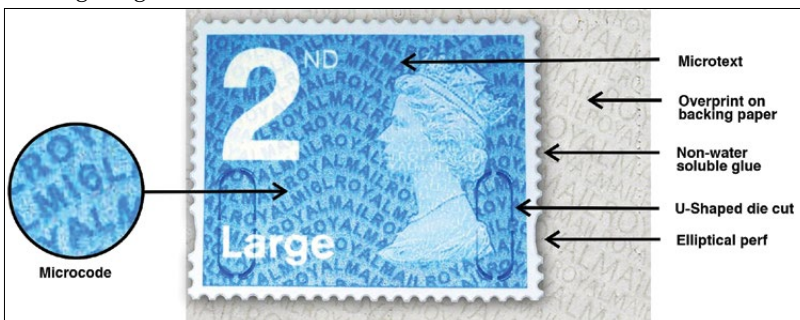


Fig.4: Security features on GB definitive stamps under special lighting.

With Royal Mail losing heavily to counterfeits, barcodes were added to stamps in February 2022. Each stamp has a unique barcode which allows that stamp to be traceable through the postal system. This enables Royal Mail to identify reuse and counterfeit stamps. The barcoded postage stamps are self-adhesive labels with the barcode alongside the main body of the stamp, separated by a simulated perforation line. The barcode and stamp will always match in colour (Fig.5). Customers could continue to use up their non-barcoded stamps until Monday 31 July 2023. Since then any item with a non-barcoded stamp was treated as if there was insufficient postage and subjected to a surcharge.

The idea of introducing of barcoded stamps was to prevent the reuse of stamps and prevent fraud worth millions of pounds annually. Ironically even barcoded stamps rapidly became the target of fraud. It wasn't long after 31 July 2023 when numerous customers began complaining about being accused of having used counterfeit stamps (Fig.6).



Fig.5: First Class Wales country definitive stamps, issued 11 August 2022. The stamp design features a dragon forged in Welsh steel. Country definitives, formerly known as regional postage stamps of Great Britain, are the stamps issued for the various countries and islands of the British Isles.



Fig.6.

People reportedly complained they had to pay £5 penalties to collect post because the stamps were deemed to be counterfeit (Fig.7).

It came to a head last December when a barrage of complaints emerged as people's Christmas cards were either left undelivered or could only be collected if the recipient paid a £5 fine. The £5 bill was about four times the cost of a first class stamp at the time; then £1.35.



Fig.7.

At first Royal Mail was accused that its scanning technology used to read the barcodes was the cause of the problem. It was suggested Royal Mail was covering up that printing and scanning mistakes happen. However, it took journalists at *The Telegraph* to uncover the cause of the problem. Four Chinese suppliers offered to print up to 1 million counterfeit Royal Mail stamps a week for as little as 4p each, and deliver them to Britain within days. Chinese websites offered sheets of 50 counterfeit stamps for buyers willing to commit to a minimum purchase of 20,000 sheets. The stamps included an imitation of the new barcodes.

Until 1989, stamps could only be sold by the Royal Mail and in Post Offices. These rules were relaxed to help improve access to stamps. The convincing forgeries were then being bought unwittingly by small retailers who, unlike the Post Office, were not required to source stamps directly from Royal Mail and can buy from wholesalers in bulk. The stamps were also being sold through online retail giants like Amazon and eBay to individual customers.

The apparent scale of the operation prompted the suggestion that this may be sanctioned by the Chinese state and intended as a form of “economic warfare” (Fig.8).



Fig.8.

A diplomatic row soon broke out with China as Chinese Embassy officials denied responsibility for the scourge of counterfeit stamps flooding into Britain. Senior MPs called for Chinese government officials to face ministers while the Communist nation dismissed the claims as “baseless” - and said Royal Mail should investigate its own supply chains! Meanwhile, Royal Mail accused Border Force of failing to prevent counterfeit stamps from China flooding Britain. A Royal Mail senior executive suggested the Government was not doing enough to stop the import of forgeries that were resulting in customers being hit with £5 penalties. With improved printing technology fake stamps are becoming increasingly harder to spot. This means the counterfeit stamps have become very sophisticated and they can easily deceive the general public. How can you tell if a stamp is genuine or just fake? There are two tell-tale signs to spot a counterfeit.

Look closely at the perforations. A counterfeit stamp has sharper or spikier perforations whereas a genuine stamp should appear to be more square like (Fig.9). However, spotting the difference can be incredibly difficult.

A distinguishing feature of a fake stamp is the barcode. The barcode on a fake stamps is completely flat – if you run your finger over the barcode they feel completely flat. A genuine stamp will have a raised barcode, particularly on certain dark coloured stamps (Fig.10). This is a result of the printing process. The barcode on a first class stamp is likely to feel more raised because deeper colours require more ink. Hence the purple first class stamp barcode feels more raised than the large letter stamp which is marine turquoise.

Oscar Young, of Stanley Gibbons, said he believed the rise in the number of fake stamps could partly be attributed to the cost of living crisis. “I think people are trying to, if they can, save a bit of money here and there by buying a stamp, perhaps not knowing whether it's fake or not, and getting it maybe 50p or a pound cheaper buying online. That is certainly going to appeal to some people who are trying to save a little bit of money.”



Fig.9: The stamp on the left is genuine with flat topped die-cut perforations. The stamp on the right is counterfeit with a more triangular perforation.

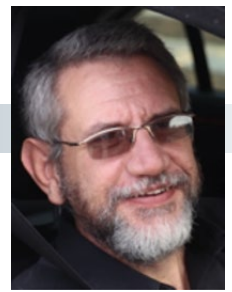
He also warned that Royal Mail was having a difficult time identifying fake stamps from their legitimate counterparts. “Yet some [counterfeits] got through. There were certainly inconsistencies with Royal Mail's own security measures on that in that respect.” Oscar Young added that fake stamps are not a new phenomenon, however “It's a big scandal now”.



Fig.10: When held at an angle the barcode on genuine stamps appears to be raised.

Chances are that a few fakes are lurking unrecognised in your stamp collection. But don't run screaming into the night in terror. There's nothing wrong with having a few fakes and forgeries in your collection, as long as you know what they really are. They can be collected in their own right, or they can be part of a reference collection for use in identifying other stamps as genuine or forged. How can you detect those weeds in your stamp albums? The most basic way is to be familiar with the characteristics of the genuine stamps. Many older stamp forgeries were cheaply produced for the packet trade. Examine the colour, measure the stamp's perforations and check the type of paper. Most collectors seem to assume that if the gauge of perforations on a stamp differs from that listed for the stamp in a catalogue, then they must have a rare and valuable variety. In reality, it is much more likely to be a forgery.





1933 Registered Letter from Mafeking to Wolmaransstad

by Dr Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

Another interesting postal history item has crossed my path. It is a registered cover sent from Mafeking to Wolmaransstad addressed to T.S. Leask, Esq. I spent the first years of my life in Klerksdorp, and I remember stories of Thomas Leask and his businesses in the city. Was this letter addressed to him?

What makes the cover in Figure 1 interesting is it has a cachet of the Post Office Mafeking, Bechuanaland and a Union of South Africa cancellation of Mafeking on it.



Figure 1: Letter from Mafeking to Wolmaransstad

Bechuanaland was proclaimed a British protectorate, with Mafeking as the capital^[1] on 22 May 1884^[2]. Bechuanaland was later divided into two countries. Bechuanaland Protectorate, north of the Molopo, was formed on 31 March 1885 and remained a British protectorate until its independence in 1966 as the Republic of Botswana^[1]. The Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland, which included Mafeking and was located south of the Molopo. It was formed on 30 September 1885 and handed over to the Cape Colony on 16 November 1895^[1]. In 1910, the Cape Colony unified with Natal, the Transvaal and Orange Free State to form the Union of South Africa^[1].

Chief Molema and his followers settled in the area in 1852 and called it 'Molema's town'^[3]. In 1881 the name was changed to Mahikeng, meaning 'place of rocks' in Setswana^[3]. Bechuanaland was proclaimed a British protectorate, with Mafeking as the capital^[1] on 22 May 1884^[2]. Bechuanaland was later divided into two countries. Bechuanaland Protectorate, north of the Molopo, was formed on 31 March 1885 and remained a British protectorate until its independence in 1966 as the Republic of Botswana^[1]. The Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland, south of the Molopo, including Mafeking, was a short-lived colony formed on 30 September 1885 until it was handed to the Cape Colony on 16 November 1895^[1].

Even after the division of Bechuanaland, Mafeking remained also the extraterritorial capital of Bechuanaland Protectorate until Gaborone was established in 1965^{[1],[2],[3],[5],[6]}.

Britain ended up governing from the Administrative Head-quarters of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Administration^[6] out of a fort^[4] in the area in Mafeking called 'The Imperial Reserve'^[5].

This small British owned enclave, surrounded by what was then the Cape Province of South Africa, was situated on the outskirts of Mafeking, about 25 km south of the Bechuanaland Protectorate's border^[6].

The head Post Office for the Bechuanaland Protectorate did not function as a regular post office and lacked several services, e.g., postal and money order services^[7]. The postal work was controlled on behalf of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Government by the Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa^[8].

Wolmaransstad is a town 245 km south-west of Johannesburg. It was founded on the farms Rooderand and Vlaktefontein^[2] on the banks of the Makwasi River^[9] in 1888^[2] and proclaimed a town in 1891. It is named after Jacobus M. A. Wolmarans, then member of the ZAR Executive Council (Volksraad)^[2].

Thomas Spence Leask was born in an established farming district set on the outskirts of Stromness^[10], Orkney islands, Scotland on 25 September 1853^[11]. In 1872, Leask, set foot in South Africa.

His famous uncle and prominent Klerksdorp businessman, Thomas Smith Leask (author of the book *Southern African diaries, 1865-1870* on his adventurers and hunting expeditions^[12] tasked him to open a satellite general dealer branch 90km to the south-west from the main branch in Klerksdorp^[10]. The store was situated on the main transport route between the Diamond Fields of Kimberley and the Goldfields of Johannesburg.

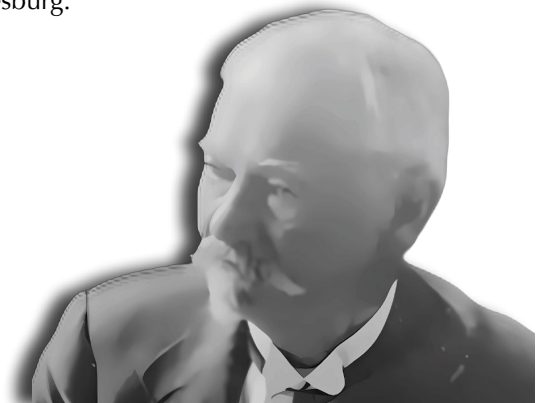


Fig.2: Thomas Spence Leask

Around Leask's general dealer store, a small settlement developed that later evolved into Wolmaransstad. In 1891, a dispute arose as to the exact locality of the town. The dispute

was mediated by Pres. Paul Kruger of the ZAR. For this, he travelled from Potchefstroom to the Wolmaransstad region and stayed at the Leask home. The dispute was settled, and Wolmaransstad was officially proclaimed a town^[10]. Kruger regularly stayed at Leask house, 4 Broadbent Street (the main street) on his visits to this part of the ZAR^[13]. Today the house is a guesthouse.

During the South African War (1899-1902), the Leask general dealer shop and family home was raided. The Leask family was interned in the Klerksdorp Concentration Camp until the end of the war, after which Leask rebuild his general dealership again.

During the Afrikaner Rebellion of 1914-1915, Thomas Leask decided to sell the general dealership and buy a farm instead^[10].

The cover in Figure 1 is an official cover mailed in Mafeking at the Head Office for the Bechuanaland Protectorate as indicated by the purple oval post office cachet (*Putzel no. 48*), with the bottom showing a double strike, on 2 September 1933.

The cover was sent to the Mafeking Union Post Office and cancelled with a 32mm circle canceller with an inner divided circle and a heavy curved bar across the bottom (*Putzel no. 1*).

The registration cachet is a handstamp in purple ink with the registration number L1053 written by hand in black ink.

The rate of postage on letters posted within the Bechuanaland Protectorate for delivery in that territory or for delivery in the Union of South Africa was 2d for each ounce or fraction thereof. The postage fee 2d regular land mail plus 4d for registered mail was paid for by a 6d definitive stamp.

In Figure 3 the back of the cover is shown with Mafeking and Wolmaransstad cancellations. The cover was sent from Mafeking (Union) at 11am on 3 September 1933 to Wolmaransstad by registered mail. The cover arrived in Wolmaransstad on 4 September 1933.

Looking at the excerpt of the Union of South Africa Postal Communications map updated in 1933 and issued in 1934 in Figure 4, the route most likely followed for the cover from Mafeking was the train over Vryburg to Warrenton. At Warrenton the mail was loaded on the train from Kimberley to Johannesburg. At Maquassi, the mail was off loaded from the train and taken to Wolmaransstad.

In the Wolmaransstad Post Office, the internal filing no. 933 was written on the front of the cover in pencil.

Thomas Leask was 69 years old when he received this cover of which the content is not known to the author. He passed away age 92 at Wolmaransstad on 24 June 1946^[11].

After five generations, P.O. Box 3, Wolmaransstad is the address of the Firth Group, an agricultures company owned by the descendants of Thomas Leask.

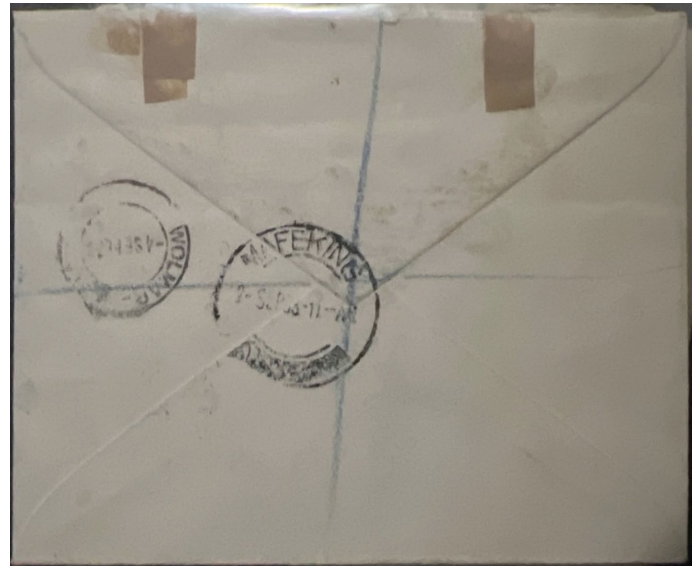


Fig.3: Back of cover

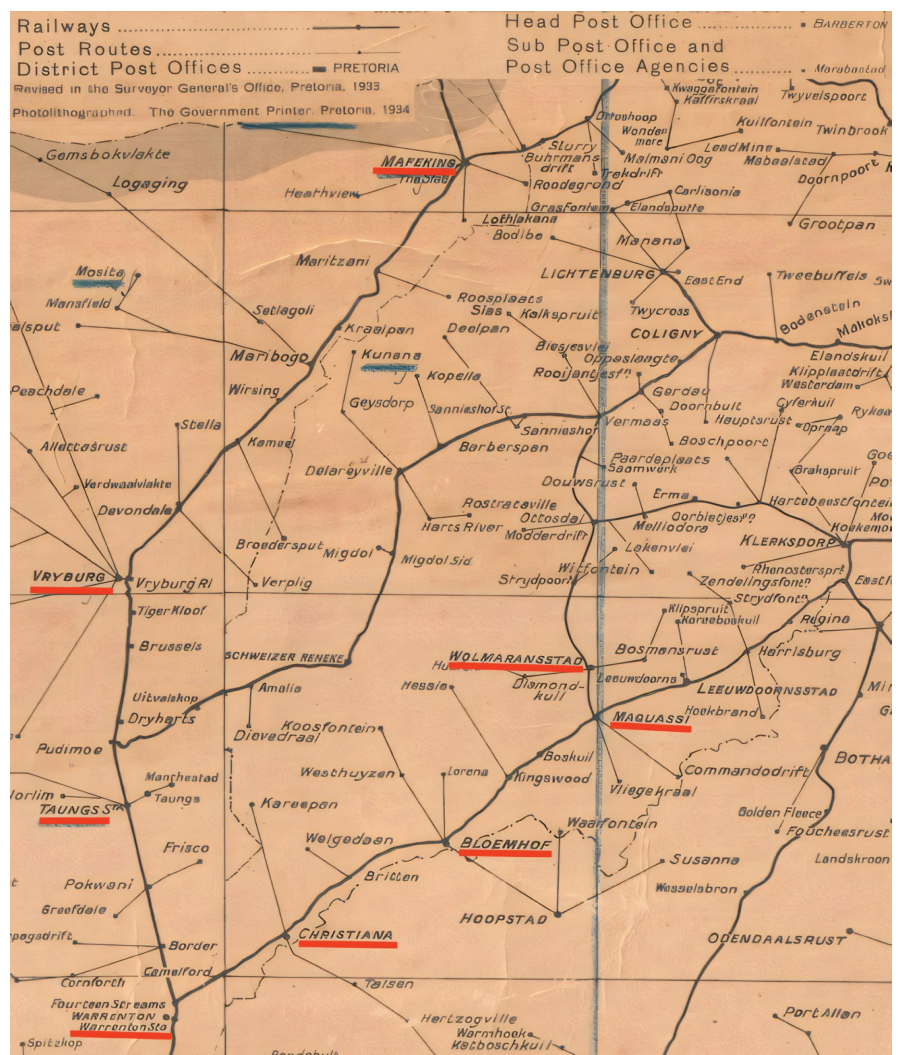


Fig.4: Excerpt of Union of South Africa Postal Communications Map

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NATIONAL STAMP SHOW



MARPEX 2024

The 2024 South African National Stamp Show

9 to 13 July 2024

Hosted by the Maritzburg Philatelic Society

Venue: Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg

Congress: 12 July 2024.

Entries have closed: 31 May 2024.

Delivery of Exhibits to Organising Committee: 9 July 2024.

Contact: John Handman - john@radium.co.za or

André du Plessis - pfsastamps@gmail.com

As part of MARPEX 100, the highly esteemed international exhibition, **CLASH OF EMPIRES**, will be exhibited at the Hilton College, from 9 to 16 July 2024.

This exhibit covers the Anglo Zulu War in KZN during 1879.

OBITUARY

IDA POTGIETER

3 August 1944 - 14 April 2024



It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Ida Potgieter who passed away on Sunday 14 April 2024.

Ida was a past President of both the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town and Stellenbosch Philatelic Society and a member of the Bellville Philatelic Society. She was also a past member of the Pinelands Stamp Circle and A.F.D. Durban and PE.

Ida had a gregarious personality and was involved in many aspects of philately and an indefatigable collector of stamps. A story often told is how she and a friend travelled from post office to post office in search of new issues of the RSA 1st Definitive stamps and corner blocks.

Her determination and enthusiasm led to some post offices phoning her on receipt of any new stamps or giving her advanced notice of new stamp issues. As a result, she had an incredible 1st Definitive collection of stamps, control blocks and sheets.

Ida also exhibited her RSA 4th Definitive collection and Pope/Pous exhibit at numerous society meetings. In addition, she inherited a vast collection of Russian stamps from her partner Claude Mathey.

Ida will be fondly remembered by all involved in philately - from dealers, exhibitors, society members and amateur collectors - on all of whom she made an impression.

Our condolences go to her daughters Helen and Alison and their families, friends and colleagues. She will be missed as a fine servant to philately in South Africa.

May she rest in peace.

C.M. 

The extended period of exhibiting the **Clash of Empires** exhibit is to allow for schools to visit the event.

The jury consists of Hugh Amooore RDPSA FRPSL (Chairman), Roger Porter RDPSA (Vice Chairman), Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Michael Wigmore RDPSA, Danna Strydom and Victor Millard.

Two apprentice judges, Anton Putter and Gary Pienaar who have been invited to attend the judging sessions. Joof van der Merwe - jury secretary.

The Organising Committee are pleased to announce the main sponsor as **Spink of London**

Please participate and support the exhibition.

**Prospectus and Entry form
AVAILABLE ON THE PFSA WEBSITE.**





EFIRO 2024 BUCHAREST SPECIALISED WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Report by the S.A. Commissioner, Joof van der Merwe,
OFS Philatelic Society



The Romanian Philatelic Federation in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Romfilatelia SA, Romanian Post and the Museum of Romanian Records held **EFIRO 2024** philatelic exhibition under the patronage of F.I.P. and F.E.P.A. The exhibition was in celebration of the union of the Romanian Principalities, 1859; and 150 years since the establishment of the Universal Postal Union, Romania being one of the founders, 1874; 150 years since the printing of the first mobile fiscal stamps at the Bucharest stamp factory, 1874 and 130 years since the first public exhibition 'Expozitia Cooperatorilor 1894' in which philatelic collections were also presented.

Numerous items were on sale e.g. Souvenir covers and a presentation pack containing, Sets of stamps, Miniature sheets and First Day Covers. Special cancellers were available for each day of the exhibition.

The exhibition was held from 16 to 19 April 2024 in the National Library of Romania with 63 countries (Commissioners) participating. It comprised 560 exhibits in 2,655 frames. These exhibits were judged by 34 Jurors, 5 expert Jurors and two apprentice Jurors. The Jury President for the exhibition was Eliyahu Weber (Israel) and the Jury Secretary was Bernard Jimenez (France).

The jury judged a total of 554 exhibits. Eleven exhibits were not exhibited as the Commissioners had visa complications. The awards list was headed by 47 Large Gold and 105 Gold awards. A total of 11 exhibits were transferred to different Classes.

Five exhibits were shown as photocopies, judged, but won't be recorded in the F.I.P. awards list.

The Palmares night was held at the beautiful La Chataeu restaurant on the evening of 19 April 2024. It was attended by more than 350 philatelists and guests from all over the world.

The **Grand Prix National** prize winner was Mr Ion Chirescu (Romania) for his Postal History exhibit 'Foreign Posts in the Romanian Territories, 1811-1878'.

The Grand Prix International prize had three candidates with the award going to Joseph Hackmey's exhibit 'Classic Baden' on the casting vote of the Jury President. The judging panel comprised the Jury Secretary and the three Vice-presidents of the International Jury Team: Chiu (Canada), Abdulla Khoory (UAE) and Turgut Turhan (Turkey). The GPI prize went to Joseph Hackmey's exhibit 'Classic Baden'.

The South African exhibitors achieved the following awards:

- **Putter Anton:** *Federal Duck stamps of the U.S.A. 1934 - 2022:* (87) - LV
- **Sorour Vic:** *South Africa: Protea definitive series:* (85) - LV
- **Van der Merwe Joof:** *The ½d Springbok of the Union of South Africa:* (86) - LV

One-Frame exhibits:

- **Barit Avi:** *Basutoland – The decimal overprints of 1961:* (69)
- **Barit Chivah:** *Swaziland – Decimal overprints of 1961:* (67)
- **Osthoff Gernot:** *The paper types of the first Erica postcard series of R.S.A.:* (74)

Activities offered by the host included a welcome dinner by the Philatelic Federation of Romania and a Gala reception dinner hosted by the Museum of Romanian Records.

FIP Qualifying Seminars for Jurors were held for the following classes: Postal Stationery, Revenue and Thematic. The A.I.P. and A.I.J.P. meeting were held and a F.I.P. round table meeting with Jurors, Commissioners and Exhibitors and is available on the F.I.P. website: <https://www.f-i-p.ch>, home page, F.I.P. Roundtable Slides 19 April 2024.

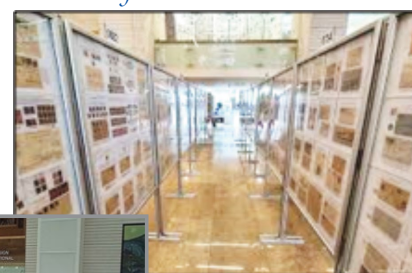
The Museum of Records is impressive, with a Philatelic collection from 1858 with 150,251 philatelic items, F.I.P. exhibitions collection from 1928, the first held in Monaco. There were Guinness World Record collections of various items such as an iron collection with 35,353 examples; cork screw with 23,965 examples; trivets, with 15,000 pieces and the Edelweiss collection containing 5,829 items. Other exhibits showed collections of old cameras, typewriters and telephones.

My sincerest thanks to the Philatelic Federation of South Africa for giving me this opportunity to promote South African Philately abroad and the exhibitors for their support and trust with their exhibits.



National Library

Museum of records



Exhibits



FOUNDED 1666

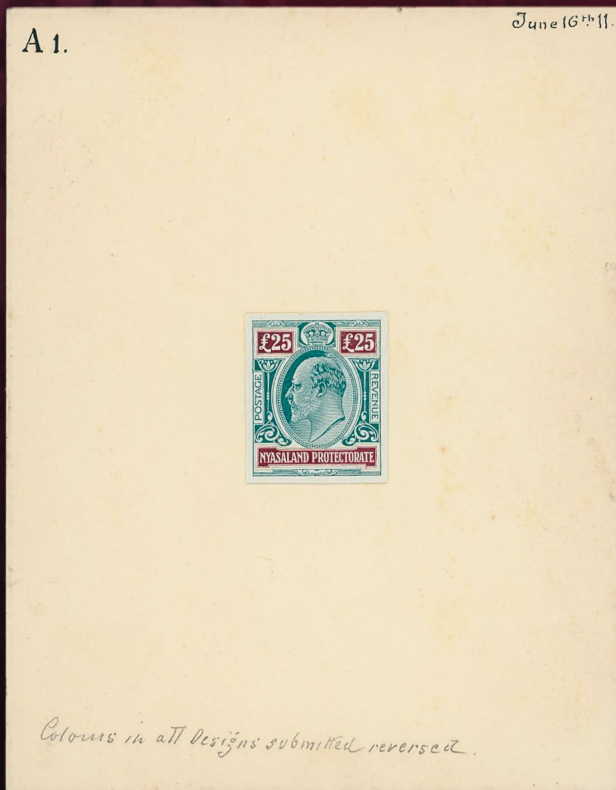
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All about stamps



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ISSN 0038-2566



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/>



A very successful Stampshow, MARPEX 100, took place at Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg from 9 to 13 July 2024. This was the first show to be held in KZN since 1988.

The next National Stampshow and Congress will be held in Paarl from 2 to 6 September 2025, hosted by Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging.

PFSA CONGRESS 2024

The 2024 Congress took place on Friday 12 July 2024 at the same venue as the Stampshow at Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg.

The PFSA president, John Handman, welcomed the delegates attending followed by the official opening by Alex Haimann FRPSL from the Royal Philatelic Society London. It was attended by 32 members which include delegates and proxies from Societies.

The newly elected PFSA president for 2025 is Gawie Hugo from the Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging. The position of Vice President is vacant.

Emil Bührmann RDPSA, President of the Philatelic Foundation informed Congress that the Foundation's financial position was healthy, though it did not have unlimited means. He assured Congress that Foundation would continue to support Federation in promoting and furthering philately in South Africa.

Motions held over from 2023:

1. The Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for the year ended 31 December 2022, were not adopted at Congress 2023. The restated AFS had been circulated and were before Congress 2024 where the 2022 as well as 2023 AFS were also adopted.
2. Congress also took note of the fact that the 2023 Congress had asked the Management Committee (MC) to consider whether to de-register Federation from VAT, and that the management Committee had decided not to do so.
3. Congress 2023 asked the Management Committee to ratify the nomination for a representative to FIAP and to review the procedure for making nominations and to report on its deliberations. Congress adopted the MC proposal that the nomination was ratified and that in future the nomination would continue to be made by the MC but after considering written proposals made by affiliated societies following requests to affiliated societies for nominations.

Motions

Pretoria PS tabled a motion that Federation *inter alia* develop a succession plan with an understudy for the key positions of Chairman of Management, Treasurer, Operations Officer and any other key positions. Management should report the plan annually at Congress and ensure that each officer has a detailed written job description, with written standard operating procedures for key functions, as the basis for short term plans and succession planning. Such items such as contact numbers are documented and accessible. Committee actions should be dealt with within the MC's powers and recognised with the role of Congress.

GENERAL

It was decided to increase the PFSA affiliation fee for 2025 to R150.00 (RSA and Worldwide members).

Membership count that includes Paid Subscription members is 730 against 710 last year.

For further details of the 2024 awards, have a look at page 87 in this issue and on the web - www.stampssa.africa - under the 'welcome' banner.



John Handman presented a MARPEX 100 medal to Ian Shapiro from Spink London, the Stampshow's main sponsor.



The gathering for the opening ceremony

Judge Anton Putter

Closer inspection: André du Plessis COO

Howard Green and Neil Cronjé

Ian Shapiro

The impressive auditorium at Hilton Colledge that afforded members of Congress an excellent venue

Taking a break: Hugh Amore, John Handman and Leon (Jake) Jacobson

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

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

- **Affiliation fee 2024:** RSA and World Wide: R135.00 (Electronic only). **PLEASE NOTE:** The PFSA affiliation fee *inter-alia* offer 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

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The South African Philatelist

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ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

- Volume. 100 : 5 986 - The **OCTOBER 2024** issue **15 SEPTEMBER 2024**

South Africa's Ninth Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX)

one-frame exhibition proudly hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. The exhibition attracted 92 entries from all over the world, including local support, for this popular event.



SAVPEX 2024: RESULTS

NAME	FEDERATION	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	CLASS	%
Bator Janusz	Poland	Poland 1918-1919	1	77
Coetzee Peter	RSA	The Iconic Victoria Falls used on the Postage of the BSAC and Rhodesias (1905 to 1980)	1	74
Dedivitis Rogério	Brazil	The Ruhleben interment camp post	1	85
Lubbe Sam	RSA	The centenary of the arrival of the British Settlers 1849	1	72
Lukes Emanuel	Czech Republic	Postal services in the Levant	1	69
Marin Massimo	Italy	The Verdino di Udine one hundred years later	1	86
Muller Chuck	RSA	RSA 4th definitive coil stamps	1	83
Piccirillo Pasquale	Italy	Trinacria - Stamps of Garibaldi's dictatorship	1	96
Sancho Cesar	Costa Rica	Costa Rica: The 1991 surcharges	1	59
Strydom Danna	RSA	Otto's printings of stamps for the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek	1	87
Turriza Sosa Edgar	Mexico	Emisión Hidalgos 1856-1861 - Hidalgos Issue 1856-1861	1	56
Van Zyl Danie	RSA	South West Africa stamps 1926-1955	1	83
Viljoen Diederik	RSA	Austria: Postage Due 1894-1935	1	74
Yoshida Takashi	Japan	Japan 1951 14.00 Yen Himeji Castle Definitive Stamp	1	83
Khaitan Piyush	India	The 1924 Mount Everest expedition	1	87
Delmore Patrick	Canada	Basutoland mail during the Second Anglo-Boer War	2	83
Amin Belaref Mohamed	Algeria	Des Allers et des retours A BBA 2012 - 2023 - Back and forth at BBA 2012 - 2023	2	70
Bornovali Seref	USA	Postal uses of 3L Destroyed Monuments Stamp of Italian Social Republic	2	86
Callan Brian	Ireland	County Cork Ship :Letters - A Gateway to Europe	2	90
Carraro Fabio	Italy	From the Austrian Empire to the Kingdom of Italy 1866-1879	2	77
Chen DongXin	China	German postal invading in Kiautschou of China Shandong Province (1886-1898)	2	90
Fusati Andrea	Italy	The post offices of the ancient province of Venice 1850-1860	2	82
Gjanci Leonard	Albania	Post of Korca 1891-1920	2	73
Jones Julian	England	Postage Due on USA to UK Mails 1875-1907	2	82
Kossoy Meer	Russia	Telegraph communication in Russia 1858-1880	2	81
Mughni Abdul Khaled	Kuwait	Mail between Kuwait & Palestine: Boycott.... Censorship.... Nationalization	2	86
Naden Garrie	UK	The Maverick Deputy Postmaster of Stockport	2	80
Ramírez Bahena Mario	Mexico	Mexico's mail in backlog, since 1900	2	75
Ryss Igor	Russia	An early period of Russian Empire Sea mail 1753-1887	2	80
Sinchawla Santpal	Thailand	Early mails between Asia and Europe via Trieste	2	87
Sommella Bruno	Italy	Postal uses of the DLR	2	83
Ustinov Demid	Russia	Simbirsk telegraf	2	65
Voruz Jean	Monaco	The Red Cross Mail in Geneva during the First Convention 1864-1906	2	92
Martins Neto Braz	Brazil	V-Mails	2	73
Mishurova Svetlana	Russia	The world of Soviet theater as seen by painter Anatoly Kalashnikov	3	73
Binanzer Klaus-Peter	Germany	Dromedare - Helfer in der Wüste - Dromedaries - Helpers in the Desert	3	70
Binanzer Klaus-Peter	Germany	Das Hufeisen ist der Schuh des Pferdes - The horseshoe is the shoe of the horse's	3	81
Futerman Dion	RSA	From the wings of the Greek gods to the wings of the mortals	3	73
Gil Zurita Luis	Mexico	Alegorías revolucionarias - El Estado Mexicano del Liberalismo al Neoliberalismo - Revolutionary allegories - The Mexican state from liberalism to neoliberalism	3	79
Gramajo Leal Romeo	Guatamala	DUDH: del Absolutismo a la búsqueda de la Igualdad - UDHR: From Absolutism to the Pursuit of Equality	3	66
Grzeszczuk Maciej	Poland	Exploring the world of rehabilitation	3	83
Martínez Guerrero Olga	Mexico	Mi maravilloso amigo el gato - My wonderful friend the cat	3	58
Martins Neto Braz	Brazil	A Fúria do Fuhrer - The fury of the Fuhrer	3	70
Miranda Raquel	Guatamala	The world of Mafalda	3	75
Orive Cruz de Véliz Ana	Guatamala	Guatemala's heart in The Little Prince: A tale of inspiration	3	61
Ouardi Lakhder	Algeria	Je suis le roi des animaux - I am the king of all animals	3	60
Picconi Salvatore	Italy	The Nuragic civilisation	3	83
Rajasheker Revathi	India	The mighty tuskerThe Elephant	3	60
Shrestha Binod	Nepal	Nepal Himalaya: Abode of the Gods, Playground of the humans	3	86
Stekolshchikov Andrey	Russia	Corals of coral reefs	3	62
Van Pletzen Mias	RSA	History of Russian aircraft	3	51
Velásquez Daniel	Guatamala	Mayan revival architecture in the Art Deco period	3	72
Wadhwa Capt Vijay	India	Above and Beyond	3	75
Turyan Leanid	Belarus	Auschwitz concentration camp	3	71
Gómez Martínez Angel Luis	Mexico	Primer Vuelo México - Tuxpan - Tampico - First flight Mexico - Tuxpan - Tampico	4	74
Kahn Serge	France	Thor Solberg's Odyssey	4	80
Khaitan Piyush	India	The birth of airmail - The first aerial post at Allahabad - 18 February 1911	4	91

NAME	FEDERATION	EXHIBIT	CLASS	%
Mughni Abdul Khaled	Kuwait	IA first flights through Kuwait 1932 - 1934	4	81
Pienaar Gary	RSA	Free Forces Airmail Letter Cards (Aerograms) : South African Air Force, Korea 1950 - 1953	4	79
Schuurman Dick	RSA	Aviation firsts	4	61
Selby Leslie	Canada	From first flight to disaster - Zeppelin Hindenburg	4	77
Rigo Antoni	Spain	Single-stage-to-orbit (SSTO)	5	70
Chrispin Ygor	Brazil	Brazilian justification of electoral absence	6	78
Costa Braga Henrique	Brazil	Printings and varieties not cataloged in Brazilian Social Aerograms	6	74
Tulsyan Rajvir	Nepal	Nepal's First Aerogrammes: Unveiling 1959's cultural treasures	6	83
Gardiner Stewart	UK	Great Britain medicine tax stamps	7	73
Rana Ashok	Nepal	Medieval period Nepal: Pre - revenue land documents on palm leaves	7	90
Du Plessis André	RSA	The covers of the SA Van Riebeeck Festival, 1952	8	78
McEntyre John	Canada	Bank note companies in Canada send commercial first day covers	8	82
Kraus Jiri	Czech Republic	Dr. Václav Vojtěch - The first Czech in Antarctica	9	86
Meyer Pieter	RSA	Die internasionale verhaal van 'n ware Filatelis	9	67
Rivera Grajeda Carlos	Guatemala	Guatemala City at the beginning of the 20th century	9	73
Van Niekerk Herman	RSA	Filateliese outobiografie	9	73
Andreyuk Valery	Belarus	Belarusian landscape in the heart of Ivan Shyshkin	10	77
Blinco John	Australia	Symbolism in Mayday postcards of the Khrushchev era 1953-1964	10	90
Coetzee Peter	RSA	The Good Fieldmarshall - Paul Ludwig Hans Anton von Beneckendorff und von Hindenburg 1874 - 1934	10	77
Du Plessis André	RSA	Disorder on the Rand - 1913/14	10	80
Mehra Gauresh	India	Poetic Beauty of Bombay's Postcards	10	77
Mehra Sushil	India	Bombay's Red Double Decker Bus	10	69
Metaj Matjaž	Slovenia	They share the sky with birds	10	78
Shestakova Anzhelika	Russia	The Alexander Column - 190 years of history on postcards	10	69
Donen Neil	Canada	Madame Joseph forged postmarks and the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue: A closer look	11	86
Price Malcolm	UK	Northern Territory-Australia. Post Master General Department Operated WWII Military and R.A.A.F. Post Offices	11	82
Wong Chi Fai Ivan	Hong Kong	Cancellations on Issues of Hong Kong Queen Victoria 2c after 1900	11	82
Borgogno M.C. Ketty	Italy	The Accademia dei Lincei stamp and its many faces	12	64
Kumar Satish	India	Head gears of India	13	57
Adka Jaagruthi Nithin	India	Olympics - Bird's eye view	15	75
Balaji Shruthikaa	India	Geographical indication tagged handlooms of Southern India	15	60
Malachov Alexander	Russia	Cosmonautics on the New Year's postcards - 2017	15	70
Salahuddin Md. Samsuzzaman	Bangladesh	Biodiversity and nature of Bangladesh	15	62



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This is for your protection.



Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society and guest contributor Hendrik Geyer Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



The Lady Grey Bridge segmented/vandalised cancellation revisited

I am indebted to Hendrik Geyer who prepared this column to share his research and alert Cape collectors about the new information.

In his article *Errors and varieties in early southern African postal cancellers and obliterations* Franco Frescura (S. Afr. J. Cult. Art Hist. 3 (1989) 195-202) discusses a number of 'errors of structural make-up' that can be found among early Cape of Good Hope cancellers, in particular. This remains an interesting field of study. These include errors of orthography (e.g. Houw Hock for Houw Hoek), errors of die-cutting (numerous instances where mirror images of 'N' and 'Z' appear), and also cancellers modified with official sanction, as distinct from vandalised cancellers. Examples of the former include the case of Mtentu (Fig.1), where the original Umtentu was modified by removing the 'U' (resulting in an 'unbalanced' appearance of the name) and Klipdam No 1 which subsequently had the 'No 1' removed.

This led to the speculation that that it may have been "an isolated act of protest on the part of a bored or disillusioned postal official, done in the knowledge that this office was scheduled to be closed in the immediate future". (The closure of the Lady Grey Bridge postal agency was officially announced in Post Office Circular No. 249 of 1 August 1902.)

A new date for the first usage of the serrated canceller has meanwhile been found – 22 Mar 1895 – which safely rules out that we are dealing with 'an act of protest' in 1900, leaving the motive for the vandalism as an open question (as now also indicated in the Visser & Frescura revised and updated online version of the original publication).

The latest recorded date of the serrated cancellation (5 Apr 1902) appears on the back of a 1902 Boer War pass – see Fig.5.



Fig.1: Earliest recorded use of modified Mtentu date stamp (JU 5/00).

A curious case of apparent vandalism is the example of the Lady Grey Bridge canceller; the post office was probably located near the Lady Grey Bridge Hotel in Paarl (see the postcard in Fig.2). Intermittent parts of the outer ring had been filed away to give it a serrated appearance – compare the original in Fig. 3 with the serrated structure in Fig.4. The sender from Van Rhyn's Dorp to the editor of the *Afrikaanse Patriot* was PB van Rhyn, founder of the town and first member for Namaqualand in the Cape Parliament. Until the time that Frescura's *Post Offices and the Postal Marking of the Cape of Good Hope, 1792-1910* was first published in 2002 the earliest known example of the serrated cancellation was dated 24 Aug 1900 and the latest use recorded for the intact cancellation was 21 Apr 1900.



Fig.2: Lady Grey Street, Paarl ca 1895, showing the Lady Grey Bridge Hotel.

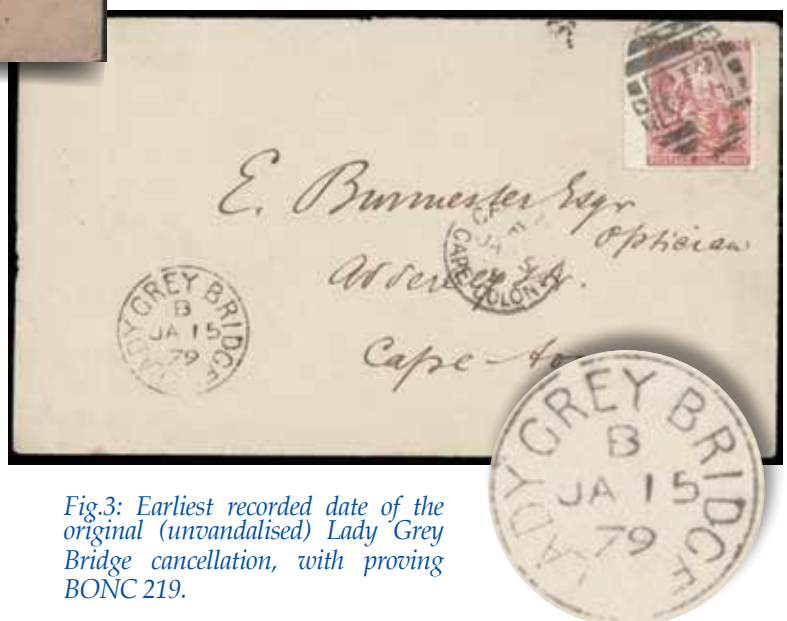


Fig.3: Earliest recorded date of the original (unvandalised) Lady Grey Bridge cancellation, with proving BONC 219.



Fig 4: Earliest recorded 1895 date of the vandalised Lady Grey Bridge cancellation, with detail of the back.



Dit is interessant hoe ons dikwels terugkyk want die ou mense was presies en dikwels reg. Nogtans vind ons gereeld foute, soos in hierdie rubriek bewys is. En dit is dan ook 'n lekker studieveld. Ook kry ons antwoorde op spekulasie, soos met vermoedelike vandalisme van die Lady Grey Bridge stempel in die Paarl.



Fig.5: Latest recorded use of the vandalised Lady Grey Bridge cancellation, on the back of a 1902 Boer War pass.



CITATION for JOOF VAN DER MERWE

A motivate for the awarding of a RDPSA recognition for Josua Joubert van der Merwe, or Joof, as he known amongst his friends.

Well respected and loved by all members of his society ever since he appeared from nowhere in 2009 to join the Orange Free State society, he is a nature lover and constantly busy in his garden or fishing - if he is not in a national park, he is somewhere in the mountains. He is a collector of many things including coins and of course stamps.

In 2010 he won the Bert Myburgh trophy for his *half penny Springbok pictorial issue of the Union of South Africa* and in 2011, he was elected as Editor of the *Orange Free State magazine*. Three years after he joined the society, he became the secretary and continued as the editor of the newsletter as well as a committee member.

He participated at national level in 2021 with *the first definitive architecture series of the RSA* and received the Large Vermeil as well as the AJV special award. He also received the Vermeil for his *Proteas of the RSA* exhibit.

In 2022 at the Cape Town National Exhibition Joof received a Large Vermeil for the study of the *Half Penny Springbok of the Union of South Africa*. He was assistant commissioner general and BIN room organiser for Cape Town 2022

In Johannesburg 2023 the *Half Penny Springbok* was shown again but this time as the *plating of the JIPEX* series.

Since 2023 he has shown at BOFEX and SAVPEX receiving good awards. Joof was awarded the AAPE Gold Award of Honour in 2021 at the Canadian virtual one frame exhibition and in 2022 his award of a Large Vermeil for the plating of the *definitive series 1977 Proteas of the RSA* at Indonesia International exhibition. A Vermeil was awarded for his plating of the *Third definitive series of the RSA* at New Zealand 2023.

In Taipei 2023 he received Vermeil for the study of the *Half Penny Springbok of the Union of South Africa*.

Joof has performed secretarial duties in 2017 for BOFEX and for SAVPEX. From 2019 to 2024 he was the secretary to the organisers and the jury secretary for SAVPEX and in Singapore in 2019 and in 2022 Joof was the national commissioner and the national commissioner for South Africa to Indonesia. This year he attended the Romanian exhibition as commissioner. Regional exhibition in Dubai was also attended as commissioner in 2023.

We therefore recommend that Joof van der Merwe be awarded a RDPSA for his contribution to philately in South Africa and to organise philately.



The 'new' RDPSA member
Josua Joubert van der Merwe

MARPEX 100

The 2024 South African National Stamp Show
9 to 13 July 2024

Hosted by the Maritzburg Philatelic Society



The Venue

Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg.
Kwazulu Natal (Fig.1).

The Exhibition



Fig.2: The exhibition frames

The MARPEX 100 National, held
in Pietermaritzburg's Hilton College.



Fig.1: The venue Hilton College



Fig.3: John Handman introducing
Alex Haimann FRPSL before the
opening the Stampshow

Opening of the Exhibition

Attendance was good every day at the Exhibition with a conservative estimate of 300+ visitors that attended during the four days. The exhibition can be regarded as a great success! Congratulations to the Organising Committee.

There were 160 competitive frames, 50 Entries including three Literature entries and 41 frames shown in the Court of Honour. The jury awarded three Large Gold, five Gold and 10 Large Vermeils, no Silver, two Silver Bronze and three Bronze awards. In the one-frame category there was one outstanding exhibit with a score above 90, sixteen in the range 70-84, and ten in the range 50-64.

Opening of the 86th Congress

Congress met at 09h40 but adjourned at 10h20 for a joint presentation by Alexander Haimann FRPSL (Fig.4) and David Beech MBE FRPSL to the 86th Congress and the 105th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain on the subject: *Exploring the contours of CONTEXT PHILATELY*. The joint presentation was made possible by a Zoom link.

David Beech made the point that Context Philately is "whatever you want it to be", and that is aimed at education and the interpretation of history/culture/technology etc. He argued that philately had been isolationist in its operations but should be able to develop its full potential, to develop beyond current interpretations,

Fig.4: Alex Haimann FRPSL
declaring Congress Officially open



Fig.5: Ian Shapiro, of Spink, Hugh Amoore and
Alex Haimann.



Fig.6: SAPDA's, Ken Napier & Clinton
Goslin with Adél Bulpitt, Chair of
The SA Philatelist.



Fig.5: André du Plessis RDPSA (COO), John
Handman (President), Neil Cronjé RDPSA
(Chairman Management Committee)

what collectors might do. In its essence Context Philately is not an exhibition class or intended to become one, and is not prescriptive, not to be seen as limited to the Open Class but is applicable to all classes, existing or future; it is about broadening horizons, going beyond the limitations of rules, and seeking ways forward. He gave two examples of how a Context Philately approach could be used (in relation to a display of postmarks of Aden or the display of a 1d black on cover).

Alex Haimann followed by exploring the way a context philately approach had been applied to the 2023 *Clash of Empires Exhibition*, held at the RPSL. He gave examples of how the approach could be, and had been, applied, to these items He told how in a serendipitous way the Earl of Crawford's late-career obsession and love affair with philately - and the formation of his philatelic library, now in the British Library - had been ignited by his 1898 purchase at auction of the collection (the stamp collection) of 19th Century Anglo-Zulu War hero John Chard VC!

Their introductory talks were followed by question-and-answer sessions in both venues. A recording of the joint presentation may be found on the PFSA website welcome page or by following the link: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Context-Philately-Alex-Haimann.mp4>

For the very first time a successful joint live presentation via ZOOM, was held between two International Philately Congresses - the UK and SA Philatelic Congress.

Philatelists awarded with top PFSA awards

Roll of Distinguished Philatelist of South Africa, RDPSA:
Andrew Briscoe FRPSL (Fig.6.) and Joof van der Merwe, their citations appear on pages 90 and 85 .

Fig.6: Andrew Briscoe
signing the Roll of
Distinguished Philatelists of
South Africa (RDPSA) with
John Handman at left. (His
Citation is on page 90).



Skinner Cup: Not awarded.

**Manfred Weinstein Memorial
Medallion:** David Mordant
(Witwatersrand PS).

WE Lea Cup: Adél Bulpitt (Pretoria Philatelic Society).

Jack Hagger Trophy:

Neil Donen (Royal Philatelic Society of Canada) for best article on philately of Southern Africa published in *The SA Philatelist* in the last two years (2022/23).

Federation Plaque:

Dr. Charles Deacon (George Philatelic Society).
Victor Millard (Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town).
Kenny Napier (SA Philatelic Dealers Association, SAPDA).
Johan van Wyk (Sasolburg Philatelic Society).
Dave Wyllie (Maritzburg Philatelic Society).

Federation Certificate:

Heather Wyllie (Maritzburg Philatelic Society).
Fred Handman (Maritzburg Philatelic Society).

Letters of Appreciation

 - addressed to all authors of articles the past year in *The SA Philatelist*.

PFSA management would like to extend a word of thanks to each member for their support and contribution to SA philately in general.

MANAGEMENT 2024

- President: Gawie Hugo
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Region 5: KwaZulu-Natal: John Handman
Region 6: Western Cape: Chuck Muller
Region 7: Eastern Cape: Vernon Mitchell
Region 8: Outside Areas: Richard Stroud RDPSA

PFSA President for 2025

 - Gawie Hugo (at right)

Below: *The Jury deliberating* (L to R) Secretary, Joof van der Merwe, (back to the camera) Gerhard Kamffer, Michael Wigmore, Dana Strydom, Anton Putter, Gary Pienaar and Hugh Amoore



The jury. In front L to R: Gary Pienaar, Joof van der Merwe, Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL (chairman), Roger Porter RDPSA, Victor Millard

Back: Danna Strydom, Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Anton Putter, Michael Wigmore RDPSA



JURY REPORT

By Hugh Amoore RDPSA



*Hugh Amoore
RDPSA*

At the outset I place on record the Jury's appreciation to John Handman and André du Plessis for flawless arrangements for the Jury, and to Joof van der Merwe for acting as jury secretary with his by now well-known efficiency.

The jury comprised six members and two apprentices. The two teams, each of two accredited jurors supported by an apprentice, were assigned the task of judging different classes (i.e., each team had to do detailed work on half of the exhibits, based on their expertise and exhibiting/judging experience) while the chair and deputy chair attempted a review of all exhibits.

Judging took place on Wednesday and Thursday 10 & 11 July 2024. Jury debates were constructive and ensured a uniform approach to scoring. Three exhibits were moved from the entered class to a different class where they did better. There were 48 entries half of which were one frame exhibits (or exhibits over two frames entered under the one-frame rules). In the multi-frame entries we awarded three large golds, five golds and 10 large vermeil medals; no silver medal but two silver bronze and three bronze awards.

In the one-frame category we had one outstanding exhibit (with a score above 90) sixteen in the range 70-84, and ten in the range 50-64.

Exhibits entered in the open class usually failed to take advantage of the scope this class offers. There is, in this jury's opinion, an urgent need for judging seminars and workshops on the open class and an examination of what constitutes non-philatelic material; for example, the FIP guidelines provide that philatelic material must be at least 50% of the exhibit and that "all types of philatelic material [that may be] included in all other exhibiting categories" may be shown. But does that mean picture postcards for example? Our recommendation is that the Ethics & Judging Committee and the Management Committee give priority to a judging seminar and follow-up workshops for collectors on the open class.

No item was identified as requiring a certificate and in no case did a jury team refer a doubtful item for expert scrutiny; Michael Wigmore RDPSA – the convener of the PFSA Expert Committee - had been deputed to act with the chair & deputy chair had the need arisen. No blacklisted item was identified.

The jury included two members serving as apprentices for the second time. Each did duty on both teams and both leaders unconditionally recommended that they be accredited in all categories, recommendations we were pleased to support and which I am able to report have been approved by the Judging & Ethics Committee of the PFSA; as a result Anton Putter and Gary Pienaar are now accredited national philatelic judges.

The jury members were Roger Porter RDPSA (deputy chair), Michael Wigmore RDPSA, Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA; Danna Strydom, Victor Millard, Gary Pienaar (apprentice) and Anton Putter (apprentice). Joof van der Merwe RDPSA acted the jury secretary.

PS: Jury Exhibits (non-competitive) were by Roger Porter (four important exhibits with a Natal focus) Gary Pienaar (the 1947 Royal Visit to South Africa) and Hugh Amoore (WWI Internment in South Africa with the emphasis on Fort Napier).

MARPEX 100 AWARDS LISTING

ExhibitTitle	Exhibitor Name	Frame Number	Award	Class
Large Gold (90+)				
Rhodesia: The Double Head issue 1910-1913 - The perf. 14 printings Flanagan, Patrick <i>Witwatersrand Philatelic Society</i>		95	• Traditional GB & Commonwealth	
• The Grand Prix (best of show)				
The South Africa border war including the involvement of the Cubans 1966-1989 Joubert, Johan <i>Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria</i>		93	• Open Class	
• SA Post Office Shield (best Exhibit SA Philately)				
The First Town and Village Posts of British Honduras Matheson, Ian <i>Philatelic Society of Johannesburg</i>		91	• Postal History Americas	
• Dawid De Villiers Display Trophy				
Gold (85 - 89)				
Southern Rhodesia: Postal stationery during the range of KG V and KG VI Flanagan, Patrick <i>Witwatersrand Philatelic Society</i>		89	• Postal Stationery	
Southern Rhodesia: The Issues of the Reign of King George V: 1924 - 1936 Brodovsky, Keith <i>Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town</i>		88	• Traditional GB & Commonwealth	
• Royal Medallion (best British Commonwealth Exhibit)				
Into the blue King, Clive <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		88	• Open Class	
• AFV Eretoekenning (at the Discretion of the Jury)				
Union of South Africa: 1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V Du Plessis, André <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		87	• Traditional GB & Commonwealth	
• South African Stamp Study Circle Award (best SA Exhibit after 1910)				
• C.E.D. Enoch Trophy (best Philatelic Research)				
Southern Rhodesia - Third definitive issue King George VI Flanagan, Patrick <i>Witwatersrand Philatelic Society</i>		86	• Traditional GB & Commonwealth	
• Rhodesia Study Circle Cup (best Rhodesian Exhibit)				
Large Vermeil (80-84)				
South African airmail etiquettes 1925 - 2024 Cook, Howard <i>Philatelic Society of KwaZulu Natal</i>		84	• FDC, Cinderellas	
• Ilsapex Award				
Union of South Africa external Military Missions and Associated Mail, 1946-1953 Findlay, James <i>Philatelic Society of Johannesburg</i>		84	• Open Class	
• Claude Malan Trophy				
Postal cancellers of the Cape, 1853-1910 Frescura, Franco <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		84	• Literature, Printed books & Pamphlets	
• Jonas Michelson Literature Award (Best Literature)				
Rhodesia's early posts Jelbert, Michael <i>Philatelic Society of KZN</i>		83	• Traditional GB & Commonwealth	
Entertainment Tax in Palestine and Israel Matheson, Ian <i>Philatelic Society of Johannesburg</i>		83	• Revenues	
• Society of Israel Philatelic Award (best Israel / Holy Land Exhibit)				
Kings-Heads Definitives of the Union of South Africa (1910-1926) Erasmus, Louwrence <i>Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria</i>		82	• Traditional GB & Commonwealth	
The plating of the cylinders of the 1982, Fourth Definitive Architecture issue of the Republic of South Africa van der Merwe, Joof		82	• Traditional Rest of the World	
The Blue Triangle of South Africa Bulpitt, Adél <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		80	• Postal Stationery	
• Potch 78 Award (best Exhibit Post-WW II)				
• East Rand Philatelic Society Floating Trophy (best First-time Exhibit)				
Poster display tax in French municipalities Matheson, Ian <i>Philatelic Society of Johannesburg</i>		80	• Revenues	
Come fly with me Mitchell, Vernon <i>P E Philatelic Society</i>		80	• FDC, Cinderellas	
Large Silver (70-74)				
Dorslandtrekkers Van Zeyl, Paul <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		73	• Open Class	

ExhibitTitle	Exhibitor Name	Frame Number	Award	Class
Large Bronze (60-64)				
The South West Africa Official Stamps - 1926 to 1955. A reference collection van Zyl, Danie <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		64	• Literature, Printed books & Pamphlets	
• Rose Marie Crocker Shield (best SWA Exhibit)				
South Africa, early Russia, and the USA 'Byrd' Drift South: A Minute History of Antarctic Exploration (1940-1975) Lubbe, Sam <i>OFS Philatelic Society</i>		63	• Open Class	
Bronze (50 - 59)				
Southern African birds Lydall, Terry <i>Philatelic Society of Johannesburg</i>		59	• Open Class	
Obliterators of the World Schuurman, Dick <i>P E Philatelic Society</i>		57	• Postal History Rest of the World	
Postcards, Union Castle line, Southern Africa Laubscher, Xavier <i>SAPDA</i>		50	• Literature, Printed books & Pamphlets	
Awards Listing of One Frame Exhibits				
Disorder on the Rand - 1913/14 Du Plessis, André <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		93	• One Frame Picture Postcards	
• SAPRG Archie Atkinson Trophy (best Picture Postcard Exhibit of Southern Africa)				
Union Loan Certificates/National Savings Du Plessis, André <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		84	• One Frame Open Class	
Postal Stationery of Southern Nigeria Cronjé, Neil <i>OFS Philatelic Society</i>		83	• One Frame Postal Stationery	
1973 Registered mail containing money sent from South Africa to Sekakes Erasmus, Louwrence <i>Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria</i>		83	• One Frame Postal History National Class	
Postcards of the Johannesburg Empire Exhibition - 1936 Du Plessis, André <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		82	• One Frame Picture Postcards	
The South West Africa Official Stamps - 1926 to 1955 van Zyl, Danie <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		81	• One Frame Traditional GB & Commonwealth	
The Covers of the SA Van Riebeeck Festival, 1952 Du Plessis, André <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		79	• One Frame Open Class	
Postcards of South Africa: Cape Peninsula Atlantic Seaboard Muller, Chuck <i>Bellville Philatelic Society</i>		79	• One Frame Picture Postcards	
• The Arie Bakker Award				
Twelve Print Techniques on South African Stamps - 1910 to 2024 Du Plessis, André <i>Pretoria Philatelic Society</i>		78	• One Frame Traditional National Class	
Union of South Africa's Christmas seals on 1979 Golden Jubilee Seals Erasmus, Louwrence <i>Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria</i>		77	• One Frame FDC Cinderellas	
Republiek van Suid-Afrika se 12½s seëls Erasmus, Louwrence <i>Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria</i>		74	• One Frame Traditional National Class	
• F.A.K. Trophy (best with write-up in Afrikaans)				
The 1961 ½c Natal Kingfisher. A review of the different Groups I and II printings and distributions Jacobson, Leon <i>Sasolburg Philatelic Society</i>		74	• One Frame Traditional National Class	
Namibia: The overprints of the 2000's and their origin Orkin, Gila <i>Witwatersrand Philatelic Society</i>		74	• One Frame Traditional GB & Commonwealth	
Soliloquy of a postage stamp Breytenbach, Kim <i>Maritzburg Philatelic Society</i>		73	• One Frame Open Class	
The development of South African Air Mail 1911-1948 Futerman, Dion <i>Bellville Philatelic Society</i>		72	• One Frame Open Class	
Revenue stamps of the Union of South Africa: King George VI 1946-52 Viljoen, Diederik <i>Bellville Philatelic Society</i>		71	• One Frame Revenues	

- Filateliese outobiografie
Van Niekerk, Herman *Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria* 70
• One Frame Open Class
- The ancient tree of life
Bowles, Aubrey 65
• One Frame Open Class
- Rhodesia - U.D.I.
Jelbert, Michael *KZN Philatelic Society* 64
• One Frame Traditional GB & Commonwealth
- From wild to cuddly: The story of the Teddy Bear
Harris, Terry Lynne *Pretoria Philatelic Society* 63
• One Frame Open Class
- SWA: Postal stationery cards 1915 - 1928
Jacobson, Leon *Sasolburg Philatelic Society* 62
• One Frame Postal Stationery
- The horse
Wyllie, David Crombie *PMB Philatelic Society* 62
• One Frame Thematic Nature
- Basutoland: The decimal overprints 1961
Barit, Avi *Witwatersrand Philatelic Society* 59
• One Frame Traditional GB & Commonwealth
- C - A girl's best friend
Bowles, Aubrey *PMB Philatelic Society* 59
• One Frame Open Class
- The heroic age of Polar exploration
Grinyer, James *Pretoria Philatelic Society* 59
• One Frame Open Class
- Bees by the swarm
Harris, Trevor *Sasolburg Philatelic Society* 59
• One Frame Thematic Nature
- Marine Mammals
Bowles, Aubrey *PMB Philatelic Society* 58
• One Frame Open Class
- An introduction to the philately of apartheid
Jacobson, Cecily *Sasolburg Philatelic Society* 53
• One Frame Open Class

A special thanks extended to the **Dealers of SAPDA** who supported the MARPEX 100. Present at the event - Ian Shapiro of Spink, President Kenny Napier, Clive King, Clinton Goslin, Francois Friend, Ken Joseph, Michael Wigmore and Richard Johnson who donated towards its success, but was unable to attend.

Members attending Congress



First row L to R: *Leon Jacobsen, Vice President Free State; John Handman, outgoing PFSA President; Val Mogg, Edenvale PS; Gavie Hugo, newly elected PFSA President, Fred Handman, Maritzburg PS; Gary Pienaar, PS of Johannesburg; Nicolene Barnard, OFS PS; Roger Porter RDPSA, Postmark & Postal History Society; Seated in front Victor Millard, Royal PS of Cape Town and Adel Bulpitt, Pretoria PS. Second row: Hugh Amoore RDPSA, Royal PS of Cape Town; Dave Wyllie, Maritzburg PS; Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Hon. Life Vice President; Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, Awards Custodian; Neil Cronjé RDPSA, Chairman Management Committee; Danna Strydom, Transvaal Study Circle; Howard Green RDPSA, Hon. Life Vice President. Back row: Vernon Mitchell, Reg. Vice Chairman Eastern Cape; Anton Putter, Stellenbosch Filateliese Vereniging; Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria; Diederik Viljoen, Reg. Vice President Western Cape; Mike Jacobs, OFS PS.*



The impressive Hilton College Auditorium offered the Congress delegates all the electronic support for a successful event.



Delegates filling up the auditorium



Patrick Flanagan RDPSA



Emil Buirhmann RDPSA



Roger Porter RDPSA and, at the back on his cell phone Gary Pienaar



Vernon Mitchell reading the programme



SAPDA's Kenny Napier and Clinton Goslin



Victor Millard & Adel Bulpitt



Ian Matheson & Neil Cronjé both RDPSA's



The first frame of Alex Haimann FRPSL the 2023 Clash of Empires Exhibition, showing his examples of how the approach could be applied, to his items for the formation of his collection, now in the British Library.

PALMARES

Roll of Distinguished Philatelist of South Africa - RDPSA



Seated: *Ian Matheson, Neil Cronje, Howard Green and Emil Minnaar*
 Standing: *Roger Porter, Michael Wigmore, Joof van der Merwe, Hugh Amoore and André du Plessis*



Heather Wyllie receiving a Federation Certificate from the PFSA president



Receiving a past president brooch from incoming President, Gawie Hugo



Joof van der Merwe signing the Roll of Honour His citation is on p 83



Lourence Erasmus receiving his exhibition certificate from Ian Shapiro of Spink

Citation* for Andrew Briscoe to sign the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa

Born in the UK, Andrew James Briscoe's collecting interests narrowed from all-world at age six, to British Commonwealth at ten and finally to postal history at university. After graduating, he concentrated on the postal history of Nottinghamshire, giving displays to various local philatelic societies. In London as a non-executive director of London Stamp Auctions, he joined the Hampshire and District Philatelic Society serving as Secretary and President and gave displays of maritime mail to societies in the Greater London area. His output included a weekly column on stamp collecting for the Nottingham Evening Post and the Liverpool Echo.

In 1993, Andrew emigrated to Botswana where he joined the Botswana Philatelic Society and the Gaborone Stamp Club, and served on the Botswana Stamp Advisory Committee, latterly as Vice- Chairman. In collaboration with Botswana Post he is currently attempting to revive the Botswana Philatelic Society.

Whilst Andrew's collections cover aspects of Cape Maritime

Mail, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and the Second Anglo-Boer War, his principal current interests are the Maritime Postal History of Mauritius, the postal history of Britain's military campaigns in Africa up to 1900 and Censorship of Mail during the Second Anglo-Boer War.

Over the years, Andrew has enjoyed membership of more than seven specialised philatelic societies. His current memberships are the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society, since 2007, and the Royal Philatelic Society of London, since 2012, being elected Fellow of the Society in 2023.

In addition to collecting postal history, Andrew also collects historical maps and in 2015 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Andrew is best known for his writing on the postal history of Southern Africa. Since 2008 he has written over 50 articles for The South African Philatelist and in 2010 and 2022 he was awarded the Jack Hagger Memorial Award for the best article in Postal History. Outlets for his philatelic articles include all the major journals covering southern Africa.

* Please note that this citation has been condensed and not the original presented to the management committee.

FORWARDING AGENTS OPERATING IN NATAL

by Roger Porter RDPSA and Keith Klugman RDPSA FRPSL



As railway construction by the Natal Government Railways advanced travelling from Pietermaritzburg towards Charlestown and the Transvaal border, a combined rail and road service developed progressively at each rail head. Mail from Natal was taken from these rail heads by post cart or mail coaches for onward delivery. Mail arriving at a post office at a rail head was loaded onto the mail train travelling to Durban. Construction work on the main line from Durban to Pietermaritzburg had begun in 1877 and reached the capital in December 1880. There was great need for the extension of the line to Ladysmith to obtain coal from the Dundee coalfields. Construction commenced in 1883 and the railway reached Estcourt in December 1885 and Ladysmith by June 1886. The branch line from Biggarsberg Junction to Dundee was operational by December 1890 (Campbell 1951).

Forwarding Agents in Natal established operations at these rail heads to transport goods to various destinations in Natal, Transvaal and Orange Free State brought there by mixed trains. They were commercial firms who undertook the onward transmission of goods. Those Forwarding Agents operating in Natal generally used postal stationery postal cards on which were printed messages detailing current rates of transport. Some of these agencies applied a cachet or a label advertising their service.

Recorded cards and covers from forwarding agencies are listed below:

SCHENK'S FORWARDING AGENCY

The agency's office, operated from 1851, and was at the top of Church Street, Pietermaritzburg.

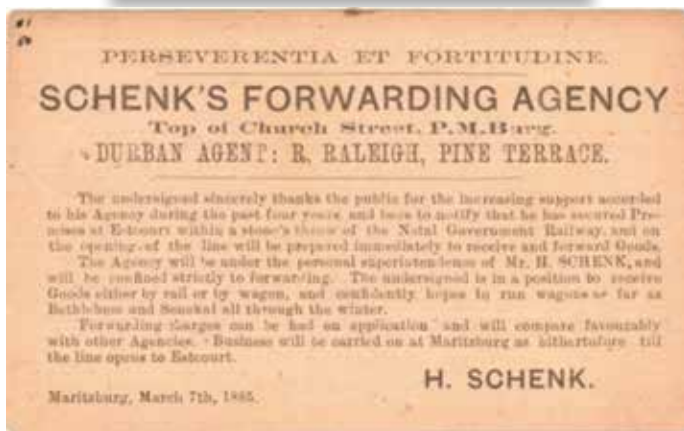


Fig.1: Printed message on QV 1/2 d postal stationery card cancelled G P O 8 3 85 sent locally. The message thanks the public for their support over the last four years and informs them of the opening of an office at Estcourt close to the N G R railway station. It also refers to the future opening of the line, receiving and forwarding goods hoping to run wagons to Bethlehem and Senekal (O V S). The railway line reached Estcourt on 21 December 1885.

KENT & CO. / FORWARDING AGENTS



Fig.3: Printed message on QV 1/2 d postal stationery card cancelled Ladysmith Rail MR 26 87 to Durban MR 27 87. Message acknowledges receipt of advances. The railway line had reached Ladysmith on 21 June 1886.

J. ROY & Co.

Construction of the railway line continued from Ladysmith and reached Biggarsberg Junction (later renamed Glencoe) where a branch line to Dundee was built on 4 September 1889.

Fig.2: A cover with an oval cachet SCHENK'S FORWARDING AGENT, NATAL/ was cancelled at Ladysmith 16 11 *7 to Newcastle NO 17 87. (ex. Filat).



Fig.4: card (continued on page 89)

J. ROY & Co.
CURRENT RATES OF TRANSPORT FROM LADYSMITH
TO

TRANSVAAL		ORANGE F. STATE	
Barberton .. 12.		Bethlehem .. 5.	
Bloemfontein 8/6	6/6	Cronstadt .. 6.	6/6
Ermelo .. 6.	6	Ficksburg .. 6.	6
Heidelberg .. 4.	6	Frankfort .. 5.	6
Kimberley		Harrismith .. 2.	6
Klerksdorp .. 9.		Heilbron .. 5/9	6/4
Komatie .. 9.		Lindley .. 5.	6
Lydenburg .. 2.		Senekal .. 5.	9
Lake Chrissie 4.	6	Vreda	
Middelburg .. 10.		Vredafort .. 6.	6
Potchefstroom 8.		Ventersberg 6.	6
Pretoria .. 9.	6	Parijs	
Johannesburg 8.	6	Winburg .. 4.	6
Rustenburg .. 10.	6	Zuring Krantz ..	
Standerton .. 6.			
Steynsdorp .. 10.	6		
Wakkerstroom 3.			
Utrecht .. 8.			
Zeerust .. 11.	6		
Coldstream .. 3.		Newcastle .. 2.	3
Dundee		Rorke's Drift ..	3

Telegraphic Address: "ROY," LADYSMITH.
WAGONS. *See above.* DATE 14/9/90.

Fig.4: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card with additional 1/2d stamp cancelled Ladysmith SP 11 88 to Senekal, O.F. State. The message is a list of current rates of transport from Ladysmith to 18 towns in the Transvaal, 14 in the O V S, four in Natal and Kimberley in the Cape Colony.



J. ROY & Co.
CURRENT RATES OF TRANSPORT FROM LADYSMITH.
TO

TRANSVAAL		ORANGE F. STATE	
Klerksdorp 10/6		Bethlehem 6/6	
Potchefstroom 9/6		Cronstadt	
Pretoria 9/6	6/6	Ficksburg 7/6	
Johannesburg 9/6		Frankfort	
		Harrismith 3/6	
		Heilbron 7/6	
		Lindley 7/6	
		Senekal 7/6	
		Vreda 6/6	
		Vredafort 9/6	
		Ventersberg 9/6	
		Parijs 7/6	
		Winburg 7/6	
		Zuring Krantz ..	

Telegraphic Address: "ROY," LADYSMITH.
WAGONS. *See above.* DATE 23/10/90

Fig.6: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card cancelled Ladysmith OC 2 90 to Durban OC ** 90 dated 23 10 90. The printed message is a list of current rates of transport from Ladysmith to 4 Transvaal and 14 O F S towns.



Fig.7: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card. Cancelled Newcastle NO 25 90 to Pretoria with cachet ROY & Co / BIGGARSBERG / FORWARDING GENTS dated 24 11 90. The printed message is a list of current rates of transport from Newcastle.



J. ROY & Co.
Current Rates of Transport from Biggarsberg Junction.
TO

TRANSVAAL		TRANSVAAL	
Barberton 14/6	15/6	Johannesburg 16/6	
Ermelo 7/6		Rustenburg ..	
Heidelberg 12/6		Standerton 6/6	
Klerksdorp ..		Steynsdorp 12/6	
Komatie		Wakkerstroom 4/6	
Lydenburg 14/6		Strydhaal 5/6	
Lake Chrissie 7/6		Llanwarne 3/6	
Middelburg 11/6		Vaal River 6/6	
Pretoria 16/6			
Coldstream 3/6		Vryheid 3/6	
Dundee 6/6			
Newcastle 2/6			

Telegraphic Address: "ROY," Biggarsberg Junction.
WAGONS. *See above.* DATE 13/5/90

Fig.5: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card with additional 1/2d stamp cancelled Biggarsberg Junction MY 13 90 to Kimberley MY 19 90 with transit Durban MY 14 90 date stamp. The printed message is a list of current rates of transport from Biggarsberg Junction to Natal and Transvaal towns and is dated 13. 5. 90.

J. ROY & Co.
NEWCASTLE
Current Rates of Transport from Biggarsberg Junction.
TO

TRANSVAAL		TRANSVAAL	
Barberton .. 7/6		Johannesburg .. 5/6	
Ermelo .. 3/6		Rustenburg ..	
Heidelberg .. 4/6		Standerton .. 3/6	
Klerksdorp ..		Steynsdorp .. 6/6	
Komatie		Wakkerstroom 2/6	
Lydenburg .. 7/6		Strydhaal 2/6	5/6
Lake Chrissie 4/6		Llanwarne .. 1/6	
Middelburg .. 4/6		Vaal River	
Pretoria .. 6/6			
Coldstream .. 1/6		Vryheid	
Dundee		Noodven	
Newcastle ..			

Telegraphic Address: "ROY," Biggarsberg Junction.
WAGONS. *See above.* DATE 24/11/90

Many wagons refusing to load returning empty

B. SPARKS

Fig.8: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card cancelled P O A 38 to Barberton OC 16 89. The printed message is a list of current rates of transport from Biggarsberg Junction to Natal and Transvaal towns and is dated 10 10 89.



ROBERT IRELAND & CO.
Current Rates of Transport from Biggarsberg

TO	
Barberton ... 12/-	Potchefstroom ... 19/-
Bethlehem ...	Pretoria ...
Bloemfontein ...	Johannesburg ...
Coldstream ... 9/-	Roche's Drift ...
Clerksdorp ...	Rustenburg ...
Crematit ...	Senekal ...
Dundee ... 7/6	Steynsdorp ...
	Standerton ...
	Vreda ...
	Vredafort ...
	Ventersburg ...
	Vrijheid ...
	Wakkerstroom ...
	Winburg ...
	Zuring Krantz ...
	Zoutpansberg ...

Central Office : LADYSMITH, NATAL.

B. SPARKS.
CURRENT RATES OF TRANSPORT FROM BIGGARSBERG JUNCTION, N.G.R.

TO	
Barberton ... 12/-	Potchefstroom ... 19/-
Bethlehem ...	Pretoria ...
Bloemfontein ...	Johannesburg ...
Coldstream ... 9/-	Roche's Drift ...
Clerksdorp ...	Rustenburg ...
Crematit ...	Senekal ...
Dundee ... 7/6	Steynsdorp ...
Ernselt ...	Standerton ...
Ficksburg ...	Vreda ...
Frankfort ...	Vredafort ...
Harrismith ...	Ventersburg ...
Heidelberg ...	Vrijheid ...
Heilbron ...	Wakkerstroom ...
Komatie ...	Winburg ...
Ladley ...	Zuring Krantz ...
Ladybrand ...	Zoutpansberg ...
Lydenburg ...	
Lake Chrissie ...	
Middelburg ...	
Newcastle ...	
Paarl ...	

Wagons *same*
Date *10/10/89*



Fig.10: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card cancelled P O A 38 to Durban OC 20 89 dated 18 10 89. The printed message is a list of current rates of transport from Biggarsberg Junction to Natal, OVS and Transvaal towns.

The two postcards shown in Figs.9 & 10 cancelled by P O A 38 predate the use of this cancel as given by Kante (1982) and Porter (2019) which was at Elizabeth from 1895. Therefore these two cards prove the use of the P O A 38 cancel at Biggarsberg Junction from October to December 1889.

JONES BECKWITH & CO. / LADYSMITH & NEWCASTLE

The railway Line had reached Newcastle on 15 MY 1890.

ROBERT IRELAND & Co.

ROBERT IRELAND & Co.
Current Rates of Transport from Ladysmith Biggarsberg

Barberton ... 15/-	Potchefstroom ...
Bethlehem ...	Pretoria ...
Bloemfontein ...	Johannesburg ...
Coldstream ...	Roche's Drift ...
Clerksdorp ...	Rustenburg ...
Crematit ...	Senekal ...
Dundee ...	Steynsdorp ...
Ernselt ...	Standerton ...
Ficksburg ...	Vreda ...
Frankfort ...	Vredafort ...
Harrismith ...	Ventersburg ...
Heidelberg ...	Vrijheid ...
Heilbron ...	Wakkerstroom ...
Komatie ...	Winburg ...
Ladley ...	Zuring Krantz ...
Ladybrand ...	Zoutpansberg ...
Lydenburg ...	
Lake Chrissie ...	
Middelburg ... 12/-	
Newcastle ...	
Paarl ...	

Central Office : LADYSMITH, NATAL.
Wagons *fair number*
Date *13.12.89*



J. ROY & Co.
Current Rates of Transport from Ladysmith & Newcastle

TRANSVAAL	
Barberton ... 9/-	Johannesburg ... 7/6
Ernselt ...	Rustenburg ...
Heidelberg ... 6/-	Standerton ... 2/-
Klerksdorp ...	Steynsdorp ...
Komatie ...	Wakkerstroom ...
Lydenburg ... 7/-	Stryksaal ... 2/6
Lake Chrissie ...	Llanwatha ... 1/6
	Vaal River ...
	Trichardfontein ...
	Loosdorp ...

DATE *26/4/91*

Fig.9: Printed message on QV 1d postal stationery card cancelled P O A 38 to Johannesburg DE 13 89 and dated 13 12 89. The printed message is a list of current rates of transport from Biggarsberg Junction.

Fig.11: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card with additional 1/2d stamp cancelled Newcastle MY 27 91 to Pretoria MY 29 91. Struck with an oval cachet JONES BECKWITH & CO. / LADYSMITH & NEWCASTLE / FORWARDING AGENTS. The printed message is headed J. ROY & Co. Current rates of transport from [Ladysmith & Newcastle] to nineteen Transvaal towns and one Natal town.



Fig.12: Postcard similar to Fig.11 with the same cachet applied to a different J. Roy card with current rates just from Ladysmith to Transvaal and OFS towns. Printed message on QV 1/2 d postal stationery card with additional 1/2d stamp cancelled Newcastle MY 27 91 to Johannesburg dated 26 [4] 91.



Fig.14: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card (not up rated) cancelled P O A 51 to Johannesburg SP 9 91. The printed message is a list of current rates of transport from Charlestown to Transvaal towns.

J. ROY & Co.
CURRENT RATES OF TRANSPORT FROM LADYSMITH TO

TRANSVAAL	ORANGE F. STATE
Klerksdorp 1/4	Bethlehem 6/-
Potchefstroom 9/4	Cronstadt ..
Pretoria 9/6 to 10/0	Ficksburg 7/6
Johannesburg 9/4	Frankfort ..
	Harrismith 3/6
	Heilbron 7/-
	Lindley 7/-
	Senskaal 7/4
	Vredefort 6/4
	Vrededorp 9/-
	Venterburg 7/6
	Paris 4/6
	Winburg 4/6
	Zuring Kraantz ..

Telegraphic Address: "ROY," LADYSMITH.
WAGONS *Handful* DATE 23/10/90

MANN & CO.,
CURRENT RATES OF TRANSPORT FROM CHARLESTOWN TO

Barberton ... 10/-	Middelburg ... 6/-
Ernesto ... 3/-	Lydenburg ... 9/6
Heidelberg ... 6/4	Rustenburg ...
Johannesburg ... 7/-	Standerton ... 3/6
Pretoria ... 8/-	Vrede ...
Zoutpansberg ...	Wakkerstroom ... 1/-
Verderburg ...	
Wynburg ...	
Koppe Hoop ...	

Telegraphic Address: "MANN," CHARLESTOWN
WAGONS *Handful* DATE 19/11



Fig.15.

MANN & CO.

The railway line had reached Charlestown on 7 AP 1891 and Van Reenen on 18 NO 1891.

MANN & CO.,
CURRENT RATES OF TRANSPORT FROM CHARLESTOWN TO

Barberton ... 7/6	Middelburg ... 5/-
Ernesto ... 3/6	Lydenburg ... 2/6
Heidelberg ... 4/-	Rustenburg ... 7/6
Johannesburg ... 3/6	Standerton ... 1/6
Pretoria ... 6/4	Vrede ...
Zoutpansberg ...	Wakkerstroom ... 1/-
Verderburg ...	
Wynburg ...	
Koppe Hoop ...	

Telegraphic Address: "MANN," CHARLESTOWN
WAGONS *Handful* DATE 19/11

Fig.15: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card with additional 1/2d stamp cancelled Charlestown NO 17 91 to Johannesburg with transit Llanwarne NO 17 91 and Johannesburg arrival date stamp 19 NO 91. The printed message is a list of current rates of transport from Charlestown to 13 Transvaal towns and one O V S town (Vrede).

Kantey (1982) gives the location and use of P O A 51 at Charlestown from 1891 to 1893.

The cards shown in Figs 13 and 14 confirm the use of P O A 51 at Charlestown in August and September 1891. However a double circle Charlestown cancel came into use November 1891 and therefore possibly replaced the use of the POA cancel (Fig.15). The date 1893 would appear to be incorrect.

DE WAAL & Co.

De Waal & Co was a shipping landing, forwarding and general commission agent with offices in Durban and Lourenço Marques (Delagoa Bay).

- Fig.16: (see over page) 1894 postcard Durban 30 AP 94 addressed locally with purple cachet DE WAAL & Co. / Commission and Forwarding Agents Durban Natal. There is no message on the card.



Fig.13: Printed message on QV 1/2d postal stationery card (not up rated) cancelled P O A 51 to Johannesburg with oval cachet MANN & Co. / FORWARDING AGENTS / CHARLESTOWN dated 38 91. The printed message is a list of current rates of transport from Ladysmith deleted and Manuscript Charlestown inserted. CS Mann is changed in manuscript to Mann and Co.

C. S. MANN.
CURRENT RATES OF TRANSPORT FROM LADYSMITH TO

Klerksdorp ...	Bethlehem ...
Potchefstroom ...	Cronstadt ...
Pretoria ... 6/6	Ficksburg ...
Johannesburg ... 8/6	Frankfort ...
Cloculen ...	Harrismith ...
Heidelberg ... 9/6	Heilbron ...
Ladybrand ...	Lindley ...
Rustenburg ...	Senskaal ...
Wakkerstroom ...	Vrededorp ...
Standerton ... 4/6	Venterburg ...
Ernesto ... 3/4	Paris ...
Lydenburg ... 6/4	Winburg ...
Zoutpansberg ... 9/-	Zuring Kraantz ...
Barberton ... 9/-	

Telegraphic Address: "MANN," LADYSMITH
WAGONS *Handful* DATE 38/91



... continued

Fig.16... De Waal & Co produced a forwarding label used in both Durban and Delagoa Bay that is recorded on four covers (3 shown) just before and during the second Anglo Boer War.



Fig.17: 1899 cover Point 19 AU 99 with label to Berlin back stamped 9 9 99. Taken by the Union ship Norman from Cape Town on 23 AU arrived Southampton on 8 SP 99.



Fig.18: 1900 cover Durban JA 27 00 with 2½d stamp and brown label to Switzerland back stamped Zurich 17 II 00. Taken by the Dunottar Castle on 31 JA from Cape Town arriving at Southampton on 16 FE 00.

TOM. C. FRANKLIN, RICHMOND



Fig.20: Two ½d KE postal stationery covers are known with the purple oval cachet TOM. C. FRANKLIN, / FORWARDING & COMMISSION AGENT./ RICHMOND. The word 'RICHMOND' is displaced to the left of the oval and it appears that there was a second word 'ROAD' that was removed. The first cover is cancelled Durban JU 30 1903 to Mariannhill with Durban transit 1 JY 03 and P O A 51 arrival mark (Filat), The second cover is cancelled Richmond Road SP 28 1903 to Durban back stamped on SP 29 1903).

References:

- Campbell ED. 1951 *The development and birth of the Natal Government Railways*. Publ. Shuter & Shooter, Pietermaritzburg.
- Kantey BA. 1982. *The P.O.A. cancellations of Natal*. Creda Press. Ltd
- Porter R. 2019. *The Post Office Agencies of Natal: Part 1*. Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal v 23 (2) Pgs 74-113.



Fig.19: 1901 cover Point OC 14 01 with 1d stamp to Pretoria arrived 16 OCT 01 (cf. Filat).

CONSIGNEE LETTERS by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, 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 caught of falsely endorsing a letter as being a consignee letter.

Company was written on 15 June 1863, being an order for a consignment of ale, and 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 letter 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 good 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.2: A consignee's letter of 1863 from the Cape to Edinburgh

As illustrated by Figure 2, different regulations governing consignee mail were being applied in Britain by 1863. 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



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.4: A consignee letter of 1856 from London to Cape Town, courtesy of Spink & Son

Figure 4 illustrates another consignee letter from London also addressed to Robert Muter, being written on 20 November 1856. There are two obvious differences between this letter and that illustrated in Figure 3: the letter bears no endorsement to indicate it was a consignee letter, and it shows a '4d' handstamp. 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 at 1d per letter (to be calculated at the rate of 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". As 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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News Release

ROYAL MAIL CELEBRATES 60th DISPLAY SEASON OF THE RED ARROWS WITH SPECIAL STAMPS

A set of 12 Special Stamps mark the history of the RAF aerobatic team, the Red Arrows, as they embark on their milestone Diamond 60th display season. Captivating photographs capture some of the Red Arrows' breath-taking manoeuvres and iconic formations. The stamps and a range of collectible products are available from 20 June 2024 at www.royalmail.com/redarrows

Each stamp in the main set of eight tells a story of precision, skill and sheer daring as the Red Arrows paint the sky with their trademark red, white and blue trails.

An additional sheet of four stamps showcases the Red Arrows' performances on the world stage, including iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids in Egypt and Niagara Falls.

For six decades, the Red Arrows – the Royal Air Force (RAF) Aerobatic Team – have thrilled and entertained millions of people around the world with their dynamic displays and colourful close-formation flypasts.

Officially established in 1964 and with their first public

display taking place seven months later, the Red Arrows and their red-painted Gnat jet trainers soon became the showpiece of the RAF – and one of Britain's most important international ambassadors. Now in their 60th season and flying BAE Systems Hawks in displays since 1980, the Red Arrows continue to demonstrate their awe-inspiring teamwork and excellence around the globe.



The 1920 Handley Page Flight

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



It was a bold attempt which ended in abject failure. The proposed commercial service between Cape Town and Johannesburg had its roots in the development of aircraft during World War I. Very little had been done since the Wright Brothers first powered flight, 17 December 1903. However war requirements resulted in major advances in aviation. During the First World War, Handley Page developed a series of heavy bombers for the Royal Navy to bomb Germany. It was only in the last few months of the War that the Handley Page O/400 bi-plane, which had the range to reach Berlin, entered service.

The O/400 was developed from the O/100 model and took its first flight in 1917 and was the largest aircraft to be produced up to that time. More than 400 were supplied before the Armistice at a price of £6,000 each.

With the end of the war came an almost complete cessation of military orders. But with civil flying being permitted, war surplus aircraft were converted for civilian use in the UK. Handley Page modified the O/400 by moving the fuel tanks and fitting between 12 and 14 wicker seats in what was the bomb bay. This became model O/7.

As soon as civil flying outside the UK was permitted, Frederick Handley Page set up his own airline, Handley Page Transport Ltd, using eight O/7s with routes from Cricklewood (adjacent to the Handley Page factory) to Paris and Brussels. Later the base moved from Cricklewood to Hounslow and later still to Croydon. Amsterdam, Basle and Zurich were added as destinations. Based on the success of his European operations, Handley Page moved his business into the British Empire market by setting up subsidiary companies in India and South Africa. In January 1920 the Handley Page South African Transport Company Ltd was established with a capital of £100 000. The intention was to start a local mail and passenger service and then extend this through Africa to Cairo. India refused to grant a contract to the company. (Note: Details about the airline's operation in South Africa are sketchy and information in the literature is often contradictory.)

The Aircraft

Two O/7s, registered as G-EANV and G-IAAA, were crated and shipped off to South Africa where they were reassembled at Youngsfield, Cape Town. (Friedberg gives the registration of the second aircraft as G-IAAI.) There followed a series of joy rides around Cape Town which started 7 February 1920. There was also a flight to Saldanha with thirteen passengers; a trip of 110 kilometres north of Cape Town, which doubled as a 'test flight'.

On Saturday 14 February 1920, the day before the first flight, Youngsfield was officially opened by the Administrator of the Cape, Sir Frederick de Waal. At the same time, G-EANV (Fig.1) was named *Pioneer* to reflect "its projected pioneer flight to Johannesburg with passengers and mail the following morning" as this was to be the longest flight yet attempted in South Africa.



Fig.1: For the time, the Handley Page O/7 was considered an extremely large aircraft that could carry passengers in an enclosed cabin. Note the open seat in the nose. It was suggested this position could be used to drop mail without having to land.

Financial support for the flight came in the form of a sponsorship from a Cape Town distillery. 'Commando Brandy' was painted on the fuselage and beneath the wings in letters two metres high.

While the O/7 represented a major advancement in aircraft design, it was seriously deficient in navigational aids, only having a sextant and compass. There was also no radio. Pilots relied on the *Bradshaw* method of navigation. (*Bradshaw's* was a guide book of timetables and maps which included the main features of towns served by the railways in the UK and Europe.) The idea was to follow the railway line to your destination. This meant flying relatively low and looking for the names of railway stations and towns en route. If these agreed with your flight plan then you were on course. This method of navigation played an important part in the many mishaps that occurred with this first, and only, flight.

The Flight

The route to Johannesburg, where it was expected to arrive by 6pm the same day, was to follow the railway line and include stops at Beaufort West, De Aar, and Kimberley to drop off and pick up mail. (According to Illsley (2003, 68; 2018:76) mail for Beaufort West was to be dropped from the nose of the aircraft followed by a refuelling stop at De Aar.) There is no indication of where in Johannesburg the aircraft intended to land. The probability is that the destination would have been Baragwanath, it being one of the oldest airfields in South Africa having opened in 1919. Baragwanath was located to the west of Johannesburg and closed in 1982.

The complement consisted three crew and seven passengers. The Chief Captain was Major Henry Meintjies M.C. A.F.C.; Captain Christoffer Johannes Venter was the Second-in-Command and Mr Askew was the engineer. Major Meintjies was also the Manager and had served in the Royal Flying Corps during World War I. Wyndham (1936b) indicates that Mrs Meintjies was one of the seven passengers. However, there is no woman present in the group photo of the crew and passengers (Fig.2).

Two of the passengers are known: Capt. Duncan, who was also the Company Secretary, and Mr HM Beckett (Fig.3).

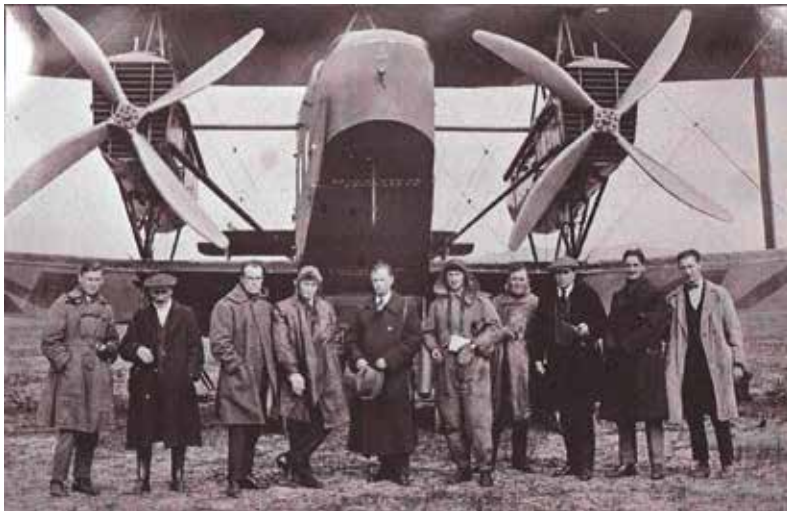


Fig.2: Group photo of passengers and crew prior to departure (Source: Museum Africa Collection)

A copy of a return ticket for the flight indicates a cost of £150 (equivalent of R300) (Fig.3). Adjusting for inflation, today that would be in the region of £8,400 or R34,400! Considering the average return fare Johannesburg – Cape Town today is in the region of R2300 to R3500, the flight was not intended for the average person.



Fig.3: Copy of an original return ticket for the Cape Town – Johannesburg flight.

The flight took off 6,30am Sunday morning, 15 February 1920 after a short delay. The first challenge was crossing the Drakenstein Mountains via the Baineskloof Pass. The mountain range was covered in heavy cloud and as a result the Pioneer lost track of the railway line. On emerging from the pass, with little altitude to spare, they picked up the railway line again thinking they were headed for Worcester.

However, a faulty compass led the crew to follow the wrong railway track. The town they saw in the distance turned out to be Tulbach (Fig.4).

After many twists and turns the crew concluded they were hopelessly lost, and being some 225 km off course the crew decided to land on a farm at Brakkefontein to ask for directions. After being pointed in the right direction to Laingsburg, the Pioneer took off again. An hour into the flight it was discovered the aircraft was critically short of fuel. The fuel tank had developed a leak. Later examination discovered that the petrol float had, somehow, been pierced which caused petrol to leak away. This necessitated an emergency landing at Blaauwheuvell, one of the most isolated spots in the Cape.



Fig.4: Route map

Another problem that arose out of flying across a country whose infrastructure was not yet geared to supporting aircraft was that of obtaining fuel supplies. There were relatively few cars in South Africa



at the time and hence garages were few and far between. The nearest settlement with petrol was Sutherland, some 80 kilometres away. It was only on the Tuesday evening, 17 February, that what little petrol was available arrived from Sutherland by wagon in a number of barrels.

While waiting for the petrol to be delivered the crew and passengers were put up by local farmers for three nights. The flight resumed on the Wednesday morning with just sufficient fuel to reach Laingsburg where the flight could rejoin the railway line. However, once at Laingsburg, there were insufficient supplies to fill the aircraft's tanks. Additional petrol had to be sent from Beaufort West by rail, arriving too late to continue the flight that day. They could only continue on to Beaufort West the next morning where they arrived at 11 am. By now the flight was running four days late.

Following a lunch in the town, the flight resumed at 1.30pm. Seven minutes into the flight, having gained an altitude of 90 metres, a rudder post snapped rendering the aircraft uncontrollable. The result was a tense forced landing.

The problem turned out to be a design flaw which grounded all O/7 aircraft which soon faded from history. The aircraft of which production was discontinued (Fig.5). Whilst following the railway line, the *Pioneer* came down at the Acacia Siding (Fig.6). (The Bureau of Aircraft Accident Archives report gives the site of the crash as Arcadia Siding.) It is rather ironical that today, Acacia Siding, is now opposite the Karoo Gateway Airport located outside Beaufort West. Incredibly the passenger cabin remained intact with not a single pane of glass broken. None of the passengers or crew sustained any injuries. Given the damage to the aircraft there was no way the journey could be continued. The passengers went back to Cape Town while the mail continued north by rail from Beaufort West. Meintjies was congratulated on bringing the aircraft down with no injuries to the passengers.



Fig.5: The undercarriage and wings absorbed the impact of the crash landing.(Source: Museum Africa Collection)



Fig.6: Acacia Siding where the O/7 Pioneer had to make a forced landing

As an addendum to this saga, following the accident the second aircraft confined itself to offering joy rides around Cape Town with the remaining aircraft till the end of June 1920. Nothing came of the intended mail and passenger service. It was obvious that the Handley Page O/7 was not sufficiently robust for South African conditions. At that stage airfields were basically nothing more than open fields with little or no infrastructure. The O/7 was not rugged enough to withstand the rough take-offs and landings on uneven fields. There is little information on what happened with the wreckage.

In September 1920 the company went into liquidation and the remaining aircraft was abandoned in Cape Town. Illsley (2018: 88) writes that a year later “the Department of Customs and Excise withdrew these (sic) from a rummage sale in September 1921 and offered them to the Air Force.” The Air Force declined the offer and the aircraft was dismantled and shipped to India. On 31 March 1924

the assets and operations of Handley Page Transport in the UK, were merged with three other British airlines to form Imperial Airways.

The Covers

Official approval to carry mail had only been received from the Postmaster-General in Pretoria, via a telegram, on 11 February. That meant an announcement of the impending flight, scheduled for 14th February, could be advertised in the local Cape Town press on Thursday, 12 February 1920, along with notices posted in various Cape Town Post Offices. Only 422 items of mail were posted in Cape Town, probably because of such short notice of the intended flight and the additional heavy 2s surcharge to the normal postage could also have deterred many from using the service. Unfortunately no record was kept of the destinations. The Postmaster-General indicated that ‘Mails also to be conveyed from Beaufort West other points mentioned further north’. An additional 17 letters were picked up at Beaufort West. There is no record of what happened to potential dispatches waiting to be collected at De Aar or Kimberley, or even if there were any.

Mail for the flight was closed on Saturday 14 February at 8pm. Postage was 1d per half ounce plus a special airmail surcharge of 2s per ounce (Fig.7). In total the Handley Page Company received a total of £44 for its efforts.



Fig.7: Mail addressed to all points beyond Beaufort West are considered as crash covers.

In addition to requiring a manuscript inscription ‘By Aerial Post’ and a Cape Town date stamp (Figs.7 & 9) covers received two cachets: ‘CARRIED BY AEROPLANE’ and an indistinct circular cachet inscribed ‘HANDLEY-PAGE SOUTH AFRICAN TRANSPORT, LTD. AERIAL POST’. This cachet only became evident once the various colour channels were split using Corel PaintShop Pro (Fig.8).

Handley Page had great ambitions for running an airline service in South Africa but with hindsight, this highly ambitious flight was poorly planned. A proving flight would have highlighted numerous problems which could have averted the difficulties the flight encountered. The O/7 was notorious in the UK for its poor performance, and in South Africa this was aggravated by the hot and dry conditions at altitude making it not the best choice for operation in South Africa. Headwinds would reduce the speed of the O/7 to 70km/h making the aircraft no faster than the trains it was supposed to replace while navigation was primitive at best.

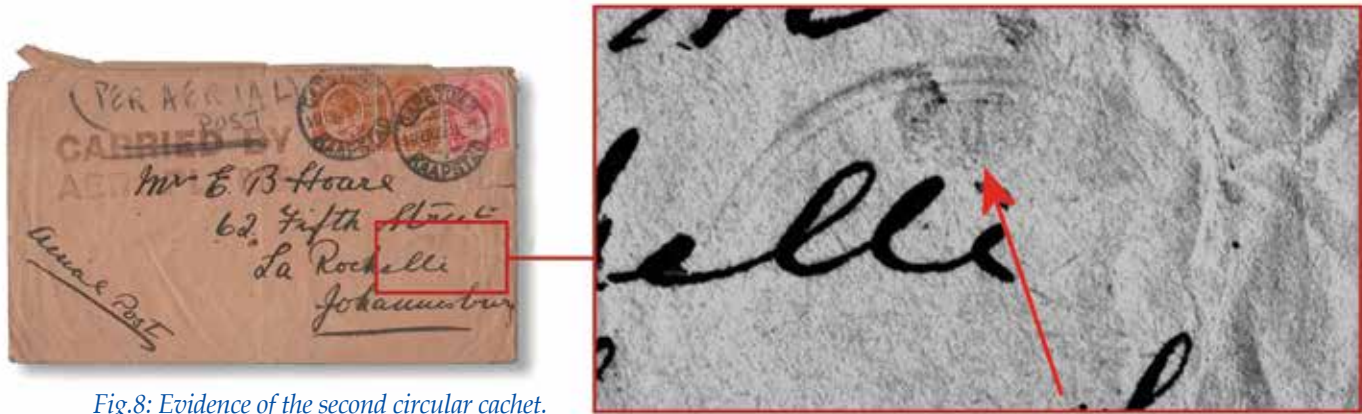


Fig.8: Evidence of the second circular cachet.

Wyndham (1936b) writing on the importance of these covers, said they represent the “first attempt at a practical commercial air mail in South Africa” and the longest flight at that time. He indicated that, in 1936, only twelve covers were known. It is now thought that some 23 covers exist. So the possibility exists that a few more may turn up over time. The covers carried on this flight are highly prized as they represent the first attempt at a commercial airmail service in South Africa. It was only in 1929 that a regular mail service connected coastal cities with Johannesburg.



Fig.9: Having been off-loaded at Beaufort West, this cover can be considered as a first-flight but not as a crash cover.

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With a successful record of entries and well received exhibitions this year, we extend a grateful “THANKS” to the organisers of both the SAVPEX as well as MARPEX 100. We offer a special thanks to all participants and the dealers that made these events memorable. SAVPEX 2024, was the 9th virtual exhibition which launched in February 2024.



The next National Stampshow and Congress will be held in **Paarl** from **2 to 6 September 2025**, hosted by *Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging*. The 10th **SAVPEX** one-frame exhibitions takes place in June 2025. Final dates and details will be announced on the website. Please continue to make these exhibitions great by participating and preparing your collections for the new year.





World War II: The Free French Forces connection with South Africa

by Jim Findlay RDP SA, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

Introduction

German forces had captured the major portion of France in 1940 and the Vichy pro-German government was in control of the country. The French army, air force and navy were defeated. General Charles de Gaulle formed the Free French Forces (FFF) in 1940 in London and then moved the headquarters to Algeria, a French colony. Initially there was the 1st Free French Division, the Free French Naval Forces, the Free French Air Force, the Free French Naval Air Service and the Free French Naval Commandos. Eventually the army expanded to many divisions and by the end of the war the Free French Forces numbered over 1 million.

The French Corps Expéditionnaire Français participated with the American forces in North Africa from 1942 as well as against the Vichy forces in North Africa, Dakar in Senegal, Gabon and other French colonies. The FFF also participated in the East Africa campaign against the Italian forces and then in the invasion into southern France.

Since the Free French Forces were stationed in an allied foreign country or a colony, recruiting was severely restricted in that the host country required recruits for its own forces and French recruiting would be in competition with the host country. Host countries generally only allowed the FFF to recruit French nationals. The other issue that created problems was material support for the French soldiers and prisoners of war. The allied countries had their own philanthropic organizations to support their own soldiers and prisoners of war. Commodities and food were scarce everywhere, and any French support could be a political problem for a government.

Field Marshal Jan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, saw things a bit differently. He realised that the FFF needed all the support it could get, and he allowed the "Committee of Fighting France" to operate in Port Elizabeth as a civilian fund and support organisation for the Free French Forces.

Any personnel recruiting and material support was strictly for French forces and nationals.

The covers below illustrate mail from the Free French Forces to the South African French delegate in Port Elizabeth and a cover to Wynberg.



Fig.2: A registered cover (postage 10d. + 3d.) from Bureau Postal Militaire 5 (B.P.M.5; 8 March 1943), a mobile field post office with the 1st Fighting French Brigade (formerly the 1st Free French Brigade) during the advance through Libya to Tunisia with the 8th Army. It went by Lignes Aériennes Militaires (LAM) to the static Fighting French Base Post Office, Bureau Central Militaire 4 (B.C.M.4) at Cairo, Egypt, then to the British Base Army Post Office 4 at Cairo and by the SAAF Shuttle Service to Zwartkop Air Base, South Africa, and then to Port Elizabeth (arrival 22 March 1943).

It is addressed to Jules Leblanc, the manager of the 'Committee of Fighting France' in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. (Note the post office box number 706).

In Fig.3, Mail from Constantine, Algeria, to the Fighting French Delegate in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Airmail postage was paid but it went by surface mail to London where it received an Onward Air Transmission (O.A.T.) cachet. No airmail service was available, and it received the "Please inform sender / airmail service not available" cachet. From London it went by flying



Fig.1: March 1942; A postage free cover from the Free French Forces (Forces Françaises Libres; FFL) posted at FFL 5 Post Office in Alexandria, Egypt, and via FFL 4 Post Office (reverse) in Cairo to Wynberg, South Africa.

boat via Lagos, Leopoldville, and Port Bell to Mombasa and then by sea to Durban and then to Port Elizabeth. This was censored by the French authorities in Algeria and the British in London.



Fig.3: Mail from Constantine, Algeria, to the Fighting French Delegate in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.



Fig.4:

A registered cover Fig.4: from Constantine, Algeria (posted 30 December 1943), to the Fighting French Delegate in Port Elizabeth, South Africa (arrived 17 February 1944). Airmail postage was paid but it went by surface mail to London since no airmail service was available. From London it went by flying boat via Lagos, Leopoldville, and Port Bell to Mombasa and then by sea to Durban.

It was censored by the South African authorities (Type 5).



Fig.5:

A cover from the Governor General of French Equatorial Africa in Brazzaville (Fig.5) (posted 11 May 1944) to the Delegation for the Liberation of France under Jules Leblanc in Port Elizabeth. This mail went from Brazzaville, French Equatorial Africa (Moyen Congo), to Leopoldville and then to Elizabethville, Belgium Congo, and then by rail to Port Elizabeth. It has a South African censor seal (Type 5).

The cachet is 'GOVERNEMENT GENERAL de C'AFRIQUE EQUATORIALE FRANÇAISE Postes & Telegraphes'.

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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 : 6 987 - The **DECEMBER 2024** issue **15 NOVEMBER 2024**



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 is that back copies of *The SA Philatelist* from 1974 to 2016 have now been completed. Uploading to the PFSA website will continue in due time. A big thank you to the University of Pretoria for this effort and Alex Visser RDPSA who facilitated the process.

The uploaded copies will be available on the website, <https://stampssa.africa/>, in the members area.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Where is the members area on the website?

In the top menu under heading 'MEMBERS PAGES'.

2. Who can access the members pages on the PFSA website?

All PFSA paid up and registered members.

3. How can the members area be accessed?

You need to be logged in. Go to the top left corner and click "Login".

Login with your email address and PFSA member number as password. Your password is available from the COO, Andre du Plessis at pfsastamps@gmail.com

You may change your password should you wish.

Please Note

The PFSA want to share the following information as received from the American Philatelic Society (APS).

The American Philatelic Society, a trusted name in the stamp collecting community, is issuing a warning to the public about a rogue online store, www.superstampcenter.com, that is engaging in fraudulent activities. This website has been found to be cloning the online stores and product descriptions of legitimate businesses, including the **APS Stamp Store**, other reputable sellers on HipStamp, and eBay

Fraudulent Activities Identified:

- **Cloning of Online Stores:** The rogue website has copied the layout, design, and content of legitimate online stamp stores.
- **Fake Product Listings:** They are posting products they do not possess, using descriptions and images from authentic sellers.
- **Discounted Prices:** These fraudulent items are often listed at significantly discounted prices to lure unsuspecting buyers.
- **Impact on Consumers:** Customers who purchase from this fraudulent site risk receiving counterfeit products or no products at all, leading to financial loss and disappointment. We urge the public to exercise caution and verify the authenticity of online stores before making any purchases.

Steps to Protect Yourself

1. **Verify Website Authenticity:** Check the URL and ensure it matches the official website of the seller.
2. **Inspect the Business Operators:** Check the business organisation pages of the website to see if it seems a legitimate business. Such website pages might include the following: about, contact, customer service, returns, and shipping.
3. **Look for Reviews:** Search for reviews and feedback from other customers.
4. **Contact the Seller:** Reach out to the seller directly through verified contact information.
5. **Report Suspicious Activity:** If you encounter a suspicious website, report it to the relevant authorities.

The South African Airways Museum Society may be the ideal inspiration for your focus on the 100 year first airmail flight service in 1925. It is the only museum in the world with two static Boeing 747s and a variety of other vintage commercial aircraft, as well as some interesting philatelic frames. Contact them on www.saamuseum.co.za or 076 879 5044



1st International Virtual Aero- & Astrophilatelic Exhibition
15 - 23 February 2025

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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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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

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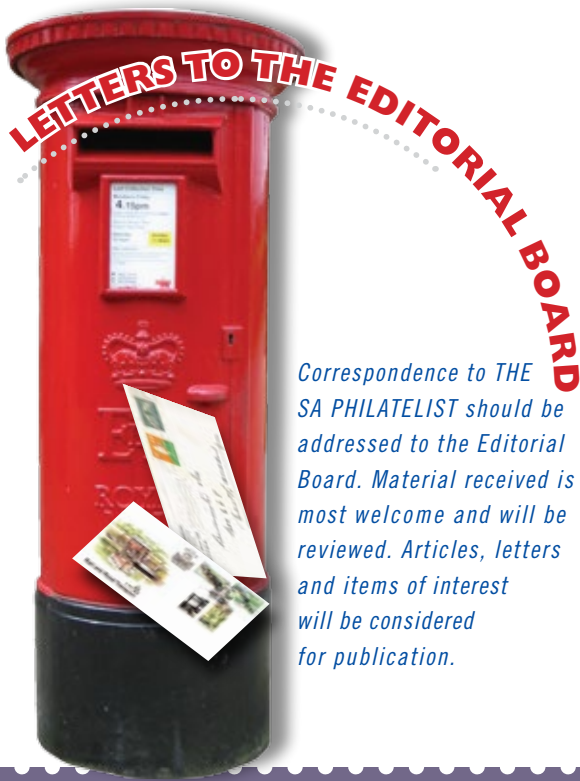
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- **PLEASE NOTE:** The PFSA affiliation fee *inter-alia* offer six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

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Advertising Rates available from the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA, pfsastamps@gmail.com 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.

ISSUE SAP December 2023

If the *NEGLECTED ½d SPRINGBOK ISSUE THE PRETORIA 1948 ECONOMY PRINT*, by Joof van der Merwe, OFS Philatelic Society, on page 185, is of interest to you - then please note: a small but important correction has been made to this article. The entire issue of this December 2023 *The SA Philatelist* has been updated on the PFSA web-site.

On page 185, of that issue, two paragraphs are now updated with: "The same plates used by Waterlow & Sons as received from London were used for the Pretoria printing, Issue 1 in 1927 and numbered 1 and 1x.

New plates were used for Issue 2 of the Pretoria printing in 1928 and numbered 2 and 2x. These plates were made by the Royal Mint in 1925 and were sent to the Government Printers in 1926 together with Plate 1 and 1(x). (*The South African Philatelist* Vol 24, No. 8, August 1948 – Page 129). A combination of 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".

NATIONAL STAMP SHOW -2025 - 2to 6 September 2025

The 2025 South African National Stamp Show will be hosted by the Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging, Paarl.

Venue: Paarl Golf-club, 848 Wemmershoek Rd, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl. All arrangements will be announced in due time.

Contact: André du Plessis RDP SA - pfsastamps@gmail.com or Gawie Hugo - gawiehugo@gmail.com

EXHIBITION NEWS



SAVPEX 2024

SAVPEX 2024, the 9th virtual exhibition was launched in February 2024.

SAVPEX is a competitive exhibition promoting philately, as well as inspiring and instructing the visitors to create their own stamp exhibits. For exhibitors it is a way to simply present their collecting and study results and display them to the philatelic community.

The virtual exhibition is available to website visitors from around the world with easy access from home or during their trips.

All exhibits, page-by-page, along with their awards are available to be viewed on the Philatelic Federation of South Africa's, website <https://stampssa.africa>.

Twenty-Seven countries participated with first participations from Albania, Belarus, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Japan and Nepal. The greater number were received from South Africa followed by India, Italy and Russia.

The following Commissioners were appointed by their Federations namely: Ygor Chrispin – Brazil, Luis Gómez – Mexico, Igor Ryss – Russia and Romeo Gramajo Leal – Guatemala. A number of appointed jurors also acted as Commissioners.

A total of 92 exhibits were entered, including four junior entries, in thirteen classes with Postal History having the most entries, followed by Thematic and Traditional classes. No Cinderella class entries were entered. For the first time two, two-frame exhibits were received, as in line with FIP policy.

Unfortunately, one exhibit was not received and another exhibit was disqualified due to regulation 4.6 of the IREX, which states "No stamp, envelope or other philatelic items can be enhanced by using programs such as photoshop or any other method".

Thirty-one Jurors judged the exhibits from whom excellent critique was received.

The two best exhibits for 2024 are:

- A Traditional exhibit by Piccirillo Pasquale from Italy, titled *Trinacria - Stamps of Garibaldi's dictatorship* which achieved 96 points; and
- A Postal History exhibit by Voruz Jean from Monaco titled *The Red Cross Mail in Geneva during the First Convention 1864-1906* which achieved 92 points.

Congratulations with your achievements - it is well deserved.

The organising committee wish to thank the Exhibitors, Commissioners and Jurors for their participation and willingness to participate. It is truly appreciated.

Last but not least thanks to those Federations for advertising this virtual exhibition to their members.

Phun with postmarks

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

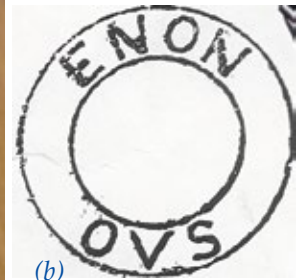


Müllerania revisited

In the December 2014 issue of *The SA Philatelist* Phun Column I presented the use of date stamps in the hands of Peter Müller, who used to live in Mossel Bay. Recently I was working through some South African Railways (SAR) material and I came across a SAR waybill (Fig.1) of 12.9.1978. HP (Peter) Müller sent two trunks from Mossel Bay to HF Müller at Enon. The nearest station was Warden. The two trunks were delivered as the fees of R18.91 were paid, as shown in Fig.1. What was of interest was that HF Müller lived at Enon.

Fig.1: 1978 SAR Waybill and receipt for transport from Mossel Bay to Warden.

About 20 years ago, I received a date stamp (Fig.2a) from Joh Groenewald, who had received it anonymously. The name was ENON OVS. At about the same time a local auctioneer sent me an impression of this date stamp, which is shown in Fig. 2b. Only an ENON Cape postal agency near Addo is listed in the Putzel Encyclopaedia. No other post offices or stations were found with this name. However, in the 1922 issue of the Transvaal Automobile Club journal, which shows the farm names besides route information, which shows the farm ENON is shown about 5 miles southwest of Warden. Evidently, the date stamp was made/procured by Peter Müller in anticipation of a post office at the farm or simply for fun. Finally, the riddle of where the date stamp would fit in was solved.



(a)

(b)

Fig.2: Date stamp 'a' and 'b' Impression of ENON OVS.

Fabricated Cancellers

Amongst the SAR material there were stamps cancelled on piece with Drew (discussed in the earlier column) as well as a Mosselbaai canceller. The examples shown as Fig.3a to c are all of a similar style, even used on Swaziland (24.12.1972). The other items are dated 2.5.1960. Older bilingual stamps were shown as pairs, whereas Republic stamps are usually singles. Collectors should be aware of these fabricated items.



(a)



(b)

(c)

Fig.3a to c: Fabricated Mosselbaai railway canceller.

Posgeskiedenis is 'n nimmereindigende navorsingsveld. Die soektog na ENON OVS is uiteindelik opgelos. Dit was 'n plaas se naam. 'n Deel van my spoor stempel versameling het verdere Mülleriania die lig laat sien. Verdere inligting oor hierdie onderwerp sal verwelkom word.

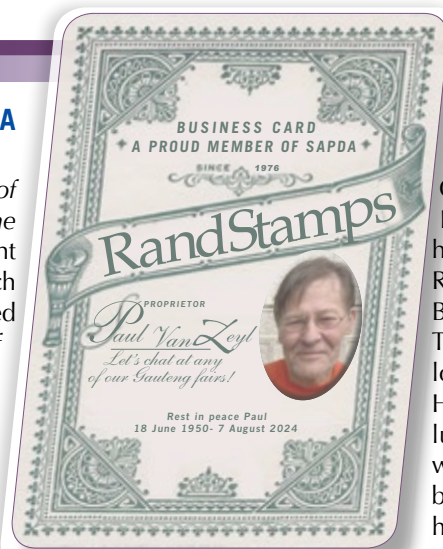
Paul van Zeyl RDPSA
18 June 1950 - 7 August 2024

"It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of Paul van Zeyl RDPSA, a cherished member of SACS - the South African Collectors' Society". This was the sentiment expressed on the official website of the SACS which offered a beautifully composed and well represented summary of the man that we have had the privilage of knowing in the philatelic community.

A few salient points have been extracted here and with respect to all copy rights for the *South African Collectors' Society's* original and extensive eulogy for Paul, please visit <https://southafricancollectorsociety.com/news-Paul-van-Zeyl>.

He was among the first to promote and embrace the new category of Open Class displays, showing challenging subjects that were previously regarded as controversial and philatellically inappropriate, like *'The Rise and Decline of the National Party in South Africa, 1948/94'*, shown in Honiley Court Hotel to SACS in 2016. This won him the 2016 Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy. In the same year Paul was honoured for his contributions to South African philately by signing the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists of Southern Africa (RDPSA) at the SA National in October.

If we look at Paul's history, this philatelist was the first Headboy of the new CBC in Silverton when it moved to these premises, and his journey continued when he did National Service in the SADF in 1968, then began a career in banking in 1969, later earning a B.Com Honours (Economic Sciences) degree part-time at the University of Pretoria. He joined the SA Reserve Bank where he worked in the Gold and Foreign Exchange, as well as its Exchange



Control and Economics Division until 1979 when he moved to the Economic Research Div. of Standard Bank in Johannesburg. This included raising loans for the Apartheid Homelands. During his lunchtime breaks he would leave the world of big banking to pursue his hobby in the stamp shops of central Johannesburg.

This hobby became a sideline after he discovered how much he enjoyed the 'wheeling and dealing' of the stamp business. This lead him to start a postal auction in 1978. And, a further extract from Paul's home Society, the Pretoria PS, an obituary written by Terry Lynne Harris: "Paul, a collector, exhibitor and well-known dealer, was a staunch supporter of philately and promoted the hobby wherever and whenever possible. He ran the monthly Pretoria Stamp Fair and Auction and, until 2022, the monthly QSA Stamp Auction. Paul was invited to sign the PFSA's Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Southern Africa (RDPSA) in 2016.

He exhibited prolifically, both nationally and internationally, garnering high awards. He would often enter more than one exhibit at a time. His last exhibit was an Open Class entry, *'Dorslandtrekkers'*, at MARPEX 2024, a month before his passing".

Pretoria Philatelic Society.

Peter Michael Oppenheim
1947 - 9 September 2024



It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Peter Michael Oppenheim, who passed away on 9 September 2024, at the age of 77. Peter was suffering from medical problems and was being treated at the Olivedale Hospital when he passed away.

Our deepest condolences go to his sister Wendy, his brothers James and Ronald and their families and friends.

Peter was the son of the late Bobby Oppenheim who was a well-known philatelist, an honorary life member of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society and a Life President of the Philatelic Federation. Peter was following in his father's footsteps.

Peter became a member of the Wanderers Philatelic Society many years ago and when the society relocated to the Country Club as the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society, he joined the new society in 1994. He was an active member and seldom missed a meeting. He served on the committee of the society for the past

eight years and was appointed the Federation Regional Vice-president for Region one (Johannesburg Area), which position he held for four years.

Peter had experience in the running of a company, a Society or a club and as a chartered accountant was familiar with the finances of these.

He was essentially a private person but wherever he could, he contributed. He was intelligent, responsible, self-dedicated mature with a sense of humour. It was indeed, an honour and a privilege to have him as a Society member and a committee member. We will think about him often. I know his late father and mother would have been proud of him.

Our deepest sympathies go to Wendy, James and Ronald and their families.

May he rest in peace.

H.S.

THE SUSPENSION OF MAIL SERVICES

by Andrew Briscoe RDPSA FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



Following the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer war on 11 October 1899, Lord Milner – Governor of the Cape Colony, sent a telegram on 12 October 1899 to the Colonial Secretary in London informing that “Postal arrangements with the Republics [being the South African Republic (Transvaal) and the Orange Free State] is now interrupted.” Nevertheless, Richard Stroud reports that following the outbreak of hostilities, mail from, or via Great Britain addressed to the two Republics continued to be despatched to those countries for a short period. There was of course an appreciable amount of mail already in transit. With the suspension of mail services with the two republics, such mail became undeliverable, and was endorsed with a handstamp reading ‘MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED’, and placed in the Returned Letter Office of either Cape Town or Durban.

Mr French, the Postmaster-General of Cape Colony, had already forwarded a memorandum just prior to the outbreak of war to John Merriman, Treasurer of the Cape. Headed “Treatment of mails and telegrams in the event of outbreak of hostilities with the Orange Free State and the South African Republic”, it continued:

“Should war be declared, communication by rail would, I assume, be stopped and as a result the mail service would necessarily be suspended”.

At the present time, the following posts are conveyed between the Colony and Orange Free State and the South African Republic:

- Aliwal North to Smithfield and Bloemfontein.
- Burgersdorp to Bethulie Bridge Station for Rouxville.
- Fourteen Streams to Klerksdorp.
- Kimberley to Bloemfontein via Boshof.
- Mafikeng to Ottoshoop and Krugersdorp.
- Modder River Junction to Jacobsdal, Koffiefontein and Fauresmith.
- Windsorton Road to Boshof and Bloemfontein.

The service from Mafikeng to Krugersdorp has already been suspended by direction of the Transvaal Government and the running of the remaining [mail] carts should be stopped.

None of these services are maintained by the Cape Colony. All mails, whether inland or overseas, addressed to the Orange Free State and the Transvaal would be brought to Capetown, and stored pending a decision as to their ultimate disposal.”

Sir Alfred Milner had previously sent telegrams on the same subject to Mr Chamberlain: one (No 9 of 12 October 1899) stated:

“Postal arrangements with the Republics is now interrupted: could the Postmaster General, London in making up its mail this week, send all letters to be sorted and forwarded as best we can, instead of making up separate bags for South African Republic and Orange Free State.

Large number of persons in ordinary course resident in those countries are now in Cape and Natal and are very anxious

that letters addressed to them should not be sent on but re-addressed here.”

An appropriately worded Notice was then issued by the Postmaster General at the Cape (No 47 of 1899, (Fig.1), informing such residents that it was unclear what arrangements could be made for the such mail to be re-addressed within the Cape or Natal – presumably because the Post Office did not have forwarding addresses for these persons.



Fig.1.

Application of the ‘MAIL SERVICES SUSPENDED’ cachets

Stroud identifies four different such cachets that were applied to the mail, two of which I have never seen (Figs.2 and 3). The cover illustrated as Fig.4 is interesting in that two different cachets were applied to it. On the reverse there is a Cape Town datestamp for the Returned Letter Office. There is no British datestamp to indicate that the letter was actually returned to sender.

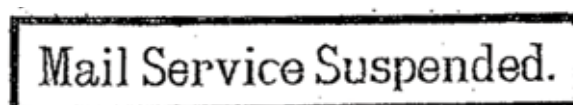


Fig.2.

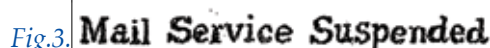


Fig.3.

Figure 5 shows a possibly unique example of a cover that was returned to the sender who then unsuccessfully attempted to



Fig.4.



Fig.5.

resend the envelope to a different address, being the British Consul at Lourenço Marques (manuscript endorsement at top) which was neutral territory.



Fig.6.

When exactly the Post Office restored mail services to the Transvaal and Orange Free State is unclear. The latest date for the usage of suspended mail cachets that I have seen is 21 February 1900, which is on the Cape Town datestamp of the Returned Letter Office on the reverse of Figure 6.

Reference

- Richard Stroud, The 'Mail Service Suspended' Cachets applied at Cape Town and Durban, *Anglo-Boer War Philatelist*, Volume 34, No 4 (1991).

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British Bechuanaland 1888

Queen Victoria ½d. on 3d. pale reddish lilac and black.

Surcharged with SG Type 8 by P. Townshend & Co., Vryburg, South East corner pair.

Variety on left stamp, 'Broken "f" in "Half" (R5/II)'.
Superb mint condition.

Royal Philatelic Society Certificate No. 162,400 (1994).
SG 29, 29a (SACC 27, 27a)

EX: LT. COL. SIR JOHN INGLEFIELD-WATSON.

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Remembrance Day 2024 is on Friday, the 11th of November

The Bakker Express: Pioneering Private Postal Service in the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek (1886)

by Dr Danna B Strydom, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



Introduction

In the late 19th century, as the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek (South African Republic) was experiencing rapid growth and development, a private local postal service emerged to connect remote farming communities to the established but limited postal system. The Bakker Express, established in 1886, played a vital role in facilitating the delivery of mail in this remote region. This article delves into the fascinating history and impact of this pioneering postal service.

Origins and Founding

The Bakker Express owes its existence to the entrepreneurial spirit and vision of Mr F.H. Bakker, (initials F.H.B.) a Dutch immigrant who settled in the South African Republic during the gold rush. Bakker was a contracted carrier whose ox-drawn wagons delivered goods to the outlying farms and hamlets north of Pretoria travelling as far as Marabastad in the Zoutpansberg. He was contracted to the government to carry official mail between the Pretoria, Nylstroom and Marabastad post offices and received a government stipend for doing so. The post carriage took about 5 days to cover the 200-mile distance.

Additionally, he offered a local service to collect and deliver mail from and to individual farms in the area. This service operated from around October 1886 to October 1888. To manage the payment system for his private collection and delivery service he had his own adhesive stamps printed. The stamps were stocked by storekeepers along the route and sold to the public to be stuck on letters to be collected by the service. These F.H.B. Express Company stamps covered the conveyance fee to the post office where the letters were handed into the government official post. Letters had to also be franked with official postage stamps to pay for the official postage.

The Stamps

An unknown local printer was entrusted with the task of producing the simple typographed stamps in black ink on coloured papers. These consist of a double-ruled border bearing the value in each corner and F.H.B. / EXPRESS / Z.A.R. / COMPANY in the side panels. The centre is occupied by the legend VRY TOT POSTK and the name of the post office where it would be handed in to join the normal postal system. Four different stamps exist as shown in Figure 1 below.

Collection of outgoing letters

Outgoing letters were collected from remote farms and holdings and conveyed by Bakker to a ZAR post office where they were handed to the postmaster and were further conveyed by the official postal system. Items had to be franked with adequate ZAR stamps to cover the postage to the final destination and additionally an F.H.B. EXPRESS stamp to cover the fee to the post office where it would be handed over which was usually indicated on the stamp.

Fig.2: (below) Sheet layout (size reduced here)

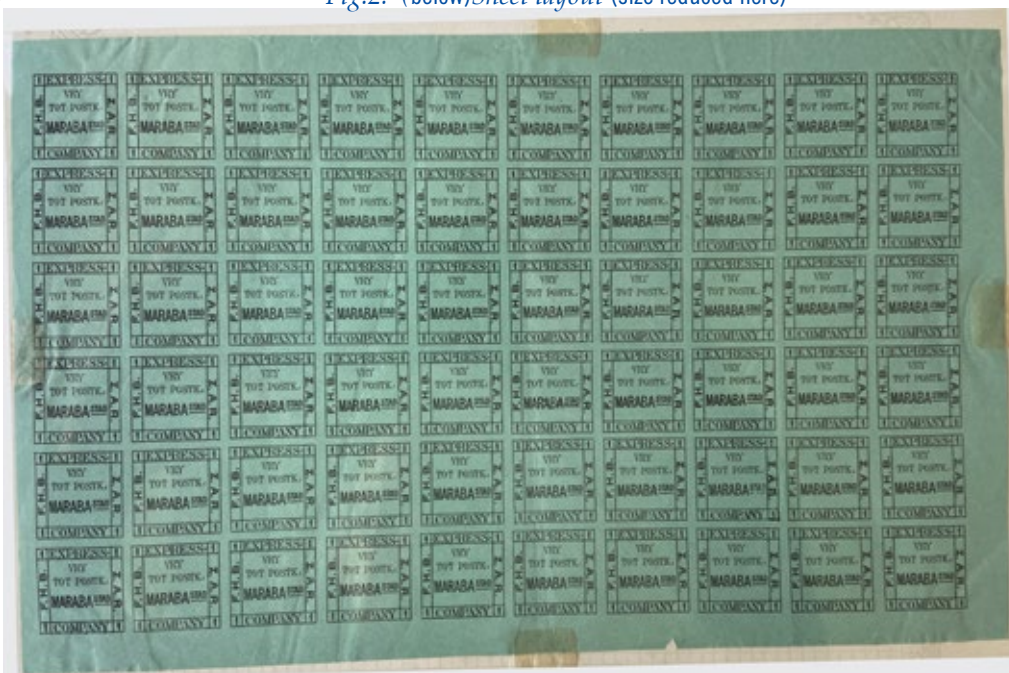


Fig.1: The Bakker Express Stamps

1d black on rose (PRETORIA)

1d black on azure (NYLSTROOM)

1d black on green (MARABASTAD)

1d black on white (TE BETALEN)

Bakker had his own rectangular cancellers such as the WATERBERG one illustrated (Fig.3) which was used to cancel the F.H.B EXPRESS stamps. The name on the stamp indicated the post office where the letter would be handed in. The ZAR stamps were cancelled in the normal way at the post office. Other known Bakker cancellers are PRETORIA (Fig.4) and MARABASTAD (Fig.5), the latter being the scarcest.



Fig.3: Waterberg canceller

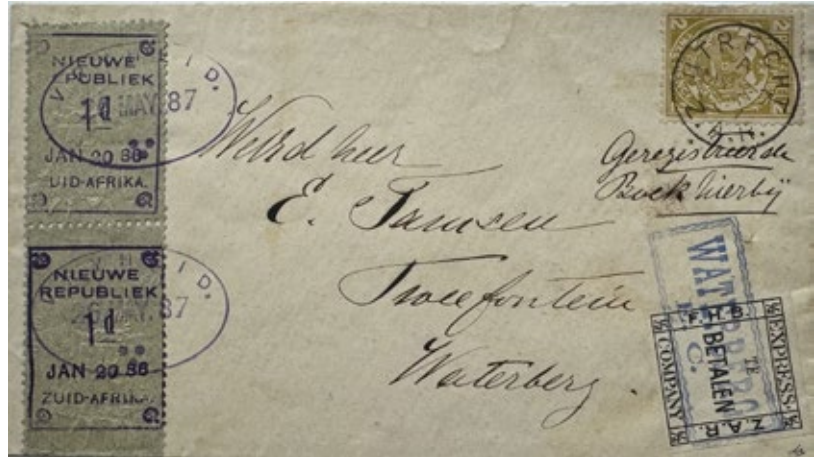


Fig.7: Incoming item posted in Vryheid address to Waterberg.

delivery and the 'TE BETALEN' stamp would then be attached and cancelled once payment was received.

Figure 7 illustrates a triple combination letter posted at Vryheid, addressed to Waterberg. The cover is franked by two 1d Nieuwe Republiek stamps for the New Republic postage (Vryheid 26 May 97) and one 2d ZAR stamp (Utrecht MAY 27 87) for the Southern Africa letter rate as well as the F.H.B. Express 'Te Betalen' stamp for the delivery to the Tweefontein farm in the Waterberg.

Scarcity

Mint copies of Bakker's stamps are not common, with multiples occasionally becoming available. MARABASTAD is less frequently seen than PRETORIA and NYLSTROOM, and is the scarcest, especially multiples. Used specimens are rare (Hurst, Kelly, 1968) and complete covers are extremely rare. The survey in Table 1 is based on reports in *The Transvaal Philatelist*, auction catalogues, museum collections (Curle & Tapling) and ZAR & Transvaal Philately Facebook posts. Nineteen covers are listed. It is suspected that there still exists some which are unlisted, but the total population is estimated to not be more than twenty-five.

Many of the covers are addressed to Emil Tamsen. Again, we are fortunate that as a philatelist he preserved these items, and like many other Transvaal philatelic items might not have survived considering that many rural farmhouses, and their contents, were destroyed by occasional veld fires and by the British during the Anglo Boer war.



Fig.6: Outgoing item to Germany. 6a front (above), 6b back (at right)

Figure 6 illustrates the front and the back of an outgoing registered book post item addressed to Germany. The back of the cover is franked with six 1d stamps and one 6d stamp for the registration fee as well as the F.H.B Express stamp to Pretoria. The registration strike was applied at Pretoria where the cover was handed to the postmaster for onward transmission in the ZAR postal system.



Delivery of incoming letters

'TE BETALEN' (postage due) was used on incoming letters delivered from the post office to a local farm or holding. A sender would not have had access to the local stamps and most probably didn't even know about the service. One assumes that the recipient would have made an arrangement with the postmaster, on a prior visit to the post office, to hand future correspondence to Bakker for

	Date Posted	Addressee	Franking	Transit and arrival strikes	Bakker label	Bakker Cancellation
1	21/01/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	3x1d NR	Utrecht 22/1/88	Te Betalen	Waterberg
2	27/01/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	1x2d NR 2x1d ZAR	Utrecht 21/1/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
3	28/01/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	2d NR 2x1d Vurtheim	Vryheid, Utrecht 28/01/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
4	03/03/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	2d Brown Vurtheim	Vryheid 3/3/87 Utrecht 3/3/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
5	04/03/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	2d Brown Vurtheim	Vryheid 2/3/87 Utrecht 4/3/87, GPO Transvaal 11/03/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
6	10/03/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	2d NR 8x½d 4x2d 2x3d Vurtheim	VRYHEID 10/03/87 Utrecht 14/03/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
7	09/05/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	Senegal stamps	RUFISQUE Senegal, 9/05/87, Marseille 21/05/87, RLO Cape Town 16/06/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
8	26/05/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	2x1d NR 1x2d ZAR	VRYHEID 26/5/87 Utrecht 27/5/87 GPO Transvaal 3/06/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
9	26/05/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	2x1d NR 1x2d ZAR	Utrecht 26/5/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
10	08/09/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg		Utrecht 9/9/87 GPO (ZAR) 16/9/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
11	08/09/1887	E Tamsen, Waterberg	3x1d NR (No ZAR)	VRYHEID 8/09/87, Utrecht 9/09/87	Te Betalen	Waterberg
12	30/09/1886	R Marcy-Monge, PE	1x1d Vurtheim	Nylstroom 30/09/86, GPO Transvaal 1/10/86, Port Elizabeth	Nylstroom	Manuscript
13	04/01/1887	A Beddig, Hanover	1x2d Vurtheim	Transvaal GPO 4 Jan 87	Pretoria	1 coded circle
14	25/12/1886	George Calfton, Horsham, Sussex, UK	Part cover	Nylstroom 25/12/86	Nylstroom	Nylstroom CDS
15	01/07/1887	Ferdinando Biocchi, Roma	30x ½d 6d Vurtheim	Pretoria, London 23/02/87, Rome 28/02/87	Pretoria	T
16	01/07/1887	Mrs L Gorgerat, Senegal	1d 4x6d Vurtheim	Pretoria, GPO Natal 5/07/87, London 2/08/87, Calais to Paris 3/08/87, Senegal 13/08/87	Pretoria	Waterberg
17	26/07/1887	Corneels Doris, Munich	6x1d 6d Vurtheims	GPO Natal 8/8/87, London,	Pretoria	Waterberg
18	Not shown	Hartmann Beupen	Not shown (Curle)	London RLO 30/11/86	Pretoria	Waterberg
19	Not shown	Not shown	6x1d, 2d, 14x ½d Vurtheim	Not shown (Tapling)	Nylstroom	Nylstroom

Table 1. Survey of Bakker Express covers

Conclusion

The Bakker Express postal service of the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek in 1886 represented a significant milestone in the region's history. It must be remembered that in 1886 rural post was only delivered to the nearest post office and it was incumbent upon recipients to personally collect post addressed to them from the local post office. For inhabitants of the outlying ZAR this was quite a burden, and the availability of a reliable local postal delivery service had a profound impact on them. The legacy of the Bakker Express serves as a reminder of the transformative power of innovative solutions, leaving an indelible mark on the history of the South African Republic.

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FUTURE EVENT

The Sasolburg Philatelic Society hosts this years public exhibition - **OILFITATE24**, in the Sasolburg Public Library from **28 October to 2 November 2024**. For further details contact Dr Leon Jacobson on Lj.heritage@gmail.com



The 1st International Virtual Aero- & Astrophilatelic Exhibition: 15 - 23 February 2025

FUTURE EVENT



URUGUAY 2025 World Stamp Exhibition

South African National Commissioner Vernon Mitchell
email: vjm@telkomsa.net

A Specialised World Stamp Exhibition under FIP patronage, organised by the Federación Uruguaya de Filatelia (FUF) on the occasion of the bicentenary of Uruguay's independence, sponsored by the Uruguayan Postal Service, and supported by the Philatelic Circle of Montevideo.

The exhibition will be held at the Atchugarry Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA) in Punta Del Este, departamento de Maldonado, Uruguay, in two sessions: the first from **17 to 19 February 2025** and the second from **20 to 22 February 2025**. Approximately 1000 frames will be available for exhibits in Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Thematic Philately and Open Philately. One-frame exhibits and Philatelic Literature will also be accepted.



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STAMP VARIETIES

by Andre du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

CAPE TRIANGULAR STAMP CENTENARY, 1953 (UHB Index 29, Stamp numbers 119 and 120)

A special issue of 1d. and 4d. bilingually inscribed stamps appeared on 1 September 1953 to commemorate the centenary of the introduction of postage stamps to South Africa. They remained on sale for approximately three months.

The design, drawn by H. Kumst from stamps supplied by the Postmaster-General, measured 37,5 x 21mm and featured replicas of the 1853 triangular 1d and 4d stamps on a background of rays of light in the case of the 1d. value, and with spray of silver leaves on the 4d. Perforation was 15 x 14.

The sheets of 120 stamps were divided into panes (each 10 rows x 6) by a horizontal centre gutter the depth of one stamp. There were four arrows, in the colour of the frame, at the centre of the margin or gutter, at the top or bottom of each pane and the four-figure red sheet numbers were on the right margin.

There was only one issue of the 1d. value, printed from cylinders 19 interior and 107 exterior. The numbers of which appeared on the right margin at the ends of the 9th and 19th rows and the 10th and 20th rows respectively.

The first issue of the 4d value had the cylinder numbers, interior 66 and exterior 86, printed on the right margin in positions similar to those of the 1d. value, but the second issue had the cylinder numbers repeated eight times. Interior cylinder number 106 appeared at the beginning and end of the 2nd, 9th, 12th and 19th rows, and the exterior, number 90, at the beginning and end of the 1st, 10th, 11th and 20th rows.

Superficially there was nothing to distinguish one pane from the other, so that a transposition of cylinders occurred in one printing of the 1d. value, and a very few of the 1d. stamps and the first issue of the 4d. value were cut into sheets through the centre gutter. It can be shown from the position of the 'Scratched Screen' flaws that sheets of the second issue were only separated at the centre gutter.

UHB 119 to 120



Sepia and Vermilion
UHB 119
(SG 144) (SASCC 143)



Deep and light blue
UHB 120
(SG 145) (SASCC 144)

SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB - 1986)

It should be noted that rows 1 to 10 are the upper panes and rows 11 to 20 are the lower panes in each value.

The 1d. screen scratches are very faint, and the images illustrate where they should be. I should also mention that I could not find them on some positional stamps!

UHB 119 - 1d

Cylinders no. 19 (Interior) and 107 (Exterior)

<p>Large brown dot below '53' of 1953 (ex Row 9/6 or 19/6) UHB 119 - V1</p>	<p>Large dent in bottom of '5' of 1953 (ex Row 1/6 or 11/6) UHB 119 - V2</p>	<p>in gutter below '53' of 1953 (ex Row 8/4 or 18/4) UHB 119 - V3</p>
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<p>Large brown dot joining tops of 'P' and 'O' of POSTAGE (ex Row 5/2 or 15/2) UHB 119 - V4</p>	<p>Faint white screen scratch running from second 'E' of POSSEEL towards 'S' of SUID on the adjoining stamp (ex Row 10/1 or 20/1) UHB 119 - V5</p>	<p>White screen scratch running from 'L' of POSSEEL towards top left corner (ex Row 10/2 or 20/2) UHB 119 - V6</p>
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UHB 120 - 4d

Cylinders no. 66 (Interior) and 86 (Exterior)

Issue 1:

<p>White blob between 'S' and 'T' of POSTAGE on reproduced stamp (ex Row 10/1 or 20/1) UHB 120 - V1</p>	<p>White mark between 'H' and 'A' of SOUTH AFRICA (ex Row 9/3 or 19/3) UHB 120 - V2</p>	<p>White screen scratch running upward and to right from '3' of 1953 (ex Row 10/1 or 20/1) UHB 120 - V3</p>
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<p>White screen scratch through 'SUI' of SUID and another to right of '3' of 1953 (ex Row 10/2 or 20/2) UHB 120 - V4</p>	<p>Figure of Hope's leg broken at the knee (ex Row 10/4 or 20/4) UHB 120 - V5 SASCC 144a 'Broken knee' variety This variety is not listed in GIBBONS</p>
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Issue 2: Cylinders no. 106 (Interior) and 90 (Exterior)

<p>White spot on tip of leaf below '19' of 1953 (ex Row 2/6 or 12/6) UHB 120 - V6</p>	<p>Large whitish spot near bottom of right limb of second 'A' of AFRIKA (ex Row 7/3 or 17/3) UHB 120 - V7</p>	<p>White screen scratch under '4' and another in bottom right corner (ex Row 1/5 or 11/5) UHB 120 - V8</p>	<p>White screen scratch above 'P' of CAPE (ex Row 2 or 12/4) UHB 120 - V9</p>
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Thank you to Lieb Venter from Port Elizabeth for providing some of the images.

Reference: *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961*: Handbook catalogue, Definitive Edition, 1986, SJ Hagger: pp 190-1.



RHODESIAN IDENTITY AS SEEN THROUGH PHILATELY

by Dr Bruce B Berry, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

It was during the research for my doctoral thesis on Rhodesian identity and its expression through symbols that the role of stamps in the expression and evolution of this identity came to my attention. Stamps convey important visual messages about a country, its world view and the image it wishes to portray to both its citizens and a wider international audience. In this regard Rhodesia was no different. The role of philately in the iconography of Rhodesia was the focus of a paper which I presented at the Biennial Conference of the Historical Association of South Africa (HASA) held at Rhodes University (Makhanda) between 27 - 29 June 2023. Permission has been granted for *The SA Philatelist* to print the following extracts.

PART ONE

This overview provides an empirical examination of how Rhodesian stamps issued between 1890 and 1980 narrate and reflect the evolution of the country, in particular its 'White' identity, its African landscape and its desire to be seen as a modern, progressive state – all of which were key attributes of its carefully crafted national identity.

The stamps were grouped according to the major historical events and political evolution of the country, namely:

- *The British South Africa Company (BSAC) period (1890–1923)*
- *Southern Rhodesia under Responsible Government (1923-1953)*
- *The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1953–1963)*
- *Southern Rhodesia immediately post-Federation (1964)*
- *Rhodesia following the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (1965–1980).*

The various issues of *The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue* show that a total of 781 individually catalogued stamps were issued in Rhodesia between 1892 and 1979. Of these, 597 (76%) are categorised as definitives and 184 (24%) are categorised as commemoratives.

For the purposes of this study, each stamp was firstly categorised according to its purpose and secondly, based on its dominant pictorial theme. These categories are as follows:

1. The Land (environment, flora and fauna, natural features, etc).
2. The People (heroes, famous people, etc.).
3. The Economy (agriculture, industry, mining, transportation, tourism, etc.).
4. State and Nation (leaders, symbols and other national emblems).
5. History (anniversaries, statues and monuments, historical artefacts etc.).
6. Sport, Arts and Culture (includes religion, traditional crafts, recreation, conferences, etc.).
7. Special Events (Royal Visits, Coronations, opening of new infrastructure, etc.).
8. Science and Technology.
9. Social Services.
10. Public Awareness.

Table 1 shows the breakdown of the category of stamp issued in each period and the popularity of each category is provided in Chart 1.

Period	Stamps Issued		Type of Issue*		Category	%**
	Number	%	Def %	Comm%		
British South Africa Company (1892-1923)	361	46	59	3	State & Nation Events	98 2
Southern Rhodesia (1923-1953)	108	14	14	18	State & Nation History Events Environment Economy People Arts & Culture	52 17 14 12 3 1 1
Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland (1953-1963)	52	7	5	11	Environment History Arts & Culture Economy Events State & Nation Technology	40 18 16 12 12 1 1
Southern Rhodesia (1964-1965)	21	3	2	4	Environment Economy History Awareness State & Nation Events	34 28 14 14 5 5
Rhodesia (1965-1980)	239	30	20	64	Environment Economy Arts & Culture History Awareness Events People State & Nation Technology Social Services	38 16 14 13 7 5 4 2 0.5 0.5
TOTAL	781	100	76	24	State & Nation Environment History Economy Arts & Culture Events Awareness People Technology Social Services	54 17 8 7 6 5 2 1 1 0.5

* Def = Definitive Issue ; Comm = Commemorative Issue

** Total does not add up to 100 due to rounding off.

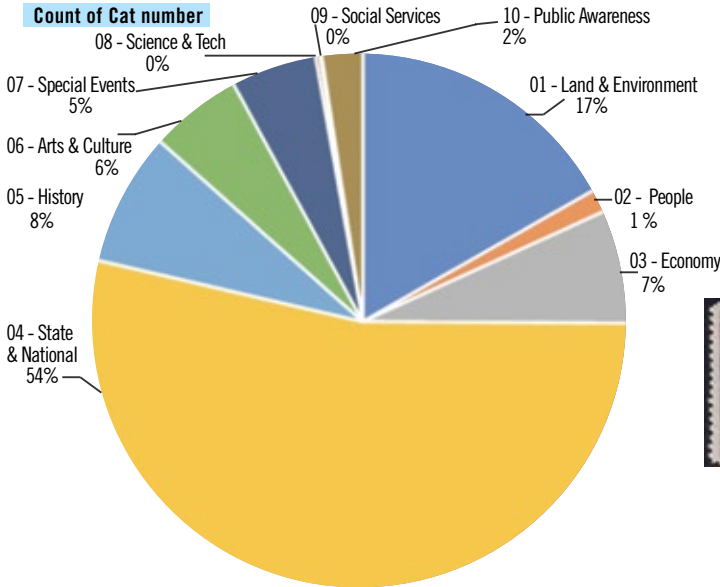
Table 1: Rhodesian Stamps by number and category

The most popular category of Rhodesian stamps is State and Nation. The main feature of these stamps relates to national symbols and/or objects. This category is dominated by the initial issues of the BSAC which featured its Coat of Arms and later, in common with most British Colonies, stamps featuring the portrait of the British Sovereign. This is a reflection of the emerging settler identity that would evolve and consolidate around an essentially British character with an allegiance to the Crown.

The territory's first adhesive postage stamps were printed in

London in 1890 and released for postal purposes in the territory by the British South Africa Company (BSAC), the administrative authority under a Royal Charter granted by Queen Victoria, on 2 January 1892 after the establishment of postal services. This was a definitive issue in eleven denominations with each stamp being in a different colour featuring the BSAC Coat of Arms (Fig.1).

Chart 1 : Rhodesian stamps by category (1890 – 1980)



A further six definitive issues with the BSAC Arms as the main feature of the stamps were issued between 1892 and 1910. These followed a similar design as the first issue with minor shading adjustments and changes in the perforation. In the Fifth Definitive issued in 1897 the image of the Arms was improved and occupied a larger area of the stamp. The Seventh Definitive issue had the name 'Rhodesia' overprinted on the existing stamps depicting the BSAC Arms. These were issued on 15 April 1909 despite the name of the territory having received official sanction in October 1898 (Fig.2).



Fig.1: Examples of the BSAC 'Arms' Definitives



Fig.2: BSAC definitive with 'Rhodesia' overprint (1909)

The first stamps to bear the country's name, together with that of the Company, and featuring the effigy of the Sovereign, are the 'Double Heads' which were issued in November 1910 following the death of King Edward VII (Fig.3). This was the first definitive not to feature the BSAC Arms. The 'Double Heads' series was unique in that it featured the portraits of both King George V and

Queen Mary in 18 denominations. Although considered as a definitive issue, the stamps were issued in commemoration of the visit of the Duke of Connaught and bore the name of the Company as well as the new name of the territory. This series was replaced in September 1913, after less than three years in use, by small-format stamps featuring a portrait of the King alone, in the peaked cap of the Admiral of the Fleet which became known as the 'Admirals' series (Fig.4a).

The Company administration was replaced in October 1923 when Southern Rhodesia became a self-governing British Colony with Responsible Government.

The BSAC stamps were subsequently withdrawn in March 1924 after having been in circulation in various forms for 32 years and with the Arms being the main feature on 105 stamps. State and Nation thus accounts for 98% of stamps issued during the Company Administration, all which featured either the BSAC Arms or a portrait of the Sovereign.



Fig.3: Examples of the 'Double Heads' definitive series (1910-1913)



a) Admiral Series

b) Field Marshall

Fig.4: King George V definitives (BSAC and Southern Rhodesia issues)

In common with other members of the British Empire, and later Commonwealth, the portrait of the Sovereign appeared on a variety of Rhodesian stamps. This was both as the main (or only) feature of the stamp, such as the definitives issued between 1913 and 1931 which depict King George V, the second of which is known as the 'Field Marshall' series with the King shown in his Field Marshall's uniform (Fig.4b). The 1937 definitive issue follows this pattern and features King George VI (Fig.5a) on all denominations as does the first Federal definitive issue of 1954 which features Queen Elizabeth II (Fig.6). The latter issue was the last to have the Sovereign as the only feature on a Rhodesian stamp. However, the portrait of the Sovereign does appear later as a cameo on both definitive and commemorative issues until 1967 (Fig.7).



a) Definitive



b) Coronation Commemorative
Fig.5: King George VI



Fig.6: Rhodesia and Nyasaland First definitive



Fig.8: Commemorative issued for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II (1953)



Fig.7: Examples of the cameo of the Sovereign on Rhodesian stamps

Following the end of World War II, the South African Prime Minister Field-Marshal Jan Smuts, invited the British Royal Family to tour South Africa. The tour included a visit to Southern Rhodesia between 07 and 16 April 1947. To mark the occasion, commemorative stamps featuring all the members of the Royal Family - King George VI, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret - were issued on 01 April. This was followed a month later by a set of four 'Victory' stamps, each depicting a member of the Royal Family (Figure 8).



a) Royal Visit

b) Victory Issue

Fig.8: Stamps showing all the members of the British Royal Family

The Southern Rhodesia commemorative to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II issued on 01 June 1953 was quite different from others issued in the Commonwealth to mark the occasion in that it was a single stamp of a relatively high value (Figure 8) and provides another example of an emerging Rhodesian identity that was still rooted within the wider British Imperial family.



a) Independence Commemorative

b) Southern Rhodesia Diamond Jubilee

Fig.9: Stamps depicting local and British symbols

Other stamps in the State and Nation category were those that featured the Coat of Arms as the highest definitive denomination and one, the most controversial Rhodesian stamp ever produced, that showed the new flag. The new Rhodesian flag had been adopted on the third anniversary of UDI in November 1968 and was the first indication of the intention to move towards becoming a republic. The Coat of Arms was also the main feature on the four commemorative stamps issued to mark the 50th Anniversary of the attainment of Responsible Government in 1973 (Figure 10).



Fig.10: Examples of stamps featuring the Coat of Arms issued between 1953 and 1980

PART 2 in the next issue

The next National Stampshow and Congress will be held in **Paarl** from **2 to 6 September 2025**, hosted by *Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging*. The 10th **SAVPEX** one-frame exhibitions takes place in June 2025. Final dates and details will be announced on the PFSA website. Please continue to make these exhibitions great by participating and preparing your collections for the new year.













SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUT PHILATELY : A LISTING 1936 - 2007
(Part 2: Commemorative Postmarks)
 by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

This is a continuation of an article which appeared in the June edition of The SA Philatelist, covering the commemorative stamps issued by the South African Post Office to mark the 75th Anniversary of Scouting in 1982 and the Centenary of Scouting in 2007.

A listing of the commemorative postmarks issued for special Camps, Jamborees and other Scouting events or anniversaries follows, illustrated in Table 1 below;

Table 1: COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS

	<p>1936 SCOUT JAMBOREE – EAST LONDON The first South African National Boy Scouts Jamboree was held in East London from the 8th to 16th of January 1936. The Jamboree was held in honour of the visit of the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. A temporary post office was opened in a marquee and was in the charge of Mr. Unwin. The Post Office was called 'Scout Camp E.L.'. The Jamboree was officially opened by Lord Baden-Powell on the 11th January. The special relief type date-stamp, used in the post office, measured 24mm in diameter. The inscription reads 'SCOUT CAMP EL' at the top, 'XXXVI' appears at the bottom. In the centre the time, date, and '19' are shown. 'NOON' also appears on some postmarks. The letter A was used for a.m. and P for p.m. Special covers were made available for the campers and visitors. According to reports at the time, 1500 letters were dispatched.</p>
	<p>1948 JAMBORALLY NATAL – HIMEVILLE The Natal Division of the Boy Scouts Association held a Jamborally at Woodfords Siding, Farm Beaverstowe, near Underberg and Himeville, close to the Drakensberg Mountains from 4 to 14 January. The temporary post office in the camp used a special date-stamp of the relief type. A special souvenir cover was also issued by the Boy Scouts Association. The postmark measures 25mm in diameter and, in irregular letters, reads 'JAMBORALLY NATAL' at the top with the date in the centre in two lines. According to participants, the post office was in a tent and was little used.</p>
	<p>1948 TRANSVAAL JAMBORALLY – PRETORIA The Transvaal Division of the Boy Scouts Association held a Jamborally at Fountains near Pretoria, from 2 to 8 October 1948. A large number of Scouts from all over the country attended this Jamboree. A temporary post office was opened which used a relief type of date-stamp 24mm in diameter. It reads 'TVL JAMBORALLY' at the top and '48' at the bottom, with the date in the centre.</p>
	<p>1970 CAMPOREE – PINETOWN – NATAL A national Camporee was held at Westmead, Pinetown in Natal, arranged by the Natal Division, from 1 to 9 July. Temporary postal facilities were provided by the Post Office as well as a special date-stamp. It is a single-circle type, 34mm in diameter. The Scout emblem appears at the top and 'CAMPOREE NATAL 1970 – LAER' at the bottom. The movable date appears in the center with 'PINETOWN' below. Special covers were also provided for this camp. The design published in the Philatelic Bulletin differs in the date in that no letter appears before the year as is the case on the actual postmarks.</p>
	<p>1971 RSA 10 DEDICATION POSTMARKS : YOUTH DAY To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Republic of South Africa, the Government staged a large festival and fair in Cape Town. This included military displays and many exhibitions. The Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town organised a large international stamp exhibition at the Goodwood Show Grounds. Youth Day was celebrated in the arena at Goodwood on the 27 May. A special fixed-date single-circle type postmark, measuring 33mm in diameter was used. It reads 'JEUG 27.V.71 YOUTH' at the top and 'KAAPSTAD - CAPE TOWN' at the bottom. A boy and a girl athlete, holding the South African flag, are shown in the centre. The Boy Scouts of South Africa issued two souvenir covers, obtainable at the exhibition.</p>
	<p>1982 75th ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD SCOUTING Commemorative date-stamp cancels, accompanying the 75th anniversary stamps and First Day Covers, for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bophuthatswana – 29 January (FDC 1.20) • South Africa – 22 February (FDC 3.34) • Transkei – 14 May (FDC 1.26)

	<p>1982 75th ANNIVERSARY GILWELL REUNION, BOPHUTHATSWANA As part of the 75th anniversary celebrations, a special Gilwell Reunion was held in Mafikeng. The Gilwell Reunion is a gathering of adult leaders and trainers and is celebrated across the world on the first Saturday in September. Gilwell Park in the United Kingdom was the site of the first adult leader training course in 1916. The symbol of Gilwell Reunion – an axe buried in a log – appears on the special date-stamp cancellation, which measures 27mm in diameter.</p>
	<p>1985 MAFIKENG CENTENARY SCOUT CAMPOREE On the 11th March 1885, General Sir Charles Warren first laid out the village of Mafeking, near the 'Place of Stones' (Mafikeng) on the Molopo River. To coincide with the centenary celebrations of the historic town, a Scout Camporee was held at Cookes Lake from the 9 to 17 March. The famous Siege of Mafeking is credited as the inspiration behind Baden-Powell's idea for youth training, which became the worldwide Scout Movement. A special commemorative cover to mark this event was issued by the Post Office, with the illustrated date-stamp cancellation.</p>
	<p>1993 SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL JAMBOREE 'SANJAMB' The fifth South African National Jamboree was held at Midmar Dam, near Howick in the Kwazulu-Natal Midlands from 14 to 21 December. It attracted some 1500 Scouts and Guides, along with international visitors from Australia, England, France and the United States of America. Scouts from Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe also participated in the event. The Post Office issued a special date-stamp and commemorative cover for the occasion.</p>
	<p>1994 11th NATIONAL SENIOR SCOUT ADVENTURE Since the first adventure in 1970, the National Senior Scout Adventure has continued, with one exception, to be held every two years. The 11th edition, returned to the Cedarberg mountains and was attended by some 500 Scouts from 12 to 22 December. Over the 12 days, Scouts hiked between 21 activity bases, which included familiar Scouting skills like pioneering, dutch oven cooking and survival, as well as other exciting activities like archery, canoeing, paintball games, commando courses, water skiing and flying. A special date-stamp canceller measuring 30mm in diameter, was issued by the Post Office. It depicts a Scout badge and the black eagle logo of the Scout Adventure.</p>
	<p>1997 INAUGURATION OF THE MPUMALANGA AREA Scouting celebrated its 90th birthday in 1997, with various events and activities world-wide. It was therefore fitting, that the establishment of the new Mpumalanga Area was also commemorated this year. This followed the restructuring of the South African Scout Association's Areas to align with the new nine provincial boundaries. The weekend's celebrations took place in Nelspruit from the 12 to 14 June.</p>
	<p>1999 WORLD SCOUT CONFERENCE, DURBAN The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an international, non-governmental organisation, which administers the world-wide Scout Movement. The Conference is the 'general assembly' of Scouting, with representatives of all recognised National Scout Associations (NSO's). Conferences are held every three years. South Africa was selected to host the 35th Conference, held in Durban from the 26 to 30 July. The Post Office issued a special date-stamp canceller, to mark the occasion, which was applied to 1000 commemorative covers.</p>
	<p>1999 MAFIKENG CONNECTION Following the 35th World Scout Conference in Durban, an event was held (presumably) for the delegates in the historic town of Mafikeng from the 1 to 3 August. <i>(The author is still searching for information regarding this event and any used examples of the illustrated date-stamp).</i></p>
	<p>2007 CENTENARY OF SCOUTING Commemorative date-stamp cancel, accompanying the miniature sheet and commemorative First Day Cover 7.119, issued by the Post Office to mark the Centenary of World Scouting on the 22 August.</p>

REFERENCE:

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE - Part 3:

Special Cards and Covers : SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUT PHILATELY : A LISTING 1936 - 2007



THE INTRIGUING BANTAMS OF WWII

by Danie Scheeper RDPSA, Royal Philatelic Society Cape Town



In his foreword to an article on Bantams in *Stamp Magazine* (September 2016), editor Guy Thomas commented, "*South African bantams might be diminutive in stature, but they loom large in the annals of philately*".

I have been fascinated by the Bantams for many years, and a recent discovery prompted this article to record the item and, in doing so, to mention a few facts that may not be well known.

The handbook *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910-1961*, revised by SJ Hagger RDPSA, in 1986, is a superb reference for Union stamps. Still, as with all handbooks, it remains static, and it is the responsibility of collectors to record discoveries. Regular reporting will assist in keeping philately exciting and vibrant, and numbers of known examples determine the rarity of an item.

The background of the find needs explaining before 'unveiling' so that collectors unfamiliar with the Bantams can appreciate its importance. As World War II intensified, it became necessary to shrink the Large War issue to conserve paper, a scarce commodity.

The 1½d and 4d values were re-designed to accommodate their reduced size. Unfortunately, the new airman design lost the two planes identified as Spitfires, especially as that was the icon's first appearance on a postage stamp (club newsletter). The 1½d value was well chosen for the trial because that value was in demand to pay the inland letter postal rate. The 11 row perforating combs could not be altered to perforate the new reduced size, so perforating was done in pairs and triplets. Rouletting was used to separate the individual stamps. Double rouletting that separated the early printing of the airman stamps used two synchronised discs, each cutting 1.25 mm. slits in a continuous line. The system proved to be troublesome and changed at some period during the later printings of the 1½d airman stamps to single rouletting where one disc cut slits of 1.75 mm. Single roulettes separated all future Bantam stamps.

Only 18% of an order placed for 200,000 sheets of this value was delivered during August 1942. The exact dates for the appearance of individual bantam values are unknown. However, according to an article in *The Springbok*, the first issue of the airman stamps was available at some Union post offices by the middle of August 1942.

The remainder of the order delivered on an unknown date, possibly in September 1942, raised eyebrows. The 7th of September has been suggested but not confirmed by any other author. *The Union handbook* (Hagger, 1986) confirms that the second printing was done in September, so delivery could have been in early September.

The Government Printers in Pretoria did not explain the delay in executing the whole order. Imagine the surprise when collectors who studied the stamps of both batches found that the second batch had two different types of rouletting, and the varieties in the second batch had now replaced those in the first batch. The changed varieties confused collectors until they realised a second stamp cylinder must have replaced the first, probably because of damage.

It is estimated that only 1% of the existing bantam airman stamps belong to issue 1, making them rare Union stamps. Establishing the correct issue of airman stamps is difficult as they all look identical because the two stamp cylinders used were made from the same multipositive. Single roulettes would confirm issue 2, but double rouletting also occurred on the 2nd issue. The way to distinguish one from the other lies in using varieties listed in the Union handbook.

Of the three listed, only the 'bee swarm' variety appears on stamp RI/6. The other two occur on marginal arrow blocks. The presence of a small mark above the 'K' of 'KOOP' on the left-hand arrow block or a dot in the space between the upper barb and the shaft of the right-hand arrow will confirm issue 2. Their absence confirms issue 1. Hagger describes four more varieties in his contemporary collection. There is a small white dot in the background above the right shoulder on stamp 2, a small white dot on the left sleeve of the pilot R 20/2, a brown dot above 'T' of 'POSTAGE' R 19, and the sheet numbers on issue 1 appear opposite rows 19 and 20, unlike their position in issue 2. Positional numbers of the varieties on a sheet are listed as supplied by Hagger. Happy hunting!



Issue 1. No mark above 'K' of KOOP



Issue 1. No 'dot' between barb and shaft



Issue 1. Variety 'BEE SWARM' on stamp 6 row 1

Finally, we get to the 'find'. On paging through stock books of bantam material, an ordinary envelope with a single bantam



Interrupted printing of marginal slogans.



Small dot on left sleeve



Small dot on background

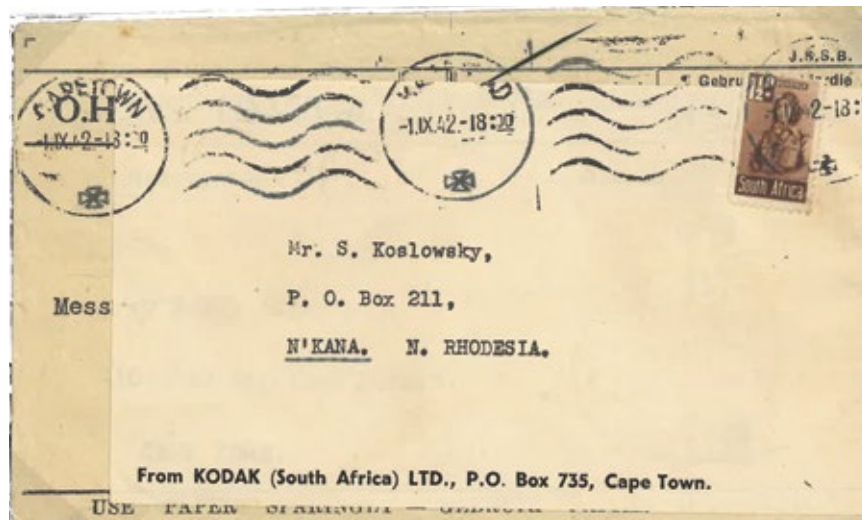


Sheet number across rows 19 and 20



Small brown dot above 'T'

Issue 1, bantam airman stamp on doubly used cover dated 1 IX 42



airman stamp crookedly attached appeared. The first thought was, why was it purchased? The address to Northern Rhodesia may have raised interest, but with full attention now focused on the cover, the date suddenly flashed a stunning message, causing philatelic euphoria. The legible date read '1 IX 42', confirming that the stamp belonged to issue 1. An issue 1 airman stamp commercially used on a cover is a massive find, and being the only recorded example, it must rank as a Union philatelic rarity. Studying the date on the cancellation is, therefore, a further means of detecting an issue 1 stamp, but the date window is uncertain and probably limited.

Research revealed fascinating trivia. It is generally well-known that Bob Kershaw is the airman who posed for the portrait taken by the official Union war artist Neville Lewis. Are you aware that Kershaw was a distinguished war hero? He was the first Union pilot to become a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order and to receive a nomination for a Victoria Cross for risking his life to save that of his squadron leader, Jack Frost (as in the mischievous mythical figure). Kershaw landed his fighter next to Frost's stricken plane, and the two men scrambled into Kershaw's single-seater Hawker Hurricane. Frost discarded his parachute and sat on Kershaw's lap. While Bob worked the foot pedals that controlled the rudder, Jack had the control stick and the throttle. With the two men working in unison, the plane became airborne, and they flew back to base. In the subsequent interview, Kershaw merely described the incident as "Very cramped".

The *Union handbook* lists four varieties for the second airman issue printed by stamp cylinder 43, whereas an article in *The Springbok* (Anon, June 1978, Vol 26:3 p. 44 - 56), 'The Bantam 1½d War Effort Story/Saga', reports that a study of a full sheet of stamps printed by cylinder 43 identified 30 varieties. Please refer to the reproduction of the article supplied as an 'appendix'.

Three Bantam values, 1d, 1½d, and 3d, have a rare variety where there is an interrupted printing of the slogans, so they have blank margins. There is no official record of the number, but only two sets of the three varieties are known.

The 6d welder bantam of issue 3 has a thought-provoking variety. A block of 4 stamps (with certificate) and a pair

are known to have a missing watermark, even though they were printed on a roll of paper specially prepared to supply a watermark to each stamp.

The only explanation is that the dandy roll that imprinted the watermark on the paper matrix must have been faulty, so a section of the paper matrix was missed.

Furthermore, amazingly, only the two items were found amongst the thousands printed.

It is conceivable that more examples may exist. Collectors owning only the latest Union Handbook will be unaware that this variety exists. Two earlier copies listed this variety omitted from the last edition of the Union handbook. Further examples of the missing watermark may or may not exist, but the hunt for a treasure is exciting.

The Bantams are a philatelic treasure trove of varieties, and studying their postal history is an exciting experience. The latter may be cause for another article.



APPENDIX

<u>FLAWS:</u>	
1/3	White dot 4mm below the "1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " of "1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d". The "fr" of "Africa" joined.
1/5	White dot 5.5mm below the "1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " of "1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d."
1/7	Brown dot in vertical perf gutter opposite last "a" of "Africa"
1/8	Minute brown dot below "L" of "POSSEEL"
1/9	PROMINENT LARGE WHITE DOT ABOVE THE "c" of "Africa"
1/12	Minute brown dot in horizontal perf.gutter near top right corner.
3/1	PROMINENT BROWN DOT .5mm below value tablet under "D" and "the full sto;
3/6	Minute brown dot in horizontal perf gutter above "PO" of "POSSEEL"
3/11	one mm. vertical white dash 1.5mm below value tablet.
5/3	White dot 4.5 mm. below the "1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " of "1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d."
5/6	Minute brown dot in vertical perf.gutter opposite left arm of airman
5/9	Oblique brown hairline on edge of design almost above "E" of "POSTAGE"
7/7	Two minute brown dots 3 mm obliquely opposite last "a" of "Africa"
7/9	Large light brown smudge in vertical perf.gutter near the "1" of "1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d."
8/1	White dot on edge of design 2mm. above right shoulder of airman
9/9	Light brown smudge in vertical perf gutter opposite right arm of airman
10/1	Minute brown dot in vertical perf gutter 2mm. obliquely above last "a" of Afrika"
10/3	Brown dot in vertical perf gutter to right of airman's head
11/12	Brown dash to the left of left shoulder of airman
13/3	Brown dash to left of airman's face
14/6	Brown dot below "S" of "POSTAGE"
17/1	Two white dots almost 3 mm. apart opposite left shoulder of airman.
17/7	Minute brown dot to right of "POSTAGE" tablet
17/8	WHITE PROJECTION TO TOP CURVE OF THE "S" OF "SUID".
17/12	Minute brown dot in horizontal perf. gutter below "ka" of "Afrika". (This was listed by Sydow as 17/2- apparently a printer's error)
18/9	Brown dot in horizontal perf. gutter below "a" of "Afrika"
	Brown dot 2mm. below tablet opposite the airman's mouth.
	Light brown smudge in vertical perf gutter near to "1" of "1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d."
19/11	Brown dot in vertical perf gutter opposite the last "a" of "Africa"
20/1	Slight projection to "S" of "SUID"
20/2	White dot about one mm. above right shoulder of airman
<u>MULTIPOSITIVE</u> whilst some are listed, attention to 17/3 is important as it has two stages.	
17/3	Two white dots .5mm diagonally apart immediately below the "1" of "1 On Cylinder 43 and confirmed: An ADDITIONAL FLAW a brown dot between the two white dots.

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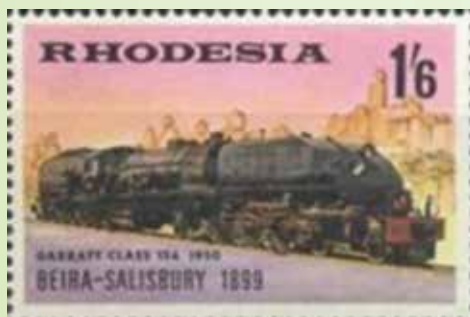
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Commercial cover from London to W.L. Walker, who had enlisted in 'Lumsden's Horse' - the cover was (inaccurately) endorsed 'Left for Transvaal', on the reverse and boxed NON-RECLAMÉ. (page 149)



Postmarks / cachets used by stations to transact business for the South African Railways (page 132)



Rhodesian Identity
As Seen Through Philately
(page 141)



Natal Railway Official Stamps
first issued in 1905
(page 155)

*Seasons Greetings. Be safe, be happy and keep in touch.
Best wishes for a splendid New Year*



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The South African Philatelist

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- Volume. 101 : 1 988 - The **FEBRUARY** 2025 issue
13 JANUARY 2025



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/>



In 2025, Afrikaans will commemorate its centenary as an Official Language in South Africa.

On 8 May 1925, the Official Languages Act of the Union of SA, Act No 8 of 1925, was passed at a joint sitting of the House of Assembly and the Senate. By this Act, Dutch was replaced as the Official Language by Afrikaans. In terms of the law, both Afrikaans and English would forthwith enjoy equal status and rights.

Early 1925 the Union of South Africa Government decided to institute a three-month experimental Air Mail service between Cape Town and Durban from 2 March 1925. Four Air Post/Lugpos stamps were printed by the Cape Times Ltd. in Cape Town and issued on 26 February 1925.

Interestingly these stamps were the first to be printed and issued with Afrikaans inscriptions *SuidAfrika* and *Lugpos*. *SUIDAFRIKA*, spelled without a hyphen, replaced the High Dutch ZUID AFRIKA. From 1930 Suid-Afrika was spelled with a hyphen.

Stamp Exhibitions.

In 2025 three National stamp exhibitions will be held under the auspices of the PFSA.

The Afrikaans Filateliese Vereniging van Pretoria will host a **Regional Exhibition** at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria. This is planned in cooperation with the Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurverenigings (Federation of Afrikaans Cultural Associations) and will take place from **8 to 11 May 2025**. The exhibition will feature two sections: one with exhibits written up in Afrikaans or English, on any topic about Afrikaans, and the other showcasing the existing philatelic classes. A no rules or context philately class will invite and motivate collectors to share unique displays that don't fit the traditional categories.

Contact: Louwrence Erasmus - louwrence@erasmus.org.za
André du Plessis RDPSA - pfsastamps@gmail.com

The **National Exhibition** will be hosted from **2 to 6 September 2025** by the Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging. The venue be the Paarl Golf Club, 848 Wemmershoek Rd, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl. The Society will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2025. The hosting of the National forms part of these celebrations. The theme of the Exhibitions will be the Afrikaans language and also the Afrikaans Language Monument which is 50 years old in 1975.

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André du Plessis RDPSA - pfsastamps@gmail.com

The **South Africa Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX)**, a one-frame Exhibition, is celebrating 10 years with a revamped logo. As usual the Exhibition will be in June with announcement of results in July 2025. Narrow Theme Exhibits (1-2 frames) will be accepted.

Contact: Emil Minnaar RDPSA - emil@minnaar.org
Joof van der Merwe RDPSA - josuav528@gmail.com

The PFSA is supporting two **International Exhibits** in 2025:

- Uruguay in Punta Dell Este from 17 to 22 February 2025. Entries have closed and the SA Commissioner is Vernon Mitchell: vjm@telkomsa.net
- Philakorea 2025 from 17 to 21 September 2025 in Seoul. Entries should reach the SA Commissioner by 25 January 2025. The commissioner for the event is Gary Pienaar - Gary.Pienaar@tigerbrands.com

A feast of Stamps Exhibitions. So, come on collectors, hurry up and get going, we are waiting for your entries!

PFSA Policy on International Exhibitions: The PFSA's current approach is to support two Exhibitions (one FIP and one FIAP) per year. Federation offers a subsidy of 50% of the frame fees to a South African exhibitor in good standing with a Philatelic Society affiliated to the PFSA. This subsidy is for FIP or FIAP accredited international exhibitions supported by the Federation. A subsidy can be obtained for at most one exhibit in any calendar year. Exhibitors should apply for the subsidy through the appointed Commissioners.

Members might recall the urgent invite to participate in **EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025**. I do apologise for the short notice. This is a FEPA patronage exhibition with FIP recognition and the PFSA did not receive an invitation to support the exhibition as we are not affiliated to FEPA. After enquiries to the Organising Committee, they informed that they would accept entries from South Africa, but we could not accrue enough frames to conform to their conditions.

From all of us to all of you - Seasons Greetings. Be safe, be happy and keep in touch. Best wishes for a splendid New Year. 🇿

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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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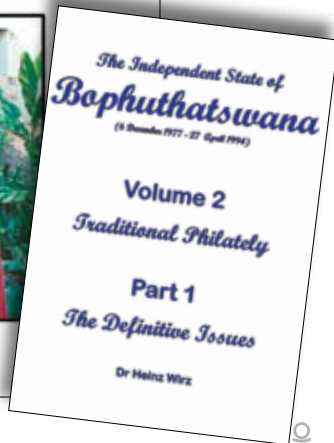
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A Dedication to a Respected Philatelist

This book is dedicated to
Marge Viljoen
Following in her mother's footsteps she fully enjoyed her philatelic hobby always bringing & sharing relevant philatelic items to society meetings and who passed on during the compilation of this volume.
Rest in peace.

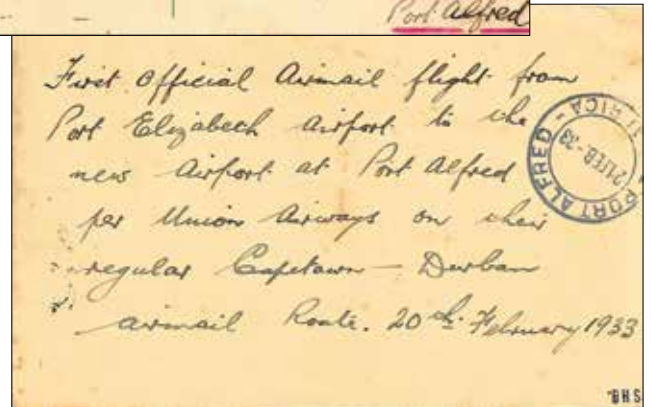


A full book review in the next issue of *The SAP*



Flights by the first Union Airways service?

The post card illustrated was posted at Port Elizabeth on 20 February 1933 and was received at Port Alfred the following day. The sender has written on the reverse that it was to be flown by the first Union Airways service to call at Port Alfred. I have never seen a reference to this call in any of the literature I hold, nor has Port Alfred been included in any Union Airways timetable I have seen.



Front and rear of postcard

The previous owner of the card found the call was reported in the *Eastern Province Herald* newspaper of 16 February 1933, in which it was announced that the Port Alfred Airport had been registered as first class and an operating licence granted and that Allister Miller, CEO of Union Airways, had informed the council that Port Alfred would then be a regular call on the Coast Service route.

I wonder if any reader has (a) seen another item of mail carried on this flight and (b) knows whether or not further calls were made by Union Airways at Port Alfred?

Peter Wingent <pwingent@googlemail.com>

Held under the auspices of the PFSA National Stamp Exhibitions 2025

The Afrikaans Filateliese Vereniging van Pretoria will host a **Regional Exhibition** at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria.
8 to 11 May 2025

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1st International Virtual
Aero- & Astrophilatelic
Exhibition
15 - 23 February 2025

Phun with postmarks

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



With which postmarks can we have phun?

Usually we think of post office postmarks or even station postmarks under jurisdiction of the South African post office for studying postmarks. However, there is a group of postmarks / cachets used by stations to transact business for the South African Railways or even for Rail Letter Post which is never considered. The scope of this column is to focus on the railmarks / cachets used by the precursors and successors of the South African Railways. In the Putzel Encyclopaedia Vol. 1 p50 (1986) a detailed review is given. Hagen and Naylor (1985) "Railway stamps of South Africa" and (1998) "Railway postal history of South Africa" provide a valuable introduction. Uwe Albert and Peter Vogenbeck published two volumes in about 1990 which contain comprehensive information on railway markings in GSWA / SWA.

Hagen and Naylor (1985) provide the genealogy of railway administrations operated in southern Africa. Prior to Union various companies provided service in the provinces and neighbouring entities. These included Cape, ZAR including Imperial Military Railways, ORC and Natal amongst others. After Union the South African Railways provided service, and in 1981 the name was changed to South African Transport Services as it was being operated as a logistics company. Hagen and Naylor (1998) provided an introduction to railway markings, but a comprehensive listing was not made. A small group of rail mark enthusiasts decided to compile a listing of all the markings of an estimated 1000 manned railway stations. This column intends to whet the reader's appetite to participate in this challenging study. Volunteers can drop me an e-mail.

Figure 1 shows a range of postmarks and shows how the style of postal markings changed over time since the first markings. Obviously the technology limited the style and materials of the markings.



Fig.1: Range of rail markings over time.

Besides the markings associated with stations, Hagen and Naylor (1985) list 11 Road Motor Service (RMS) offices. These markings, such as Hermanus shown in Fig.2, are scarce. Interestingly the reference does not list Bremersdorp, Swaziland. This RMS was first listed by van der Molen. 'Swaziland philately up to 1968' (2013). At the time of publication only one example had been recorded.

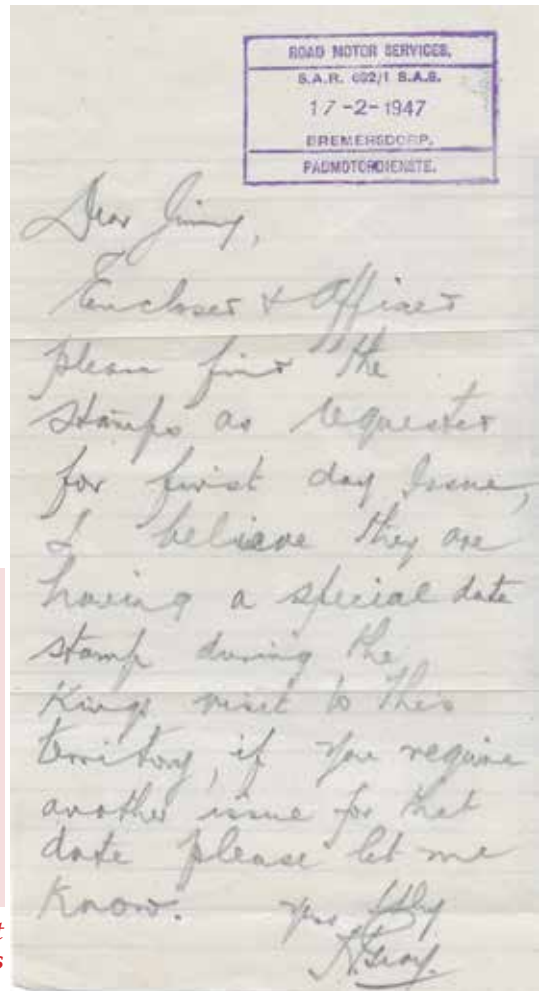
Recently an interesting example was discovered. Mr Jimmy Skinner, a well-known philatelist from Bloemfontein had arranged that Mr Gray, who was based in Swaziland, send him a FDC with the Royal Visit issue. The cover was registered and date stamped with the Bremersdorp postal cancellation (Fig.3). A wonderful surprise was that a letter Mr Gray wrote to describe the logistics was still in the envelope. The major find is a Road Motor Service cachet dated the letter 17-2-1947 (Fig.4). Subsequent to these two markings a third item has recently come to light. The range of usage is now 1947 to 1954. Scans of railway markings /cachets are welcomed to complete the listing which is being compiled. Interestingly Mr Gray mentioned that a special date stamp would be considered when the King would visit the territory. Evidently this did not materialise as discussed by van der Molen (2013) p.274.



Fig.2: Road Motor Service Letter Post originated from Hermanus.



Fig. 3: Registered FDC sent to Mr Skinner from Bremersdorp.



AT RIGHT - Fig.4: Correspondence between Messrs Gray and Skinner with RMS date.

Poskantoor datumstempels vir gebruik in die poskantoor of stasies is 'n welbekende studieveld. Stempels wat deur die spoorweë vir spoor besigheid of op spoorbriewepos is egter minder bekend. Hagen en Naylor (1985, 1998) het 'n belangrike inleiding saamgestel oor hierdie spoorstempels. 'n Groep stempelentoesiaste is besig met opdatering van die stempels soos wat in Fig.1 gewys word. In die proses het ons gevind dat stempels wat deur die padmotordiens gebruik is nogal skaars is. Daar is ook 'n interessante stempel op brief uit Bremersdorp ontdek wat insig gee oor die gebruik van hierdie stempels. Ons vermoed dat daar ongeveer 1000 bemande stasies vir spoordiens gebruik is, en ons moedig lesers aan om hierdie stempels met ons te deel.

After 91 Phun columns Alex will be taking a sabbatical for a short period. He will still be active and welcomes contributions or queries that will be incorporated into future columns.

CENSORED! from the archive of the late Jan Bakker RDPSA

This postcard was sent from the Netherlands to South Africa immediately prior to the end of World War II. The card, which had been returned to the sender, carries a censor cachet 'Examined by Censor Service 4026', but what is more unusual is that this cachet ties in a label pasted over the South African address, thus preventing delivery. The label reads, very faintly, 'This card contains information it is forbidden to publish in the interests of the State'. Any label like that would naturally arouse curiosity. What information was being offered?

The writer, Mijnheer van der Aker, was evidently a severe critic of the German occupying forces and from its content this wasn't the first postcard to his brother that had been returned.

His comments are about the general conditions of occupation, the confiscation of radios, the need to use clandestine sets to get news; the arrest and deportation to concentration camps of citizens and the need to sleep in basements for safety, presumably as the war front came closer. As his brother was a clergyman, he describes the increasing level of vigorous denunciation from church pulpits of the actions of the occupying forces, to the extent that preachers were being arrested and imprisoned for their outbursts.

He is particularly vociferous about the Dutch National Socialist movement whose members were frequent collaborators with the Germans and much hated by the Dutch people. Their actions were considered a betrayal of their fellows and the country.



It is presumed that the censors of mail would not be German for reasons of language, and were probably from this organisation, hence almost guaranteeing censorship and the confiscation of the card. One cannot but admire Mijnheer vd Aker. The card was written on 23rd April 1945.

Although he probably appreciated that hostilities could be drawing to a close, he was still in an enemy-occupied country and publicly giving scathing critical comment and describing the misdemeanors of the occupying forces, knowing that his card would be read and that he could be arrested. He even gives his home address! He wasn't to know that the ceasefire would be declared some two weeks after his card, so he fortunately avoided that inconvenience. An unusual item 'returned to sender'!

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STAMP VARIETIES

by Andre du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



ORANGE FREE STATE CENTENARY, 1954

(UHB Index 30, Stamp numbers 121 and 122)

Bilingually inscribed stamps with values of 2d. and 4½d. appeared on 23 February 1954 to mark the centenary of the founding of the Orange Free State. The design was by H. Kumst, and measured 37,5 x 21,5 mm.

It consisted of the Orange Free State coat of arms with a quill pen and a scroll bearing the date 1854-1954, symbolising the signing of the Bloemfontein Convention on 23 February 1854. For the first time the word POSSEEL was replaced by POSGELD on a commemorative stamp.

Perforation gauged 15 x 14. The sheets of 120 stamps were divided into two panes, each 10 rows x 6, by a horizontal gutter, the depth of a stamp, between the 10th and 11th rows. There were four marginal arrows in the colour of the interior design at the centre of the margin, or gutter, at the top or bottom of each pane, and red four-figure sheet numbers on their right margins.

The numbers of the interior cylinders: 2d. No. 1 and 4½d. No. 11, were printed on both margins at the beginning and end of the 1st, 9th, 11th and 19th rows, whilst that of the common exterior, No. 104, was at the ends of the 2nd, 10th, 12th and 20th rows.

There was superficially no difference between the panes, which gave rise to a transposition of the cylinders in the 2d. value only.

As there was also a transposition in the cutting of the transposed cylinder version - but not the normal one - into panes, there were only three different 2d. stamp sheets.

The 'Scratched Screen' flaws again made their appearance on the exterior cylinder.

UHB 121 to 122



Sepia and Orange Red. UHB 121 (SG 149) (SASCC 148)



Purple and Grey. UHB 122 (SG 150) (SASCC 149)


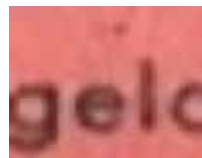
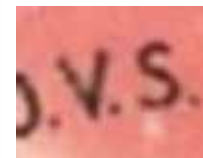



SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB - 1986))

The V6 screen scratches are very faint, and I could not find them on some positional stamps!



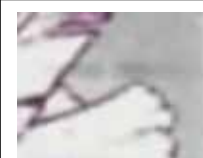


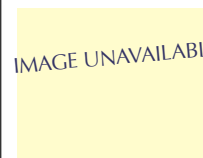
UHB 121 - 2d.

Cylinders no. 1 (Interior) and 104 (Exterior)

		
Red mark near top left corner (ex-Row 1 or 11/4) UHB 121 - V1	Two tiny brown dots over 'E' of POSGELD (ex-Row 2 or 12/2) UHB 121 - V2	White spot under 'S' of O.V.S. (ex-Row 2 or 12/3) UHB 121 - V3
		
Red dot on lower edge of left-hand flag (ex-Row 10 or 20/3) UHB 121 - V4	White screen scratch across top left corner (ex-Row 20 and 10/2) UHB 121 - V5	White screen scratch left of top part of left-hand flag (ex-Row 20 or 10/3) UHB 121 - V6

UHB 122 - 4½d.

Cylinders no. 11 (Interior) and 104 (Exterior)

		
White spot over 'E' of POSTAGE (ex-Row 1/2) UHB 122 - V1	Grey mark near top left corner (ex-Row 1/4) UHB 122 - V2	Horizontal grey line from quill to right frame (ex-Row 1/6) UHB 122 - V3
		
Grey dot on lower edge of left-hand flag (ex-Row 10/3) UHB 122 - V4	White screen scratch across top left corner (ex-Row 20/2) UHB 122 - V5	White screen scratch left of top part of left-hand flag (ex-Row 20/3) UHB 122 - V6

Reference:

- *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961: Handbook catalogue, Definitive Edition, 1986, SJ Hagger: pp 192.*

SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUT PHILATELY : A LISTING 1936 - 2007

(Part 3: Special Cards and Covers)

by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg



This is a continuation of an article which appeared in previous editions of *The SA Philatelist*, covering the commemorative stamps issued by the South African Post Office to mark the 75th Anniversary of Scouting in 1982 and the Centenary of Scouting in 2007 (June edition) and a listing of the commemorative postmarks used for special Camps, Jamborees and other Scouting events (October edition).

It illustrates some of the Semi-Official Cards and Covers, prepared and issued by Scouts South Africa, to coincide with and commemorate special events taking place within the country. The term 'semi-official' is used to distinguish these issues from the official commemorative issues and covers issued by the South African Post Office. While every effort has been made to provide as complete a list as possible, there may be issues that the author is unaware of.

Baden-Powell Centenary, 22 February 1957

Lt-Gen, Sir R.S.S. Baden-Powell was born in 1857 and attained great popularity in England through his defence of the railway town of Mafeking during the Anglo-Boer War. He also organised the South African Constabulary and founded the Boy Scouts organisation in 1907. To commemorate the centenary of his birth, the South African Boy Scouts Association issued a commemorative cover for use in Mafeking. Application was made for a special date-stamp but this was refused. This cover (Fig.1) was postmarked with the normal Mafeking date-stamp with the date 22 II A57.

It was reported that about 1000 to 1500 covers were printed, besides some of private origin. It is also interesting to note that some of these covers (Fig.2) were postmarked with a Bechuanaland Protectorate date-stamp which was in use at the time in the Mafeking post office. The same cover was also franked with Bechuanaland stamps. Fig.1.

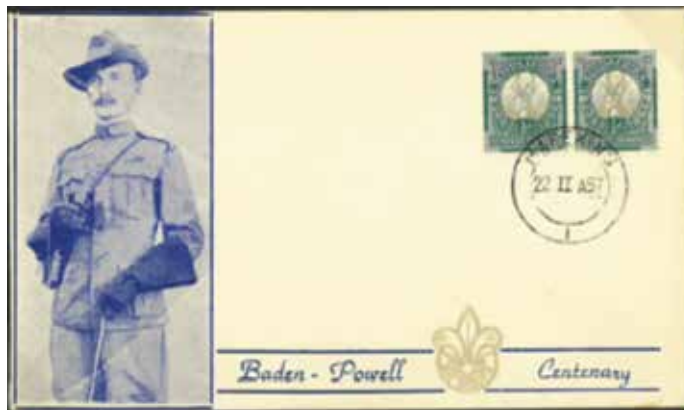


Fig.2.

Examples of the different covers, Fig.1: (top) with Union stamps and a Mafeking postmark, while Fig.2: (bottom) with a Bechuanaland 1d stamp, protectorate date-stamp cancel, and a purple commemorative cachet. Both postmarked on 22 February 1957.

South African National Jamborees

The first South African National Scout Jamboree was held in East London from 8 to 16 January 1936. The Jamboree was opened by the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, during his official visit to Southern Africa from 28 December 1935 to 5 May 1936.

A second National Jamboree was held in Chase Valley, Pietermaritzburg from 3 to 13 January 1964 (Fig.3). Approximately 500 Scouts from all over the Republic and a small contingent from South West Africa attended the event. The opening ceremony was held on the afternoon of Saturday 4 January, where Mr. G.J.R. Bulman the Mayor of Pietermaritzburg declared the Jamboree officially open. Also present was an international guest, Dr N.C. Constantoulis, the organiser of the 1963 World Scout Jamboree held at Marathon, Greece. After a lengthy hiatus, a third National Jamboree 'SANJAMB '85' was organised by the Natal & Kwazulu Area, at Albert Falls Dam near Howick, from 11 to 18 December 1985.

To commemorate this event, 200 numbered standard covers bearing the Jamboree Badge were issued. The rhino, the symbol of the Natal Parks Board, was incorporated into the Sanjamb logo. In addition, 50 special signed covers (Fig.4) were also issued. Both covers were postmarked using the normal Pietermaritzburg double-circle canceller, with the date 12 XII A85 appearing in the middle.

The next National Jamboree SANJAMB '89 was held at Midmar Dam, near Howick.

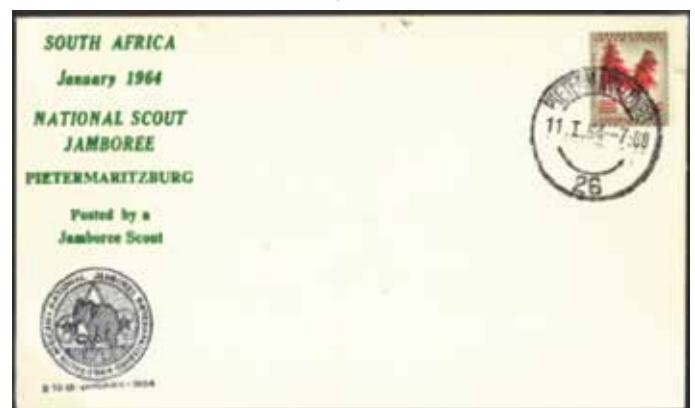


Fig.3: Souvenir cover issued at the Jamboree. The normal Pietermaritzburg double-circle date-stamp was used to cancel the cover dated 11 January 1964.

'SANJAMB '89' was attended by approximately 2000 Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. The Jamboree, which took place from 14 to 21 December, was officially opened by the well-known

international conservationist and speaker, Dr Ian Player. Once again, 200 numbered standard covers were issued to commemorate the event. A further 100 special covers signed by Graham Barkus, Camp Director; Garnet de la Hunt, Chief Scout; Heather Brandon, Chief Commissioner Girl Guides and Mervyn Smith, Area Commissioner were also on sale. All covers were postmarked using the normal Pietermaritzburg double-circle canceller, with the date 14 XII A89 appearing in the middle.



Fig.6: Private commemorative cover cancelled with Bedworth Park Post Office, dated 16 December 1997.

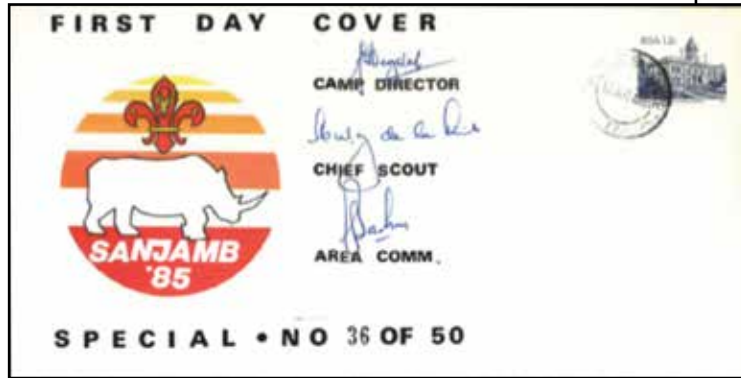


Fig.4: Special Jamboree commemorative cover, signed by Doug Drysdale, Camp Director; Garnet de la Hunt, Chief Scout of South Africa and Graham Barkus, Area Commissioner. Number 36 of 50 issued.

'SANJAMB '93', the fifth National Jamboree and the second to be held at the Thurlow Peninsula site at Midmar Dam, attracted some 1500 Scouts and Guides. It took place from 14 to 21 December. International visitors from Australia, England, France and the United States of America, along with Scouts from Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe also participated in the event.

The Post Office issued a special date-stamp (discussed in a previous article) and commemorative cover for the occasion. A few of these covers (Fig.5) were signed by Garnet de la Hunt, Chief Scout of South Africa and Graham Barkus, Camp Director.

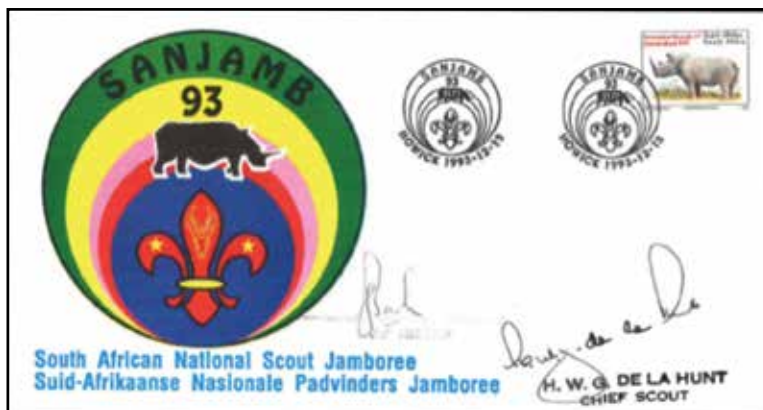


Fig. 5: Official commemorative cover with the date-stamp cancel issued by the Post Office and signed by Chief Scout Garnet de la Hunt and Camp Director Graham Barkus.

After three successful jamborees held in Kwazulu-Natal, the decision was taken to move the event to another province. Hosted and organised by the Gauteng Area, Sanjamb '97 was held at the Vaal Dam from 12 to 21 December 1997, also celebrating 90 years of Scouting. A private commemorative cover (Fig.6) was issued for the event, which was cancelled at the Bedworth Park Post Office, in Vereeniging, the closest major town to the Vaal Dam.

The Senior Scout Adventure

The Senior Scout Adventure is one of the premier events on the South African Scouting calendar. Hosted by the Western Cape Region, the Adventure was first held in 1970 and has since been hosted every two years. Initially held in the Cederberg, then moved to the Winterhoek mountains near Porterville, followed by three held in the Witzenberg near Ceres, the Adventure has returned to its traditional home in the Cederberg Wilderness Area since 1986.

The Adventure also received special postal recognition on three occasions. A commemorative cover (Fig.7) was issued for the first event, held from 29 December to 9 January 1971, but the Post Office did not provide any special postal facilities. Covers handed in at the camp were marked with a circular cachet in violet ink. The Clanwilliam Post Office was the clearing centre and used the normal Clanwilliam double-circle date-stamp for postmarking. About 1000 covers were printed, of which 600 were sold immediately.

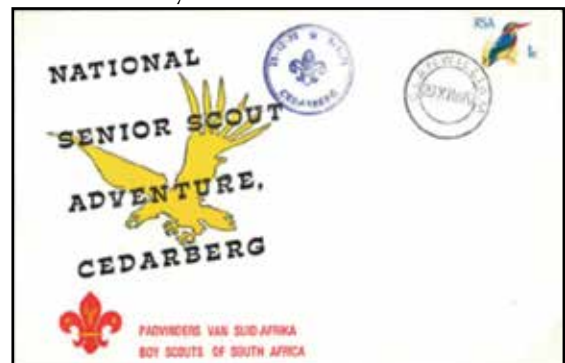


Fig.7: Cover with circular cachet and the normal Clanwilliam post office date-stamp, cancelled on the opening day of the event, 29 December 1970.

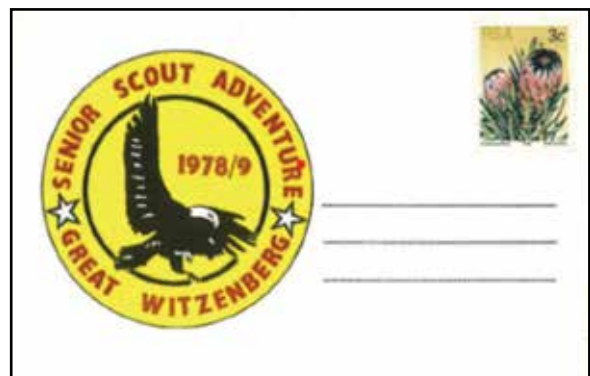
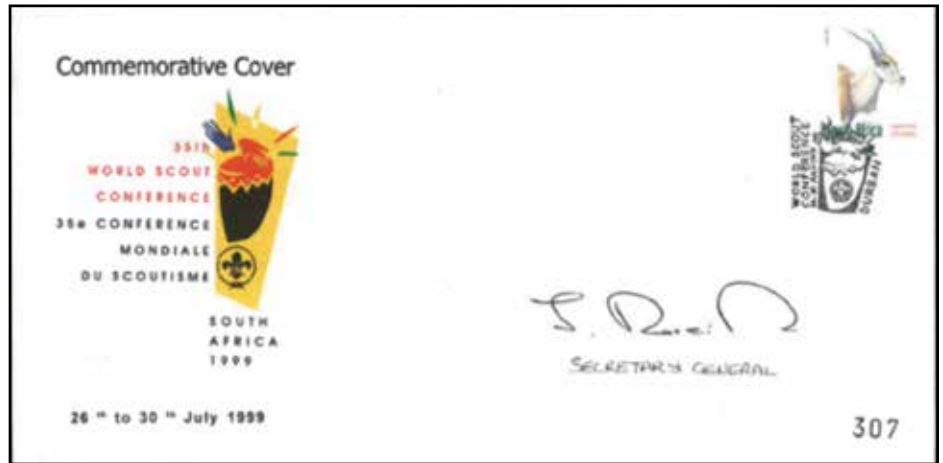


Fig.8: Example of an unused postcard, provided for the 4th Senior Scout Adventure, held in the Great Witzenberg mountains.

Fig.9: (at right) Official commemorative cover, numbered 307 and signed by Dr. Jacques Moreillon, the Secretary General of WOSM. One of 20 covers bearing this signature.



A special cover and postcard (Fig.8) was also provided for the 4th Adventure, held in the Great Witzenberg mountains near Ceres, from 28 December to 8 January 1979. Finally, a special commemorative postmark (described in a previous article) was issued by the Post Office for the 11th Adventure, held in the Cederberg from 12 to 22 December 1994.

35th World Scout Conference – South Africa

The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an international, non-governmental organisation, which administers the world-wide Scout Movement. It is composed of three principle parts – the World Scout Conference, the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau.

The Conference is the ‘general assembly’ of Scouting, with representatives of all recognised National Scout Associations (NSOs). Conferences are held every three years. South Africa was selected to host the 35th Conference, which was held at the International Convention centre in Durban from 26 to 30 July 1999. The Post Office issued a special date-stamp canceller, to mark the occasion, which was applied to 1000 commemorative covers.

Limited numbers were signed by prominent leaders in World Scouting. 100 were signed by Nkwenkwe Nkomo, Chief Scout of South Africa and 20 each by Dr. Jacques Moreillon, Secretary General WOSM (Fig.9), Francisco S. Roman, outgoing Chairman of the World Scout Committee, Garnet de la Hunt, newly appointed Chairman of the World Scout Committee, and Winston Adams, South African Conference Director.

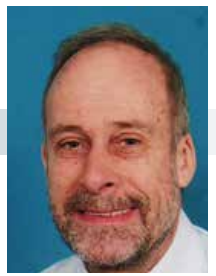
Conclusion

While not all the special covers and cards could be illustrated in this article, Table 1 provides a useful updated checklist of all the Scouting related philatelic material issued in South Africa.

The author would welcome any feedback or information on any items that may have been missed from this inventory.

Table 1: CHECKLIST - SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUT PHILATELY 1936 - 2007

No	Event	Special Cancel	Special Cover	Stamp & FDC
1.	1936 SA National Jamboree, East London	Y	Y	
2.	1948 Natal Jamborally, Underberg	Y		
3.	1948 Transvaal Jamborally, Pretoria	Y	Y	
4.	1957 Baden Powell Centenary, 193Mafeking		Y	
5.	1964 SA National Jamboree, Pietermaritzburg		Y	
6.	1964 B.P. Jamborally, Mafeking		Y	
7.	1966 Republic Festival Jamboree, Pretoria		Y	
8.	1969 50th Anniversary Gilwell Reunion		Y	
9.	1970 Camporee Natal, Pinetown	Y	Y	
10.	1971 National Senior Scout Adventure, Cedarberg		Y	
11.	1971 Boy Scouts Join-in-Jamborally, Cape Town		Y	
12.	1971 Youth Day Participation, Cape Town	Y	Y	
13.	1973 South Africa Rover Scout Indaba, Cape Town		Y	
14.	1979 National Senior Scout Adventure, Witzenburg		Y	
15.	1980 Transvaal Area Jamborally, Vaal River		Y	
16.	1982 75th Anniversary of the Boy Scout Movement, Bophuthatswana	Y		Y
17.	1982 75th Anniversary of the Boy Scout Movement, RSA	Y		Y
18.	1982 Three Stars Jamborally, Ladysmith		Y	
19.	1982 75th Anniversary of the Boy Scout Movement, Transkei	Y		Y
20.	1982 75th Anniversary, Gilwell Reunion, Bophuthatswana	Y	Y	
21.	1984 Transvaal Area Jamborally		Y	
22.	1985 Mafeking Centenary Scout Camporee	Y	Y	
23.	1985 National Pow Wow, Central Area Kimberly		Y	
24.	1985 South African National Scout Jamboree “SANJAMB ‘85”		Y	
25.	1986 Northern Transvaal Scout Challenge		Y	
26.	1986 National Pow Wow, Northern Transvaal		Y	
27.	1989 South African National Scout Jamboree “SANJAMB ‘89”		Y	
28.	1993 South African National Scout Jamboree “SANJAMB ‘93”	Y	Y	
29.	1994 11th National Senior Scout Adventure, Cedarberg	Y	Y	
30.	1997 Inauguration of the Mpumalanga Area	Y	Y	
31.	1997 South African National Scout Jamboree “SANJAMB ‘97”		Y	
32.	1999 35th World Scout Conference, Durban	Y	Y	
33.	1999 Mafeking Connect	Y		
34.	2007 Centenary of Scouting	Y		Y
	Total Items	16	28	4



The Early Postal History of Basutoland

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA, FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The early postal history of this land can be divided into three periods:

- a) The Chiefs' posts
- b) The pre-stamp period from 1833 to 1868
- c) The period of the Protectorate from 1868 to 1910

The Chiefs' Posts

Aubrey Scott records that long before the setting up of an official postal service, the Basotho had their own well organised communication system, in terms of which carefully trained messengers were stationed at each Chief's court. It is believed that this message conveyance system saved the Basotho from being expelled from their lands by invading Boers. Whether these messages were transmitted by word of mouth or by some form of writing is not clear.

The Pre-Stamp Period from 1833 to 1868

During this period, there was no organised postal service available, and letters were carried on an *ad hoc* basis, as occasion demanded. In 1833 the first missionaries of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society - Thomas Arbousset, Eugene Casalis and Constant Gosselin - settled at Morija.

As more missionaries arrived, the need to communicate with the outside world and among themselves increased. The receipt and despatch of mails in these early years was very inefficient. Casalis in his *My life in Basutoland* describes the position thus: *"But at that time the nearest post office was at Graaff Reinet, in the Cape Colony, that is to say nearly 300 miles from us. Almost a year rolled away before we received the first letters written by our parents immediately after our departure from France. To get these and others that followed sent to us it was necessary to confide them to white or black travellers, who always faithfully delivered them, but who never put themselves about with reference to time"*

Scott records only twenty Basutoland letters posted between 1835 and 1862, of which eighteen are incoming. During the 1840s a Post Office was opened at Colesberg and at Aliwal North in 1858, which reduced the distance the post had to be hand carried. From that time on, most of the mail went through Aliwal North and postal items from this early period are rare.

The Period of the Protectorate from 1868 to 1910

When Basutoland was declared a British Protectorate in 1868 the need for an organised form of postal services became necessary to serve the police and administrative staff established in Maseru. Scott records that on 1 December 1868, Commandant James Henry Bowker wrote as follows to the Governor of the Cape Colony:

"I have the honour to report for your Excellency's information that the mounted police mentioned in Mr Brand's letter at the drift on the Orange River near where your Excellency crossed in April last and that the detachment was placed there by Sir

Walter Currie on his return from Koro about the end of April, for purpose of keeping open the postal communication between this camp (Maseru) and the Colony."

As far as can be established, this service was intended for the official mail only and it was not until the opening of a postal agency at Maseru on the 1 January 1872 that the general public were catered for. Even then the agency appeared to be only a receiving and forwarding office as stamps were not available for several months and even when supplied there is no evidence that a canceller was made available. It is generally assumed that practically all external mail from Maseru at this period was cancelled at Aliwal North. A cover supposedly from Basutoland during this period can only be identified as part of Basutoland's postal history if it contains the original letter giving such evidence.



Fig.1: 1844 (26 May) entire letter from the French missionary, Eugene Casalis, in Basutoland headed 'Thaba Bossiu' and addressed to his mother in France "care of Rev Dr Philips, Church Square, Cape Town". (courtesy of Spink & Sons).



Fig.2: 1859 (16 Jan.) Incoming envelope from Montpellier addressed to 'Rev'd F Daumas, care of John Syme, Cape Town', re-addressed to Bloemfontein and then to Daumas. (courtesy of Spink & Sons).

Scott records that the Government Land Agent based in Maseru on 3 January 1872 wrote to the Governor of the Cape Colony as follows:

"I have the honour to draw the attention of his Excellency the Governor to the advisability of having a duly authorised

post office official in the Territory. The amount paid for postage on letters sent from this Territory to the Colony and elsewhere is very considerable, and the correspondence from the different seats of Magistracy, mission stations, trading stations and police stations is daily in the increasing. Very many of the natives are able to correspond with their friends in the Colony and elsewhere and if they could readily obtain postage stamps. I have no doubt they would gladly avail themselves of them. At present residents of the territory have to send to Aliwal North, a distance of 150 miles, to get postage stamps or otherwise to send their letters by private hands. If therefore a post office official is appointed, I would suggest that he be supplied with postage stamps on the same terms as other postmasters, and that he account for them quarterly to the Civil Commissioner of Aliwal North.

Should the above suggestion find favour, then in order to start the thing fairly and get it into working order, I beg to recommend that Mr. H.E.R. Bright, my clerk, be appointed Post Office Agent at Maseru, with a salary of £6 per annum and a percentage for selling stamps, and with an allowance of £3 a year for stationery, which is very scarce and dear up here. He will require a paper, etc., to make up the packets for the different stations."

This proposal was accepted in a letter from the Governor of the Cape Colony dated 25 January, 1872.

Cape of Good Hope stamps were used during this period. The earliest recorded date for a Maseru cancellation is 15 December 1878, although it is suggested that the Maseru Post Office was in a position to cancel mail by 1876 or perhaps a year or two earlier.

Circular dates stamps became available in Cape Colony in 1864 but it was not until sometimes later, probably in 1878, that they were introduced to post offices in Basutoland. In the early years a Barred Oval Numeral

Fig.3: (at left) The 1879 Contract between Arone Magoya and the Government for conveyance of mail once a week each way between Aliwal North and Maseru. (courtesy of Spink & Son).

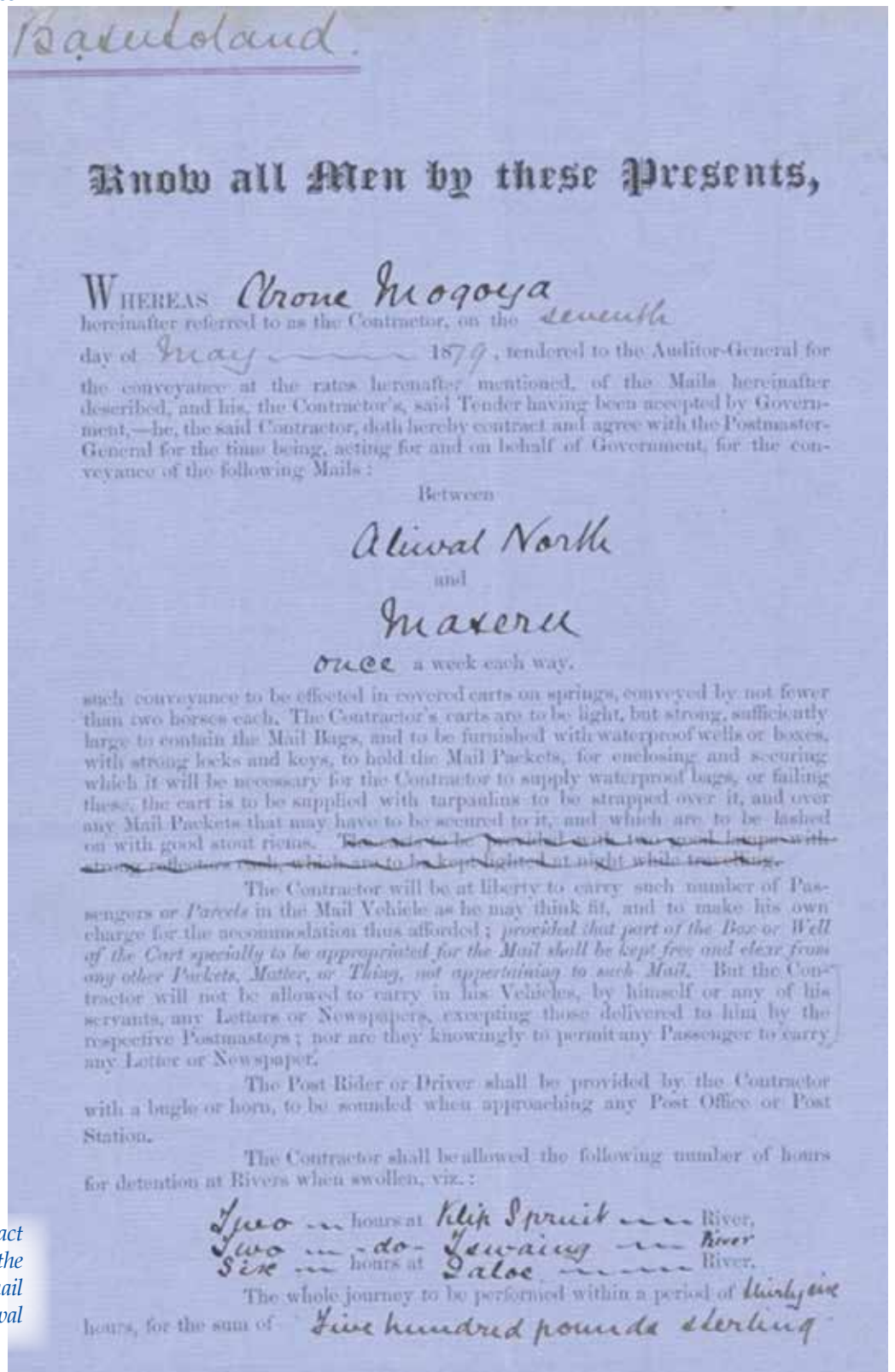




Fig.4: An 1884 envelope to Jerusalem, franked with Cape 1/2d., 1d. (7) cancelled by eight strikes of the extremely rare killer cancellation of thin bars in star shape, backstamped 'ALI WAL NORTH/B/SP 5/84', Cape Town Sept. 16, London Oct. 6 and Jerusalem Oct. 25 arrival. It is believed that the sender was a missionary stationed at Hermon and it is likely that the cover entered the post at Mafeteng, or possibly Morija. (courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions).

Cancel (BONC) was applied to the stamp and a circular date stamp applied alongside. At a later date only a date stamp was used which cancelled the stamp and bore the name of the relevant Post Office where it was applied.



Fig.5: An 1899 envelope to England franked at U.P.U. rate by Cape 1/2d and 1d. pair cancelled by 688 BONC with fine TEYATEYANENG/99/MY 4 c.d.s. alongside, Maseru transit and Southampton Packet Letter May 26 arrival. (courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions).

Acknowledgements: • Casalis, E., *My Life in Basutoland*, The Religious Tract Society, London, 1889.

• Scott, A.H., *The Cancellations and Postal Markings of Basutoland/Lesotho Post Offices & their Historical Background*, Collectors Mail Auction (Pty) Ltd, 1980

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RHODESIAN IDENTITY AS SEEN THROUGH PHILATELY

by Dr Bruce B Berry, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



PART TWO:

It was during the research for my doctoral thesis on Rhodesian identity and its expression through symbols that the role of stamps in the expression and evolution of this identity came to my attention. Stamps convey important visual messages about a country, its world view and the image it wishes to portray to both its citizens and a wider international audience. In this regard Rhodesia was no different. The role of philately in the iconography of Rhodesia was the focus of a paper which I presented at the Biennial Conference of the Historical Association of South Africa (HASA) held at Rhodes University (Makhanda) between 27 - 29 June 2023. Permission has been granted for *The SA Philatelist* to print the following extracts.

The 1970 definitive (Fig.11) was primarily issued to cater for decimalisation which took place on 17 February 1970. It had as its focus a three-fold theme of land, water and air, in which tourism, agriculture and industry were also to be featured. The stamps were intended to portray the country as a model of stability, progress and economic development and were issued a fortnight before the declaration of a republic. Consequently, the cameo of the Sovereign was omitted. This was the first time, apart from certain commemoratives, that the portrait of the Sovereign had not been shown on Rhodesian stamps since 1910.

The British Government informed the UPU of its decision and requested that it ask its members not to recognise Rhodesian stamps. The latter admitted *"it has no way of enforcing this ... apart from informing all members of the British action ..."*. The Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey followed Britain's example and surcharged Rhodesian mail and India also refused to accept Rhodesian postage stamps as being valid. Rather than surcharge mail, many countries had suspended all postal relations following the imposition of UN sanctions and postal items to such countries were either not accepted at the office of origin or returned endorsed 'No Service'.



Fig.11: Second Definitive (First Decimal) Issue with the controversial \$2 flag stamp.

The British Minister of Posts and Telecommunications announced in the House of Commons that the new Rhodesian 'decimal' stamps would be regarded as 'illegal' and not valid for the prepayment of mail. As with the case in 1966, mail bearing these stamps would be regarded as underpaid and surcharged accordingly. The British Government was explicit in that while the other post-UDI stamps had been 'tolerated', with the exception of the Independence commemorative and subsequent Independence Overprints, the 1970 stamps were different. The stamps did not feature a portrait of the Queen, were priced in the new decimal currency and most provocatively, the highest value showed the 'illegal regime's new flag'. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) concluded that the stamp issue *"is obviously timed to draw attention to the assumption of republican status"* and the 'regime's timing is defiant'. The matter was debated in the House of Lords on 26 March 1970 and the surcharge became effective on 08 April 1970.

Following the general lack of support, the British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home, formally announced the abolition of the British policy of surcharging mail from Rhodesia at the Conservative Party Congress on 09 October 1970.

The (British) Sovereign is the most popular theme (excluding as a cameo) appearing on 41% of all Rhodesian stamps issued. When stamps including a cameo of the Sovereign are included, the Sovereign appears on 55% of all the stamps issued between 1892 and 1980. This is a reflection of Rhodesia's deep affinity and loyalty to the monarchy and to the Sovereign in particular. The European settlers derived a sense of attachment to the wider British world by a common allegiance to the Crown which remained central to Rhodesian identity throughout the colonial period. Thus it was the Crown, and through it the Monarchy, that was regarded as the symbol of unity, the apex of shared loyalty and citizenship that bound the Empire and wider British world together. The last Rhodesian issue to bear a portrait of the Sovereign was issued in 1967.



Fig.12: Stamps featuring the Victoria Falls.

Stamps showing the environment, landscape, natural resources, and flora and fauna are the second most popular theme to be depicted on Rhodesian stamps. The first commemorative stamps were issued to mark the opening of the Victoria Falls bridge over the Zambezi River by Professor Darwin which took place on 12 September 1905, the 15th anniversary of the European occupation of Mashonaland. Unsurprisingly, the main feature on all six values comprising this specific issue featured the Victoria Falls (Fig.12). The same design was used for the 2d and 3d stamps in the Southern Rhodesia 1932 definitive issue, which now showed the country's name. As the country's major tourist attraction, one of the natural wonders of the world and now a World Heritage Site, it is not surprising that the Victoria Falls should be the single most popular natural feature to be depicted on the country's stamps, being the main feature on 27 stamps in total.

The country's wildlife was also a prominent feature to be depicted on its stamps with a Sable antelope, the national animal, and a lion being depicted in the first Southern Rhodesia definitive. A buffalo, kudu and tigerfish feature in the 1964 and 1966 definitives and an image of a hippopotamus, taken from a colour photograph, is the image on the 12½c 1970 definitive. Antelopes (kudu, eland, roan antelope, reedbuck and bushbuck) comprise the five lowest values of the Third Definitive issued on 14 August 1974. Large mammals (rhinoceros, lion, warthog, giraffe and zebra) were depicted on the five middle values of the Fourth, and last, Definitive issued on 16 August 1978 (Fig.13).



Fig.13: Examples of Wildlife depicted on Rhodesian stamps.

Every year the National Resources Board held a 'Conservation Week' with the aim to instil and promote an awareness of the country's natural resources. In 1967 the theme was flora and fauna which was the feature of a commemorative issue. A rhinoceros and an elephant were depicted along with a wild gladiolus and a baobab tree. A subsequent commemorative issued in 1976 entitled Vulnerable Species of Wild Life had a similar focus (Fig.14).



Fig.14: Vulnerable Species of Wild Life commemorative issue.

A popular thematic collection amongst philatelists is collecting stamps depicting birds. With some five hundred bird species

found in Rhodesia, it is not surprising that this popular theme should also feature on the country's stamps.

Two commemorative issues were devoted solely to birds (Fig.15). The six birds depicted in the first issue in 1971 were based on photographs. The illustrations in the second issue in 1977 were based on the paintings of a well-known local artist. A guinea fowl was depicted on the 10/- 1964 and 1966 definitive and the bateleur eagle on the 25c 1970 definitive were the other birds to be shown on Rhodesian stamps. Birds thus feature on 2% of Rhodesian stamps.



Fig.15: Birds of Rhodesia (1971 and 1977 issues).

Other fauna to feature on the country's stamps were butterflies which were illustrated on the top five values of the 1974 definitive issue.

In addition to wildlife, various aspects of the country's flora were also shown on its stamps (Fig.16). An issue was devoted to Trees of Rhodesia (Fig.17) and aloes were featured on a commemorative issued on 16 July 1975 to mark 'Aloe 75', the first International Aloe and Succulent Congress to be held in the country. An aloe was also shown on the 1964 and 1966 definitives, together with an Ansellia orchid.

The middle values of the 1974 definitive depicted wildflowers, together with the flame lily, gladiolus and baobab mentioned earlier. The flame lily, the national flower, appears on seven stamps, all of them being in a definitive issue. Flora and fauna are found on 12.5% of Rhodesian stamps and are the most popular theme (81%) within the Land and environment category, followed by natural features (such as waterfalls, etc.).

Commemorative stamps issued to mark historical events and anniversaries is a common philatelic practice and Rhodesia



Fig.16: Examples of Rhodesia's flora on stamps.



Fig.17: Trees of Rhodesia (1976).

was no exception. As was to be expected, the first Rhodesian commemorative in this category was issued to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935. This was the first occasion in which an omnibus issue of stamps was made throughout the British Empire with 62 territories printing stamps to commemorate the event. In all, a total of 249 commemorative stamps were issued on or near the date of the anniversary, including Southern Rhodesia's on the actual date, 6 May 1935. The design was selected personally by the King, who was a keen philatelist and showed a "... full portrait of His Majesty with the famous Victoria Falls in the background" (as can be seen in Fig.7 repeated here).



Fig.7.

The commemorative issue to mark the Golden Jubilee of the BSAC in 1940 was the first to depict scenes other than the Victoria Falls. The aim of the designs was to express the spirit of the Jubilee and show the progress which had taken place in the country during the 50 years since the beginning of Company rule. A close-up portrait of Cecil John Rhodes, responsible for the establishment of the Company and considered at the time to be 'The Founder' of the colony, featured on the 1 1/2d, the most popular denomination. Despite being revered by White Rhodesians and central to their identity, this was the only issue where Rhodes appeared as the main feature on a Rhodesian stamp although images of his grave and statue do appear in subsequent definitives.



Fig.18: Stamps featuring Cecil John Rhodes.

A set of five stamps was issued to mark the centenary of the birth of Cecil Rhodes. The theme of the issue was on the progress made in terms of economic and social development in the country. Each design has an historic element within a frame and a modern equivalent in the vignette. Rhodes himself features only as a cameo on the 2d stamp making it one of only two stamps to show his image (Fig.18).

The BSAC Jubilee issue is also significant in that the 3d stamp shows Rhodes 'making peace' with the Matabele Chiefs in 1896. The negotiated peace formally ended the initial uprisings against the settlers and marked the "effective colonisation" of the indigenous inhabitants. Furthermore, this stamp is the only one to refer to any form of violence in the history of the country as all subsequent issues are silent on the conflicts which befell Rhodesia save for the 1947 'Victory Issue' after World War II (Fig.8b). As already mentioned, the latter featured members of the Royal Family and was issued during a period of loyalty to Britain and the Empire.

Significant international anniversaries were also commemorated through Rhodesian stamps. In common with other members of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), Southern Rhodesia issued commemorative stamps to mark its 75th anniversary and conformed to the omnibus design adopted by other British colonies. The centenary of the UPU was also honoured by a commemorative issue a quarter of a century later. The country has been a member since 1900. Stamps were also issued to mark the centenaries of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in 1973 and of the invention of the Telephone in 1976. The former featured the emblem of the WMO which is based on that of the United Nations, while the latter featured a portrait of Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone (Fig.19).

Stamps showing the economic progress and development in the country are the next most popular category, becoming a popular theme during and following the Federal period when Southern Rhodesia, together with



Fig.19: WMO and Telephone Centenary.

Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, came together to form the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1953-1963) (Table 1). Most commentators agree that the economic benefits of the Federation are its most important legacy, most notably the building of the Kariba hydro-electric power project on the Zambezi River, which at the time of its completion created the largest man-made lake in the world. A commemorative was issued in May 1960 to mark the opening of the Kariba hydro-electric power station. The 5/- stamp commemorated the Royal Opening of the scheme by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and included cameos of both the Queen Mother and Queen Elizabeth II. This was the first time that a stamp featured effigies of two British Queens who were alive at the same time.

During the Federal decade the road network was expanded, the first major railway extension since the end of Company rule was completed, a new international airport was built near Salisbury, radio coverage was expanded, and television was introduced. The tobacco auctions had become the largest in the world and there was also significant investment in mining,

particularly copper. Unsurprisingly, agriculture is the most popular economic sector featuring on 30 stamps, followed by transportation (on 20 stamps), mining (on 12 stamps) and finally commerce (on 4 stamps).

Testament to the growing importance of the mining industry is the commemorative issued to mark the hosting of the Seventh Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Congress in 1961. This was followed in 1963 with an issue to mark the World Tobacco Congresses held in Rhodesia which depicted tobacco-growing and the tobacco auction floors. Tobacco is depicted on the 1/- 1959 Federal definitive and also on a stamp in both the 1964 and 1966 post-Federal definitives highlighting the economic significance of this crop.



Fig.20: Examples of stamps featuring modes of transport.

Thematic collections are popular amongst philatelists, with stamps featuring trains and aircraft being amongst the most popular. Stamps depicting these modes of transport were the focus of three commemorative issues to mark the 20th Anniversary of Central African Airways, the 70th Anniversary of the Opening of the Beira to Salisbury Railway and the last Rhodesian commemorative to mark the 75th Anniversary of Powered Flight. Aircraft were also the main feature on the stamps issued to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the London-Rhodesia Airmail service (Fig.20).

The importance of transport in the history and economic development of the country was also highlighted in a commemorative issue featuring the Bridges. The bridges depicted offer an interesting commentary on the country's development and show the improvements made from the early low-level bridges to the single-arch, 330-metre-long Birchenough Bridge. The latter follows the design of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and at the time of its completion, it was the highest of its type in Africa and the third largest suspension bridge in the world. Birchenough Bridge was also depicted on the 2/- stamp in the 1953 definitive and the Chirundu Bridge across the Zambezi River is depicted on the 2/- in the second Federal definitive. The iconic Victoria Falls Bridge is shown on one of the stamps issued to mark the BSAC Golden Jubilee (Fig.21).

The categories of Arts and Culture, Special Events, Public Awareness, Famous People, Science and Technology and Social Services account for the remaining 14%. Issued to mark the 10th anniversary of the Rhodes National Gallery in July 1967, a commemorative set of four stamps featuring items

from the gallery depicting the old masters and modern works in the fields of painting and sculpture was issued. The stamps were in large format in order to do justice to the works of art portrayed (Fig.22). Paintings of Rhodesian landscapes by three well known artists were the focus of a commemorative issued a decade later (Fig.23).



Fig.21: Bridges on Rhodesian stamps.



Fig.22: National Gallery Issue (1967)

The 'Famous Rhodesians' series issued between 1967 and 1975 featured Leander Starr Jameson, Alfred Beit, William Henry Milton, Mother Patrick, Frederick Courtney Selous, Robert Moffat, David Livingstone, George Pauling and Thomas Baines (Fig.24).



Fig.23: Stamps showing Rhodesia Through Artists Eyes (1977).



Fig.24: The Famous Rhodesians series

Interestingly, although all are treated as 'Rhodesians', none were born in the country. They are commemorated for their

contributions to the colonisation of the country. Livingstone had featured previously on a stamp to mark the centenary of his 'discovery' of the Victoria Falls in 1955. Other than the commemorative issue in 1953 to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, that featuring Mother Patrick is the only other Rhodesian stamp to honour a woman.

Other famous personalities depicted on Rhodesian stamps are also not Rhodesian. These were the war-time British leader, Sir Winston Churchill; Sir Rowland Hill, the originator of the postage stamp on a commemorative stamp marking the 28th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa which was held in the country in 1966; and as mentioned previously, the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell. The statue of Sir Charles Coghlan, campaigner for Responsible Government, and later first Premier, is shown on the 6d of the BSAC Jubilee commemorative and the Fairbridge Memorial, in honour of Kingsley Fairbridge, the proponent of establishing farm schools in the colonies for disadvantaged English children, is the main feature on the 2½d stamp in the second Federal definitive. Finally, the equestrian figure of Allan Wilson, taken from the frieze of the Shangani Memorial, appears on the 1/6 stamp commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Occupation of Matabeleland (Fig.25). Wilson was the leader of the Shangani Patrol who were all killed by Matabele impis after being sent in pursuit of the King Lobengula following his retreat from Bulawayo at the end of the Matabele Rebellion in 1893. The fate of the Patrol soon became part of the nation's folklore, legend and inspiration due to their courage and refusal to surrender.



Fig.25: Other Famous figures on Rhodesian stamps.

It is interesting to note that all these figures are white males. Apart from the Sovereign and members of the British Royal Family, no living individuals are depicted on any Rhodesian stamp.

Stamps in the Science and Technology, Social Services and the Public Awareness categories feature on only 22 stamps, comprising just over 2% of all Rhodesian stamps. A Rhodesian Air Force helicopter is shown on the \$1 definitive on an air rescue mission while both stamps in the Science and Technology category relate to developments in the field of wireless and radar (Fig.26).



Fig.26: Stamps in the Social Services, Science and Technology categories

Finally, there were 19 stamps in the Public Awareness category, 16 of which were issued during the Rhodesian period after 1965. As has been mentioned earlier, these dealt with issues such as nature and water conservation and vulnerable species of wildlife. 1972 was named 'Pollution Year' and four stamps were issued to highlight the dangers of various aspects of pollution based on designs which had been submitted by members of the public (Fig.27). The last set of stamps in this category were issued in 1975 to highlight Occupational Safety. Each stamp indicated the precautions that should be taken in respect of various hazards that occur in industrial occupations (Fig.28).



Fig.27: Anti-Pollution (1972).



Fig.28: Occupational Safety (1975).

CONCLUSION

An analysis of Rhodesian stamps provides an insight to the country's shifting identity. The first issues by the BSAC were limited to the portrayal of the Company Arms and it was not until 1909 that they were overprinted with 'Rhodesia', the first indication of a growing sense of identity and place by the white settlers. The issues immediately thereafter show the Victoria Falls, the country's most well-known natural feature (and later most popular tourist attraction).

Following the attainment of Responsible Government, the portrayal of the British Sovereign becomes the dominant feature and it is only in 1940, some 50 years after the initial colonisation of the country, that the first commemorative issue dealing with a local theme is issued. Of the 10 commemoratives issued between 1923 and the beginning of the Federation in 1953, six deal with local anniversaries and events, three with British and one being the first to mark an international anniversary. There is a coming of age from a purely philatelic point of view with the last, and somewhat short-lived, Southern Rhodesia definitive prior to the Federation with each stamp depicting a local motif. Southern Rhodesia did not follow the British 'omibus' standard stamp design for royal events but rather issued its own design as can be seen in the 1935 Jubilee, 1937 and 1953 Coronation commemoratives.

The first stamps issued during the Federal decade continue in the colonial tradition with the first definitive featuring the portrait of the then newly Crowned Queen Elizabeth II. This was followed by a pictorial definitive in 1959, with a cameo of the Queen on each stamp. Only seven commemoratives were issued during this period. They reflect an emphasis on economic achievement and the events which reflected this. A commemorative to mark the 10th anniversary of the Federation, illustrating once again the economic developments which had taken place, was designed and ordered but was not issued due to the impending demise of the Federation which occurred at the end of 1963.

The post-Federal issues have a distinctly more local emphasis and are a reflection of the political developments which resulted in the declaration of UDI and the assertion of a more local, i.e.

Rhodesian, identity. Through its stamps, Rhodesian history and landscape were now commemorated as never before.

Thus, it was through their stamps that Rhodesians told the world who they were. The primary themes communicated through post-UDI stamps were that the country was a functioning state capable of taking on international statehood. Taken together, these themes projected Rhodesia as an oasis of law and order in a hostile and chaotic continent with an economic environment which emphasised private enterprise and economic development. Thus, as found elsewhere in the world, the images depicted on Rhodesian postage stamps reflected on who held power in the country and emphasise the economic progress that had taken place since European colonisation.

Other than the 'Independence' issue and subsequent overprints, notably absent is any stamp to commemorate the declaration of the republic or to mark the 5th or 10th anniversaries of the declaration of UDI. These, and other significant political milestones, are recorded on privately produced commercial covers which carry a Rhodesian stamp and are date-stamped to commemorate the event (Fig.29).



Fig.29: Examples of Privately Produced Covers marking major political events

Apart from the flag illustrated on the \$2 stamp in the 1970 definitive, the only other national symbols depicted on post-UDI Rhodesian stamps were the Coat of Arms on the issue to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Responsible Government in 1973 and the Flame Lily once again in 1974.

The Zimbabwe Bird, which featured on the crest of the Coat of Arms, and named as the country's national emblem in March 1970, does not appear as the primary feature on any Rhodesian postage stamp although it was the main feature on the stamps for postage due (Fig.30).

Individual, named Africans were not depicted on any Rhodesian stamp and women, other than those in the British Royal Family, are also remarkably absent. The philatelic history is silent on the 'Bush War' and other military campaigns. Surprisingly too is the lack of any issues related to sport, which was often attributed to as being one of the main features of the "Rhodesian way of life". The only competitive event to be depicted was a commemorative to mark the hosting of the 15th World Ploughing Contest which was held in the country in 1968. Like the intended Federal 10th anniversary issue, a 'Zimbabwe Rhodesia' definitive to indicate the new government and name change in 1979 was designed and printed but was also not issued. Unlike in 1909 and 1966, there were no overprints and thus the name Zimbabwe Rhodesia never appeared on any stamp.



Fig.30: Postage Due featuring the Zimbabwe Bird



Fig.31: Great Zimbabwe on Rhodesian stamps (1953 and 1970)

Finally, Great Zimbabwe only appears on two Rhodesian stamps (Fig.31). This was more a reflection of the unique historical significance (and tourist potential) of the complex rather than any affirmation of its cultural importance or symbolism amongst the Black population.

Rhodesian stamps mirror the political evolution of the country and consequent emergence of initially a distinctive British character, followed later by a more dominant local Rhodesian identity.

The settlers were predominantly of British origin who identified strongly with Britain and

the Empire as demonstrated by a reverence to the Monarch, who appeared on many of its stamps during the colonial period. After UDI and the formal political break from Britain, the country underwent a process of identity formation, the visible manifestation of which can be seen in the changes to the country's national symbols and in the concerted effort of reflecting local images, heroes and events on its stamps.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

All stamp images are taken from the Rhodesian Study Circle website. The covers shown in Fig.29 are from the author's collection.



O.V.S. Commando Brief

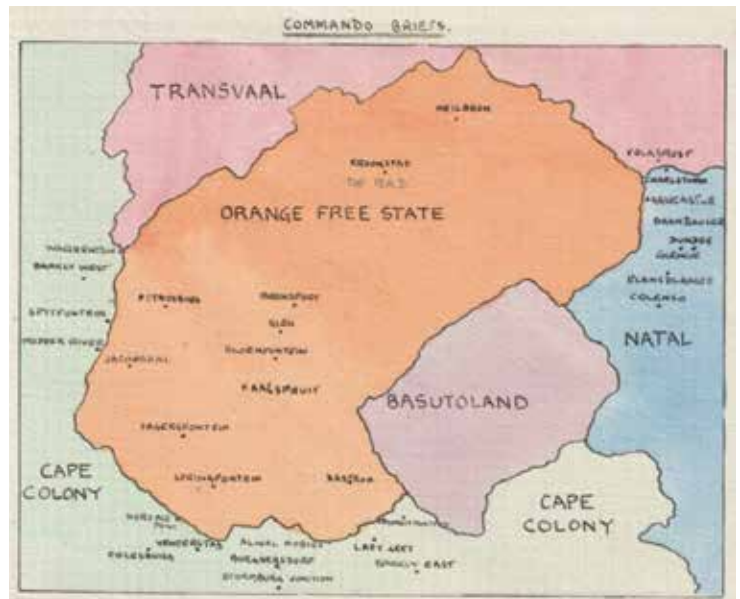
by Clinton Hale, Cape Philatelics. capephil@icon.co.za



Much has been written about this issue. It has been referred to as a 'local', a 'label' and a stamp, but as yet no official document authorising its printing or use has been recorded.

It is known that Mr. A.F. Hochapfel, a Free State chemist was appointed as Field Postmaster of the forces serving under General Delarey and Chief Commando Wessels when Commandos crossed the frontier into the Cape Colony on the evening of 14 October 1899. Initially all letters had to be initialled by officers, who later refused as numbers increased, to sit for hours initialling the letters. Stamps were therefore ordered to be printed by Acting Commando-General Barend and came into use on 15 October 1899. Mr Hochapfel was in charge of the manufacturing and distribution of these 'military franking stamps'.

They were printed in sheets of 20 (4 vertical x 5 horizontal) on yellow gummed paper, perforated 12. It has been suggested they were printed in 4 panes of 20, making a sheet of 80, but this has not been proven. The 1st row of the form contains 5 impressions for this typesetting, each plateable as follows:



Map showing towns from where Commando Briefs have been sent.



Aliwal North (C.G.H.)	Jan.13 - Feb.10
Barkly East (C.G.H.)	Feb.16
Barkly West (C.G.H.)	Nov.2 - Jan.10
Brandfort	Jan.31
Burgersdorp (C.G.H.)	Jan.24 - Jan.29
Bloemfontein	Nov.15 - Mar.31
Charlestown (Natal)	Feb.9
Colenso (Natal)	Jan.20 - Feb.24
Colsburg (C.G.H.)	Feb.2 - Feb.24
Dundee (Natal)	Feb.15
Dannhauser (Natal)	?
Elandslaagte (Natal)	?
Glen	Jan.30
Kaalspruit	Nov.1 - Dec.13
Norvals Pont (C.G.H.)	Nov.24 - Dec.5
Newcastle (Natal)	Feb.15
De Bad	Dec.7
Glencoe (Natal)	?
Heilbron	Mar.8
Jacobsdal	Nov.1 - Dec.4
Jagersfontein (9)	?
Kroonstad	Mar.16 - Mar.31
Lady Grey (C.G.H.)	Dec.21 - Feb.6

- i. White streak between top left square and first vertical ornament, first 'O' of Commando broken at top left, all stops normal;
- ii. Short vertical stroke in first 'M' of Commando, damaged stops after 'O' and 'V', 5th ornament damaged outer line;
- iii. Blotch on 6th ornament, damaged stop after 'V', damaged 'N' of Franko;
- iv. Breaks in outer line of first ornament at left, dent in first 'O' of Commando, n broken ornament 4th on bottom, missing line of shading top right corner ornament, stops normal;
- v. Flat top to 'C' of Commando, damaged second ornament at left, damaged stop after 'O'.

It would appear they were printed four times as each vertical column has the same impressions. Copies in a pale washed out yellow, are probably from exposure to light or dampness, but copies in a darker yellow, closer to orange exist. It was initially believed that 10 000 stamps were printed, i.e. 500 sheets, but this would seem to be far too few as this number was spread

Modder River (C.G.H.)	Oct.20 - Nov.14	Springfontein Road	Nov.7 - Mar.1
Palmeitfontein (C.G.H.)	Nov.7 - Nov.11	Venterstad	Feb.17
Petruerburg	Dec.17 - Feb.7	Volksrust	Feb.11
Spytfontein (C.G.H.)	Oct.21 - Nov.14	Warrenton	Feb.8
Stormberg Junction (C)	Feb.4 - Feb.19	Zastron	Feb.26

Towns and specific dates as indicated on the above map.

over 6 months from 20 Oct 1900 to 27 March 1901, which means only 50 a day on all fronts.

They are found used as far North as Heilbron, East as far as Glencoe, South as far as Stormberg and West as far as Barkly West. It can be assumed that they were officially 'condoned' as no covers have any postage due marking, or any indication that they were not carrying an official stamp, and most covers having been correctly backstamped at the town of destination. See Map below showing places where postmarks are known on Commando Brief Stamps and list attached showing known dates of use.



Mr. J. Price in an article in the *OFS Philatelic magazine* October 1955, states that the printers were Messrs. Curling & Co., a printing establishment in Douglas Street, Bloemfontein, which now has long ceased to exist. He stated that this information was given to him by the Secretary of the Trustees of the 'Curling' estate. He also stated that they handed him an imperforate part sheet of the Commando labels, which was found among the documents of the estate. Below is the diagram of this imperforate part sheet, showing rows 2, 3 & 4 with row 4 misaligned.



The block was inspected at the time and the opinion was that it was considered to be of 'proof status' which was kept for reference. Apparently when starting to perforate the sheets, it was stopped as row 4 was too misaligned.

I have fortunately been able to purchase the missing top row from this sheet a few years ago, not realising at the time its significance, even though I presumed it to be genuine and something unusual and interesting (see illustration). A few years later I purchased a remainder study of the OFS Police and Military stamps, which included some reference material.



This included an original typed letter, dated 20/8/1960 written by Mr. John W Hodgson to Mr Fenn in which he congratulates Mr. Fenn on his exhibit at Unipex and notes having seen the imperforate Commando-brief labels block in his exhibit. The reason for the letter was to 'put the record straight' regarding its existence. This block was found amongst the effects of his late Mother, having been given to her by Mr Curling, who was an old friend of the family. He passed it on to Mr Price, whom he knew, who gave him no indication of it being unusual or rare, and gave him the 1949 UPU sets of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland in exchange. He passed it on to Mr. Price in 1952/3 shortly after his Mother's death. Mr. Price did not get it from the Curling Estate as he claimed, as Mr Curling died in the 1920s and it would be extremely irregular for the estate to keep any item for over 20 years, before disposing of it.

All the mint copies we have in existence today, with the exception of these two imperforate blocks, are believed to come from the lot captured in General Piet Cronje camp when he surrendered in early 1900.

No significant varieties have been found, other than a few copies having extra vertical perforation through the left of the stamp (see illustration). Is this as a result of the misalignment of row 4 on the initial imperforate sheet, that might only been corrected after initially printing some sheets?

FUTURE EVENTS

URUGUAY 2025 World Stamp Exhibition

South African National Commissioner
Vernon Mitchell email: vjm@telkomsa.net



A Specialised World Stamp Exhibition under FIP patronage, organised by the Federación Uruguaya de Filatelia (FUF) for the bicentenary of Uruguay's independence, sponsored by the Uruguayan Postal Service, and supported by the Philatelic Circle of Montevideo. The exhibition will be held at the Atchugarry Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA) in Punta Del Este, departamento de Maldonado, Uruguay, in two sessions: the first from **17 to 19 February 2025** and the second from **20 to 22 February 2023**. Approximately 1000 frames will be available for exhibits in Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Thematic Philately and Open Philately. One-frame exhibits and Philatelic Literature will also be accepted.

NATIONAL STAMP SHOW-2025

2 to 6 September 2025

The 2025 South African National Stamp Show will be hosted by the Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging, Paarl.
Venue: Paarl Golf-club,
848 Wemmershoek Rd, Boschenmeer
Golf Estate, Paarl.

All arrangements will be announced
in due time.

Contact: André du Plessis RDPSA
pfsastamps@gmail.com

or Gawie Hugo - gawiehugo@gmail.com

LUMSDEN'S HORSE

The Only Colonial Contingent from India Raised in 1900 to Fight in the Anglo-Boer War

by Richard Stroud RDPSA



From October 1899, the start of the Anglo-Boer War, units of the British Army in India were sent to South Africa to reinforce the Army there, particularly in the Ladysmith salient. The senders of mail from these units invariably annotated their letters *Indian Contingent* or similar, and this tended to be recognised officially. However, it must be stressed that these units were regiments of the British Army based in India and not units raised from the residents of India. The British Government's policy was to ensure that no non-European unit should be involved in the fighting in South Africa.



Fig.1: Lt-Colonel Dugald McTavish Lumsden

Lt-Colonel Dugald McTavish Lumsden (Fig.1) was in Australia when he heard of the reverses of 'Black Week' in late 1899 in South Africa. He immediately cabled his friend Sir Patrick Playfair in Calcutta, asking him to make the Government an offer of half a lakh of rupees (£3333) and his personal services in raising a Corps of *European Mounted Infantry* for the War. The Viceroy, Lord Curzon, recommended this to London and, by the time that Lumsden had reached Calcutta, the War Office had accepted the offer and appointed Lumsden to the command by the following Order:

"Her Majesty's Government having accepted the offer of the Government of India to provide a force of Mounted Volunteers for service in South Africa, two companies of Mounted Infantry, to be called the Indian Mounted Infantry Corps (Lumsden's Horse) will be raised immediately at Calcutta under the command of Lieut-Colonel Dugald McTavish Lumsden, of the Volunteer Force of India, Supernumerary List, Assam Valley Light Horse."

The two companies ('A' and 'B') of Lumsden's Horse comprised 251 men, of whom there were 13 officers (Fig.2), plus 42 private followers. They included tea and coffee planters, indigo growers, jute merchants, engineers and administrators. A local fund for equipment realised £227,251 (including £6898 from a Ladies' Ball, patroness Lady Curzon), plus many donations in kind.



Fig.2: The Officers of Lumsden's Horse

Standing (rear): Lt. Sidey, Lt Pugh, Capt. Clifford, Lt Crane, Lt Neville, Capt Rutherford.
Sitting (centre): Capt Chamney, Major Showers, Col Lumsden, Capt Taylor, Capt Beresford.
Sitting (front): Capt Noblett and Vet-Capt Stevenson.

'A' Company, commanded by Captain J.H. Brownlow Beresford, consisted of four Sections and Transport, and embarked on the *Lindula* (Transport 28) at Kidderpore Docks, Calcutta, on 26 February 1900 (Fig.3) with a great amount of ceremony. It disembarked at Cape Town and, after a week in Maitland Camp, went by train to Bloemfontein, to await 'B' Company.



Fig.3: The embarkation of 'A' Company from Kidderpore Docks, 26 February 1900

'B' Company, commanded by Captain L.H. Noblett, consisted of four Sections, a Maxim Gun detachment and Transport, and embarked on the *Ujina* (Transport 33) at Kidderpore Docks, on 3 March 1900, but ceremonial was minimal. It disembarked at East London and immediately entrained for Queenstown. From there, it marched to Bethulie and joined 'A' Company in mid-April 1900, both companies being attached to the 8th Mounted Infantry.

Lumsden's Horse saw its first action at Houtnek in the OFS on 30 April 1900, while it was employed as advance guards and as scouts. No 2 Section, 'B' Company, was chosen for the scouting, with a sub-section of Troopers Franks, Were, Powis and Preston ahead. They were ambushed by the Boers; Trooper Franks being shot in the back from his horse. His comrades tried to recover him, but he died later that night. One officer and four men were killed at Houtnek with six

wounded. The action was described in a letter card (Fig.4) posted in Kroonstad by Trooper Harry Baden Powis "Scouting takes the cake – the devils [the Boers] allow you to get within two hundred [yards] and then give you a lively time as you retire. The first man shot in Lumsden's Horse was shot by my side while out scouting together." [Powis returned to India on the *Atlantian*, arriving Bombay on 28 December 1900. His occupation in India was as a tutor at Simla.]



Fig.4: GB 1d postal-stationery letter card, written by Trooper Harry Baden Powis of No 2 Section, B Company at Kroonstad 13/5/00 and postmarked SC ARMY P.O. 43 MY 22 00 (an early usage), to Calcutta. Transits of Durban 3 JU 1900 and Tuticorin 26 JU 00. Arrival 30 JU 00.

From Kroonstad, Lumsden's Horse pushed onwards as part of Field Marshal Lord Roberts' advance to Pretoria, One officer - Lieutenant Herbert Owain Pugh (see Fig.2), who had been a Jute Broker in Calcutta – commanded Section No 2 of 'B' Company and was to have a distinguished and varied career while in South Africa. During an attack on Germiston, 29 May 1900, a Boer gun mounted on a railway truck was giving trouble round a bend of the railway and into a deep cutting. Orders were given for Lt Pugh and four men to escort some Royal Engineers with explosives and block or blow up the line, while under fire from two Boer pickets. Lt Pugh was able to enter the cutting and rolled boulders on to the line. For this successful action, he was awarded the DSO. Pretoria was taken on 5 June 1900. From then until 29 July, Lumsden's Horse was allocated to Lines of Communication duty along the railway line around Pretoria and Johannesburg, with 'B' Company in charge of the railway between Johannesburg and Irene, and 'A' Company from Irene to Pretoria. It was from this period that Lt Pugh wrote a long letter to his sister (Fig.5).

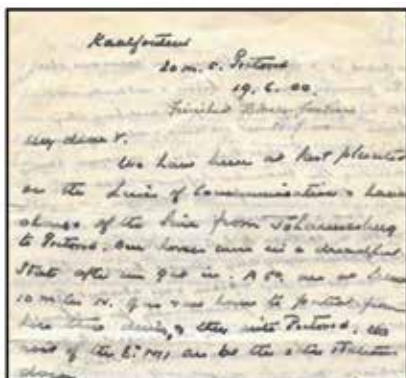


Fig.5: A long letter from Lt H.O. Pugh to his sister. Message headed Kaalfontein, 20 m(iles) (south) Pretoria 19.6.00 and Finished Bloemfontein 19.7.00

In his letter, Lt Pugh writes: "We have been at last planted on the Lines of Communication and charge of the line from Johannesburg to Pretoria. Our horses were in a dreadful state after we got in. 'A' Co. are at Irene, 10 miles N. of us and we have to patrol from here [to] there daily, and they into Pretoria. The rest of the 8th M.I. are to be [at] the other stations down [the railway]".

"We had no fighting till we got to Nine Mile Spruit and even then, they [the Boers] only held this last ridge of koppies. They sat on their ridges and blazed away till our big guns had silenced the one gun left in the Fort. Towards evening, the infantry came up on our left. The Gordons and the 5th M.I. occupied their koppies and camped for the night within 2000 yards of the town [Pretoria]".

A late item of mail from the Lines of Communication period is shown in Fig.6. It is from Trooper Thomas Brinsley Nicholson, of No 2 Section, 'B' Company. A coffee planter from Yercand, India, Nicholson was later commissioned into the West Indian Regiment.



Fig.6: On Active Service cover (on the stationery of Lumsden's Horse), endorsed by T.B. Nicholson, Lumsden's Horse, S. African Field Force, 21/7/00, to Madras. Postmarked ARMY P.O. 55 JY 25 00 (Pretoria, an early use). Taxed as unpaid but deleted in India. Transit of Tuticorin 5 SE 00 and arrival 7 SE 00.

After Pretoria, Lt Pugh was appointed Assistant District Commissioner and ex officio Justice of the Peace for Heilbron. The formal Government Notice No 18 of his appointment was dated July 6th 1900 and published in the ORC Government Gazette No 3 of 13 July 1900. The town having been evacuated, he was appointed Intelligence Officer to the 8th Mounted Infantry but later was able to go to Heilbron to take up his appointment (Fig.7).

In his letter spanning 19 June 1900 to 19 July 1900 to his sister (Fig.5), Lt Pugh continued: "My Commissionership is not very fair and not permanent, £15 a month over one's regimental pay, out of which has to be found rations for oneself and horses. They say very few Commissioners or Asst Commissioners will be kept on when the civil authorities take over the country, but I should think the ones who do should get good billets. My District is Heilbron and is mostly at present in the hands of De Wet so, until he is rounded up, they won't let us go up. "



Fig.7: Cover from HEILBRON JA 4 01 to Llanbadarn Fawr, Wales, endorsed from H O Pugh Lt, A D Com, Heilbron. On the reverse, transit of Bloemfontein JA 6 01 and arrival JA 25 01.

Lumsden's Horse was transferred to General Mahon's command at the end of July 1900, from which time they marched to Rustenburg and up to Warmbaths in pursuit of Generaal de Wet. In early August, Trooper Frederick Vivian Clerk of No 1 Section, 'B' Company, wrote to a relative in Somerset, England (Fig.8). His occupation in India was as an engineer on the Assam-Bengal Railway. Trooper Clerk was hospitalised at Germiston by November. He was not amongst the men of Lumsden's Horse who embarked on the *Atlantian* on 5 December 1900 to return to India.



Fig.8: Stampless cover, endorsed by F.V. Clerk, Lumsden's Horse, Transvaal, to Miss F. Clerk, Pilton, Somerset. Postmarked DCFPO code 17 datestamp for AU 8 00 (Army Post Office 25, Johannesburg area). London PAID transit of 3 SP 00. Arrival of Shepton Mallet SP 4 00.

[The addressee was Miss Frances (Fanny) Jane Campbell Clerk, aged 47 in 1900, a lady of independent means, born in Ostacamynd, India. She had two servants – Gertrude Mary Lintern and Emily Louise Rogers. Miss Frances' family was a major benefactor to the people of Pilton.]

Towards the end of 1900, the period of one year for which men had volunteered for service in the various colonial contingents, Lumsden's Horse being one, was due to expire. Accordingly, arrangements were made to repatriate the contingents to their home countries. Those men who wished to stay in South Africa could continue in military service with other units including the South African Constabulary (SAC) or the Johannesburg Police, referred to as the Mounted Police (JMP).

On 22 November 1900, Captain Chamney (now Major) with convalescents and a number of men of the corps embarked at Cape Town for India on the *Catalonia*. There were also 600 Boer POWs on board, some of whom developed measles. Because of this, Major Chamney and his men had to transfer, at Durban, to the *Sinclair* for Calcutta, calling at Galle, Ceylon. Colonel Lumsden, with the remainder of the corps, embarked at Cape Town on the *Atlantian* on 5 December, arriving at Bombay on 28 December. On leaving and on arrival, both sections of the Corps were given a rousing send off or welcome.

Driver Edmund John Power (later promoted to Sergeant by Colonel Lumsden) of 'A' Company Transport wrote regularly to a Miss Ethel Power in London. His occupation in India was as a travelling agent with Phelps & Co of Calcutta. The author has two covers from the correspondence, one on Lumsden's Horse stationery and endorsed on active service with Lumsden's Horse, to Miss Power postmarked with a GB QV 1d lilac cancelled ARMY P.O. 55 of Pretoria. This was possibly posted when Lumsden's Horse was on Lines of Communication duty. The other cover (Fig.9) was posted just prior to Driver Power's embarkation on the *Atlantian* for India.



Fig.9: Cover to Miss Ethel Power, London, from Sergeant E.J. Power, with a GB QV 1d lilac cancelled DURBAN DE 10 1900 NATAL and manuscript Durban 8/12/00.

Lumsden's Horse was officially disbanded on 4 January 1901, but many from the corps stayed on in various military units or with the police.

Sergeant Walter Larkins Walker of No 3 Section, 'A' Company, who had been a tea planter in Assam, India, continued his service but with the Johannesburg Mounted Police from December 1900. He met a sad end, being killed by a bullet entering his temple while defending the Chimes West Mine, Benoni, near Boksburg on 26 December 1900. The police post there was manned by 16 men from the Railway Pioneer Regiment and nine men ex-Lumsden's Horse, the latter under Sgt Walker. The attacking Boer force numbered 300. There was a cattle/sheep laager at the mine with 1400 head of cattle. None was taken in the attack. Walker was buried with full military honours on 27 December. His name appears on the commemorative plaque in St Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta.

A letter posted to him (Fig.10) from London in March

1900 was never received by him. A remarkable effort by the postal authorities to locate him with such an open forwarding endorsement!



Fig.10: Commercial cover from London MR 12 00 to W.L. Walker, Budla Beta Tea Estate, Doom Doona, Assam, arrival 8 AP 00. Mr Walker had enlisted in Lumsden's Horse and the cover was (inaccurately) endorsed Left for Transvaal. Censored at Durban 25.6.00 and held, arriving at Pretoria 7 AUG 00. RLO Pretoria 4 DEC 1900 on the reverse and boxed NON-RECLAMÉ.

Another member of Lumsdens' Horse who subsequently joined the Johannesburg Mounted Police in December 1900 was Trooper Bertie Rhys Lloyd-Jones of No 3 Section, 'A' Company, who had been in the Survey Department, Lahore. He was on duty at the Chimes West Mine, Benoni, near Boksburg, when a large party of Boers attacked on 26 December 1900, during which he suffered a broken arm and Sgt Walker was killed. Fig.11 shows a cover from him endorsed JMP, Johannesburg.



Fig.11: Cover, posted in the civil post office, endorsed from Tpr B R Lloyd-Jones, JMP, Johannesburg, to Mrs H. Lloyd-Jones, Lahore, with GB KEVII 1d cancelled JOHANNESBURG 20 FEB 02. Backstamps of Army Post Office Elandsfontein FE 21 02, Durban FE 23 1902, Tuticorin and Lahore 26 MA 02.

Lt H.O. Pugh DSO was granted the rank of Honorary Lieutenant in the Army, dated 12 January 1901. Government Notice No 11 of 1901 in the ORC Government Gazette announced that had "resigned the appointment of Assistant District Commissioner Heilbron with effect from 22 January 1901, having been transferred to the South African Constabulary". In the SAC, Lt Pugh had several postings, to Vrede, Harrismith and Ladybrand, with occasional journeys to the Cape. In November 1901, he seems to have been sent down to the

Cape area and was returning to Pretoria, being at Edenburg in the OFS, when he wrote to his Mother in Calcutta (Fig.12). He stated: "We are on our way up and are taking a very long time about it. McCarter gets out at Bloemfontein with 70 men and I take the next up to Pretoria. We won't get in till this evening so I expect we will go on tomorrow morning.

Last night we were attacked near Arundel and came thro' a very warm fire for 3 miles but had no casualties".



Fig.12: Lettercard endorsed from H.O. Pugh Lt SAC to his mother in Calcutta. The message is headed Nr Edenburg 1.12.01 but was not posted until his arrival at Bloemfontein the following day. Censor mark NPR of Major N.P. Richards. Backstamps of East London DE 6 01 and of Calcutta 5 JA 02 and 6 JA 02.

A later cover from Lt Pugh to his sister postmarked HARRISMITH AU 30 02 to London (arrival SP 27 02) still contains the original letter, a sketch of his blockhouse (Fig.13) and four photographs (Fig.14 shows two). The letter details the difficulties he had journeying to Harrismith from Vrede (his previous posting) which he put in the form of a list, his game-shooting forays and his lifestyle, an excerpt being:

"In the morning I found one of my mules too weak to pull. I was bringing in a pony with mange for treatment and in-spanned it. It eventually got entangled with the harness right under the wheels. We got it out and the cart started. My puppy Sam then fell out of the cart, being saved from being squashed by luckily falling into an ant-bear hole. About three miles on, the weak mule lay down and died".

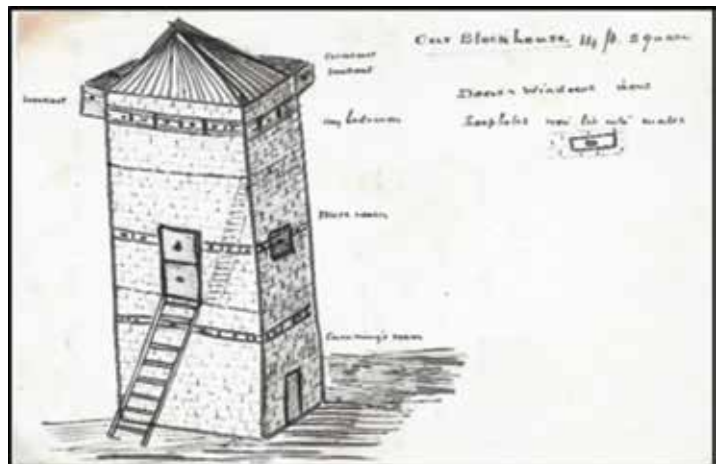


Fig.13: Sketch by Lt Pugh of his Blockhouse (14 feet square) at Harrismith.

The Times of London of 9 May 1915 reported the passing of Colonel Lumsden. "The Times regrets to announce that Colonel Dugald McTavish Lumsden CB, who raised and commanded in the South Africa War the corps of Anglo-Indian mounted Infantry which bore his name, died on Monday at

his residence in Whitehall Court, aged 64. He had been in declining health for some time past and towards the end of April underwent a serious operation”



Fig.14. Inside the Harrismith Blockhouse

Left: Mess Room. Lt Pugh at right with Lt Foulkes, also of the SAC. Bottles of wine on the table!

A Commemorative Tablet in St Paul’s Cathedral, Calcutta, was “placed in this Cathedral by Lord Curzon, Viceroy, Honorary

Colonel of Lumsden’s Horse, in honour of those members of the First Corps of British Volunteers from India who have fought and died for the Empire”.

It lists the seven men lost by death in action and the two who died from death in action include the two mentioned in this article - Sergeant Walter Larkins Walker (killed at Benoni) and Trooper Arthur Fred Franks (killed at Houtnek).

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EXHIBITION NEWS

Oilfilat24 REGIONAL EXHIBITION

by Leon Jacobson.

The Sasolburg Philatelic Society held a regional exhibit, Oilfilat24, in the Sasolburg Public Library - 28 October to 1 November. There were four traditional and seven open/thematic exhibits. Two exhibits were submitted by philatelists from the East Rand Philatelic Society, the rest by Sasolburg members. Judging was by André du Plessis and Louwrence Erasmus. The local press in Sasolburg and Parys provided coverage. Handouts of stamps and covers were distributed to youngsters who showed an interest.

The public found the thematic displays of particular interest especially the display by Jan de Man on *the Bateleur*, the 2024 bird of the year. This is important. Traditional philately does play a role but in order to attract the general public and especially school kids, the displays needed to be ‘content’ friendly. In other words, thematic and open themes telling a story using stamps and postal history that can resonate with the viewer and draw them in. Not surprisingly, many youngsters did not know what a stamp was or why it was used.

To sum up, it was a rewarding exercise that attracted much attention and resulted in potential new members as well as general queries from older people. A number of lessons were learned. Regionals could play an important role in creating and expanding more interest in our hobby and should, if possible, have a theme. The retired community is a potential source of new members. The location of the exhibition is important for attracting passing viewers and the local press should be brought in for wider notifications by means of interviews.

Our thanks go to Federation, the judges who gave up their time to visit us, the Sasolburg Library, the press and our members who worked hard to make it a success.

NAME	TITLE	SCORE	MEDAL
Trevor Harris	Bees by the swarm	60	-
Andre Nel	An overview of Philatelic Exhibitions	64	Silver
Koos de la Rey	Ons groen erfenis	51	Bronze
Leon Jacobson	Birds of Namibia	43	-
Johan van Wyk	The Gumbley Legacy and its application in SA	75	Large Vermeil
Johan van Wyk	Official Wonders of the world	57	-
Johan van Wyk	Philatelic presentation of selected southern African countries affected by colonialism during the 1880s to mid-1900s showing stamps issued by the postal services of Germany and Britain with secondary printing done by local firms in the SA colonies	57	-
Jan de Man	Bird of the Year 2024: Bateleur	29	-
Phydias Chrysochou	A study of 2½c value of the 1st definitive series of RSA	70	Vermeil
Trefon Katakuzinos	SA adhesive parcel post labels for the period 1935 - 1968	80	-
Leon Jacobson	1961 ½c Kingfisher: Groups I and II	74	-

Awards: Grand Prix: Trefon Katakuzinos. Frustration Trophy: Johan van Wyk. A very narrow subject covered fully in 1 to 3 frames receives no medals, only a score from 1 to 100.



Louwrence Erasmus (above) congratulating Leon Jacobson on the success of the Regional Exhibition and being handed his award At right - Louwrence reporting back on the awards ceremony .



Feedback from the judges



Visitors examining the exhibits.



Phydias and Louwrence discussing a finer point.



Earliest Uses of the 1½d Bantam Issue in August 1942

by Keith P Klugman RDPSA, FRPSL



In his recent article on this issue (Scheepers, 2024), Danie Scheepers points out that only 1% of the airman bantam 1½d issue comprised the first printing in August 1942 and that the second printing occurred some time in September of that year. Little has been written though on the earliest recorded dates for this issue on cover beyond a statement in the August issue of *The SA Philatelist* announcing the issue (Fig.1) and a follow-up in the September issue stating that some post offices received these stamps before the middle of August 1942.



Fig.1. Announcement of bantam stamp issue in SAP August 1942.

I have been seeking August dates of this issue to identify those post offices that received this rare first printing and at least three are shown here – doubtless some others exist. The earliest August date I have recorded on cover is the 6th August from Cape Town (Fig.2).



Fig.2. Earliest recorded date of this issue from Cape Town with pencil notation confirming the first day of use.

This cover franked at 6d is overpaid by just ½d as the local rate of postage was 1½d plus 4d registration = 5½d. It is clearly philatelic though given the first day notation in pencil.

The earliest recorded cover from Johannesburg the author has seen is 14 August and it is a large block on a censored cover to the USA (Fig.3).

This large cover may be philatelic given the retained marginal notations but it is just ½d overpaid for a quadruple rate surface postage cover (3d for the first ounce and 1½d per ounce thereafter = 7½d plus 4d for registration).

Another August 1942 cover dated eight days later on 22nd has the same franking to California (Fig.4). The double roulette is interrupted to a single roulette between the top left two stamps.



Fig.3. Censored cover bearing block of eight bantams from Johannesburg on 14 August 1942 to New Jersey, USA.



Fig.4. Same franking as Fig.3 but likely commercial use posted 8 days later on 22 August 1942.

The final examples of these rare stamps on cover from August 1942 are from a collector at Unified, a post office in Florida in the Transvaal, who is well known for producing first day covers of the large war issues during this period. The author has seen two such covers (Fig.5) though more likely exist, dated 15 August 1942 and locally addressed.



Fig.5. Two local earliest use covers bearing different marginal pairs cancelled 15 August 1942 at Unified.

Readers may be able to broaden the census of August 1942 dates for this issue.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Danie Scheepers RDPSA for useful discussions and to Hugh Amooore RDPSA for postal rate information.

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NATAL - RAILWAY OFFICIAL STAMPS

by Cedric Roché RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Natal: First issue 1905 - Overprinted official

In 1900s Natal postage stamps valued from 1/2 penny to 1 shilling were overprinted 'official' by de la Rue in black block type letters for use by all Government Departments except the Post Office. Towards the end of 1905, the stamps were withdrawn from all departments except the Railway which ceased to use these Stamps in December 1907.



Normal Reversed



Front



Rear

Inverted



Front



Rear

Inverted Reversed



Front



Rear

Second issue 1907 - 1910 Overprinted official and perforated NGR

About 1907 the Natal government needle perforated the stamps with three letters 'NGR' in one line the stamps for use by the railway department. In this manner the surplus of the previous issue was so treated. The issue was withdrawn in December 1907.



Orange River Colony:

The Natal Government Railways administered the Van Reenen - Kroonstad line.

Normal



Front



Rear

After 31 May 1910 all stamps of the former colonies could be used in the union of South Africa.

Cape:

Normal



Front



Rear

Transvaal:

Normal



Front



Rear

There were 4 types of the NGR perforation that occurred as a block of stamps were taken and folded before being perforated. See the table below for illustration, note that the last two are quite scarce.

DEFINITION	WHEN VIEWED FROM FRONT OF STAMP	WHEN VIEWED FROM BACK OF STAMP
NORMAL	NGR	ЯNR
NORMAL REVERSED	ЯNR	NGR
INVERTED	NRN	NRN
INVERTED REVERSED	NRN	NRN

Normal



Front



Rear

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